

# FOLIOS

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When the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University was dedicated in 1931, it was referred to as "the noblest of all Yale's buildings." A good number of buildings have arisen there since, no doubt, but the argument could be made that Sterling – which resembles an immense Gothic cathedral celebrating scholarship, learning and the written word – still retains that distinction. Interestingly, though, it was the Yale University Librarian who, at that same dedication, pointed to the great building and said, "That is not the Library. The Library is inside."



I recount this story today because our own Leyburn Library is currently receiving a long-hoped-for renovation, one that will transform the building's main floor and make it far more comfortable, efficient and attractive for today's users. All the collections and services you've been accustomed to will remain, but a single information desk – for both the Library and Information Technology Services – will make it more convenient to get help, and there will be improvements in lighting, study space, electrical connections, and seating. A new entrance on the Elrod Commons side of the building will not only facilitate getting to Leyburn, but passing through it to other campus points. We hope these changes will make Leyburn a pleasant place to linger and to work, and we're grateful to all those who made this renovation possible.

Still, the Yale University Librarian was right; the real library is not a building, however fine, but a collection of books, a gateway to the digital universe, and a staff of dedicated librarians and other professionals to help you find what you need. The real library, as Jacqueline Linton '09 says in her article, is a sort of living, growing thing that "truly represents the university and its values." Leyburn will be a better building to work and study in when this renovation is finished, but it's the "real" library, inside and out – the collections, the staff, the universe of knowledge to which we connect – that (in my opinion at least) makes this "the noblest of all W&L's buildings."

Merrily E. Taylor, *University Librarian*

## — Mission Statement —

*The Friends of the Library supports the academic mission of Washington and Lee University through activities which strengthen the Library's collections and services, promote greater awareness of the Library's needs and resources,*

*encourage monetary or in-kind contributions to the Library, foster closer community and Library relations and stimulate the intellectual life of the community.*



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## A Remembrance of the Library

JACQUELINE LINTON '09

I am well acquainted with Leyburn library. For me, it is not so much the physical building, but the people, ideas, and legacy of intellectual pursuit that the library represents, which is especially appealing and worthy of support. It only takes a stroll down an aisle of Leyburn to get the sense of being part of something bigger than yourself. There are those you know: Joyce, Milton, and Faulkner and those you have yet to meet: Hesse, Hamid, and Danticat. As Professor Suzanne Keen reminded us in her speech, "Libraries I Have Loved," by pulling any book off the shelf and glancing at the back page you can get a sense of the students and professors who have come before you. Despite the calm and quiet of the library, there is rarely a sense of isolation. I have found numerous items used as bookmarks that remind me of Washington and Lee's past. From the flyer advertising Clarence Thomas's speech on campus (made before his appointment to the Supreme Court) to paper with scribbled notes, everyone, it seems, leaves at least a small trace of themselves in books.

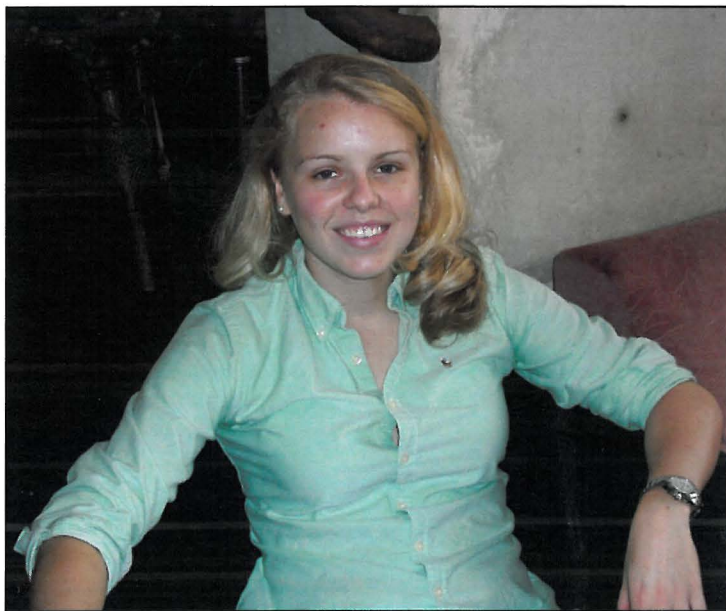
While the library has impressive technological resources that have been extremely useful in my time at Washington and Lee, it is the vast collection of books that I feel truly represents the university and its values. What better way to tell the story of Washington and Lee than a library? The antiquity and rarity of some of the books allude to the university's own history. Though Liberty Hall is known to us today as ruins, Leyburn still houses books from this original facility. As a freshman you may not know every rare book or manuscript that the library possesses, but there is still a definite sense of tradition and distinction surrounding it. As a stu-

dent, you are immediately proud of being a small part of the story of Washington and Lee. Another indispensable element of the Washington and Lee narrative is the ubiquity of proud, distinguished, and generous alumni. Alumni munificently donated many of the library books I have referenced for research papers. The presence of the alumni is no-

ticed and appreciated in the library, just as it is in the university as a whole. In short, the library has been an indispensable part of my undergraduate experience at Washington and Lee.

