



newsletter

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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Campbell's Second Chance Initiative: Serving the Underserved

BY DR. SHERRY TRUFFIN, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY; PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH; SECOND CHANCE INITIATIVE FACULTY MEMBER

What does the Campbell University Second Chance Prison Education Initiative mean to its students?

It "has given me a chance to recreate myself, to better myself." (Kimberly, 3rd year student at Anson Correctional Institution)

It "means that I get to walk in the purpose that God has for my life." (Gwendolyn, 1st year student, Anson)

It's "an opportunity to discover something inside of yourself and share it with the world or your instructors." (Cory, 1st year student, Sampson Correctional Institution)

It "makes me feel like part of something bigger ... Being able to put on this orange shirt, it kind of takes me out of prison." (Charles, 1st year student, Sampson)

"My instructors have shown me that there's compassion for us ... that we're not forgotten ... and



Bottom, left to right: Dr. Sherry Truffin, Ms. Elizabeth Dobbins, and Ms. Abigail Pore. Top, left to right: Dr. Lin Coker, Mr. Wesley Lee, Mr. Steve Bahnaman, and Dr. John Roberson.

that I can be an asset rather than a liability." (Anita, 3rd year student, Anson)

Recorded testimonials like these were just one highlight of the November 7th Friends of the Library Annual Dinner, which celebrated Campbell's Second Chance Initiative (SCI) by telling its

story from a range of perspectives, including those of administrators, students, graduates, and, of course, library staff.

The Program started with remarks by Dr. John Roberson, a Campbell alumnus who has served the University in a variety of roles. He currently is Professor of Higher Education Administration, Special Assistant to the Provost, and most recently served as Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. Roberson shared that in 2017, Trustee Bob Barker, chairman of the largest U.S. supplier of provisions to prisons and jails, learned

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from the dean



Steve Bahnaman

*Friends Secretary &
Treasurer; Dean of the
Library*

In my first opportunity to address the Friends of the Library as Dean at our annual dinner this fall, I chose to mention a key tension between how libraries are seen and how they behave. Libraries carry an important feeling of tradition, of treasures within archives and shelves, of a sacred space for learning that does not always call to mind the concept of change. All of those aspects are embodied well within Wiggins Memorial Library itself.

From that platform of tradition and ever mindful of our role as the intellectual hub and heart of Campbell, though, the library constantly adapts to meet new needs, and constantly grows to encompass new meanings of “intellectual hub.”

Since I arrived at Campbell in 2012, I have seen my colleagues negotiate two new website designs, a new catalog system, the revamping and migration of our digital archives, a new set of information literacy standards for teaching students how to research, the creation of marketing via social media, the addition of a library branch at the School of Medicine, a wide variety of improvements to library space for students, and countless other significant changes.

Today the library stands in a world where false information proliferates online, and where artificial intelligence is changing the nature of work and learning in ways good, bad, and complex. And in that world, we do not stand still. We embark upon new quests to understand AI’s impact and teach students about its impact on research, to uphold the values of truth and evidence in a difficult world. The team of colleagues at Wiggins that I am extremely privileged to “lead” is in truth leading the library down new paths; I could not be more proud to be a member of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Bahnaman".

Steve Bahnaman

about Hudson Link, which coordinates education initiatives in prisons along New York's Hudson River. Barker then challenged Campbell University to consider starting a prison education program.

Charged with investigating this idea, Roberson soon learned that prison education programs dramatically reduce recidivism and save taxpayers substantial sums of money. He took on the rather daunting challenge of making the Second Chance Initiative a reality.

Addressing the audience, Roberson spoke of the enormous hurdles facing prison education programs: securing funding, attaining accreditation, providing academic and research support for incarcerated students, overcoming resentment and resistance among correctional staff, and challenging societal attitudes that favor punitive over rehabilitative approaches to incarceration. Roberson concluded by pointing to the "measurable difference" that Campbell's Second Chance Initiative, which began offering its first Associate Degree program at Sampson Correctional Institution in 2019, has made in the lives of its students and their families.



Wesley Lee began his presentation by reading out the names of those who graduated alongside him in the first SCI cohort.

