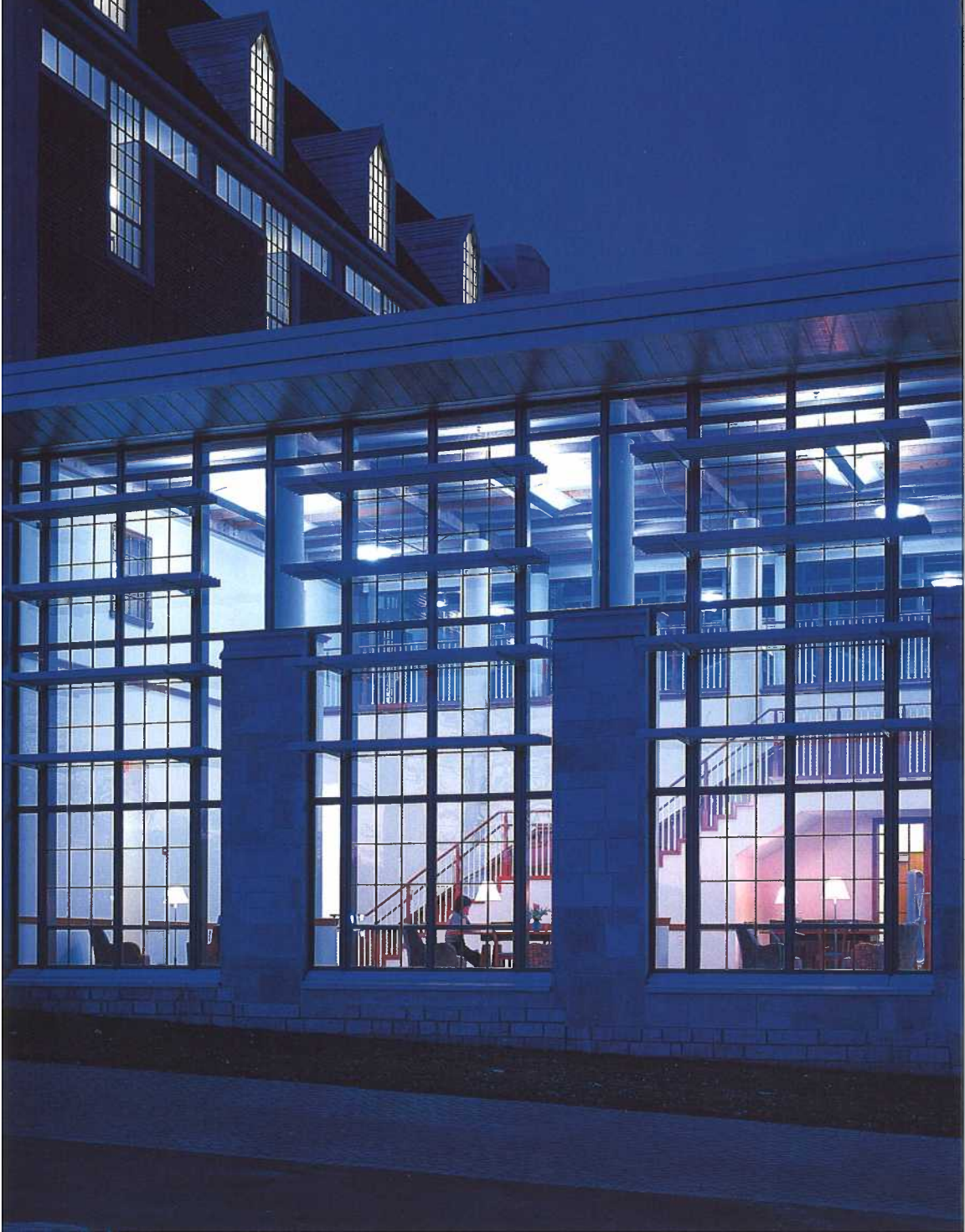


*McCain Library*

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE







PRESIDENT MCCAIN

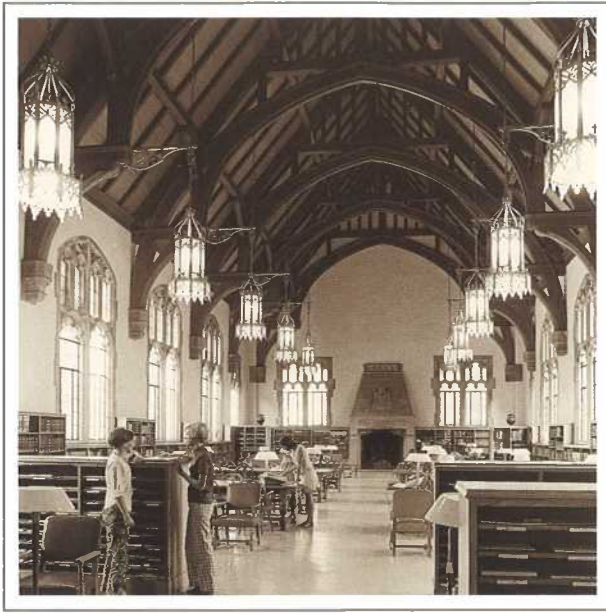
### *James Ross McCain*

The second president of Agnes Scott College (1923-1951), James Ross McCain brought varied experience and impeccable credentials to his work. He earned a B.A. from Erskine College, a law degree from Mercer University, an M.A. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Joining Agnes Scott in 1915 as registrar, McCain served as a professor and then as vice president to Frank Henry Gaines, whom he succeeded.

As president, McCain made his presence felt at Agnes Scott, participating in student/faculty hockey games and teaching Sunday school. Students attributed 40 years of fair weather on May Day to McCain's celestial connections; yet he did not limit his influence to campus concerns. During his administration, McCain worked in a variety of organizations to advance higher education in the South. He played a key role in founding the University Center in Georgia (now ARCHE) and served for years on the Rockefeller Foundation's General Education Board.

James Ross McCain's efforts brought Agnes Scott into the front ranks of U.S. colleges for women and made him the namesake of the library built in 1936. Today, the College's newly renovated and expanded library honors him by standing in a class by itself.





