Supportive, caring and thankful are words that can be used to describe Marquita Smith, but when she makes it her business to put those words into action, nothing can describe her passion for “giving back” and making a difference in the lives of others. For Smith, participating in charitable activities is something she does frequently as she and her family stay busy volunteering and participating in activities that help them spread their compassion for those who are faced with difficult times.

“Getting involved with charitable activities is very important to me. It’s a way for me to honor family members that we have lost to cancer and to also raise funds and awareness, and help to find a cure for this disease,” says Smith, Executive Assistant to the Dean. Smith began supporting Relay for Life after her aunt passed away in 1999 from breast cancer. Her relay team (Theodore, Betty and Milton’s Angels) was started by team captain Patricia Lane, Marquita’s mother. Their team, like all other Relay for Life teams, provides an essential part to the chain of support that cancer survivors as well as family members of survivors have for each other—a kind of support that bonds them together forever—a connection that is felt by every participant of each Relay for Life event.

Smith says, “events like Relay for Life have such a strong impact on communities. They bring people together in a way that you can’t imagine. Cancer affects all people and it doesn’t discriminate against anyone. At these events you feel so much love in the air and you are just reminded of how much love there is in this world. It’s good to see people coming together to be there for each other. Helping with the fight against cancer is so important for those who have been affected by the disease. This disease takes too many lives, and it’s not just breast cancer, it’s all types of cancer. Our team name (Theodore, Betty and Milton’s Angels) is actually a combination of family members. Two of them, married couple Theodore and Betty,
Fall is here finally! This super-fast semester is drawing to a close and the holidays are upon us. Halloween is the biggest holiday of the year in my book! Thank you to the Staff Development & Activities Committee for organizing the awesome Atkins Spooktacular Halloween Event. It was fun to enjoy so many different activities throughout the day on October 28.

All library faculty and staff are to be commended on the outstanding customer service you are providing. When I presented to the SGA Board this month, the students raved about the Library and its staff. You are doing a terrific job. Our success is evident in recent gate counts. Traffic increased 54% this August over last August and 4% this September over last September.

Personnel Changes
We now have a complete Finance and Personnel Team under Elizabeth Moll. You will learn more in this issue about Analiz (Ana) Laracuente Espinal and Lydia Peters. Refer to the Admin Responsibility Chart in the Intranet for up-to-date information on who does what in the Administrative Office.

Also, please welcome Bill Jeffers as Public Historian. Bill reports to Katie Howell and will be conducting oral history and research into UNC Charlotte history from Bonnie Cone to the present and writing the book about Chancellor Dubois’ experiences and a book in honor of the 75th anniversary of the University.

Congratulations to Pam Mason who now serves as Records Analyst and reports to Katie Howell. Our latest congratulations go to Sophia Timberlake who is now Acquisitions Manager. It is exciting to see our terrific employees moving into new responsibilities, tackling new challenges, and assuming leadership roles within Atkins.

Upcoming Events
Don’t forget to come to the 2 millionth volume celebration on November 17th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Atrium and Halton Room. I hope you will all attend. And there will be multiple events surrounding the NLM traveling exhibit: Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine (https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/harrypotter-bookinfo.html). The exhibit will be at Atkins from November 20 – January 7. More details will follow.

—Anne
I was born in Queens, NY; however, my family moved me to Coral Springs, Florida as a child and then to Charlotte, North Carolina as a teenager, so I’ve been raised in the South for most of my life. I consider North Carolina to be home! I started as the new Library Office Assistant on October 17th. Before joining Atkins Library, I was a student here at UNC Charlotte majoring in French and English (creative writing concentration) with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. I actually worked in Atkins and at Storrs library as both a student and a non-student temp, so I’m very proud and excited to be a part of the Library as a staff member! I love reading! I’m constantly buying books to add to my personal collection at home and I am always open to book/author suggestions! I enjoy writing poetry and using language creatively to express myself. I’ve even had one of my poems published by UNC Charlotte’s literary-arts magazine, Sanskrit. I volunteer with Girls Rock Charlotte, a local non-profit some of my professors started to help empower girls through music. I also practice yoga and mindfulness meditation! With my new position, I’m really looking forward to all the ways in which my different projects and responsibilities will allow me to assist library faculty and staff. I’m also super excited about being able to work with all of the amazing people in Atkins library!

