



LIBRARY LETTERS

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A Dream Come True for Special Collections

It took three years of hoping and planning, but Special Collections finally has its compact shelving. The month of August was the big time, but progress started earlier in the summer.

During June and July, Edna Milliner, intrepid Special Collections Assistant, started organizing, boxing and labeling the items that had to be removed from the existing shelves. This took her right up to August 6, when the construction crew arrived. First they had to remove all the archivally stored material from four rows of shelves and stack them in numerical order in the Boatwright Room. Boatwright had been emptied of furniture the last week of July to make room for the 1600+ boxes.

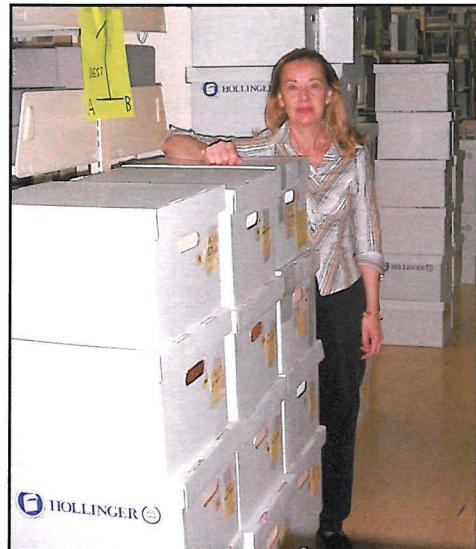
Then the crew had to deconstruct four rows of shelves and take them to storage. A very noisy process, with power drills being used to loosen screws. It set the teeth on edge for the folks in Technical Services working directly above Special Collections. Then special flooring had to be put into place. As construction of the new shelves began, it was discovered that one of the light sections was two inches lower than the rest and had to be removed before the rest of the shelves could be installed.

By mid-August, the new, movable shelves were in place, and it was time to start filling them with the material from Boatwright and the material that had been cluttering the floors of the vault for years. With the new shelving, we have gained almost twice as



much space as was removed. The new shelves close up tight when not in use, and then open to retrieve items.

There are big smiles on the faces of Vaughan Stanley, Lisa McCown and Edna Milliner these days!



Edna Milliner with some of the boxes she cataloged.

Library Committee

The University Library Committee acts as an advisory board to the Librarian, the President and the Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to the maintenance and development of the library.

Nine Appointed Faculty Members

Three annually for 3-year terms

Adedayo Abah - 2005-2008

John Knox - 2005-2008, Chair

Mark Carey - 2007-2008

Eduardo Velásquez - 2005-2008

Alexandra Brown - 2007-2008

Christopher Connors - 2006-2009

Robert Ballenger - 2007-2010

David Bello - 2007-2010

Maryanne Simurda - 2007-2010

Ex Officio Member

Merrily Taylor, University Librarian

Notes from the University Librarian

Welcome back to campus for the fall semester; I hope your summer was productive, relaxing and fun (or at least two out of three). It has been a busy time in the Library, with a number of summer projects completed, including the installation of our long-awaited compact shelving in the Special Collections vault.

These days, the Library exists in virtual and physical worlds, and you'll find news in this issue from both — rearrangements of space and resources in the Main Floor Research Services area, self-checkout software at the Circulation desk and a host of new online resources, from *Plunkett Research Online* to the *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*. In 2007/08 we also plan to offer more support for the use of GIS (Geographic Information System) software, a resource

that has proven to have significant applications in many disciplines.

I continue to work with colleagues across the University on our efforts to renovate space in Leyburn, with the intent of making the building more comfortable, welcoming and technologically sophisticated for faculty and students. While things progress slowly, they do progress, and this project is now an established goal within the University's strategic plan. We'll keep you informed of developments, and hope to see some work undertaken later this year.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me or my library colleagues to suggest ways in which we can serve you better. Have a great academic year!

Merrily E. Taylor, *University Librarian*

Hokie Hope Day



Our Library Staff and many others at W&L were shocked and saddened by the April 16 events at Virginia Tech. Several of our librarians had attended Tech and/or their children had. On April 20 we wore Tech colors and had our picture taken. The photo was then sent to the Tech University Archivist in a show of support and remembrance.

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Librarians Don't Just "Shoosh" Any More

In an effort to spread the word that we can assist students, faculty and staff with all kinds of information, the Library staff now has t-shirts that we will wear on special occasions. The shirts sport the Library's new logo and mention just a few of the things we help with.



