



There is no frigate like a book...
Voyages - EMILY DICKINSON

In Memoriam:
Dr. Edward Cronin Peple

*Now cracks a noble heart. Good night sweet prince,
 And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.*

—Hamlet, Act V, Scene 2

The Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library has lost one of its dearest friends. Dr. Edward C. Peple died quietly August 2 after a long period of declining health. He is survived by two sons, Stephen G. and Edward G. Peple, and a daughter, Anne Gills, as well as four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His wife of 66 years, Mary Stevenson Peple died in 2003.

A man of great intellect and spirit, Dr. Peple received his bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond in 1932. He went on to earn his master's and Ph.D. in English from Harvard University. After teaching at Wells College, he returned to the University to teach in 1937 where he remained until 1978, except for brief periods when he taught at Harvard and Radcliffe College.

In the classroom, Dr. Peple could make his subject come alive. He particularly admired Shakespeare who "understood human nature better than anyone else," he said. He could recite whole acts from the plays, and make his class feel as if they were in the pit at the Globe Theatre. His enthusiasm for his subject and interest in his students made his classes fascinating and challenging.

According to Ned Peple, "I've had former students come up to me and say, 'I never really cared for English, but I really enjoyed your father's classes.'"


Dr. Peple served as chairman of the University's scholarship committee and the lecture committee, where



he had the pleasant duty of escorting visitors such as e. e. cummings, James Dickey, and Tom Wolfe. He also served as dean of the graduate school from 1965 to 1974, and as assistant provost from 1974 to 1978.

After retiring in 1978, he served on the University's Board of Associates and worked tirelessly with the Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library. He and his wife helped found the Friends and helped organize and chair the first annual book sale in 1979. They both served several terms on

the Executive Committee. In 1989 the Friends established the Edward C. and Mary S. Peple Library Lectureship with an initial endowment gift of \$10,000.

- From 1953 to 1964, Dr. Peple served on the Richmond School Board and was chairman his last year, when the board approved driver training for students. He sat on the Virginia Education Association's committee to re-examine certification requirements for English teachers in Virginia.
- Other boards he served on include the local board of St. Catherine's School, the advisory board of Richmond Memorial Hospital, and the trustee board of Forest Lawn Cemetery. He was former president of the Richmond Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, of the Harvard Club of Virginia, and of the Richmond Torch Club. 
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From the PODIUM

by Edward C. "Ned" Peple, Jr., Ph.D., RC'61
President of Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library

The name of this newsletter, *Voyages*, was inspired, as noted in the masthead, by the first line of a poem by Emily Dickinson.

I would like to take some liberties with this publication's name and suggest that each year The Friends of the Boatwright Library undertakes a new voyage. The destination of this voyage is, as it is every year, to *promote and support the Library* by sponsoring lectures and other events, by purchasing items or paying for activities which the library cannot fund through its allocation from the University budget, and by recognizing the contributions of student workers through small financial awards.


However, although the destination remains the same, the captain and crew change every two years, and each new crew looks for new and better routes to that destination.

As the "Captain" for the next two years (I decided not to make myself an admiral), I am pleased with the "officers and crew" I have assisting me in getting the good ship *Friends* to our destination. Together, I believe we have set a course for 2005-06 which will be of interest to all. It will also help us to have a successful cruise. After all, we go on cruises to enjoy the trip, not just to get to a destination.

Some events for the year have been finalized. Others are still under development. These are listed elsewhere in *Voyages*. Please check our Web site <http://library.richmond.edu/about/friends/index.htm> from time to time to remain current.

Three areas of emphasis for the coming voyage are increased visibility for our organization, since that should help increase membership and dues revenue; better attendance at our programs and lectures; and additional fund-raising activities. At the next Executive Council meeting, we will set a budget, establish some membership and financial goals, select a fund-raising program, and identify a specific need at the library to fund.

