

# FOCUS online

NCSU LIBRARIES  
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NEW ENDOWMENT

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SUPPORTING THE  
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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

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Photographs by Sheri Thomas, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.

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## Cofer Sets Pace with New Endowment

BY JUNE BROTHERTON,  
ADMINISTRATION AND ADVANCEMENT

**E**loise S. Cofer has always been a groundbreaker who set the pace for those who followed behind her. Early in her career as a teacher and nutritionist, she discovered the impact of education in empowering poor and disadvantaged people to help themselves, working as an extension specialist with the West Virginia Extension Service.

She discovered the power of government in helping those who often cannot help themselves. Working for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the late 1950s, Cofer was involved in the war on poverty and malnutrition in rural and urban areas. Finally, working with the North Carolina Extension Service (now called the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service), she discovered the power of leadership education in enabling women to become agents for change in their communities. Her work was influenced by and enmeshed with many issues of the time, such as desegregation, women's emergence as leaders of industry and government, and the involvement of women in mainstream political action.

While her work proved hard, because it was on the leading edge, Cofer never regretted a day of it. "I never went to work that I wasn't glad I was there," she states.

A West Virginia native and 1937 graduate of Marshall University, she received her master's degree in nutrition from Columbia University Teachers College. After graduation, Cofer taught at Stephens College for several years and joined the staff of the West Virginia University (WVU) Extension Service, working in rural nutrition



*Eloise Cofer. Photo courtesy of Visual Communications, NCSU.*

education programs for twelve years and completing a doctorate at the University of Chicago.

Armed with her Ph.D., she worked for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, planning food budgets based on four income levels determined by Bureau of Labor statistics information and by research on food purchasing and consumption habits of Americans. These budgets helped to determine the amounts of food assistance that state and local social services departments would provide to needy families on welfare to ensure basic, adequate nutrition.

During that same period, George A. Hyatt, a colleague on the WVU extension staff, left to work for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, later heading that organization. As head, he recruited Cofer in 1963 to work at

NC State as assistant director for home economics, a position first held by Jane S. McKimmon. The job involved long hours and frequent travel across the state. Cofer supervised the home economics programs and the specialists who worked across the state with county agents on issues ranging from food, nutrition, and clothing to family development and consumer science. She remains proud of her work to increase the professionalism and applied research orientation of her staff, noting,

I emphasized the professional development and education of specialists and district agents who worked with agents in program development. At the time I joined the Cooperative Extension Service, the home economics specialists did not get the respect they deserved because they did not have advanced educations, so we worked hard to get them back in school, earning masters' and doctorate degrees.

Her greatest challenge came in the early 1970s with the desegregation of the Cooperative Extension Service. On this subject, as with most others, Cofer is matter-of-fact. When asked how it was accomplished, she said,

We worked with the specialists at North Carolina A&T State University, most specifically Dr. Minnie Brown, and integrated our own staffs first. Then working together, serving as role models, we went to all of the Extension Homemaker Clubs across the state and laid out our plan for integration of these tight-knit community organizations.

Because of the work of extension personnel like Dr. Brown, who led by example, and Ada Della Poza from the N.C. Extension Service, who ensured that all new agents hired shared the same philosophy, the clubs survived the transition and became even stronger in the late '70s and '80s. It really happened quite smoothly, more smoothly than we expected.

Continued emphasis on and programs in leadership development for women, a legacy of former extension home eco-

nomics heads McKimmon and Ruth Current, provided the key to the survival of Extension Homemaker Clubs during desegregation. States Cofer,

As women learned about leadership, they became more confident that they could provide successful leadership for positive change in their communities. Over time, we saw numbers of women—African American and white—who had come through extension leadership programs either running for and winning local offices or becoming a vocal and important part of their communities' leadership process.

This leadership extended into the halls of the North Carolina General Assembly. For years, the Extension Homemakers had wanted to construct a facility in Raleigh to conduct statewide meetings and offer educational programs. They

*[Left to right] Lawrence Apple, president of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, and Eloise Cofer at the 2001 Spring Dinner.*





had accumulated \$100,000 toward this goal when the concept arose of building a continuing education center on NC State's campus. Extension Homemaker Clubs across the state decided to support legislation to fund this new facility and to provide their \$100,000 as seed money for the project. Extension Homemakers from Manteo to Murphy spent innumerable hours educating their local legislators about the benefits to North Carolinians of a continuing education facility at NC State. The legislation passed, and in 1976 the new continuing education center was named in tribute to the first leader of family and consumer sciences in the extension service, Jane S. McKimmon. Also honored were the Extension Homemakers who made the facility a reality through their legislative efforts. Room 4 of McKimmon Center was dedicated to them and today contains historical memorabilia from McKimmon and Current, other extension staff members, and Extension Homemaker Clubs across the state.

