Cheng Library Welcomes You Back with Changes to Enhance Your Experience and Expanded Resources to Support Your Research

A Message from the Dean of Cheng Library, Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah

Cheng Library, with an articulated vision to be “central to the accomplishments of the University and valued for its leadership on campus and throughout the state,” has taken a significant step toward expanding available information resources to the William Paterson community through a model that leverages collaboration and resource sharing with other sister schools. To do so, we joined New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Stockton University, and The College of New Jersey to collectively adopt a state of the art library services platform that allows for better management of our growing electronic resources, as well as analog collections, in an effort to provide seamless access to an expanded information base. This solution allows the students, faculty, and staff of the five institutions to borrow from each other’s physical collections on any site, or have the items delivered to any campus. While this is still a long way from a cooperative collection development model that would allow participants to intentionally develop their collections with the coordinated efforts necessary to avoid duplications, it is still a promising beginning to what can become an even broader collaboration among academic libraries across the state of New Jersey. It is a recognition of the fact that “The closer that libraries and librarians work together, the more they can accomplish on behalf of their communities” (Bailey-Hainer, Beaubien, Posner, and Simpson, “Rethinking Library Resource Sharing: New Models for Collaboration”).

So, as you begin your library searches this year, you will see a new interface and search a much broader collection of books and media. If we do not own an item, you can pick it up from any of the four other campus libraries if you are away from campus and close to that location, or have the item delivered to Cheng Library for pick up. The clean look of the discovery interface makes for an uncomplicated approach to searching, while the limiters that pop up with the results of a search provide opportunities to further refine and zero in on the most relevant items. This simple approach belies the complexity of resources searched, which are the full breadth of physical and digital assets available to library users at William Paterson University. The library services platform supports versatile curation and integration of all formats, and inclusion of content from the university’s digital repository, managed by the library. Since the implementation is recent, only completed over the summer, we will continue to work on improving your experience with structure and content. Please help us serve you better by bringing your observations to our attention. A friendly librarian is always on hand.

You will also observe some color additions on the main floor to enhance the aesthetics of the building and see the familiar faces that continue to support your academic success. You will see new faces from the Academic Success Center (ASC) that moved into the library this summer. This arrival of a critical support entity that is the learning support entity that is the library provides synergistic advantages that will serve our students well. For where else should a unit with the declared mission “to facilitate the accessibility to academic resources that addresses both cognitive and developmental needs of the diverse student body” be physically located if not in a library that aspires to be “the academic

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Yvonne Roux joined the Library staff as the Access Services Librarian, Head of Lending Services in July 1992. From 1993 to 1995, Lending Services was one of two departments that remained in the building while the Library underwent construction. Yvonne played a crucial role in maintaining a safe and accessible facility during this time, as well as supervising the move of the 200,000 volume book collection twice.

Working as the Access Services Librarian drew heavily on Yvonne’s vast experience in public libraries, but her appointment as Curriculum Materials Librarian in 1998 enabled her to return to her roots as a teacher, children’s librarian, and school librarian.

In her new position, Yvonne was responsible for providing library instruction for education classes and selecting education materials in a variety of formats. When the College of Education moved to 1600 Valley Road she worked to maintain a library presence in the building by holding office hours at least once each week. She began attending and often presenting at College of Education meetings, as well as serving on several College of Education committees. For a short time, she was adjunct faculty in the College of Education when she taught in the School Library Media Specialist program, and served as the interim coordinator of that program.

A highlight of her collaboration with Education faculty were two “book tasting” sessions that invited preservice teachers to “taste” children’s books that could be used in the elementary school classroom. Yvonne has co-presented with Education faculty members at school library conferences, as well as at the William Paterson Annual Adolescent Literacy Institute. Other responsibilities included overseeing the Holocaust Education collection and participating in the Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies.

For the past fifteen years, Yvonne has served on the Advisory Board for NJ History Day. She received the New Jersey nomination for History Channel Outstanding Educator Award in 2010. She has judged at regional, state, and National History Day competitions.

Over the years Yvonne’s contributions to the University included working on several Faculty Senate Councils, starting with Advisement & Registration, and most recently the Undergraduate Council.

A longtime member of the American Library Association, Yvonne participated in several committees including the Curriculum Materials Center committee, the ERIC Users committee and the Instruction for Educators committee.

After nearly twenty-seven years at William Paterson, Yvonne Roux retired on July 1, 2019. She plans to spend her time reading, playing handbells, gardening, traveling, and whatever else comes her way.

Imani Hardaway joined the David and Lorraine Cheng library staff in August 2019 as the Cataloging and Metadata Librarian. Imani is responsible for cataloging materials, and applying new cataloging and metadata practices.

