# CONNECTIONS

# Reading Electronic Books via the Cheng Library

Have you read an e-book lately? You may be surprised to know that you have access to more than 5,000 books in electronic format via the Cheng Library.

The Library endeavors to promote its resources and services to those who visit the Library's virtual environment via its Web site. By connecting to the Library's Web site, students and staff have access to a wide variety of electronic resources. These materials are selected to expand the Library's reach and compliment those available in the physical facility.

The information available online includes scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, images (popular and artistic), college catalogs, curriculum guides, and a comprehensive collection of legal resources including cases, statutes and regulations for both the state and federal levels.

In addition to all of the above, the Library provides access to more than 5,000 electronic books. The titles in this e-book collection cover all disciplines taught at William Paterson University plus an array of reference sources including dictionaries and handbooks. Access to these e-books is provided by NetLibrary.

NetLibrary is an e-content provider: the company provides the digital version of works — in this case books — published by a variety of publishers and made available through one Web site. Representative publishers include McGraw-Hill, MIT Press, Oxford University Press as well as other corporate and university publishers.

One of the most popular subjects for e-books is computer science as evidenced by three of the most often used e-books: *The Coldfusion 4.0 Web Application Kit*, *Perl 5*, and *Learning Perl*. Other popular subjects are business, social science, medicine and literature.

A very popular series of the e-book collection is Schaums's outline series. This group includes books on languages, mathematics, chemistry, physics, statistics, probability and programming. An additional benefit of electronic books is the ability to search the entire text of the book for a single word or phrase.

The Cheng Library acquired its first e-book collection of 113 titles in December, 2000. Since then, the Library has added three shared collections of academic and reference books, bringing the total to approximately 5,000.

An additional 3,000 "public domain" titles are also available. These titles are no longer under copyright restrictions and are included in the collection at no additional cost to the Library. This collection comprises 77 titles by Edgar Allan Poe, 19 by Mark Twain and 50 by William Shakespeare in addition to works by Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Carlos Williams and other authors.

The e-book collection provides in-depth information to students who prefer to visit the Library remotely. In a 24/7 world, these books can supplement other Library full-text resources, and they are available whenever a student needs them. This type of access is especially beneficial for students enrolled in online courses.

All e-books are fully cataloged and can be found when using the Library's online catalog. A link is provided from the catalog to the NetLibrary site. Books can also be found by using the NetLibrary link on the "Databases" page of the Library's Web site.

Students and staff of the University may borrow an e-book after registering with Net Library. This process must take place using one of the computers located in the Library. After registration, the e-books can be read from off-campus locations.

For more information about this collection, stop by the Reference Desk in the Library or connect to www.netlibrary.org.

## Selected Titles in the NetLibrary Collection

*Language, Music and Mind*
*The Fossil Trail*
*The Coming Biotech Age*
*Women As Mythmakers*
*Imaginary Numbers*
*The Art of Genes*
*Bioinformatics*
*Financial Modeling*
*The Artful Universe*
*Explaining Behavior*
*Reasoning About Knowledge*
*Brainchildren: Essays on Designing Minds*
*A Dictionary of Biology*
*The Art of Art History*
*Careers in Nursing*

# Anthony Joachim Appointed Reference Librarian



Anthony "Tony" Joachim joined the Library's Access and Information Services department on June 5, 2006, as a reference librarian. Tony also serves as the Librarian Liaison to the Music and Sociology departments. In addition to reference and instruction, he will be working closely with the Library Information Systems department to develop online resources and tutorials for the Cheng Library's Web site.

Tony earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education & Performance from Ithaca College, and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Rutgers University's School of Communication, Information and Library Studies.

Prior to coming to William Paterson University, he worked in Rutgers University's Douglass Library as the Digital Reference & Instructional Technology Services Librarian, as well as at Bucks County Community College, in Pennsylvania, as Reference Librarian. He has also worked in a non-librarian capacity in the libraries at Rutgers and Cornell University.

A resident of the state for a number of years, Tony is new to northern New Jersey and has been exploring the area. In his free time he enjoys reading, photography, and seeing new places – Ireland being his most recent destination. Tony is excited about the challenges ahead, and looks forward to his work with the University community.

# Gary Marks Joins Lending Services Department



Gary Marks joined the Library as a full-time staff member in the Lending Services Department on August 28, 2006.