One of those individuals is Mr. Wesley Lee, a member of Sampson Correctional Cohort #1 and a Campbell alumnus who earned an Associate Degree in 2021 and a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies with a minor in Addiction Studies in 2023. After expressing his thanks to God and to the many supporters and faculty members who

helped him to face and overcome the significant challenges involved in completing a college degree while incarcerated, especially during the pandemic, Lee spoke of the impact of his Campbell education. He relayed that prior to his release from



SCI student artwork was on display at the event, prompting onlookers like Dr. Lin Coker and his daughter to pause and reflect.

incarceration, he found himself doing janitorial work in the office of Mr. Todd Ishee, former Cabinet Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction. He noticed a graduation photo of his own Campbell University cohort on Ishee's wall.

Ishee's assistant identified Lee to the Cabinet Secretary, who invited Lee into his office for a face-to-face chat. Holding back tears, Lee described the rare and powerful experience of being recognized by a representative of the Department of Adult Correction for his achievements and being treated with respect, as an equal.

Lee also described his gratitude for landing a job just 53 days after his release, in contrast to the average of six months. Hired by Universal Forest Products, Inc. in Burlington, North Carolina, as a floor truss assembler, he has since been promoted to the position of yard manager and was named "Rising Star of the Year, 2024" and "Employee of the Month, August 2025." On the family front, Lee reported, he and his partner are expecting a baby in January 2026.

In his concluding reflections on his Campbell experience, Lee shared: "We learned who we were as

people, all because of people like you sitting in this room.” He recited Matthew 25:36, “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,” he said, adding that Campbell has done much more than visit.

Among those who have gone beyond visiting were the final speakers of the evening, Reference and Distance Learning librarian Abigail Pore

and former Assistant Dean of Wiggins Memorial Library Elizabeth Dobbins, who presented a video featuring reflections by incarcerated students and described the challenges the library faced offering library materials and support to a population not connected to the internet.

When the Second Chance Initiative began, Dobbins was determined to design library services for incarcerated students that approximated the experience of other Campbell students. This goal required considerable work from the library staff, since the students couldn’t do their own searches or download materials. However, Dobbins noted that — as is the case when ramps designed to accommodate wheelchairs end up making life easier

for many others — the lessons she learned also helped improve general library services.

Pore reported that the 2024 addition of interns

to the Distance Learning team has allowed Second Chance students to receive more consistent and timely research assistance, while helping train the next generation of librarians to do this important work. She also reported

that 2025 was the first year in which Second Chance students won awards in the library’s annual Academic Symposium, in which students present outstanding projects in oral and poster presentations.

To date, 78 students have earned

college degrees through Campbell’s Second Chance Initiative at Sampson Correctional, Anson Correctional, and the Women’s Reentry Initiative. Program faculty, staff, and partners are proving that education can transform lives, strengthen families, and build pathways to opportunity across North Carolina. Or, as Tremayne (3rd year student, Anson Correctional) puts it, “They pour into you, challenging you to be the best version of yourself.” ■



Among the artwork on display were these: (Top) Student artist Robert Groenewold created “Traditional Dancer” using oil pastels. (Left) “Friendship” is the work of student artist Melissa Labrador. (Right) Student Jessica Nash’s “Digging Deep” symbolizes how SCI is helping her “build a strong foundation for a good, productive life.”

Cup Sale: A Celebration of Student Craft

A semesterly ceramics sale is a much-anticipated event for student artists in Campbell's division of Fine Arts. This year, Professor Ray Im partnered with Reference & Instruction Librarian Hannah Holmes to bring the sale into Wiggins Memorial Library, with the goal of increasing visibility and foot traffic. The duo promoted the event through social media, campus flyers, and targeted outreach to departments, and the effort paid off.

Students, staff, and faculty browsed a long table filled with handcrafted cups, bowls, and other ceramic pieces, chatting with the artists and taking home their favorite works. Encouraged by the strong turnout, Im and Holmes hope to make the library sale a new Wiggins tradition, marking the end of the semester while celebrating the creativity and dedication of Studio Art students. See examples of student pieces below. ■



Student work on display in the Art Gallery on the second floor of the library included, from left: artist Coral Burke's "The One Plate" and "Ryomen Sukuna," Colleen Cassell's "Tested," and "Lights All Our Own" set.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Wiggins Memorial Library joined many cultural heritage institutions around the country in celebrating National Archives Month in October. If you missed the library's Instagram post and stories on the topic, here are some historical facts about archives for your enjoyment.