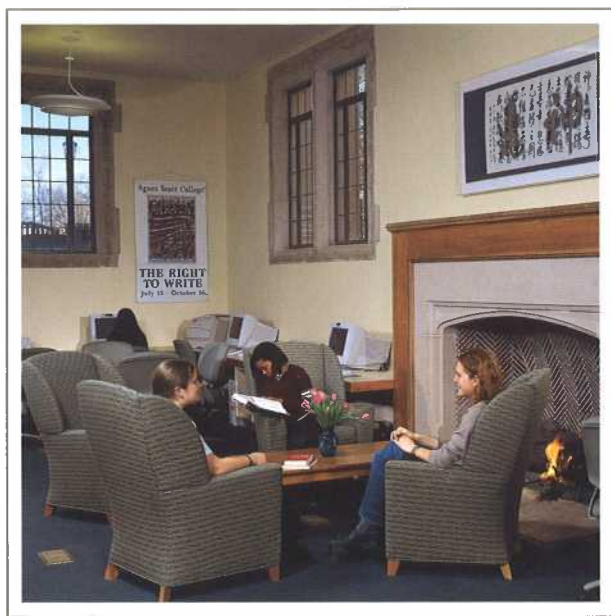
READING ROOM, CIRCA 1976

*Seek first the good things of the mind*

When McCain Library opened in 1936, it exemplified the best of college libraries. The L-shaped Gothic structure provided generous space for growing book collections. Seminar rooms allowed the instructional life of the campus to permeate the library. Plentiful seating in beautiful surroundings encouraged students to study for extended periods. Rooms for film projection and typing, art display space and an outdoor reading terrace rounded out the amenities.

Students unanimously responded to the library's aesthetic appeal, though some with less than reverence. "It was an awesome, austere building, and we always wanted to paint 'See Rock City' on the roof for an April Fool's joke," says Ethel Ware Carter '68. More typical is Linda Marks '67, who made full use of the facility: "I felt a sense of grandeur and abundance whenever I entered the reading room," she recalls. "I did my independent study on Gerard Manley Hopkins and spent hours there, reveling in the work."

During the library's six decades of use, inevitable change spurred piecemeal renovations. Incorporating new technology proved problematic, and the mechanical systems began to show their age. By the 1990s, the McCain Library was in need of complete rejuvenation.