If you have not signed on for this year's voyage, please do so by submitting your dues. If you are already on board, help us recruit new members, participate in our fundraisers, and, above all, support our lectures and programs.

We are weighing anchor and casting off. Be sure to join us. It is going to be a great cruise! 

The Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library Executive Council

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Two Ways to Receive Friends' News

The Friends now offers members a new way to receive announcements, *Voyages*, and other information from and about the Friends—e-mail. This will not only hasten communications, it will reduce printing and postage costs. If you would like to take this e-mail option, please clip the form below, complete it, and mail it back. Or e-mail your preferences to kstank@richmond.edu.

Name: _____

Yes, please send *Voyages* to my e-mail address:

Boatwright Library Turns Fifty: 1955–2005

On November 1, 2005, the Frederic William Boatwright Memorial Library will turn fifty years old. The official dedication of the library took place on November 1, 1955, amid a splendid convocation event in Cannon Memorial Chapel. An exhibit of photographs and other materials from the library's Special Collections will be on display to



Frederic William Boatwright Memorial Library
University of Richmond

celebrate the anniversary in November.

Today Boatwright Library is sometimes taken for granted as the center of the University and is certainly the most photographed building on the campus. This has not always been the case. The first library on the 1914 campus was housed in a wing of Ryland Hall. But the University was growing and so


were the library collections, and by the 1920s needed more room. But space for library materials was very limited. Books and journals were stuffed into small reading rooms in Maryland, Puryear, and Richmond Halls, and the basement of North Court to accommodate the growing library collections. Dr. Boatwright, who had served as President of the University since 1895, was nearing the end of his tenure by the 1940s and many in the University community were looking for some way to honor this great educator. The original idea for a new library building that would be named for Dr. Boatwright began to take shape over sixty years ago among the Baptists of Virginia.

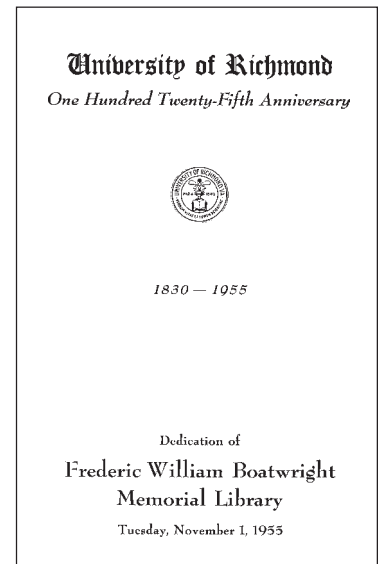
In 1944, a formal committee was appointed by the Baptist General Association to direct a campaign to raise \$500,000 for a library to honor Dr. Boatwright for "long and faithful services to Virginia Baptists." Dr. Reuben Alley, editor of *The Religious Herald* and an alumnus of the University, was appointed chairman of the campaign and convinced a reluctant and characteristically modest Dr. Boatwright to accept the naming of a new library for him. Dr. Boatwright soon threw himself into the efforts to raise funds for the library, traveling all over Virginia with Dr. Alley at his side. By the 1950s, the cost of the library building had risen to nearly a million dollars and funds were very scarce. But through the tireless efforts of the

women of the Virginia Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, the gifts from some 730 Baptist churches in Virginia, and the work of countless faculty, staff, and members of the Richmond community, funds were eventually raised to complete the library building.

The original Boatwright Library was designed by the architectural firm of Carneal and Johnston of Richmond in the collegiate Gothic style of the other buildings on the campus. The construction of the building was handled by Claiborne and Taylor Construction Company of Richmond. Dr. William H. Jesse, director of the library of the University of Tennessee, served as the major consultant on the library. Consisting of some 60,000 square feet, Boatwright Memorial Library included the main library with space for 150,000 volumes and seating for 270 students; a wing housing the Virginia Baptist Historical Society with space for 50,000 volumes and space for 40 readers; and a ground floor with space for the administrative staff of the University and the President.