- It is theorized that Sumerians established the first archives sometime between 4000 and 3000 BCE. The first Chinese archives followed closely thereafter, with records stored on incised tortoise shell and bone.
- The word archive is derived from the Greek word *archeion*, defined as the office of the magistrate responsible for storing records.
- The French Revolution saw the mass destruction of many cultural

heritage artifacts, such as medieval manuscripts, until laws established a National Archives (1790) and mandated that records be deposited in it (1796).

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt championed legislation to establish the United States' National Archives in 1934.
- The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration first received electronic records in 1969, but the first major transfer of digital records, specifically email from the Executive Office of the President, occurred in 1993. ■



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Holley Long
Metadata & Digital
Initiatives Librarian

A Camel Returns to the Caravan

BY HANNAH HOLMES, REFERENCE & INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN

Wiggins Memorial Library was thrilled to welcome Hattie Smith back to Buies Creek in June 2025 as Access Services Librarian. A 2023 Campbell graduate with a B.A. in English and a minor in Environmental Sciences, Hattie returned home after earning her Master of Science in Library Science (MSLS) degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2025.

Hattie's path to librarianship began right here at Campbell. "I always loved books and loved to read," she shared. "I liked the idea of helping other people get access to information and to the books they were looking for."

As a student, Hattie spent plenty of time in Wiggins Library studying, reading, and getting to know the librarians. "I really liked the people who worked here," she said. "I remembered librarians like Brooke (Taxakis), so it was nice to be welcomed back."

The Durham native fondly remembers her favorite Campbell courses, including Oxford Christians Literature with Dr. Donna Waldron, Aquatic Ecology with Dr. Greg Larsen, and History of American Literature with Dr. Sherry Truffin. Hattie began her studies in pharmacy and clinical research, but the Oxford Christians class on J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis changed the trajectory of her academic and professional path.

As Access Services Librarian, Hattie manages Interlibrary Loan and the Lundy-Fetterman Museum, helps to supervise student workers, and aids in "stacks" projects such as shifting, weeding, and inventory. She also assists Reference & Distance Learning Librarian Abigail Pore with reference services for the Second Chance Initiative and Adult &

Online Education.

One of Hattie's favorite aspects of librarianship is readers' advisory, a skill she honed in her studies at Carolina. A self-described lifelong

reader, Hattie has never been far from a good book. Her passion for reading, especially horror fiction, means she enjoys helping others find their next favorite story, whether through research support or reader's advisory services.

Her time as a graduate assistant at the UNC School of Information and Library Science (SILS) Library, managing ILL and student workers, prepared her well for her work at Campbell. She is excited for the opportunity to grow and learn alongside her colleagues: "The people we work with build off each other really well and I'm excited to learn from them."

Hattie's return marks the third time a Camel-turned-Tar Heel made her way back to Wiggins Library. She joins Abigail Pore and the author in earning a B.A. in English at Campbell before completing an MSLS at UNC. Like any good Camel, Hattie has traveled far and learned much. But she's found her way home to the Creek, bringing with her a love of reading, curiosity, and sense of connection that continues to enrich the Campbell community.

Welcome home, Hattie! ■



A Fine Way to Feed the Need

BY VONNIE LINN, CIRCULATION ASSISTANT

Food insecurity arises when a person has inadequate access to food due either to monetary shortfall or physical barriers. Many college students fall into both categories.

Students affected by food insecurity experience challenges across multiple areas of life, including significant impacts to their academic performance.

The mission of Campbell's

Nourish Market, a free resource for students and staff to receive nourishment, bridges that gap.

Wiggins Memorial Library saw a chance to support this great mission, increase student success, and create engagement opportunities among students in the spring of 2025. In partnership with the Nourish Market, the library launched its Food-4Fines (F4F) program, allowing students to donate food items rather than pay money to clear library fines.

An innovative alternative for clearing late fees,

F4F fosters generosity and compassion. Rev. Morgan Pajak, Associate Campus Minister, Director of Community Engagement, articulates it this way:

"It shifts the student focus" when it comes to fines, offering an alternative to the feeling that "the library only wants my money." The program offers different giving opportunities based on the amount of a patron's fine. It allows students to choose how

they will meet the responsibility of their fines, providing them with agency; it also shows them that libraries "don't just live in the stacks."

