Library Archives and Special Collections
Prepare for University’s 150th Anniversary?

As you enter the Special Collections Room of the Cheng Library, a perceptible chill is present. Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Bob Wolk, explains that the temperature of 62 degrees Fahrenheit, low humidity and dim lights are optimal conditions for a library archive.

Two years ago, the Special Collections room was refurbished to meet the standards for archival quality materials. These renovations included installing a fire suppressant system, re-channeling the airflow and purchasing environmental monitoring equipment.

In preparation for the University’s 150th anniversary in 2005, the University is actively collecting, organizing and preserving materials that will relate the history of William Paterson University from the perspective of students, faculty, and staff.

As part of the newly formed University Archives Committee, members of the Library staff are working closely with the Alumni Association, the Public Relations Office and the University’s retired faculty to gather information about the history of WPUNJ. The Library is seeking documents, publications, photographs and artifacts that will provide the historical materials to relate a complete history of the University.

Students, staff, and alumni are encouraged to contribute their University-related personal items to the Archives. Three types of materials are of particular interest:

Publications – newspaper/magazine articles and campus publications that describe academic or social activities on campus;

Images - photos, artwork, videos, posters and other graphic arts that depict a campus program, event or individuals associated with WPUNJ; Memorabilia – clothing, banns, mugs, jewelry and other items that display the University’s logo or other graphic.

In addition to housing these materials, the mission of the Archives is to serve as the repository for the University’s non-current, unofficial papers.

Bob believes that the Archives will address an important objective. “The need for an archive is vital to any institution that desires to preserve its traditions and heritage as a way of developing a distinct identity. WPUNJ has a long and proud history in its community and in the State of New Jersey. The Archives will certainly facilitate access to these varied, historical materials.”

The Archives and Special Collections will serve as a research facility for students, faculty, and alumni who may use its resources for scholarly work. To this end, a collection of important and unique materials are now available in the Library:

The William Paterson Collection: William Paterson’s legal and business documents; six volumes of New Jersey court docket books from 1781-1807; miscellaneous papers pertaining to the Paterson family; land surveys, and medical books. Recent donations include a first edition of Paterson’s The Laws of the State of New Jersey, the first codified book of New Jersey’s State laws.

Thad Jones Music Collection: More than twenty original scores and charts composed and arranged by Thad Jones, the University’s first Director of Jazz Studies. The music was composed for the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra and is part of the standard repertoire for contemporary jazz bands.

Hobart Manor Files: Newspaper articles and papers pertaining to the family of Garret A. Hobart (1844-1899) vice-president of the United States who served under President McKinley. This collection also includes maps, floor plans and other documents relating to the restoration of Hobart Manor.

Faulkner Family Papers: A collection of research materials and photographs relating to the family of the novelist, William Faulkner. These materials were donated by the family of Don Duclos, a former member of the University’s English Department.

Pioneer Yearbooks: A complete set of extant University Yearbooks starting in 1934.


To donate materials to the new University Archives, or to access the Special Collections, contact Robert Wolk at 973-720-2289 or wolkr@wpunj.edu, or the Office of the Library Director, 973-720-2113. Permission and an appointment are required to use the Special Collections.
Jill Pruden Appointed Technical Library Assistant in Lending Services

Jill Pruden joined the Library as a full-time staff member in the Lending Services Department on April 1, 2003. In her new position as Technical Library Assistant, Jill is in charge of both the print Reserves as well as the Electronic Reserves.

Jill graduated from Montclair State University with a B.S. in Business Administration, concentrating in Management Information Systems, in May 1998. She also has two degrees from The Chubb Institute, one in Computer Programming/Web Development, the other in Web Design.

Prior to her position at William Paterson University, Jill was employed as a Technical Services/Library Assistant at the Roseland Free Public Library. She also has three years of full-time experience as a Junior Programmer at Verizon Wireless.

Jill enjoys traveling and spending time with her friends and family. In the summer months, she loves to spend her weekends at the shore where you can usually find her relax-

Natesha Eaton Joins Library’s Access and Information Services Unit

Natesha Eaton joined the staff of the Library’s Access and Information Services unit on August 5, 2003 as secretary of the Reference Department.

Natesha has been employed at the University since 1987. She has worked in the Registrar’s Office, Advisement Center, and the office of the Dean of the College of Education. Most recently, Natesha was employed as the secretary of the Mathematics Department.

Natesha is also a student at William Paterson University, pursuing a degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice. She plans to complete her degree requirements in May 2004 and would like to work in the Passaic County court system after graduation.

On a personal note, Natesha has a daughter, Ashanti, who is a senior at Manchester Regional High School. Ashanti is a member of the National Scholars Honor Society and will graduate in June 2004.

In her free time, Natesha likes to

Professional Activities

Jane Bambrick attended the Adaptive Technology Support Services Workshop sponsored by the Bergen County Educational and Assistive Technology Group on October 8, 2003 in Paramus, NJ.

Anne Ciliberti, Yvonne Roux and Victoria Wagner attended a Copyright Law Seminar on October 31, 2003 at the Secaucus Public Library.

Jackie Hill, Judy Matthew, Charlene Lovegrove, Debbie Pluss, Kurt Wagner and Victoria Wagner attended the Endeavor Mid-Atlantic User Group Meeting on October 27-28, 2003 in Princeton, NJ.

During the summer, Richard Kearney participated in the grant-funded Our Story history project. As one of the University’s presenters, Richard taught four sessions to elementary and secondary teachers on Library and Internet resources for history.

Debbie Pluss attended the ALCST’s Institute on AACR2-2002 and Metadata on February 21-22, 2003 in Orlando, FL.

