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## Center offers look into life, work of Carey

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Nestled near the women's dormitories, next to the new Tatum Theatre and within the walls of Donnell Hall, lies a real treasure trove of history that is greatly relevant to students of William Carey University.

Founded in July 2000, the Center for the Study of the Life and Work of William Carey has become one of the premier museums devoted to the life and work of the University's namesake: William Carey.

The extensive catalog of artifacts and documents related to William Carey and his work in India has drawn visitors from both within and outside the university. The museum, to effectively illuminate and illustrate the magnificent accomplishments of Carey, is divided into five sections: William Carey as a missionary, a linguist, a social reformer, scientist and Bible translator.

In the middle of Gallery A, there is an intriguing artifact called a "palanquin." This was essentially a 19th-century taxi in British India. Found within the "Bible Translator" section are numerous translations of



Photos By CHRISTOPHER DIXON

**The Center for the Study of the Life and Work of William Carey is housed in Donnell Hall on the Hattiesburg campus.**

dictionaries and Bibles into many dialects within the Indian language, including Bengali, Hindi, and others.

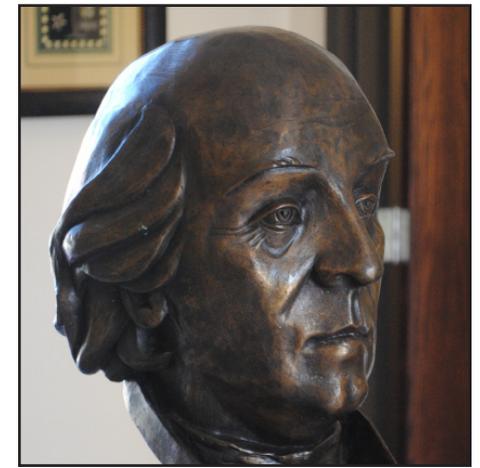
Other features within the exhibit include various coins and letters from Carey's era, multiple paintings and portraits of Carey and the regions he worked in, and even Carey's childhood spelling book given to him by his father.

In 2001, the Carey Center launched its website, further expanding the museum's content to visitors worldwide. Shortly after, the Australian-based Asian Studies Monitor, a clearinghouse for academic study of Asian-related materials, awarded the Center a "Five-Star Essential" rating. The

website opens the museum's doors to scholars and enthusiasts alike all over the world, allowing its numerous visitors to view a vast amount of historical images and documents owned by the museum, said Dr. Myron Noonkester, one of the Center's co-directors.

The Carey Center has no intentions of stopping there but has rather ambitious plans for the future, hoping to eventually become the primary repository and research center for the life of William Carey, said Dr. Noonkester.

At the moment, the museum is in the process of digitizing its wide array of historic documents for online display, as well as attempt-



**A bust of William Carey on display in the Carey Center, designed and sculpted by Carey alum Tim Kinard.**

ing to attract more visitors.

The Carey Center is open Monday through Friday from 1 until 5 p.m. with tours led by student workers Patrick Goode and Cade Jarrell. Students are welcome to come by during this time for a tour through the museum.

It is the hope of Dr. Noonkester and his fellow co-director Dr. Bennie Crockett that the Center will continue to give people a sense of respect and appreciation for the life and work of the late and great William Carey.