By early November, the program had collected more than 63 pounds of food donated to the Nourish Market. And a fall semester "Clear Your Room - Clear Your Fines" food drive is adding more to that total. The drive, held from November 10 thru December 9, 2025, the last day of classes, let students waive up to \$5 in fines per non-perishable item donated. Now that's some powerful food for thought! ■



WIGGINS WORKS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reference & Instruction Librarian Hannah Holmes, Metadata and Digital Initiatives Librarian Holley Long, and Instructional Pedagogy & Curriculum Materials Librarian Jennifer Seagraves presented "Challenging the Status Quo: Hosting Outreach Events to Increase Campus Engagement with Archival Primary Sources" in a concurrent session for the Society of North Carolina Archivists, May 21-22, Greenville, NC.

Holmes, Long, and Seagraves also have an article in review, "Finding Belonging in the Archives: Promoting Teaching and Learning with

Archival Primary Sources," by the Journal of the Society of North Carolina Archivists.

Reference & Distance Learning Librarian Abigail Pore presented "Increasing Access: A Practice of Librarianship for Academic Programs in Prisons" for Alliance for Higher Education in Prison (AHEP) Community Conversations, via Zoom, Sept. 25.

Medical Librarian Sarah Wade chaired the Medical Library Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter Conference, October 19-21.

Instructional Pedagogy & Curriculum Materials Librarian Jennifer

Seagraves was awarded a 2026 Faculty Development Grant to attend a Meditation & Mindfulness Retreat.

Reference & Instruction Librarian Hannah Holmes presented "Not All Art Fits in a Frame: Challenging Disciplinary Boundaries Through Student Exhibition" at the North Carolina Library Association biennial conference, Oct. 14-17, Winston Salem, NC. Holmes also attended the Library Marketing & Communications Conference, Nov. 12-13, St. Louis, MO.



The “God Squad” Covers the Library

BY VONNIE LINN, CIRCULATION ASSISTANT



Angela Alarcon

You might say that supernatural intervention played a part in hiring Wiggins Library’s Graduate Assistants (GAs) for the 2025/26 academic year. Who could argue, considering that all three GAs are Campbell University

Divinity School students? Each member of this “God Squad” hails from outside of North Carolina and found his or her way here through a different journey.

Returning this year are Lori Poston and service dog Parker (also see Newsline, Fall 2024, p.8), who came to North Carolina by way of Virginia and Michigan, respectively. Josiah Hopkins took a scenic route to the tar Heel State, making stops in Tennessee, Delaware, Georgia, and Alabama. Angela Alarcon, beginning in Seoul, South Korea, traveled through five different states and 10 countries before landing in North Carolina.

Each GA has very different reasons for choosing Campbell. Lori felt compelled to attend here after visiting and experiencing a sense that “here is your home.” Josiah was looking for help, healing, and community after a hurtful church experience; he sought a place to be seen as a person, not just the role he serves. Angela wanted to further her studies in the word of God to serve Him better and develop her role in service to the church.

Beyond their individual academic and spiritual paths, each GA brings their own unique personality to the job. ■



Josiah Hopkins

GA Q&A

DISCLAIMER: Parker would not answer questions; she only wanted to play with her “stuffies” (aka stuffed animals, of which she has many) and slurp pup cups.

Q: What is the best and worst advice you ever received?

A: Angela: My best and worst advice was the same. My best friend in high school told me there was only one true God (Angela’s family was practicing Buddhism at the time). This was the BEST advice because her friend was right and Angela met Jesus; it was the WORST because at the time she did not know Jesus.

A: Josiah: The BEST advice was from my parents when I was acting up, going to hang out with my friend, or when insecurity set in: “Don’t forget who you are and whose you are,” they said. The WORST advice from others: “Follow your heart.”

A: Lori: The BEST advice I was given: “Don’t marry him.” The worst advice: “Marry him.”

Q: What is the most ridiculous thing you believed in as a child?

A: Lori: Santa, until I was way too old. Being the youngest, all four of my family members kept me convinced with pictures of Santa putting presents under our tree each year.