Cofer retired in 1980 after a rewarding career at NC State, but she did not stop spurring others to achievement and action. She reemphasized her fundamental belief in the power of education when, in 2001, she created an endowment at NC State. Called the **Eloise S. Cofer Endowment**, it will provide unrestricted funds to benefit four educational entities: the NCSU Libraries, Arts NC State, the J. C. Raulston Arboretum, and the NC Cooperative Extension Service Foundation.

Asked why she chose the NCSU Libraries as a beneficiary of her endowment, Cofer's response was simple:

*Libraries are special. You can't have a good university without a good library. Libraries are basic to everything in education. Philosophically, I think libraries are the foundation of education. Maintaining the level of resources that research libraries like NC State's have just doesn't stop, so continuing support is critical. ❖*

## Plaque Honors Donors to NCSU Faculty Endowment

BY TRACY PROCTOR, LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

**K**arl Bowman, associate professor of equine surgery at NC State's College of Veterinary Medicine, stands in front of a handsome cherry-and-brass plaque the NCSU Libraries designed to recognize donors who make gifts of \$250 or more to the NCSU Faculty Endowment for the Libraries Collections. As chair of the University Library Committee, Bowman led a dedicated group of faculty and staff in a successful effort to raise funds for the endowment, which now stands at more than \$56,000 and makes a significant difference to the library's collections. The plaque, located to the right of the main circulation desk in the D. H. Hill Library, is one way for the NCSU Libraries to thank NC State faculty and staff for their tremendous support of the Libraries over the years. ❖



*Karl Bowman of the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine stands in front of the library's new plaque honoring donors to the NCSU Faculty Endowment for the Libraries Collections. It hangs in the D. H. Hill Library.*

## Supporting the NCSU Libraries with a Charitable Gift Annuity

BY TRACY PROCTOR, LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

**A**nyone with certificates of deposit coming due who has looked at renewal rates knows their income will be less. Given this fact, why not consider establishing a charitable gift annuity with the NCSU Libraries? It can offer a guaranteed return for life, an income tax deduction to lower tax bills, and a very attractive rate of return. A charitable gift annuity also allows donors to make a significant gift to support the Libraries.

Consider the benefits Sam Westbrook and his wife (both are sixty-seven years old) will receive in exchange for a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity:

- A charitable income tax deduction of \$2,395;
- An annual income of \$640 of which only \$311 is taxable—the remaining \$329 is tax-free;
- A projected total income over their lives of \$14,720;
- An eventual gift in support of the NCSU Libraries of \$19,743.

To learn more about a charitable gift annuity and how it can help you as well as the NCSU Libraries, please contact either Joan DeBruin, NCSU's director of gift planning, or Tracy Proctor, director of development for the Libraries. DeBruin may be reached at Campus Box 7501, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7501; by phone at (919) 515-9076; by fax at (919) 513-1728; or via electronic mail at [joan\\_debruin@ncsu.edu](mailto:joan_debruin@ncsu.edu). Proctor may be reached by phoning (919) 515-3339 or by sending an electronic-mail message to [tracy\\_proctor@ncsu.edu](mailto:tracy_proctor@ncsu.edu). ❖

## Natural Resources Library Fund Becomes Endowment

BY TONY REEVY, FORMERLY WITH LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT, AND KAREN CICCONE, NATURAL RESOURCES LIBRARY

**T**he Natural Resources Library Fund, through the generosity of many donors, reached endowment level at the end of the 1998–1999 fiscal year and became the **Natural Resources Library Endowment**. The largest donation was an employee-advised contribution from Weyerhaeuser Company.

The endowment provides annual income supporting the enhancement and general development of the Natural Resources Library, including its collections, staffing, operations,

services, and facilities. The Natural Resources Library is a branch library of the NCSU Libraries and supports the research interests of the College of Natural Resources and the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

To make a gift to the endowment, write a check to “Friends of the Library” and mail it to Friends of the Library, Campus Box 7111, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7111. On the memo

line of the check, please indicate that the gift supports the Natural Resources Library Endowment. To make a donation by credit card, call the Friends' office at (919) 515-2841 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., on weekdays. For more information about the endowment, call Tracy Proctor, director of Library Development, at (919) 515-3339 or send an electronic-mail message to [tracy\\_proctor@ncsu.edu](mailto:tracy_proctor@ncsu.edu). ❖



*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/>