

LIBRARY COLUMNS

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Exploring the Digital Media Commons in Jackson Library

The Digital Media Commons in Jackson Library is now open on the lower level. Join us on Tuesday, September 18 4-6 p.m. for an open house. Remarks begin at 4:30.

Have you had a chance to visit the lower level of Jackson Library since the start of the school year? It's so much more than a space for books and documents now! It's the DMC, our new study and work space, the Digital Media Commons! We have computers, scanners, adobe software and informed staff ready to help you with your digital needs!



Awesome spaces for studying (we call it the ottoman empire)



We have tons of group study rooms you can reserve on the [DMC page](#)

Also private spaces for you to work on video editing



Most of all the space is for students, faculty and staff to use as best fits their scholarly, professional and personal needs.

Here are some of the things we helped students with in just the last week (our first week open!):



- * Helped add images to blogs
- * Helped students use scanners (free scanning to email)
- * Helped with recording and playback on digital voice recorders
- * Helped to design video presentations
- * Helped students create slideshows with audio
- * Helped students to use adobe Illustrator to sketch image ideas

The DMC space is open and staffed from 8am until midnight on Sunday-Thursday, from 8am-10pm on Fridays, and 10am-10pm on Saturdays

Hope to see you there soon!

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Posted by Emily Mann

Music Library Gets New Name and Undergoes Renovation



Photo by Sarah Dorsey

What a difference color (and new shelving and furniture) make! So says Music Librarian Sarah Dorsey, noting that visitors will find that the Harold Schiffman Music Library has undergone renovation following the recent naming of the library for composer and Greensboro native Harold Schiffman.

As reported in June, the Music Library was named in honor of a large planned gift from Schiffman and his wife Dr. Jane Perry-Camp. At the time, Dean John Deal of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance noted "This generous bequest from Harold Schiffman and Jane Perry-Camp, along with their previous gifts to the Jackson Library, constitute the largest gift to the School of Music, Theatre and Dance since its inception in 2010 and to the School of Music since 2001. The scholarship endowment component will provide financial assistance to hundreds of future music students. It is truly a transformational gift. We are tremendously indebted to Harold and Jane for their generosity."

At the same time, the Harold Schiffman Music Library

renovation based in part on the input of the interior architecture students in Dr. Patrick Lee Lucas' Interior Architecture Third Year Studio Class. During the spring semester of 2012, Lucas and his students worked with the University Libraries to envision some possible scenarios for updating the identity of the library. Among the recommendations was to use materials, colors and textures to enliven and animate the space. New furniture, shelving, paint and signage were installed over a period of several weeks. Throughout the renovation, [the Harold Schffman Music Library blog](#) enthusiastically chronicled the process.

UNCG Libraries Offer Tools for 2012 Elections



As we close in on the 2012 elections, the University Libraries are making every effort to engage the campus in this exercise in civic engagement.

There's a voter registration table on the first floor of Jackson Library where potential voters may register or change their voter registration.

Reference Librarian Lynda Kellam has prepared a [LibGuide](#) to help voters educate themselves about the candidates and their positions on the issues.

Archivist Sean Mulligan has prepared an exhibit entitled [Campaigns and Elections: the Race for Political Office](#) now on display in the Hodges Reading Room on the 2nd floor of Jackson Library.

The Friends of the UNCG Libraries book discussion on October 29 features Dr. David Olson of the Political Science Department leading a discussion of Theodore White's classic, *The Making of the President 1960* at 7 pm in the Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library. [Register](#) on our website.

Even [French television](#) took an interest in the opinions of UNCG students when the Democratic National Convention was held in Charlotte, and visited Jackson Library to talk to them.

Mentoring for Music



(L-R) Mac Nelson, John Baga



Paul Hessling (photo by Carolyn Shankle)

Paul Hessling has been a cataloger at UNCG for 25 years. John Baga is beginning his career as a cataloger at Mississippi State after getting his M.L.I.S. degree from UNCG in 2011. They are linked by a passion for UNCG's cello music collection, and their relationship with Mac Nelson, UNCG's cello music cataloger. Here is their story.

UNCG's cello music collection is believed to be the world's largest. It has been built over nearly half a century, beginning with the acquisition of the Luigi Silva Collection by the Friends of the Library in 1964. Seven other collections have been acquired and processed in the intervening years, and the web site at <http://library.uncg.edu/info/depts/scua/collections/cello/> draws more than 6000 web page views per year from students and scholars from throughout the world each year, as well as hundreds of visitors in person. The collection is the result of collaboration and dedicated effort by a number of individuals in the School of Music and the University Libraries, and there are many people who deserve credit for creating this treasure for scholars, musicians, and stu-

dents.

This story is about three of those people, and the relationship that continues to take the cello music collections at UNCG into new areas. None of them work exclusively in the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives, where the cello music collection resides, but each works closely with the Department in developing the collections and making them more useful and more accessible.

