Building What Matters

“But what I like most about our woodworking hobby is that it gives me and Jane an opportunity to spend time together. When we make furniture for our home it allows us to share something special.”

When Jeff McAdams and his wife Jane began exploring ways to furnish their new home, they were surprised with the high price tags they found on furniture. And when they decided to be original and put their talents in place, they discovered a hidden passion and a way to really put their personal stamp on their home—they began designing and building furniture to fit their own style.

For some time now McAdams has been “cutting wood” and shaping it into the woodworking hobby that ignited in high school after he took a woodworking class. “I’ve been doing this for a long time, but not very often. It has never been something that I’ve done consistently. I have just never quit doing it. When I started woodworking, it was difficult not having all the equipment and tools that are needed to complete projects. Tools are very expensive. I was working out of an apartment with little space and woodworking requires a large space to work,” says the Engineering Librarian, originally from Valley Center, Kansas.

Fast forward to their home in Charlotte where the absence of equipment, space and tools are not evident. One could say that the McAdams have come a long way from those early days of starting out, as most of the tools and equipment that are essential to making their hobby a successful one are now items they have in their possession in their perfect workshop—their two car garage.

McAdams says, “wood working is not easy. There are expenses with purchasing materials such as the wood, stain and finishes as well as all the different kinds of saws that are needed for building furniture. The hobby brings on other challenges like using your garage for storing tools and equipment and actually doing the work in the space, which is very time consuming as

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Congratulations on making it through the 2015-2016 academic year! You all provided superior customer service and should be proud of your contributions. Now we are ready for a break! In place of our normal All-Staff meeting (which would have been Wednesday, May 11), I hope you will come to an end of year picnic at the Hauser Alumni Pavilion on Tuesday, May 17 from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. We will have hamburgers, veggie burgers, and other summer fare as well as games and other activities. This occasion will be an opportunity for everyone to relax and shift gears to a more reasonable summer pace. More details will follow, but please R.S.V.P. to Marquita, so that we purchase the correct amount of lunch.

We are completing our first year of the library-wide committees. It is amazing how much each of the committees has accomplished. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the experience while working together to accomplish important goals. We will ask for a summary report from each committee in May. In May we will put out a call for those who would like to rotate off a committee and/or join a new one. If you are interested in a committee and want to find out more, feel free to contact the chair or attend meetings as a guest.

May will be an extremely busy month as we will be interviewing candidates for the Director of Access Services, Associate Dean for Special Collections and University Archives, Associate Dean for Public Services, and maybe even the Copyright and Licensing Librarian. Please assist the search committees by welcoming the candidates and attending their presentations. It will be exciting to have all of our positions filled with new colleagues.

The Library 2nd Floor Technology Support Desk will launch at the beginning of the first summer session. The desk encompasses multimedia production, makerspace, and the visualization lab. The Technology Support Desk staff provides frontline support for technology and computing questions and issues. Initial service offering includes support of network printers, copiers, scanners, and microform readers. 3D and plotter printing services will be available on demand for a nominal fee. Equipment from the various labs will be available to checkout as they come online, beginning with multimedia production equipment. The Technology Support Desk extends library services while the 2nd floor technology provides a conducive environment for intentional and serendipitous learning through the exploration and use of innovative technologies and collaborative spaces.

I want to extend my appreciation to all who assisted with the preparation of the budget requests this year. We developed a collaborative and inclusive approach to the process that will make it much easier in coming years. Thank you!

—Anne
Technology & Digital Strategies Welcomes New Team Member

I am from Wilmington, North Carolina and I am the new Technology Resources Coordinator in the department of Technology & Digital Strategies. Prior to joining Atkins Library, I was the IT Helpdesk Coordinator at Cape Fear Community College. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and a minor in Spanish. I really enjoy the outdoors and my hobbies include hiking, biking, golf, and being near water. I also enjoy cooking, music and playing video games. I started work here on April 11th and I am excited to have this new opportunity to broaden my skills and to experience a different side of higher education. With this new position, I am also looking forward to using my knowledge and expertise to do great things at Atkins Library!

This Just In!