Donors January 1 to June 30, 2007

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Roger Mudd '50 Makes Another Deposit

You will recall that Roger Mudd '50 donated his wonderful collection of 20th-Century southern writers to the Library last Fall. Because there are almost 2,000 first editions in his collection, he is bringing them here in stages. In July he brought the latest selections: works by Alice Adams, James Agee, Lisa Alther, Raymond Andrews, Daphne Athas, William Baldwin, John Barth, Doris Betts, Harry Crews, Harper Lee, Larry McMurtry, Reynolds Price and Thomas Wolfe.

Roger Mudd brings second batch of first editions. ➤

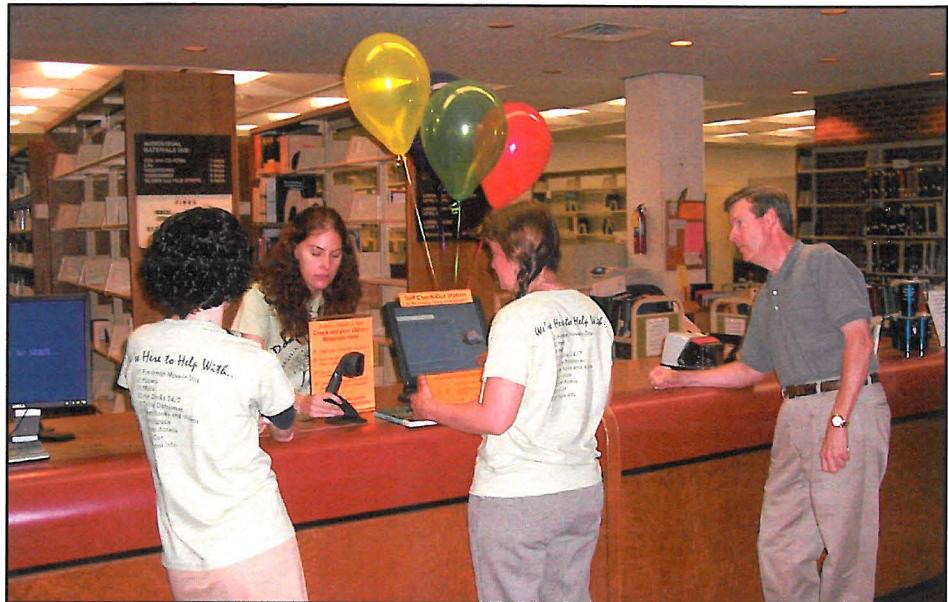


New Services

It's been a summer of changes and additions in the University Library

Self-checkout

Both Leyburn and Telford Science libraries now provide self-checkout stations for use by faculty, staff and students. You may check out books and review your record without having to wait in a line to do so. The librarians asked Library staff to test the new equipment in early August; their input helped improve the user instructions that you'll find at each station.



Large-format Scanner

Have a book, folio, map, chart or poster that's too big to copy in the conventional way? Leyburn Library now has a large format scanner to convert large print items into files for use on your computer.

GIS Support

Support for your GIS projects is offered by librarians in Telford Science Library. In April, a group of people from around campus, including teaching faculty and other staff, participated in training for ArcGIS and the Geographic Information System software package. This was the beginning of a campus-wide effort to promote the use of GIS in campus activities and classes. This was a very successful event, and sparked much interest from the participants. Currently, GIS users are meeting as a small group and are planning on holding a much larger GIS User Group event in Fall term. This first event will act as a springboard for those who are not aware of what GIS is, how it works and how it can be incorporated into their classes and research. The goal is to make this user group into an active learning group that not only supports the W&L community but also the local and regional users. Once more people start using GIS, we plan on using the Library as the focal point for support. Contact Mary Abdoney, Science Librarian, for more information about GIS and technical support for GIS. at 458-8647.

