



Summer 2001, Volume 1, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library

UNIVERSITY HOLDS LIBRARY DEDICATION

Visitors to the library of William Paterson University will notice a new addition to the building facade: the red granite panels above the entrance doors are now inscribed with the names of David and Lorraine Cheng. The University held a ceremony on June 27, 2001 to honor its new benefactors and to dedicate the David and Lorraine Cheng Library.

The dedication was attended by David and Lorraine Cheng, their family and friends, members of the University administration and the Library staff. The event was held on the plaza outside the Library's entrance and champagne and hors d'oeuvres were served to mark this festive occasion.

President Speert welcomed those assembled and began his remarks with a quotation from Lao Tzu. "A sound man's heart is not shut within itself, but is open to other people's hearts." Although an engineer by profession, David Cheng has written a book about Lao Tzu, the Chinese philosopher, and his writings. This book became one title in a series of books known as the Wadsworth Philosophers Series, edited by Daniel Kolak, professor of philosophy.

On behalf of all the members of the University Board of Trustees, Gwendolyn Taylor, Chairperson, thanked David and Lorraine Cheng for their generous gift.

Anne Ciliberti, Director of Library Services, expressed the appreciation of the Library staff: "The library is an important venue for academic success and we are fortunate to have the names of David and Lorraine Cheng associated with our Library."



The entrance pavilion of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library

The Chongs had previously been associated with the Library through their gift to enhance the Chinese collection. This gift enabled the Library to purchase scholarly monographs and yearbooks written in Chinese. The Library also acquired the CD-ROM edition of the Chinese classics known as *Si Ku Quan Shu*. This set of 152 disks contains more than three thousand Chinese classical works and represents all the titles included in the Treasury of Four Libraries, the largest compilation of books ever assembled in China's history. As a result, the Library's Chinese collection is now one of the most extensive scholarly collections in northern New Jersey.

David Cheng served as a member of the William Paterson University Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1999. Dr. Cheng, who holds a Ph.D. in structural mechanics, owns his own engineering consulting firm and is

dean emeritus of engineering at City University of New York (CUNY). Among his many academic appointments, Dr. Cheng was chief executive and academic officer of the School of Engineering at City College, CUNY, from 1979 to 1985. During his tenure, he established the CUNY Institute of Transportation Systems at City College.

"Lorraine and I both love and respect a good library," said David Cheng. The generous endowment of the Chongs will enable the Library to further expand its resources and to plan future enhancements. This gift will subsequently benefit all members of the University community as these collections develop.

As President Speert noted in his address, "Yours is a lasting gift, not just in a temporal sense, but it will be part of the many individuals who will use the Library."

A Message from the Library Director

As the summer draws to a close, I welcome you to the newly dedicated David and Lorraine Cheng Library and to the inaugural issue of our new newsletter, *Connections*.

Over the past several years, we have come to know David Cheng well and to respect his dedication to his native language and to libraries that value research and scholarship. We are privileged to have our library renamed in honor of David and his wife, Lorraine.

It is also fitting that we make this proud announcement in *Connections*, our new newsletter, for the Chengs' endowment surely celebrates their connection to the University and to the world of learning.

Library Bids Farewell to Sarah Byrd Askew

While the Library celebrates its new incarnation as the David and Lorraine Cheng Library, it bids a fond farewell to the name of Sarah Byrd Askew. In 1956, the newly constructed library at William Paterson College was dedicated in honor of this innovative librarian of New Jersey.

Ms. Askew's career as a New Jersey librarian began when she accepted a position as an organizer for New Jersey's Public Library Commission in 1905. In this capacity, she established a state-wide interlibrary loan system

and organized several county library systems. Working until her death in 1942, Ms. Askew increased the number of libraries in New Jersey from 66 to 316.

Although we bid goodbye to the name of Sarah Byrd Askew, we embrace her pioneering spirit and dedication to library service. To commemorate this part of the Library's history and the legacy Ms. Askew represents, the New Jersey Documents Room of the Library will be renamed the Sarah Byrd Askew Reading Room.

What's In a Name? Connections!

The Library staff is pleased to introduce the new Library newsletter, *Connections*. The name was selected from several suggestions submitted by members of the Library staff.

The name was chosen to convey the intent of the newsletter - to report on events and new developments at the Library and to establish connec-

tions with its many users and patrons.

Except for this inaugural issue, *Connections* will be published twice each academic year, in the fall and spring, and will replace the previous newsletter, *The Byrd Word*.

E-You? E-Me? E-Library! E-Week!

We are all accustomed to the "e" preface before a common word signifying that same thing but in electronic format: e-mail, e-business, e-commerce, etc.

Libraries are not removed from the electronic revolution. Indeed, many traditional library resources and services have been computerized during the past decade. Several types of library materials are now available electronically and many library services are delivered to remote sites and distant users connected via the Internet. E-books, e-journals, e-reserves, e-ILL, and e-reference are some of the more common electronic resources and services available from the Library's Web page.

To learn more about these resources and the Library's services to remote users, attend one of the many sessions scheduled during "e-week," September 9 - 15, 2001. A list of events for the week will be posted in the Library's lobby and on the Web page.

For additional information, please call the Reference Desk at 720-2116.

Library to Hold Open House on University Day

The Library will host an "open house" from 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. on September 4, 2001 in conjunction with the University Day activities. Staff will be available to conduct tours of the facility, to answer questions about Library services, and to demonstrate some of the latest electronic acquisitions.

Plan to stop by the Library and see some exciting new developments in information access.

Visit the Library's Webpage at
www.wpunj.edu/library for information about
the Library's services and resources.