Dr. Boatwright died in 1951, not living to see the library that would bear his name. Ground was eventually broken for the new library on February 17, 1954, on the hill above Westhampton Lake, with Dr. Boatwright's granddaughters, Frederica and Donna Lynch, doing the honors in the presence of a large number of friends of the University.

In his dedicatory address for Boatwright Library in 1955 in Cannon Memorial Chapel, Dr. Vernon B. Richardson spoke about Dr. Boatwright's belief that the library was central to the University and quoted from one of Dr. Boatwright's talks during the campaign for the new library: "The library is the most vital building in a University ... the universal laboratory where every student and every teacher does his work. Especially has the library become more important in the last half century as the emphasis in college education has shifted from teaching to learning. The quality of education provided by a college is directly dependent upon its library, and the educational value of an institution will rise or fall as its library is strong or weak." 



— Jim Gwin


A Facelift for the Boatwright Staff Area

Over the past few years the public areas of Boatwright Library have received makeovers that have greatly enhanced the beauty and usability of the library. This summer it was the staff's turn. Concerns about ergonomic chairs and furniture led to an in-depth study of the space and its use. The result, an amazing transformation!

In late June, the Access and Delivery, Outreach and Instruction, and Bibliographic Access Services (BAS) staff packed up our work areas and moved to temporary quarters. BAS, having the largest number, took over the quiet reading room in the Upper Commons, while everyone else found temporary quarters in the Administration office, the Media Resource Center, and the Business Information Center, or in private carrels in the stacks.

The move, well planned and executed, went smoothly and, with the exception of a few computer hook-up issues, without a hitch. Many of the staff members, including yours truly in the quiet reading area, came to quite enjoy their temporary space. Lots of light, quiet, and relative privacy.

We began to consider ways to remain in these new, more pleasant digs. That was before we saw the transformation. Guided by the practiced eye of the interior design manager for the University, a soothing color palate of greens, sandy beige and eggplant combined with fewer walls and more open space, had converted our dull "rabbit warren" into an airy modern workspace with furniture designed for what we do. The renovation also included the construction of a more user friendly mailroom and preservation/processing area for book repair. We even acquired a kitchenette with sink and mini-refrigerator. The project stayed right on schedule from beginning to end, and workmen declared it the smoothest project they had ever worked on.

Our second relocation of the summer took place without a hitch. That's if you don't count the missing chairs, rolling file cabinets and frosted glass insets to our cubicle walls that are still to come. But that's a small price to pay for such a wonderful new work place. 

— Betty Dickie

Fall 2005 Calendar of Exhibits from Boatwright Library's Special Collections

- **September 15–30, 2005** – Banned Books Week
- **October 1–28, 2005** – Chinese/American Film Festival In Richmond
- **November 1–30, 2005** – Half a Century of Service: Boatwright Library Turns 50 (1955–2005)
- **December, 2005** – Anthony Powell Centennial

Welcome to the Class of 1955!

The Friends of the Boatwright Memorial Library welcome the members of the class of 1955 to the Friends. A complementary one-year membership in the Friends of the Boatwright Memorial Library has been extended to every member of the class of '55. The Friends' Executive Council hopes that this 50th reunion year will be an opportunity for class of '55 alumni to reconnect to Boatwright Library and develop a renewed appreciation for the library's important place in the University's academic mission.


The Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library work to help the library fulfill its mission to support student and faculty study, teaching, research, and learning. The library does this in a variety of ways, including providing printed and electronic collections related to the curriculum, by teaching students how to evaluate information in print and electronic sources, and by forming partnerships with faculty to assure that library research skills and resources are an integral part of the students' coursework.