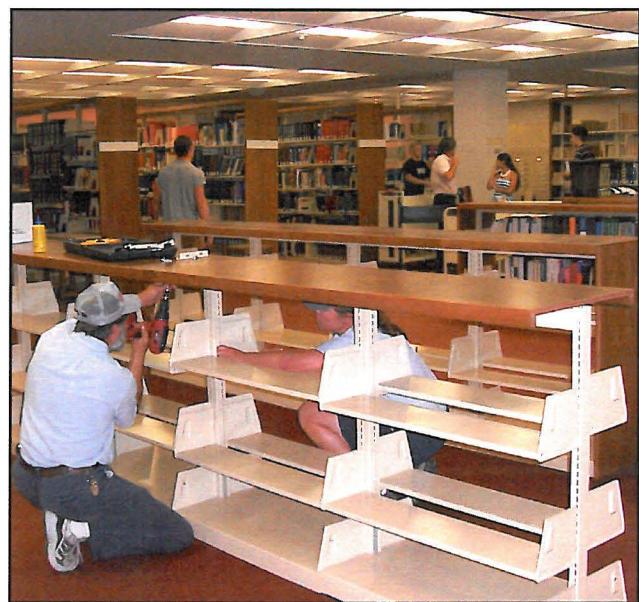
New Lee Letter

Special Collections acquired a very personal 1868 letter from Robert E. Lee to Caroline Stuart, his wife's cousin. In this prized four-page acquisition, Lee talks about family, his favorite topic. Vaughan Stanley, Special Collections Librarian, says, "Lee came alive in letters of this kind and is much more revealing than in the business letters he wrote as Washington College president."

Reference Area Renamed and Rearranged

In keeping with trends in university libraries, our Reference area has been designated the Research Services area; they do SO much more than just answer reference questions or point you in the right direction. Research Services librarians are here to help with any questions you may have relative to your next/latest paper, research project, and how to find pertinent material and track it. John Tombarge, Public Services Librarian, adds, "They also support the use of large statistical datasets for use in SPSS and Stata. Librarians help with GIS projects and in the manipulation of datasets for various uses. AND we support academic WIKIs and Blogs." And they're here Sunday through Thursday nights until 10 p.m.

You may notice a new arrangement when you go through the glass doors to Research Services. Newspapers have been moved to the right, closer to periodicals. Shelves have been shifted so there is now a direct line of sight to the Help Desk. And you may now browse for CDs yourself.



New Online Resources

While many of you were vacationing this summer, the Library was busy implementing new online resources for your research and general information. Be sure to check out these new online titles:

- America's Founding Charters (3 volumes)
library.wlu.edu/details.php?resID=1175
- Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450
library.wlu.edu/details.php?resID=1188
- Plunkett Research Online
library.wlu.edu/details.php?resID=1186
- Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures
library.wlu.edu/details.php?resID=1187
- Blackwell Handbook of Early Childhood Development
library.wlu.edu/details.php?resID=1174

And don't forget these online resources that were added in the Spring:

- *Chronicle of Higher Education*
- *Literary Marketplace*
- *Early American Newspapers*

Annual Book Sale

Mark your calendars now! The annual book sale will be Parents Weekend. The sale starts at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 26 and runs until 8 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30. It's a good time to pick up some summer reading, a classic that you've always wanted or material to augment a topic you'd like to investigate. Really cheap, too!

Music CDs More Accessible

If you're looking for a required or desired music CD, they are now located in the Research Services area. They were moved from behind the Circulation Desk to make them easier to browse, all 4,000 of them. Enjoy! You still need to take them to the desk to check them out.

Friends of the Library Update

The Friends of the Library present best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb talking about "Grassroots Saints and Honky Tonk Heroes." Her talk is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, in Northen Auditorium. A book-signing will follow her talk.

McCrumb is extremely proud of her southern roots; her family settled in North Carolina over 100 years ago. Her award-winning novels celebrating the history and folklore of Appalachia have received scholarly acclaim and ranked on the New York Times best-seller list.

"My books are like Appalachian quilts," says McCrumb. "I take brightly colored scraps of legends, ballads, fragments of rural life and local tragedy, and I piece them together into a complex whole that tells not only a story, but also a deeper truth about the culture of the mountain South."

McCrumb is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and has an M.A. in English from Virginia Tech.

In addition, the Friends authorized the purchase of an information center kiosk for the lobby of Leyburn and a new circulating laptop PC for student use.



Sharyn McCrumb talks to FOL Oct. 6.

To join Friends of the Library, contact Karin O'Callaghan at (540) 458-8642 or ocallaghank@wlu.edu.

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Checks and/or this form may be mailed to: Friends of the Library, Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington VA, 24450-2116