Imani holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Creative Writing from Ramapo College. She went on to graduate from Rutgers University with a Masters in Information Science having focused her studies in Technology, Information, and Management.

Imani began working in public libraries while in college. During that time she was able to work with children, teens, and adults. Prior to working at William Paterson University, she was a cataloging intern at Columbia University’s Butler Library and a Librarian in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System.

A word from Imani, "I look forward to meeting and working with members of the William Paterson University community."
Regina Manolis Joins the Staff of Cheng Library

Regina Manolis joined the staff of the Cheng Library on April 8, 2019 as Professional Services Specialist for Acquisitions in the Resource Management Division.

In this position Regina provides expense tracking and budget analysis, as well as orders books and digital media for faculty and staff. Regina leads the efforts of the library’s Leisure Lounge Committee and plays a key role in planning and executing the annual Authors’ Reception.

Regina graduated from William Paterson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. Before joining William Paterson University, she worked as an accountant for many years. About her new position, Regina commented, “I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute my skills to this role and look forward to growing here.

In her spare time, Regina enjoys spending time with friends, gardening, yoga, cooking, baking and taking long walks with her husband. She is an animal lover and currently has two cats named Ruby and Luna. She also loves watching classic films and listening to jazz music.

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knowledge center of William Paterson University”? As Steven Bell notes, “As collaborators, academic librarians already work with residential life, student services, career centers, and other academic and social support staff to contribute to any effort to meet students where and when the need for help arises” (Bell, “The Whole Student”). Now, our proximity should promote closer collaborations and better outcomes for students, with an environment and support systems that they will find seamless and complementary. And as an announcement, please remember that tutoring commenced September 16.

Here at your library, we will continue to explore ways to improve our students’ learning experience in the hope of facilitating their success. We will continue to explore collaborations toward that end. We encourage our classroom colleagues to engage us in the information literacy training happening in their content areas. In the past academic year, library instruction classes totaled 308, a 6.9% increase from the previous year, and librarians provided 301 non-reference desk research consultations. Other accomplishments included following up on the library’s 2017/2018 extensive weeding and space enhancement project with thorough shelf reading and inventory of virtually the entire collection. Cheng Library continued its expansion of electronic collections by adding new nursing and e-reference titles, providing access to several nursing periodical back-files acquired through one-time purchases with perpetual ownership rights, and activating a subscription to the Kanopy video streaming platform with requests mediated to ensure fiscal sustainability. Outreach to faculty and availability of an online submission form resulted in 420 items on print and electronic reserve, a nearly 30% increase over the previous year. Library oversight of faculty submissions to open access journals continued, workshops were conducted during Open Access Week, and funding for six successful applications were processed. Outreach to adjunct faculty was intensified with positive outcomes. Work continued on the addition of content to the WPShere institutional repository, and the coming year will see significant structural and content enhancements with improved discoverability.

The Library collaborated with the Office of New Student Experience to offer a five-week series of information literacy-based webinars, introduced the use of an interactive whiteboard in the Amy Job Classroom for the training of teacher candidates, and piloted a Civic Literacy Initiative offering WP LEADS Civic Engagement badge credits for students who participate in library sponsored or co-sponsored programs and activities. It continued the popular 24/7 service in the last two weeks of the fall and spring semesters, and conducted the LibQual survey, which measures user-satisfaction with library services based on desired user interactions with the library, user perception of library employees, and perceived effectiveness of library spaces. We again invite our user community to tell us how we can do better.

Welcome back, and have a most rewarding semester!
David Williams Appointed Digital Initiatives and Special Collections Librarian

David J. “Dave” Williams joined the Cheng Library as Digital Initiatives and Special Collections Librarian in August 2019. Dave will be leading the planning and implementation of digital projects, managing the WPSphere Institutional Repository, and providing leadership on processing and maintaining the library’s special collections.

Dave began his professional career working with technology in many fields, including desktop support, network and systems management, database administration, and software development. After completing undergraduate studies in information science at Drexel University, he served as a technical writer for a startup company, an editor for an open-access document conversion company, and a web developer at a language translation service.

Dave earned his Master of Library Science and Master’s in Science and Technology degrees at Queens College, CUNY, along with a certificate in archives, records management, and preservation. With interest in born-digital materials, he enjoyed records management and digital asset management internships at the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network Community Channel. Working with colleagues from the Free and Open Source Software movement, he founded a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, the Community Free Software Group, Inc. Projects included recycling discarded computer equipment and hosting Settlement House after-school workshops, with participants building complete, fully-functioning systems from the assembled parts.

Before arriving at William Paterson University, Dave served as the Web Services Technician at Queens College, as Library Website Manager at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and returned to Queens College, as the Web and Digital Services Librarian. A native of Virginia, in his spare time Dave enjoys traveling and contributing to Open Source software development projects.