As a member of the Friends this year you will have many opportunities for involvement. You will receive invitations to programs and events the Friends sponsor and you will receive the *Voyages* newsletter. Through these opportunities as well as through the book borrowing privileges extended to all members of the Friends you can connect with the library of today. At the same time

you can reconnect with the library of your student years through *The Collegian* online at <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/library/digital/collegian/index.htm>. Just a glance at articles in *The Collegian* from 1954-55 will bring back memories. During your senior year it reported:

- Miss Fannie Crenshaw, coach at Westhampton College, retired at the end of the academic year
- Hurricane Hazel caused minor damage to the campus but more than \$1,000,000 in damage to the city of Richmond
- North Carolina ended the football team's Sun Bowl dreams 14-6 and William and Mary won its 15th consecutive victory over the Spiders in a game with the rare score of 2-0

At the dedication of Boatwright Memorial Library In November 1955 the Rev. Vernon Richardson of the University Baptist Church in Baltimore said, "The library may perform a role never yet performed in American education in enticing us to revise methods of teaching demanded by our times." We invite you to visit today's Boatwright Library to see how Rev. Richardson's prophetic words have played out today.

Welcome, Class of 1955, to the Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library! 

— Jim Rettig


2005 Student Employee Recognition Award Winner



On Sunday, April 24, 2005 at the Friends Annual Spring Meeting, **Joanita Senoga** was announced as the winner of the 2005 Student Employee Recognition Award sponsored by the Friends of the Boatwright Memorial Library. The other finalist for the Award, chosen from the 115 students the University Libraries employ, was Jackie Clister.

Joanita is a School of Continuing Studies student and has worked in Boatwright Library since the summer of 2003. She currently works as student manager for the Periodicals Help Desk and as government information manager for the Government Information Department. As evidence that Joanita is an excellent student employee, she received two nominations—one from each of her student supervisors.

According to one of her nominations “as a non-traditional student, she works almost 40 hours at the Library, volunteers in the community two mornings a week and takes classes in the evenings and on weekends.” In the words of her supervisor, “Joanita always has a smile and a great attitude. Her dedication to the Library will be greatly missed when she graduates next December.”

The winner was announced on Sunday, April 24, 2005 at the Friends Annual Meeting, where Joanita received a \$500 check and engraved plaque. In addition, her name will be added to the plaque that is permanently displayed on the first floor in the Boatwright Library. Congratulations Joanita! 


—Kirsten Stank

New Social Sciences Librarian



Born in Prescott, Arizona, **Olivia Reinauer** grew up in College Station, Texas. After graduating from high school, she moved to Austin, Texas where she majored in Liberal Arts at the University of Texas. She decided to become a librarian, because she wanted a job in which she could help others and continue learning.

Her fondness for reading and libraries, which began early in her childhood, was also a major factor in the decision! While working toward her master’s degree in Information Science at the University of Texas, she worked as a graduate assistant answering chat and e-mail reference questions, and also as a reference assistant at St. Edward’s University in Austin.

Olivia moved to Richmond with her husband, dog, and cat, just prior to starting work at the Boatwright Library in July. She is enjoying touring Richmond and the vicinity, and finding new places to explore her interests, which include food, yoga, and outdoor activities. 

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Please clip and save – and then use this voucher at the Barnes & Noble store at Broad and Libbie on September 23-25 to raise money for Boatwright Library! All proceeds from this partnership with Barnes & Noble will go to the Friends to support our work on behalf of the library.



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University of Richmond, Virginia 23173

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EDITOR:

Betty Dickie

Friends Programs Fall 2005

Saturday, October 8, 1:30 & 4:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored event: Camp Concert Hall,
Modlin Center

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents:

Guess How Much I Love You

and

I Love My Little Storybook

Sunday, October 9, 2:30 p.m.

Lecture and Reception: Keller Hall Reception Room

Speaker: James Robertson, Jr. Distinguished Professor
of History, Virginia Tech

Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.

Lecture and Reception: Rosenbaum Room,
Jepson Alumni Center

Speaker: Howard Owen. Author (*Littlejohn*
and *Turn Signal*) and Deputy Managing Editor
of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.