As a child, I lived in Boca Raton, FL, Charlottesville, VA, Burlington, VT, and Austin, TX. As an adult, I have lived in Lexington, KY, Raleigh, NC, and Wilmington, NC. I joined the Atkins Library Administration on October 10th as the Accounting Technician. Prior to moving to Charlotte in 2010, I worked at a law firm in Wilmington, NC, where I was a Legal Assistant to four attorneys for three and a half years. After moving to Charlotte, I began working at UNC Charlotte as a Graduate Assistant in Multicultural Academic Services. I also worked as an Office Assistant to the Dean’s Staff in the College of Computing and Informatics for almost three years. Most recently, I worked in the SAC & Venue Management Department as the Business Services Coordinator for two years.

In 2004, I completed my B.A. in English from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and in 2014, I completed my M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. I enjoy gardening, cooking, sewing, crafting, and baking. I am excited to join the Atkins Library, because I value the services the library provides. I would not have been able to complete my M.A. in English without the resources supported, created, and managed by the Atkins Library. I’m motivated by learning, and I look forward to learning more about what I can do to support the functions of the entire Atkins Library.

I am from Charlotte, NC. I went to Charlotte Catholic High School (class of 1994). Go Cougars!! My library position is Visiting Lecturer and Public Historian. I started on October 17th. Prior to the library, I worked for Chancellor Dubois as an independent contractor researching the tenure of Chancellor Jim Woodward. I was also given the honor of turning that research into a manuscript that was published in 2016. That was also my first book. I am a UNC Charlotte alumnus, earning my BA (history) in 1999 and my MA (history) in 2011. In my spare time, I like to read and play the occasional video game. I’m really excited to be working on a book about Bonnie Cone. Her story is an important one because, without her efforts, this university would not exist. I think a book about her life is a great way to honor her memory and legacy. It is a refreshing change of pace to have the university pay me to research and write. Obviously that was not the case when I was a student.
Atkins Fellows

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passed away from cancer within two years of each other. They were my aunt and uncle. Milton, my other uncle, also passed away from lung cancer. We honor them as we participate in these events,” says Smith.

As dedicated supporters, Smith’s family raises money for the American Cancer Society by partnering with local restaurants to sell raffle tickets to win a dinner for two and gas cards.

“We do a lot with charities because it gives us much fulfillment. With the raffle tickets, we are making a difference. We reach out to the community when we take part in fundraising events and we are also bringing awareness to the cause,” says Smith.

 Relay for life is a team fundraising event where team members take turns walking around a track or designated path. Part of the American Cancer Society, each event is 6-24 hours in length and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps. Cancer patients don’t stop because they’re tired, and for one night, neither do the relay teams.

Each team sets up a themed campsite at the event and continues their fundraising efforts by collecting donations for food, goods, games, and activities. This money will count toward their overall team fundraising goal.

But Relay for life isn’t the only charitable organization that Smith supports; she also takes an active role with other organizations like Alzheimer’s and Autism.

“I really like to give back to others who are less fortunate. Anything I can do to offer support, I’m going to find a way to do it,” says Smith, the Fayetteville, North Carolina native.

Good-natured, Smith knows the meaning of giving. Although she has only called Charlotte home for one year now, where she spreads her compassion isn’t limited to her home town area anymore. She’s found a welcome mat to an opened door in the Charlotte area.

The Alzheimer’s event that Smith is involved with calls on participants of all ages and abilities to reclaim the future for millions. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer’s Association’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research.

