Letter from the President

Back in March, 2020, at the start of the pandemic, I wrote you a special report which began by invoking that famous line from Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Almost two years later I am beginning to think my words were not wrong, merely premature. Who would have thought—back then—that words like "delta variant" and "omicron" would enter into our daily conversations? Since then we have experienced COVID surges and false dawns. The very unpredictability of the virus has wreaked havoc on our ability to confidently plan ahead, necessitating fewer programs, no holiday party or even annual meeting. Everyone is tired of COVID, and (cautiously) hoping for a return to more normal times.

By the same token, the Library has been extraordinarily blessed in the past year from a financial standpoint. Bequests, such as those from the Estate of Earl and Lillian Bettinger and the Estate of Margaret Howe, increased support from the Polk County Community Foundation, together with our best Annual Fund drive ever, have allowed the Library to take giant strides in our goal of reaching financial sustainability.

At the same time, this support has allowed us to finally address long deferred infrastructure issues, and more are in the planning stages. Some of these upgrades are not necessarily visible to the casual visitor, but are critical to the long-term health of our facility. For example, this past year we replaced our two furnaces, which had far exceeded their expected useful lives, with new high-efficiency furnaces. At the same time, we addressed a chronic moisture issue in our basement with new sump pumps, moisture barriers, drains and a dehumidifier.

The air quality of our public spaces was also upgraded with the addition of three new, state-of-the-art HEPA air filters A professional building inspection revealed a number of problematic electrical issues, all of which have now been rectified. New flooring and/or carpeting is scheduled to be installed soon in the Le Duc Room and adjacent kitchen and bathroom annex, as well as the periodical room, offices, children's room and back staircase. And by the time you receive this report we will have contracted to repaint the exterior of the building—another long overdue maintenance item. Finally, we undertook a full review of our existing insurance coverage, and prudently increased it to reflect increases in the cost of construction.

When we are done, Lanier Library will be better positioned for the future than it has been in a long time.

The Library also took an important step in the past year to reduce our carbon footprint. Through the generosity of the Polk County Community Foundation and a rebate from Duke Power, we were able to install solar panels, thereby cutting our ongoing electrical expenses.

Despite COVID we were able to conduct a virtual poetry festival featuring NC Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton-Green, an outdoor family program with Foothills Humane Society, talks by local authors Robin Edgar and Maryneal Jones, and to co-sponsor interesting presentations with the Tryon Garden Club.

For all of this we are truly grateful—for the support of our loyal members and our benefactors, and the hard work of our outstanding staff, headed by Jenny Purtill.

Last year's Annual Report recognized the important contributions of our immediate past president, Harry Goodheart. As you know, we were all saddened to learn of Harry's death this past October. Harry had been associated with the Library for many years in various capacities, and by donating his bookstore and his book collection to Lanier in his will, he has made one more contribution which will have a lasting impact on the Library for generations to come.

This spring I will be stepping down as President, to be succeeded by Vicky Jackson. We also welcome our newest Board member, Cindy Caldwell. With your continued support, the support of benefactors like PCCF and the Felburn Foundation, legacy gifts like the Bettinger, Howe and Goodheart bequests, and under Vicky's able leadership, I am confident that Lanier Library will continue to experience only "the best of times."

With warmest wishes for 2022 and beyond.

Timothy J. Boyce
President

LANIER LIBRARY
MORE THAN EXPECTED

Annual Report 2021

Thanks to Donors

Foundation, Corporate, and Trust Support

Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bernard G. Drummond Charitable Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation
Duke Energy Foundation
Dixie and Harry Evans Charitable Endowment Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation
Lanier Library Designated Endowment Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation
The Earl and Lilian Bettinger Trust
The Felburn Foundation
The Margaret Howe Trust
The Stuart and Margaret L. Forbes Foundation, Inc.
The Plume Family Foundation
Polk County Community Foundation
Rogers-Haynes Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

Mary Ann Claud in memory of Ruth Lane
Brad and Ailene Evans in honor of David and Frances Maxwell
Ellis and Linda Fincher in memory of Daniel Montgomery
Sam Hawken in honor of Vicky and Tom Jackson
Wendell Hawken in honor of Vicky and Tom Jackson
Amber Keeran and Jeff Jenkins in memory of Daniel Montgomery
Bob and Sandra McCall in memory of Daniel Montgomery
Barb Oklesen and John Fowler in memory of Daniel Montgomery
Allan and Jenny Purtill in memory of Daniel Montgomery
Chuck and Beth Rounds in honor of Clare O'Sheel
Hank Stembridge in memory of Theron Watson
Lois Tirre in memory of Daniel Montgomery
Janet Turner in honor of Harriet Sams

