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NCSU LIBRARIES  
VOLUME 22 NO. 1

2001

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TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

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Please direct queries or feedback about this issue to [terry\\_crow@ncsu.edu](mailto:terry_crow@ncsu.edu).

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CB 7111  
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ROGER WINSTEAD, NCSU.

*[Seated, left to right] Charles and Mary Livengood at the reception given in their honor by the NCSU College of Textiles.*

## Livengoods Honored with Teaching and Learning Endowment

BY JUNE BROTHERTON, ADMINISTRATION AND ADVANCEMENT

**H**ow does someone end up with a lifelong career in teaching at NC State? By complaining about the bad instruction he received as an undergraduate. That is how Charles D. Livengood became one of the College of Textiles's most-beloved and honored professors.

Livengood's roots run deep in the red clay soils of Piedmont mill towns. A Lexington-area native, he could not afford to come to NC State as an undergraduate. However, his father worked in the finishing division of Erlanger Mills, and the company offered college scholarships to children of its workers. Livengood, who worked

with his father in dyeing and finishing during summer vacations, applied for and won a scholarship to study textile chemistry at NC State, entering as a member of the Class of 1958.

"Although I had worked in dyeing and finishing, nothing prepared me for freshman chemistry," Livengood stated. "Chemistry was a shock, and the returning Korean vets were finishing a four-year degree in three and one-half years. They set the pace, and the pressure was on to take heavier loads, do well, and graduate early."

After he graduated, Livengood worked as a research chemist in the College of Textiles and "backed into" graduate school, completing his

master's degree in 1967 while working full-time. In 1966 Livengood took the step that placed him on his permanent career path as a teaching faculty member. That year a veteran textiles professor who taught several core undergraduate textiles courses accepted a Fulbright scholarship to Spain. Livengood and another graduate student complained to Henry A. Rutherford, head of the Department of Textiles Chemistry, about the quality of the replacement instructor's teaching. Rutherford nicely turned the tables on them by assigning the professor's classes to them to teach. Knowing he needed a doctorate to teach at the university level and with no doctorate offered in textiles at NC State at that time, Livengood started an Ed.D. program in industrial vocational education in 1967, again while working full-time.

In 1972 Livengood received his doctorate and became an assistant professor. Research and teaching provided parallel career tracks for him over the next thirty years. He moved quickly from assistant to associate professor, then to professor and assistant department head in textile chemistry in 1982. In 1985 he became head of the Department of Textile Chemistry, then head of the Department of Textile Engineering, Chemistry, and Science in 1988. He capped his career in 1994 by being named associate dean for academic programs in the College of Textiles, a position he held until his retirement this year.

Looking back at his career, what does Livengood see as his greatest accomplishment?

I saw a lot of myself in the students who came through the doors of the College of Textiles. My greatest accomplishment was the contribution I made to the education of these young men and women, who went on to become successful in the textile industry and active as civic and community leaders. I also looked out for the 'mill-hill' kids from Davidson County. I'd tell my sister in Lexington about their progress or lack thereof, and parents would call her to check on their sons or daughters.

It was a natural thing when Livengood retired in 2001 that he and wife Mary would decide to set up an endowment at the NCSU Libraries to honor teaching and learning, called the **Charles D. and Mary B. Livengood Teaching and Learning Endowment**.

To me, the Libraries always stood for the center of learning, a repository. It was a place where I could go when I needed information, and they either had it or could get it. Lots of the young people coming into the textiles college had a hard time adjusting and needed help, and the Libraries was a way to get friendly and accessible help. Professors helped to the extent they could, but some students didn't know how to study, didn't know how to ask questions, and didn't know how to get organized. The library helped those students be successful.

Mary Livengood also had a commitment to the textiles industry. Before her retirement, she worked for twenty-seven years as controller of the Fibers Division of Guilford Mills in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina.

Livengood considered establishing an endowment at the Libraries for several reasons. "When students and faculty needed help, the Textiles Library was always there," he said. "I also saw a lot of new teaching faculty who were enthusiastic, but who needed help in preparing to teach. This endowment will help ensure that the critical materials will be there that young, in-service instructors or struggling students need, or that the more experienced faculty can point them to in order to help them solve their own problems."

He hopes that the 6,000 to 8,000 students who came through the College of Textiles while he was there will help to support this endowment—not because of him, but because they want to help other students, many from rural counties, who are following in their footsteps.

"I just hope I have helped a bunch of students a little over a long period of time," Livengood said. "I've had a great career, but the best reward I've had from working at State was when the students chose me twice for the Alumni Distinguished Professor Award in the '80s. It doesn't get much better than that." ❖



# NC State Class of 2000 Senior Class Gift

BY TRACY PROCTOR, LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

**T**hanks to the NC State Class of 2000, students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors can enjoy a pleasant afternoon on comfortable benches outside the D. H. Hill Library. The Class of 2000's gift of solid-teak benches can be found next to the Hill library's main entrance in the Class of 1998 Greenspace and in the large and shaded grassy area next to the Brickyard. All of the benches are marked with permanent brass plaques recognizing the Class of 2000. Many thanks to all the seniors who made this generous gift to the NCSU Libraries. ❖



*NC State engineering student Melanie Chin enjoys studying on one of the Senior Class Gift benches donated to the Libraries by the NCSU Class of 2000.*

## New Library Endowments

The NCSU Libraries would like to recognize the recent formation of the following library endowments. Endowments provide income that enhances the library's ability to purchase the books, materials, and technologies needed to sustain NC State University's intellectual excellence and to attract or retain key library faculty members.

### **Edwards Library Endowment**

(support for the NCSU Libraries' collections in all subjects and formats)

### **Charles D. and Mary B. Livengood Teaching and Learning Endowment**

(support for the Burlington Textiles Library's teaching and learning collections and programs)

### **Julian Hart Robertson Library Endowment**

(support for the NCSU Libraries' textile-manufacturing collections in all formats)

### **Porter Williams, Jr., Library Endowment**

(provides income supporting the purchase of English materials in all formats for the NCSU Libraries)



*Focus*, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>

## New NCSU Libraries Incubator Endowments

Frank and Judy Abrams Endowment  
Donald and Maryann Bitzer Endowment  
Karl F. and Gale G. Bowman Endowment  
Jinnie Y. Davis Endowment for  
Publications & Public Relations  
Alex and Linda De Grand Endowment  
Joy Downs Library Endowment  
Arthur R. Eckels Electrical Engineering  
Endowment  
Entomological Special Collections  
Endowment  
John T. Ferguson Endowment  
Louis A. Goodson, Jr., Memorial  
Endowment

Dr. Roberta R. Havner Memorial Endowment  
Koch Endowment  
Don C. Locke Endowment  
Dr. Thoyd Melton Endowment  
Sara and Chloe Novak Chemistry Endowment  
Ozturk Endowment  
Ragland Endowment  
Charles Smallwood, Jr., & Judith R. Smallwood  
Library Endowment  
Lee Smith Endowment  
Michael K. Stoskopf Endowment  
Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf Endowment  
Tonelli Endowment  
Judith W. Watts Endowment