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JSU URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEDICATES RESEARCH ROOM

(JACKSON, Miss.) Students and local residents who want to do research on urban and regional planning issues now have a place to do so.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning Research Room was officially dedicated Tuesday, July 31, at Jackson State University's Information Services Library in the Universities Center on Ridgewood Road. The department is part of Jackson State's School of Policy and Planning in the College of Public Service.

Planner Joseph A. Lusteck, a former adjunct instructor in the department, donated more than 1,300 books, maps and other research data to the university.

Lusteck is one of the leading planners in the state of Mississippi and the Southeast, said Dr. Otha Burton Jr., department chair. Lusteck is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is one of two Counselors of Real Estate in Mississippi.

Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, dean of the College of Public Service, said she appreciates the good work Lusteck has done for JSU over the years, as well as his willingness to continue to collaborate with the university.

Alma Blakely, lead librarian in the Information Services Library, said she's happy to have Lusteck's collection.

"We will treat these materials with care and respect," she said. "His work in the community and at the university will become a legacy."

Lusteck's daughter, Christine Lusteck, spoke on behalf of her family in her father's absence. The JSU graduate said when her father's consulting firm closed about six to eight months ago, she knew JSU was the right place to donate his books.

"I could not think of a better way to use all of his materials than to have them put here in the university. I've used this library many times," said Christine Lusteck, who often used her father's collection when she was working on her master's degree in urban and regional planning at JSU. "I'm so glad that the students here now and the community will get to use these materials also."

- JSU -

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Melissa Druckery, dean of the Division of Library and Information Services; Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, dean of the College of Public Service; Alma Blakely, lead librarian, Information Services Library; Christine Lusteck, daughter of Joseph A. Lusteck; and Dr. Otha Burton Jr., department chair, stand in the new Department of Urban and Regional Planning Research Room at Jackson State University.