Lanier $2500 and up

Mary Ann Claud and Olin Sansbury
Tom Ervin and Kathryn Williams
David and Frances Maxwell
Hank Stembridge
Martha Strawn and Bill Latham

Austen $1,000 to $2,499

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Scott and Gayle Lane

Twain $250 to $499

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Erik and Eleanor Bundy
Jack Carlock and Jane Darby
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Bob and Dottie George
Janet Glancy and Hugh Snively
Derek Harrison
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John and Shawn Matthew
Jim and Renee McDermott
Doug McMillan
Rick and Eileen Mehta
Barb Oklesen and John Fowler
Beverly Ozmon
Bob and Susan Penfold
Allan and Diana Ramsay
Beth and Chuck Rounds
Larry Siler and Vicky Grant
Laura Smith
Bobbi Sommer
Kevin and Rosemarie Sprouls
Lois Tirre
Vince and Gloria Verrecchio
Loti Woods and Dale Weiler

List reflects donors from 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021.

Thanks to Donors

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Dickinson $100 to $249

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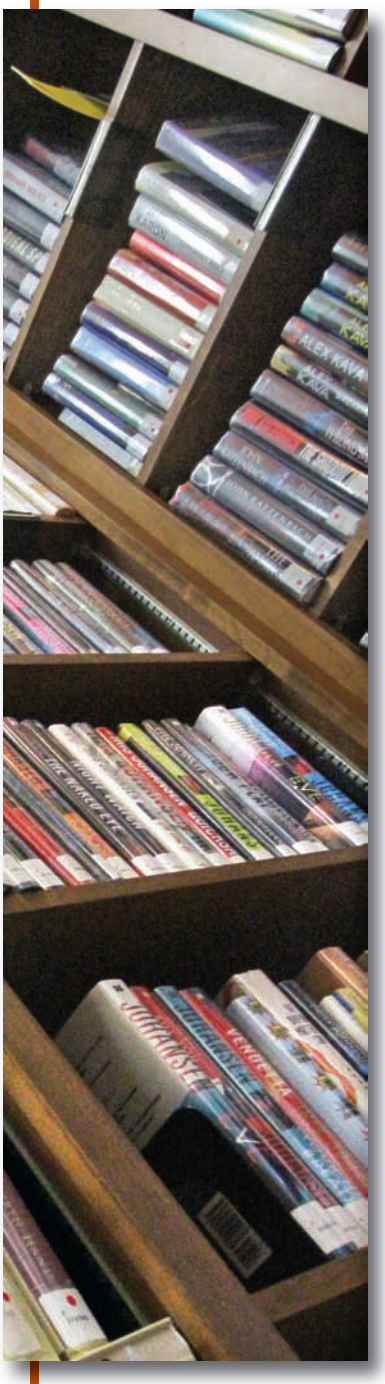

Other Gifts

Anonymous
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Mollie Turner
James and Carol Ward
Jane Wilson
Colleen Wilson

Gifts in Kind

Larry and Janice Elder
Julie McIntyre
Donna Wise

List reflects donors from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

LANIER LIBRARY
MORE THAN EXPECTED

Key Facts

- 34 programs including literature, Felburn Nature and Wildlife, history, performing arts, crafts, poetry, and more.
- Total media acquisitions for 2021: 690. Fiction: 278; Mystery: 100; Non Fiction: 91; Biography: 37; Juvenile: 30; Young Adult:1; DVDs: 101 purchased and donated; CDs: 52.

Treasurer's Report

This chart says it all. Income exceeded expenses for the first time in years. Endowment funds were last tapped to cover operating deficits in August 2020. Since then, the Endowment has been growing and, since October, has been further supported by routine transfers from operating funds. This good news is attributable to being the beneficiary of thoughtful estate planning, a record-breaking Annual Fund, and grants both large and small. With uncertainty the order of the day, it is gratifying to feel a measure of security going forward. Full year-end financial statements and our federal tax return (Form 990) are available upon request at the Library.

Rita E. Landrum, Treasurer

Revenues	2019	2020	2021
Member driven	$76,255	$70,445	$84,222
Bequests	N/A	N/A	$103,100
Grants	$68,065	$27,526	$144,958
Other	$5,975	$1,749	$17,637
Total	$150,295	$101,188	$349,917
Expenses	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Personnel	$82,192	$90,831	$97,054
Books/other media	$20,313	$17,780	$15,830
Facilities	$44,529	$17,706	$23,554
Capital items: solar, drainage	N/A	N/A	$63,315
Professional	$15,393	$11,154	$4,500
General/Admin	$30,930	$21,653	$35,708
Total	$193,357	$162,458	$239,961
Operating Gain/Loss	-$42,762	-$61,271	$109,956