

Library Book Sale Attracts Dedicated Readers

From time to time, the Library receives donations of books from library patrons, faculty and even students. Depending on the books' subject and condition, they may be added to the collection. Books that are not added to the collection are then destined for the Library's book sale.

The Library book sale had been an annual event coordinated for many years by Amy Job, Technical Services Librarian. As a tribute to Amy and her years of dedication, the Library decided to organize a mega book sale in her memory. Flyers and announcements were circulated on campus asking for donations of books expressly for the sale. These books were added to the surplus of donated books.

All donated books are reviewed by the librarian responsible for that subject area. The library has a liaison for each academic department at the University and donated books are usually separated by subject area for review. The Library's collection development policy also provides guidelines on appropriate materials to add to the collection.

"This year's sale was much larger than previous years, with over 8,000 books, movies and music," commented Anne Ciliberti, Library Director. The book sale included 400 boxes of more than 8,000 books. Subject areas included fiction, literature, business, history, art, travel, political science, sociology, psychology, children's books, and others.

The sale was scheduled for October 2-3, 2007 and took place in

the multi-purpose room of the University Commons. The sale had been postponed while the student center was being renovated, and as a result, several thousand books had been assembled during the interim.

The event created interest on campus among students and faculty alike. Many students commented that they were especially happy to be able to acquire extra reading material in their major subject area. Among sales, especially popular were the non-fiction and literature books. Romance fiction was left languishing at the sale, although many other fiction titles were popular.

The sale also included several hundred sound recordings in LP (long-playing) format. These records are sought after by select audiophiles who prefer the sound of vinyl recordings to digitally-remastered versions. Certain LPs are also valued by collectors for the cover alone.

The two-day event generated \$1,500 in sales. The proceeds will be shared by the Cheng Library, the Friends of the Cheng Library, and the Beta Chi chapter of Pi Lambda Theta, the international honor society for education. The Library portion of the proceeds will be used to purchase furnishings for the Friends' Lounge of the Library.

The Library staff learned a few lessons from this experience. The sale is definitely worthwhile and will be planned again – most likely on an annual basis. In addition to the subject categories designated

for this sale, mystery and science fiction titles are also in popular demand.

The sale was a great effort of many people. Most of the behind-the-scenes work for the sale — the initial unpacking of gift books and sorting and storing them — was completed by the Library's Resource Management staff. Many hands were needed to sort, box, transport and organize the more than 8,000 books amassed for the sale. Members of the Library staff were on hand to unpack and set up the books. Library staff, with the assistance of the Friends of the Library and members of Beta Chi, worked at the event.

Special thanks must also be extended to several University employees who assisted with the sale: the facilities staff who moved 400 boxes of books from the Library to the University Commons, and Tony Cavotto and Tino Rexach of Hospitality Services who provided two cash registers and a Pioneer card reader for the event.

The books that remained after the sale were boxed and will be shipped to Africa. Prof. Thiuri, Geography and Urban Studies, is coordinating this transfer of books for the Rural Reading Centers-Africa, a nonprofit organization with four centers in Kenya that promote literacy.

The Library is thankful for the book donations it continues to receive. If the titles are not added to the collection, they most assuredly will benefit others in their next incarnation.

Haydee Rosario, Library Technician, Retires After Thirty Years

Haydee Rosario, Library Technician of the Reference Department, retired as of June 30, 2007. Haydee joined the Library staff in 1977 and described her job as her “home away from home.”

Haydee recalls using a manual typewriter when she first started and later graduating to an electric typewriter. Before long she was a pioneer in word processing. She soon became adept at Microsoft Word, Excel and the other components of the Microsoft Office Suite.

Mastering these skills was not Haydee’s only contribution to the Library, however. She played a critical role in the Reference Department. At times she assisted as many as five

librarians and later specialized in library user education, the reference desk schedule, New Jersey documents and supervising student assistants. She shepherded new librarians, adjunct librarians and students when they joined the staff and was the first person to open the reference desk every morning.

Haydee feels fortunate to have witnessed the arrival of the Internet and the incorporation of the World Wide Web into her daily job. Mrs. Rosario not only learned technological advances, but met many people throughout her tenure at the University. She values the many co-workers and friends that she encountered over three decades. Haydee cherishes

these friendships and plans to keep in touch with the Library staff.