In his new position as Principal Library Assistant, Gary is responsible for the department's student workers and the collection of outstanding materials and fines. Gary had been employed by the Lending Services department since 1997 as a part-time employee.

Gary is also a student at William Paterson University, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Political Science. He is working toward finishing his degree and plans to complete the teaching certification requirements for secondary education. He would like to work as a high school history teacher and cross-country/track coach.

As an undergraduate student Gary participated in many extra-curricular activities, serving as President to the Student Alumni Council and the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He also competed for the University Cross-country and Track teams and served as a team captain.

Gary currently lives in the Upper Greenwood Lake community of Hewitt, New Jersey. He enjoys camping and hiking in his spare time and during the summer months can usually be found trying to catch a baseball game.

# Professional Activities

**Richard Kearney** and **Yvonne Roux** presented a program, "History Day — Not Just a Day, But an Experience," at the *New Jersey Association of School Librarians Fall Conference* on October 31, 2006 in Long Branch, NJ.

**Judy Matthew** and **Susan Sabatino** attended a workshop, *Social Software and Libraries,* sponsored by New Jersey Library Association on June 2, 2006 at The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ.

**Yvonne Roux** attended the *American Association of School Librarians Fall Institute,* "Assessing Student Learning," on October 13 – 15, 2006 in Warwick, RI.

**Susan Sabatino** attended the Annual Network Meeting of the *New Jersey State Data Center* on June 8, 2006 in New Brunswick, NJ.

**Ray Schwartz** attended the General Conference and Council of the *International Federation of Library Associations* on August 20-24, 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

**Kurt Wagner** attended the National Forum of the *Library and Information Technology Association* on October 26 – 29, 2006 in Nashville, TN.

**Nancy Weiner** participated in the American Library Association's *Immersion Intentional Teacher Program* on November 29 – December 3, 2006 in Chevy Chase, MD.

## A LETTER FROM
## THE FRIENDS OF THE CHENG LIBRARY

I recently visited one of the few libraries in this country that can properly be called iconic. It dates from the nineteenth century and remains one of the most extraordinary spaces ever built in America specifically to house books. Employing up-to-date technology and materials of its day, it fastidiously avoided the excesses common in its era. Its design – which can only be described as ennobling – speaks to sensibilities that still feel perennial.

Its character is eloquently expressed through the design of the stacks. The architect understood the exigencies of this space, and he conceived it in such a way that an otherwise tedious necessity – the arranging and storing of innumerable shelves of books – becomes an exhilarating enterprise. Unlike the better-known plan of Carrère and Hastings for the New York Public Library – where the main collection is remote, invisible, subterranean – these stacks are splendidly in view. Like strata in a massive geologic formation, they rise to an impressive summit.

You might expect a library with such compelling features to be a hive of intellectual activity. You might also expect it to be brimming, in the best liberal-arts tradition, with a notable sweetness and light. I certainly did. But on the day of my visit, it turned out to be a cold, funereal place.

The building gracefully captures the spirit of antiquity, a spirit that is rational and audacious. Vitruvius, the great classical theorist, discerned three integral features: *utilitas*, *firmitas*, and *venustas* (utility, firmness, and beauty). He would doubtless know. For my part, I sensed that this library urgently needs a fourth, a quality he does not address, a quality that good design surely fosters but does not, of itself, instill. This library needs enheartened community. I came away convinced that any library, in seeking to flourish, must cultivate this basic but elusive human good.

This brings me to one of the things I like best about the David and Lorraine Cheng Library: it never loses sight of this. It knows that grandeur is not the highest imperative. Yes, it would agree with architecture critic Witold Rybczynski that "a library is more than a warehouse for books; it is a built evocation of an intellectual ideal." But it insists that inherent in that ideal is a social summons – because it understands that here is where, sooner or later, nearly all members of the academic community gather. It understands that a truly good library functions like the communal hearth. Thus it offers intellectual and genial warmth. Here, as nowhere else, is where the embers of an institution's common life are kept burning. And for many of us, it is a logical and natural place to find friends.

We invite you to come here to meet them.

John Koontz
Executive Board Member
The Friends of the Cheng Library

## Library Expands Reference Service During Winter Session

The Cheng Library's reference staff will be "on duty" during the one-week campus closure in December. In response to the University's new winter session, librarians will offer reference assistance remotely from their homes during the last week of December and the first two weekends of January.