Yvonne Roux participated as a member of the Association of College and Research Libraries Ad-hoc Committee for Curriculum Materials Center Guidelines. After three years of work, the guidelines were adopted in January 2003.

Susan Sabatino attended the biennial conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries from April 10-13, 2003 in Charlotte, NC.


Kurt Wagner attended the Endeavor Information Systems End User Group Meeting on April 29, 2003 in Chicago, IL.

Nancy Weiner participated in an online course, Assessing Student
A Letter from the Chair

In his delightful and quirky History of Reading, the Argentina-born writer Alberto Manguel discusses, as any writer on this subject surely must, the vexing problem that organizing any library poses. Noting that the “accumulation of knowledge isn’t knowledge,” he reports that librarians knew from the beginning that some method to access all of the materials lining the shelves was essential. He proceeds to describe, in a ruminative survey, the many attempts made over millennia simply to compile a useful list, a catalogue, remarking that “cataloguing is an ancient profession.” And, we might further suggest, a crucial one, so crucial that the Sumerians called cataloguers “ordainers of the universe.”

Surely one of the most intriguing “ordainers” was Richard de Fournival, a trouvère and chancellor of Amiens Cathedral, who, according to Manguel, “in the year 1250 . . . imagined a cataloguing system based on a horticultural model.” De Fournival compared his library to “a garden wherein his fellow citizens might gather the fruits of knowledge [and] he divided this garden into three flowerbeds – corresponding to philosophy, the ‘lucrative sciences’ (by which he meant medicine and law) and theology.”

De Fournival was thinking in the most natural medieval manner, in the way of allegory. It is no longer our preferred method of thought. And yet I think that, after 750 years, this allegorical mode still retains a certain freshness and vitality. It opens up new meanings for us today because, eschewing the dryasdust image of bookishness, it suggests growth, effulgence, and cultivation. There is something pleasant in thinking about the book and its various technological incarnations as fruit because fruit, however delicious and nourishing, bears seeds.

The role of the Friends is akin to the work of cultivation. Over the years we have found the David and Lorraine Cheng Library of William Paterson University to be very fertile ground. We seek rare and unusual – but ultimately useful – books. We search for speakers on subjects that are perennial and topical. And now, I am pleased to say, we are working to establish book scholarships for students who lack the financial resources to purchase them for their coursework.

Manguel remarks that “all classifications are ultimately arbitrary.” Perhaps. But I can’t help but think that the decision to become classified as a Friend is a deliberate and fruitful one. That is why I invite you to join.

John P. Koontz
Chair, Executive Committee

Curriculum Materials Center Receives Grants to Support Collection Development

The Library’s Curriculum Materials Center was the recipient of a gift from the Zeta Alpha Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. For many years, the Zeta Alpha Chapter has demonstrated its support of the Library with an annual gift. The funds of this year’s award were used to purchase career education materials for children.

Funds from the New Jersey Teacher Quality Enhancement Consortium (NJTQEC), a grant awarded to William Paterson University, continue to expand the teaching resources in the Curriculum Materials Center. Recent purchases included multicultural picture books, and the “Grandmother” books by Ann Morris.

Also obtained with NJTQEC funds were selected volumes in the “Connected Mathematics” series and the “Science Explorer” series, both...
Library Receives Gift of New Jersey Photographer

Loretta Tice, daughter of the acclaimed New Jersey photographer, George Tice, donated several of her father’s published books, a poster, and a signed, original photograph (gelatin silver) to the University. All of these materials are now in the Cheng Library.

The framed photograph, Joe’s Barber Shop, Paterson, 1970, is displayed near the reference desk on the main level of the Library. The books are cataloged and shelved with the New Jersey Collection, and the poster will be framed and displayed in the Library.

The donations expand an existing, small collection of Tice’s books, and the photograph displayed in the Library receives much attention and close examination by visitors.

The author of numerous photography books, Mr. Tice is well known for his images of the city of Paterson and other urban areas of New Jersey. His winning combination of a clear, artistic vision and technical expertise has contributed to his renown.

Building on an interest in photography since his adolescence, Tice’s fame began with his exceptional photograph of an explosion aboard the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Wasp, taken while Mr. Tice was enlisted in the U.S. Navy. This photograph was later acquired for the Museum of Modern Art by Edward Steichen. Mr. Tice subsequently served as Steichen’s last printer during his lifetime and for many years thereafter.

During this period, Mr. Tice developed his talent of fine, black and white photography. His books of photographs include both urban and rural subjects: Paterson and other cities of New Jersey, England’s Yorkshire countryside, landscapes of Amish Pennsylvania, the seacoast of Maine, and other images of the American Heartland.

Mr. Tice received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from William Paterson University on May 20, 2003. He will be the featured speaker at an event of the Friends of the Library on December 7, 2003. The lecture will be held in the Cheng Library Auditorium.

Alumni Grant Funds Project to Digitize Campus Newspapers

The Library has received a grant from the Alumni Association to create archival copies of the University’s campus newspapers, The Beacon and Pioneer Times. The grant will fund the creation of microfilm and CD-ROM formats for both newspapers. These formats are accepted as stable, archival formats.

The Beacon and Pioneer Times represent primary historical materials that document the history of the University as well as the City of Paterson and surrounding areas.

In addition to preserving the fragile newprint, the conversion to microform and digital formats will ensure that current and future users will have ready access to this historical content. The digitized version, stored on CD-ROM, will have the added capability of searching the newspapers by date of publication.

As the University prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2005, it is expected that the demand for the historical material contained in these newspapers will increase. Conversion to a digital format will simplify the search process and enhance the accessibility of the information contained therein. This