She looks forward to retirement when she can play a more active role in her church where she currently manages the Religious Education Program for the youth of the parish. Haydee and her husband also plan to spend more time with their four children, two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Haydee Rosario was a valued employee of the Library for thirty years and will be greatly missed by her co-workers. The Library staff hosted a party to bid her farewell and to extend their best wishes to her as she begins a new chapter in her life.

Virginia Burwell, Principal Library Assistant, Retires After 25 Years

Virginia Burwell joined the Library staff in 1993 in the Lending Services Department. She had been employed at the University since 1982, and had previously worked in the Office of the Registrar under Adrian Artis, Ken Pokrowski, and Lisa Wolfson.

When Virginia began working at the Registrar, the system was not computerized and all registration was done manually. During peak registration periods, the Registrar would often remain open until nine and ten o’clock at night to accommodate all students. She remem-

bers when students would literally camp out on the lawn with food, pillows and blankets in order to be first to register.

In the Lending Services Department, Virginia served as Student Assistant Supervisor and was responsible for supervising a large number of student assistants. She also prepared the monthly and yearly statistical reports and assisted at the circulation desk and in the reserves area.

In 2001, Virginia took the opportunity to transfer to the Library’s Periodicals/Document Delivery Department where she was responsible

for processing interlibrary loan requests.

When Virginia started working at William Paterson, her children were fifteen and nine years of age. They are now almost forty and thirty-four years old.

As she thinks about her retirement, Virginia remarked, “I am looking forward to traveling, spending time with my family and doing mother-daughter things with my daughter. I’ve met some wonderful people at the Library and will have fond memories always.” Virginia Burwell retired as of June 30, 2007.

Professional Activities

Anne Ciliberti attended the *EDUCAUSE Annual Conference* on October 23-26, 2007 in Seattle, WA.

Richard Kearney was elected Vice President/President-Elect of the College and University Section of the New Jersey Library Association. His tenure extends for two years.

Susan Sabatino attended the Annual Network Meeting of the *New Jersey State Data Center* on June 6,

2007 in New Brunswick, NJ.

Ray Schwartz attended the World Library and Information Congress of the *International Federation of Library Associations* on August 19-23, 2007 in Durban, South Africa.

In May 2007, **Kurt Wagner**, along with Edward Corrado/TCNJ, Ann Hoang/NJIT, and Ann Montanaro/Rutgers visited the Georgia PINES library consortium in Atlanta and several regional libraries to study the Evergreen open library

system. Subsequently, they co-authored a white paper which is available on the VALEnj Web site at www.valenj.org/newvale/ols/.

Kurt Wagner attended the *Library and Information technology Association’s National Conference* on October 5-7, 2007 in Denver, CO.

Nancy Weiner presented her paper “Lights, Camera, Action! Pairing Basic Reading with Library Research” at the *New Jersey Assoc. of New Student Advocates* on October 5, 2007 at Kean University.



THE FRIENDS OF THE CHENG LIBRARY

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Recently, I have been doing work on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century manuscripts that register the clerical debates in England during the Protestant Reformation. There was a time when scholars only had access to these manuscripts by visiting the libraries that held them in their collections—large, impressive libraries such as the British Library, or the Folger Shakespeare in Washington D.C., or the Huntington Library in Southern California. Then, scholars had little choice but to manually search through these collections until they found the relevant material. Not only was this method time-consuming, but unless one knew exactly what to look for, many worthwhile manuscripts were left undiscovered and unread. When I was doing my graduate work, most of these manuscripts had been photographed and placed on large microfiche reels that I spent hours scrolling through looking at manuscripts whose titles looked promising. Now when I go to the library to work with these manuscripts, I have access to them through computerized databases that allow me to search by subject, and which allow me to read them on-screen in almost any library. This movement to digitized manuscript collections has made research easier to conduct, and has also given scholars access to a whole new range of manuscripts that heretofore have largely remained unused since the early modern period.