Reference assistance will be provided via instant messaging from noon to 4:00 p.m. from December 26 - 31, 2006 and on January 6 - 7 and 13 - 14, 2007. Students may add chengreference to their AOL, MSN or Yahoo IM buddylist to contact a librarian. Assistance will also be available via e-mail to a special address and by telephone.

The Library will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for the first two weeks of January, and the reference librarians will provide their usual array of services.

The Cheng Library offers the University's distance education students several methods of contacting the reference staff. Students may send a research request via email to the reference desk, and they may also set up a time to communicate with a librarian via email, telephone or in person.

University students may also use the 24/7 virtual reference service, *QandA NJ*. Cheng librarians participate in this service which is also staffed by academic librarians from other colleges and universities in New Jersey. A link to *QandA NJ* can be found on the Cheng Library's Web site.

# University Graphic Arts Students Design Posters for Cheng Library

Library staff struggle daily to control three behavior problems in the library building: noise, food and cell phone use. These three problems are mentioned frequently as annoying behaviors in the Cheng Library's surveys, and it is often students who complain about other students' activities.

Many students visit the Library for a quiet place to read, study or connect to the Internet. Others view the facility as a meeting place and often congregate to socialize and interact while using the computers or the group study rooms.

These two groups differ in their expectations of the Library, and it is often a struggle to balance the needs of both groups. The Library building has designated areas for "quiet study" and "group study," but impromptu gatherings can challenge these designations.

The students enrolled in Prof. Angela DeLaura's summer class, Visual Communications Lab, were asked to create posters for use in the Cheng Library. This collaboration developed from the idea that students would be able to communicate effectively with other students and convey the desired message using imagery and language that students would respond to.

As the project evolved, the students were asked to design posters to help control three persistent problem areas: noise levels, eating in the Library, and cell phone use.

The students used color, images, and some text in their creations. The collected works reveal a variety of styles and design elements. The posters demonstrate the imaginative and artistic creativity of the students. Another readily apparent quality of the students' work is their originality. Each poster employs a unique design to convey the intended message.

The students enrolled in the design class are William Axt, Leandro DaSilva, Jason Gramp, Jessica Kuhran, Jonathan Paraison, Tracy Petrowski, Vanessa Ramirez and Christina Vermeal.

Selected posters are currently on display throughout the Library. A more extensive display of the students' work will take place during the spring semester. The Library plans to purchase a special exhibit case which will be used for this and other displays.

Please visit the Library to see the creative and imaginative posters of these graphic arts students.

# University READ Posters Now on View in the Cheng Library

The Friends' Lounge of the Cheng Library was created as an informal lounge area within the Library. As such, it is an appropriate place to display the Library's first series of University READ posters.

The posters now on display are based on the same concept as the celebrity READ posters originally created by the American Library Association. These posters feature popular figures in entertainment and sports who pose with a book of their choice. As a series, these posters form one of the most visible and well-recognized campaigns to promote reading and literacy in the United States.

The initial series of posters for William Paterson University includes six subjects drawn from both faculty and administration: President Arnold Speert, Dean Leslie Agard-Jones, Prof. Arlene Scala, Prof. Danielle Desroches, Francisco Diaz, Asst. V.P. Campus Life and Jeffrey Wakemen, Assoc. Director, Campus Activities. Each poster includes a brief biography of these enthusiastic readers.

Professor Angela DeLaura designed the graphics and Jessica Kuhran, a design student and professional photographer, took the photographs. Additional posters are planned for this year and will include University students and faculty.

The posters are on view in the Friends' Lounge, adjacent to the Library Auditorium. A reception to formally inaugurate the series will be held during the spring semester.

For more information about the Cheng Library's READ posters, please contact Kathy Malanga, Assistant Director, at 973-720-3189.
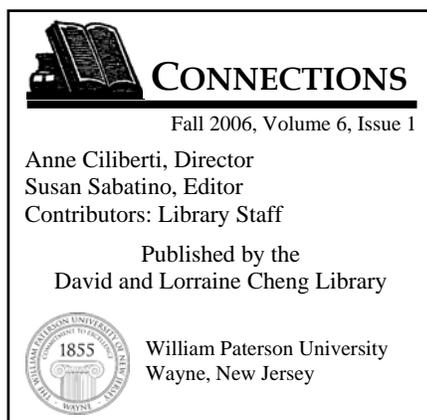
Visit the Library's Webpage at
**www.wpunj.edu/library** for more information
about the Library's services and resources.