WRITING CENTER, 2001

### *Food for the soul*

As the Latin inscription above its entrance attests, McCain Library has long stored Agnes Scott College's *nutrimentum spiritus* or "food for the soul." Today, these nutrients come in ever-increasing variety, and the library has been renovated and expanded to acknowledge that fact.

On the ground floor, which epitomizes all that is new at McCain, the writing center features six workstations and a compact projection system for small group training sessions. The high-tech language center allows for group and individual study; and the speaking center offers high-level computer and media components, a fully equipped speaker's lectern and support for video conferencing. This floor also houses a technology production center where faculty can create course materials.

The grand reading room on the first floor still provides a sacred study environment, and now a glass-enclosed reading gallery encircles the outdoor reading terrace. Sound-buffered group study rooms enable students to collaborate quietly. Thanks to service desks on the first and ground levels, computers throughout the library and connectivity from almost every reader seat, users find information at their fingertips. The newly expanded stacks give McCain Library room to grow for at least the next two decades.



READING GALLERY, 2001

*Those having torches will pass them on to others*

Today's McCain Library provides everyone at Agnes Scott with more efficient means of grasping the torch of scholarship. For instance, Professor Jim Abbot believes the building-wide connectivity increases students' efficiency as researchers. "In the past, to find a periodical or book, students had to do their research in the reference area, make a foray into the stacks, and then go back if they realized they wanted something else. Now, just about every user seat is networked, so students can check the library's resources without backtracking."

Students themselves appreciate the building's design. "I'm tutoring this semester," says Sarah McIlrath '01, "and the group study rooms really help me get away from noise and distractions." Jamie Bell '02 offers a different perspective. "You can choose a study nook with space all to yourself," she notes, "but when you glance out the windows, you still feel connected to the campus."

College Librarian Ginny Moreland provides perhaps the best summation: "The reborn McCain Library combines sensitive historic renovation with powerful technologies, beautiful vistas, varied services and an inviting, coherent sense of place. The building eloquently reaffirms the library's centrality to the academic life of the College."

## *Collection*

### *Ground Floor*

#### Books

M-N

#### Media

Sound Recordings

Video Recordings

#### Periodicals

Bound

Microfilm

### *First Floor*

#### Books

A-C

Browsing

New Books

Reference

#### Periodicals

Current

### *Third Floor*

#### Books

Folio & Ultrafolio

### *Stack 1*

#### Books

D-H

### *Stack 2*

#### Books

J-L

P-PR

### *Stack 3*

#### Books

PS-Z

## *Features*

### *Ground Floor*

The Center for Writing and Speaking  
Educational Technology Center

Language Center

Laptop-equipped Classroom

Technology Production Studio

Kate Durr Elmore Reading Room

Media Group Study Rooms

### *First Floor*

Elizabeth Henderson Cameron

Reading Terrace

Group Study Rooms

Main Reading Room

### *Second Floor*

#### Archives

Library Instruction Room

Special Collections

### *Stack 1, Stack 2, Third Floor*

Group Study Room(s)

## *Library Services*

### *Ground Floor*

#### Access Services

Circulation

Microform and Media Assistance

Photocopy

### *First Floor*

#### Access Services

Circulation

Information

Interlibrary Loan

Reserves

Photocopy

#### Reference Services

Instruction

Main Computer Clusters

Reference Collection

Research Assistance

## *The Building in Brief*

70,000+ square feet of assignable space

358 seats wired for power and data

More than 18 miles of data cable

Multimedia production facility and classroom

Media carrels and group viewing rooms

Video conferencing and video editing capabilities

Wireless connectivity throughout the building and the terrace

209,747 volumes, with capacity for 250,000 volumes

Sound-buffered group study rooms on most floors

Working fireplaces refitted with gas logs

*Design Architect:* Steven M. Foote, FAIA, and James Bennett, AIA, Perry Dean Rogers & Partners

*Associate Architect:* Helen Davis Hatch '65, AIA, and Hank Spiker, AIA,

Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates

*Project Team:* Eric Starks, Chris Curley, Laura Church

*Construction Management:* Beers Construction Company

*Program Management:* Carter & Associates

*Landscape Architect:* Carol R. Johnson Associates Inc.

*Photography:* Kieran Reynolds



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THE WORLD FOR WOMEN

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