Today my research time in the library consists mainly of sitting in front of a computer screen, as is true for most students I see in the Cheng Library. Granted, the expanded access that the internet gives to students does not discriminate between knowledge that is good and knowledge that is dubious, but I believe that the so-called information highway has produced, or has the potential to produce, a whole new generation of scholars whose work can revolutionize the way we think about history, and about our society. I would have little chance to visit the Bodleian Library at Oxford, which is the repository of so many of the manuscripts that I am now researching, but by accessing their collection via various databases, I am able to participate in a discussion that used to be restricted to a very small group of prominent scholars. In this way, the move to digitizing early English books, and the more general move toward digital libraries, is creating a kind of egalitarianism within the academy.

It may seem strange that as the Chair of the Friends of the Cheng Library I am in favor of electronic information since libraries are meant to champion the printed book. However, I see the function of libraries as collectors and preservers of knowledge, regardless of whether that knowledge exists on paper, in computerized reproductions, or through various events that bring together scholars, artists, and community members with a desire to learn more about their histories. As supporters of the Cheng Library, the Friends provides an important function to the intellectual life of the University and of the surrounding community.

In the coming years, I look forward to hearing more about the history and architecture of Pater-son. I look forward to seeing the art collections of private individuals in the community, which now reside in various libraries that are responsible for preserving these important visual records of our area. And, I am especially keen to engage with scholars whose research interests may help us to understand who we are in this particular historical moment. I am excited to be a part of a group whose responsibility is to be collectors and preservers of knowledge.

Andrew Barnes, Chair
The Friends of the Cheng Library

Positive Student Motivation at Heart of Collaborative Project

What better way to motivate reluctant, hesitant readers and have them engaged in learning than to have their skills showcased on video? This idea became the basis for a collaborative project of Marjorie Ginsberg, Basic Skills Program, and Nancy Weiner, Coordinator of User Education at the Cheng Library. During the fall 2005 semester, students enrolled in Basic Reading classes became involved in an extensive semester-long project.

The project was designed to expose students to fundamental research practices and to enhance their reading, writing and oral presentation skills. The class topic was stem cell research, and each class was divided into “pro” and “con” groups. Students were randomly assigned a persona (politician, religious leader, scientist, etc.) and were required to write a persuasive argument in the guise of their personas. The students’ oral argu-

ments were videotaped in a presidential debate-like setting.

For the writing assignment, each student was required to prepare a vocabulary list and to locate and summarize at least two reliable articles. From the summaries, students wrote a first draft of their presentation, revised it, and submitted the final version. The students prepared two-page written presentations and participated in a debate of the two sides of the issue. The students received copies of their presentations which were videotaped and recorded on DVD.

Assessment of skill attainment was conducted by a pre- and post-questionnaire designed to assess pre- and post-project knowledge, critical thinking skills, and research abilities.

Following the project, Prof. Ginsberg and Ms. Weiner were asked to present a paper describing this project and its outcomes at the annual conference of the National

Association of Developmental Education in 2007. They also contributed a chapter detailing this project in the edited book, *Information Literacy Collaborations That Work*, published in 2007.

Nancy Weiner was asked to present the results of this project in a paper “Lights, Camera, Action! Pairing Basic Reading with Library Research” delivered at the inaugural conference of the New Jersey Association of New Student Advocates on October 5, 2007 at Kean University.

The success of this endeavor demonstrates the value of faculty and librarian collaborations. The Library staff is always eager to work with their colleagues to develop creative and exciting educational projects such as this. If you have an idea, just contact your department’s Library liaison or Anne Ciliberti, Library Director. We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Expanded Reference Services To Be Offered During Winter Session

The Cheng Library has again made plans to offer a variety of reference services to students enrolled in winter session courses. Last year was the first time the reference librarians offered remote reference service via instant mes-

saging (IM) to the University’s students. This method works well for distance education students who may not reside near the campus or who find it inconvenient to visit the Library due to schedule conflicts.

The winter session begins on December 26 and remote service via IM will be available weekdays (except for Christmas and New Year’s Day) from noon until 4:00 p.m. With a wide variety of resources available online, students have many types of sources at their disposal: encyclopedias, electronic books, newspapers from many

countries, popular magazines and scholarly journals.

The Cheng Library offers 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. The Library will continue to provide all of the services located within the building (lending services, periodicals and document delivery, etc.) beginning January 2.



CONNECTIONS

Fall 2007, Volume 7, Issue 1

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Published by the
David and Lorraine Cheng Library



William Paterson University
Wayne, New Jersey

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