Q: What is your go-to karaoke song?

A: Josiah: “Problem” by Ariana Grande and any other extremely high-pitched song a guy is not supposed to sing.

Q: What is a song on the soundtrack of your life?

A: Angela: “The Goodness of God.” The words are very true of my life.

Camel Cameo in the Commons



Everyone's favorite camel made an appearance in the library to visit students and check out what the library has to offer, including a book from the New Titles shelf in the Oasis area, and a chance to log on at one of our desktop computers. We love it when Gaylord visits!

Graduation Celebration!



Congratulations, Skylar Humphrey, a four-year Wiggins Library Student Assistant who graduated on December 13, 2025, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She majored in Political Science with concentrations in Pre-law and Public Administration with a minor in International Business. Skylar will continue her education in the fall at NC State University, pursuing a Master's in Public Administration.

In addition to working at the library, Skylar served as a Student Government Association (SGA) representative, as Senior Class Vice President and Academics Committee Chair. She also worked at the Cornelia Campbell Alumni House, and was a barista. Congratulations Skylar, we wish you the very best!

Breathing New Life: A Kivett Renovation

BY ABIGAIL PORE, REFERENCE & DISTANCE LEARNING LIBRARIAN

Over the summer, a well-used area of the library got a makeover. The third floor of Kivett, where our Theological Reference Collection resides, now has a fresh coat of paint and a fresh look.

Supported by a gift from an anonymous donor, former Dean of the Library Sarah Steele formed a team to oversee the renovation and to poll students on their opinions on the space. This team, comprised of Head of Access Services Brooke Taxakis and the author, met with Campbell Facilities Maintenance and Carolina Furnishing + Design teams to envision a design for the space, including the option for a distinct study/classroom space to be used during Divinity orientations as well as student study.



The author headed up focus groups to poll students – primarily Divinity and Christian Studies students, predominant users of the space – on insights into implementing these ideas; other users of the space were welcome to participate in the surveys as

well. The major concerns from these groups were about comfort, privacy, brightening up the space, and outlet use. With agreement that the current large wooden tables should stay, offering plenty of room to spread out research materials and laptops, major recommendations were for comfortable



Students make use of the newly renovated study spaces featuring upgraded seating, collaborative tables, and enhanced technology.

chairs. And students had a say in their selection. Four types of chairs were gathered from across the library, lined up on the main floor and tested, with students voting via whiteboard tally marks to determine the top preferences.

The rest of the student feedback came easily. A wall installed to create the distinct partial room for orientations created more study areas against walls, more privacy for all tables, and more outlets for electricity; new lamps were also added.

The results? Now, there is more student traffic in the area, from not only religion-program students but many others from various disciplines who enjoy the comfortable, quiet space. ■



Merry
CHRISTMAS!



After Reference and Collection Development Librarian Ron Epps came upon the idea of a Christmas book tree, Circulation Assistant Vonnice Linn worked with student assistants to create a tree made of books weeded from the collection. The camel tree-topper was 3D printed courtesy of the School of Engineering.

STAFF REVIEWS

THE DISASTER TOURIST

By Yun Ko-eun

Counterpoint Press, 2020

I checked out *The Disaster Tourist* from the Wiggins Library Oasis Collection, where library patrons can find many recent and popular titles available for pleasure reading. Readers' advisory is one of my areas of interest, so I am always looking for new books that I can recommend to other book lovers.

This novel by South Korean author Yun Ko-eun follows Yona, a top representative at the "Jungle" travel agency. The story can be characterized as an eco-thriller, as the main plot centers around the effects of catastrophic natural disasters on local populations. Jungle's business model capitalizes on the shock factor of these catastrophes by shaping its travel packages around them, a practice known as dark tourism.

Jungle sends Yona on a solo work trip (disguised as a paid "vacation") to the island of Mui, Jungle's least-popu-

lar tourist destination. Yona's task of evaluating the travel package is majorly derailed as the story progresses, resulting in quite the twist ending. I think that I am fairly good at predicting plot twists, but the direction Ko-eun takes with her novel will likely catch most readers off guard. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys weird fiction, mysteries, and unique settings. ■



Hattie Smith, Access Services Librarian

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