“We also participated in the Autism Speaks Walk, a two mile walk that was at the zMAX Dragway in Charlotte on October 22. We like to help out and get involved to make a difference,” says Smith.

According to the Autism Association, Autism Speaks Walk is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds in the autism community. This grassroots movement is powered by people on the autism spectrum, their families and friends, service providers, schools, businesses and local volunteers. Walkers advocate and take action for the diverse needs of the autism community. Their efforts help generate funds that fuel innovative research and make connections to critical lifelong support and services.

As if that’s not enough, Smith does even more. She created her own activity to lend a helping hand to those in need. This charitable gesture touches the special place in her heart

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that she has for the homeless. And that place in her heart exists every year—as she and her family make sure they do their part annually to make someone less fortunate smile. “My family reaches out to the homeless by putting together small gift bags filled with a bible scripture and things like socks, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, and other toiletries that a homeless person can use. Sometimes we forget that we have so much and so many others have so little. Why not share,” says Smith.

Working together, and forming an assembly line to do it, Smith’s family makes between 40 and 60 bags to be distributed at a local Salvation Army in the Fayetteville area. Although the homeless can use the items in the gift bags year round, Smith says, “the target date for distribution is usually by the end of November.”

Smith’s next venture is to have these gift bags available in her car at all times, along with a dollar or two to add to them, just in case she comes across someone who is definitely in need of one of her gift bags.

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**Allman Receives Scholarship**

Allman was among fourteen graduate students from academic institutions across the U.S. who were awarded a travel scholarship to attend the Dodging the Memory Hole: Saving Online News forum. The scholarships, funded by the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, was available to assists students studying library/information science, journalism, computer science and other related fields.

The forum, an initiative of the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute’s Journalism Digital News Archive at the University of Missouri, took place October 13th and 14th at UCLA. During the event, Allman heard from speakers from organizations including The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and the Library of Congress. Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent Peter Arnett was also in attendance.

“The most exciting part of the forum for me was to be able to spend time with Peter Arnett.

*Allman continued on page 6*
One of our sessions was held in a location that was about a mile and a half walk from the main building. I was fortunate to walk with him to the location and spend about thirty minutes having a conversation with him about his journalism career. He shared his perspective on the Vietnam, and both Gulf wars. It was so interesting to hear this information first hand,” says Allman.

Being a recipient of the scholarship requires a little more work than just traveling to discuss digital news preservation. For this scholarship, Allman has to complete a project, something he thought about long before he first saw the announcement for the opportunity.

“Right away I thought about doing something with the Charlotte Agenda, an online local media company here in Charlotte. It’s fairly new and it’s not affiliated with any other media sources. I think of it as an online version of Creative Loafing. Charlotte Agenda covers local stories in surrounding neighborhoods that probably aren’t covered in traditional print that you and I would see. I’m interested in finding out about their policies and learning more about what they are actually working toward. The good thing about this component of the scholarship requirement is that all the attendees will be working with a mentor with their projects. My mentor is from the University of Kentucky. We’ll work on the project together,” says Allman.

Being a recipient of the scholarship has benefitted Allman on several fronts. He was able to work with people with his same interests, he learned a great deal about the field of news preservation along with emerging trends and technologies and he discovered something about professional development.

“This experience showed me that I need to expand my skill set, and if I want to actually work to preserve or save online news, I need to be more technologically savvy and become knowledgeable about what is needed to make sure born-digital journalism is around in the future. I really enjoyed learning about the field and participating in the discussions about what I’m interested in, news preservation,” says Allman.

Edward McCain, digital curator of journalism of the University of Missouri says, “it’s important to make future journalists, archivists and technologists part of the solution now. It is critical we begin building awareness of the need to preserve born-digital news content today so that future generations will not suffer the looming ‘memory hole’ of lost journalistic reportage. I’m delighted to have such talented individuals joining us as we work together to save online news.”

Test Your Knowledge Answers:

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