



Special Announcement

FOR INFORMATION:

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January 5 through April 4, 2001

Sodfather Exhibit and Endowment Honoring Jim Graham at NCSU Libraries

The NCSU Libraries, from January 5 through April 4, 2001, will celebrate the career of Jim Graham, who served as North Carolina's commissioner of agriculture for more than thirty years. **The exhibit, in the circulation lobby of the D. H. Hill Library, highlights one of North Carolina's most cherished public servants and one of NC State's best-known graduates.** Entitled "The Sodfather: A Friend of Agriculture in North Carolina," the exhibit describes Graham's work to promote and develop agriculture in North Carolina. Complementing the documentation of Graham's achievements are materials drawn from the library's Special



Collections Department, which show how the state's largest land-grant university has contributed to the improvement of North Carolina's economic bases.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Libraries has embarked on several initiatives to expand the resources available to researchers studying North Carolina agriculture. The centerpiece of the department's research collections will be the personal papers and memorabilia of Commissioner Graham. **Additionally, friends and family of Commissioner Graham have created the Jim and Helen Ida Kirk Graham Agricultural Heritage Endowment to acquire**



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books, journals, and electronic media relating to agriculture for the general library collections.

Another initiative entails identifying and collecting the records of agricultural leaders, organizations, and businesses involved in agriculture or agribusiness activities in North Carolina. **The library will gather unique source materials in fields such as tobacco cultivation and manufacturing, hog farming, poultry production, and dairy farming. These resources will permit students and researchers to explore major developments in the state's economic history.**

Additionally, a virtual exhibit mounted by Special Collections will enable off-site perusal of exhibit materials, as well as the opportunity to read *The Sodfather*, Jim Graham's recollections of his career as "a friend of agriculture."

Former Governor Terry Sanford described Graham's role in helping farmers and agricultural

businesses in the state, writing: "All citizens, businesses and institutions [in North Carolina] will long benefit from his career of service." Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., noted that, "Jim Graham has done more for our farmers and the agriculture industry than anyone in the history of our state." William Friday, president emeritus of the University of North Carolina, eloquently said of him, "I know that his energies and dedication have been spent building a greater state and for that uncommon spirit and commitment, we owe him our profound gratitude."

The D. H. Hill Library is located on the NC State Brickyard, near the intersection of Hills-borough and Gardner streets, across from the Wachovia Bank building. It is wheelchair accessible.

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