- **Lolita Rowe Accepted into the Georgia Archives Institute**

  The Georgia Archives Institute is a two week program held at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Georgia. The Institute provides a comprehensive introduction to the concepts and practices of managing all formats of documentary materials in archival repositories. Emphasis is placed on arrangement and description. The annual institute is co-sponsored by the Georgia Archives, the Society of Georgia Archivists, and the Friends of Georgia Archives & History. This year’s institute will be held June 13-24th. **Congratulations, Lolita!**

- **Denelle Eads Selected as Mentor for NCLA Leadership Institute**

  The NCLA Leadership Institute is an intensive four-day residential leadership training program for staff from North Carolina libraries. Participants return from the Institute energized, empowered, more self-aware, and self-evaluating. They develop a broadened perspective on the challenges and issues facing the libraries of the future with a clearer understanding of their role as future library leaders. The NCLA Leadership Institute will take place September 15-18, 2016 in Black Mountain, North Carolina.
History Professor Praises Library Service of Atkins Staff

John David Smith, the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History, is the 2016 recipient of the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal, UNC Charlotte’s most prestigious faculty award in recognition of excellence in research.

In His Own Words... Dr. Smith reflects on how Atkins ILL staff helped him achieve success

“Unquestionably, I consider Ann Davis and her Inter Library Loan (ILL) colleagues the most ‘professional’ and conscientious unit not just in the UNC Charlotte library, but in the entire UNC Charlotte community. Since arriving on campus from NC State University in 2004, Ann and her team have unearthed untold numbers of obscure items for me—research tools that I required for my research on the History of the South, the Civil War, and American race relations. Repeatedly Ann has gone the extra mile to be sure that I received the exact material I requested, even obscure printings and hard to find pamphlets and newspaper articles. No matter how persistent I have been—*and I am persistent when it comes to my research*—Ann and her staff have treated my requests thoughtfully and respectfully. They have gone to great lengths to be sure that I have the materials necessary to research and write. I give Ann Davis my highest praise for her commitment in assisting me with my research. I couldn't have produced much of the scholarship that I have published since joining the faculty without the yeoman labors of ILL.”

—Dr. John David Smith
The Staff Development & Activities Committee would like to extend a personal invitation for all Atkins Library staff to get involved and make our library the best it can be. The committee sponsors several activities that encourage communication and interaction among all library staff.

Please join us for any of these activities!

- **Self-Selected Group Development**
- **Getting to Know You**
- **Happy Hour**
- **Out of the Box**
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well as dirty and dusty work.

The McAdams’ woodworking skills opened the door to a couple of creative paths: One that complemented his wife’s work and one that launched a mutual partnership of passion in building something together.

McAdams says, “Jane is an artist and before we started building furniture together, I would cut wood for her frames so that she could mount her artwork on canvas to the wall. After noticing my work, Jane took a liking to woodworking and I can actually say that she is now the expert. She is very detailed in the pieces that we create. She’s a perfectionist. She never gives up and she makes sure things are done correctly. Jane is very serious about finishing things. I’m not anything like that, and that’s why I think we make a good team.”

With their hobby, the McAdams are gaining more than meaningful pieces of furniture.

“For me, wood working is rewarding in different ways. With a finished product, it is nice to feel like you’ve accomplished something and that you can be proud of it. I find that we’re learning something new while working on our projects and with every project we get better at it. What we’re doing requires that you learn from your mistakes. But what I like most about our woodworking hobby is that it gives me and Jane an opportunity to spend time together. When we make furniture for our home it allows us to share something special,” says McAdams.

And working together is their key. The two complement each other as they have built their treasures of home furnishings such as bed frames that include the head, foot, and side boards; a hallway bench; a table bench; plant stands and most recently a changing table for their new addition to their family. All are results of hard work that show off Jane’s creative talent of designing and mastering the conceptual piece of the project.

McAdams says, “Lately, I’ve been doing a lot of the physical work, but we used to split up the tasks in different ways. Jane is great at drawing plans and making a list of the pieces of wood that we need to cut. She directs me and she is actually the ‘brains’ of the piece.”

Although their woodworking journey began with classroom inspiration, McAdams gives much credit to reading books about the subject. “This hobby requires patience, space, tools and a place to work. It may also be good to educate yourself about woodworking. When we started doing this Jane bought two books that gave good tips and excellent demonstrations on how to do things. One of the books was written by a woman. This book really inspired Jane and she began to realize that women can do this kind of work too,” says McAdams.

Test Your Knowledge Answers:

- 2009
- A program to assist first-year students transition to UNC Charlotte
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