Paul Hessling has been special collections cataloger at UNCG since 1986. He is also a collector and the donor of numerous materials now in the Special Collections and University Archives at UNCG. During his career, he has also mentored other librarians, among them Cello Music Cataloger Mac Nelson, who describes Hessling's knowledge of special collections cataloging as "encyclopedic." Together, Paul and his wife Janice, a Greensboro physician, have also been generous donors to the University Libraries. When Nelson, who is himself a talented guitarist, shared with them his dream to record and document the lives and careers of two cellists whose collections were given to UNCG, the Hesslings were enthusiastic about the idea. In the course of their work together in the Cataloging Department, Paul Hessling encouraged Nelson and agreed that one of the most important things he could do with the cello music collection would be not just to catalog it and make it available to students and scholars, but also to pursue working with the two virtuoso cellists, Bernard Greenhouse and Laszlo Varga.

Nelson acted upon his colleague's advice. He raised money and arranged for a recorded video interview with Beaux Arts Trio founder Bernard Greenhouse at his home on Cape Cod. Most scholarship about Greenhouse's legacy had focused on his solo career and work with the Beaux Arts Trio. There was also much interest in his ownership and playing of the "Paganini" Stradivarius cello dated 1707, but Greenhouse was also a great teacher and mentor. In a short film produced by award-winning filmmaker Joanna Hay, the 93-year old Greenhouse may be seen teaching and mentoring an eleven year old Korean cellist, Ha Young Choi, the youngest student whom Greenhouse ever taught, and one whom he believed has great promise. As he does so, Greenhouse reflects on the training he received from Pablo Casals as a young man. In his later years, Greenhouse focused his efforts on creating a place where cellists could come and work with him before beginning their professional careers. While Greenhouse died in 2011 at the age of ninety-five, this extraordinary footage

of him teaching and reflecting on his long career still serves as a memorial to his greatness as a teacher and mentor, supplementing his library of annotated scores, papers and other materials which were given to UNCG.

Another of Nelson's dreams was to record the life story of Laszlo Varga, who survived the horror of a Nazi labor camp in Hungary as a young man, escaping to become one of the world's great cellists. He was principal cellist at the NY Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein and Dimitri Mitropoulos, among other achievements. In the 1950s, he formed the first cello quartet in the U.S., which helped spawn a worldwide movement of cello ensembles. To date, he has completed over 50 transcriptions for solo cello, cello and piano, cello ensemble and mixed ensemble with cello. Varga gave his collection to UNCG in 2006.

In 2005, Varga came to UNCG to participate in a celebration of Greenhouse, and came again in 2006, when UNCG celebrated his own work. Both celebrations were organized by Music professor Brooks Whitehouse, who was then at UNCG and is now at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Nelson first met Varga at that 2005 celebration when he was assigned to escort him throughout the weekend. As he had done with Greenhouse, Nelson became not just a cataloger of the cellist's works, but his friend as well. Encouraged by Hessling and supported by Dean Rosann Bazirjian and Cataloging Department Head Mary Jane Conger, Nelson began work on documenting the full range of Varga's life and career.

Here also is where John Baga enters the story. The Winston-Salem native, while pursuing a graduate degree in library and information science at UNCG, was approached by Nelson and Professor Jim Carmichael of the Library and Information Studies program at UNCG about doing some projects relating to the cello music collections. Also a pianist with a special interest in drawing attention to music that he considers under-exposed, Baga eventually took an internship under Nelson's direction, and, suffering perhaps from the contagious enthusiasm that characterized the entire project, became fascinated with the collection and career of Varga. Baga undertook a project to organize and further develop some notes Varga had prepared about his life and career. According to Nelson, Baga undertook the project with "palpable enthusiasm and single-minded concentration." After producing a forty page manuscript that he enhanced with parenthetical notes and indexing, Baga was hooked. When he came into an unexpected inheritance from his father, Baga generously came to Nelson and offered financial support to do another video interview, this time with Varga. Baga

continues to believe Varga is a cellist who is seriously under-represented in the scholarly literature, and is doing something about it. Recently, he gave additional gifts to encourage published research about Laszlo Varga and support the development of the Libraries' collection about him with such projects as oral history interviews with his students. The Hesslings also made two significant financial contributions to the project, which had stalled when ill health kept Varga from visiting Greensboro. As a result, Nelson and the videographer went to visit him instead, at his home in Florida. The result was eight hours of video footage with a reinvigorated Varga that Nelson hopes eventually to distill into another film tribute to a great cellist. As Paul Hessling notes, "the idea was too important to let a lack of money keep it from happening. It was a project that had to be done."

The relationship of Nelson and Baga is a close one. The two plan to collaborate on presentations and articles about their projects, and Nelson notes with pride that Baga has recently been named monographic cataloger at Mississippi State University, his first professional position.

Students and scholars of music have long recognized the value of mentoring and teaching to the careers of newer cellists. The "genealogy" of one's training is one of the marks by which a cellist develops and becomes associated throughout a lifetime of music. How appropriate that so too has the relationship of Hessling, Nelson and Baga come to define and give testimony to the value of mentoring for careers in librarianship that have deepened and enriched the cello music collections at UNCG.

Posted by [Barry Miller](#)