Despite the confusion caused by the seemingly counterintuitive numbering system of the floors, you will gradually come to know and love the library. By senior year, memories of studying for my first W&L finals, chemistry and sociol-

ogy, on the fourth floor couch into the early hours of the morning evoke a smile and feeling of nostalgia. Well, for some maybe "library love" is a bit strong, but you will always remember and appreciate the library as an indispensable part of your time at Washington and Lee. During my time at Washington and Lee the library has supported and encouraged my academic pursuits and intellectual growth. From the interlibrary loan department acquiring a book on fairies, changelings, and contemporary society for my term paper last year to providing me with a locked study this year to assist with my honors thesis, I have always found the library staff supportive and helpful. While the colonnade is emblematic of W&L, a charming and smiling face through which the university projects itself, the library is the heart of the institution. As my time at Washington and Lee comes to a close, I am thankful for the library.



WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY  
LEXINGTON, VA 24450



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## New Chair and Board Members

The Board of the Friends of the Library is proud to announce our new Chair, Hardin Marion '55, '58L. Hardin graciously agreed to serve, following in the august footsteps of our first chair President Robert E. Huntley. Bob has agreed to stay on the Board so that we may maintain his wise counsel. Be sure to read Hardin's comments in this issue of *FOLios*.

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## Leyburn Renovation

Have you been following the progress of the renovation on the blog? If not, you really should! Pictures and commentary from early June to the present. Just go to <http://bloggery.wlu.edu/renovation/>.

For those of you who haven't the time for blogging, here's a short synopsis. Be sure to read the comments from former Provost Tom Williams, too, elsewhere in this issue.

After years of discussion, renovation began in earnest on June 10 when Mathers Construction moved into Leyburn Library and started demolition work on lower level 1 (LL1). This was done to accommodate the permanent move of Technical Services from the Main level to LL1.

Over the summer the whole staff worked furiously to relocate collections, magazines, journals, CDs, DVDs, furniture and all services from Main to (primarily) LL1. We now have a combined Information Desk on LL1, offering Access Services (circulation, reserves, ILL) and computer help from Information Technology Services (ITS) staff. The Reference Desk is just a "holler" across the lobby outside Northen.

After much hammering, drilling, carpet recycling, painting and furniture installation, the eight folks who handle cataloging, acquisitions, and serials moved into their new space on August 18. It is gorgeous, bright, and functional!

At about the same time, Mathers started demolition on the Main level, ripping out carpet and taking down walls. By the time classes started on Sept. 4 Mathers was firmly ensconced on Main and a solid wall of plywood had been built to restrict access and reduce the amount of dust that fell to the lower level. At this writing everyone seems to have adjusted to the new entrances, found their way around, and settled in for the duration.

Fortunately the "duration" should be short. We're currently scheduled to move back to the Main level in mid-January. Come see us!

Additionally, we are pleased that Matt Mills '00, Professor Miriam Carlisle, and Julie Campbell have agreed to join the Board. We are sorry to lose Lamar Cecil and Becky Merchant, but they won't be far when we need their input.



*Shelves being wrapped for renovation.*

## Annual Report 07/08

The Friends of the Library of W&L had a third successful year. We started the year with 228 members and ended with 269. We currently have 209 *active* members. We are very pleased that our dues and donations are maintaining their high levels: during the 07/08 fiscal period, we began the year with \$26,884, took in \$28,512 and ended the year with funds totaling \$38,225. You will recall that dues go to cover the operating expenses of the group and contributions go to a gift fund for the Library. Extra funds from dues may be used for Library gifts at the discretion of the Board.

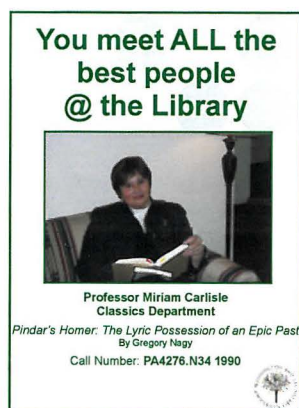
From the dues we took in we paid all the expenses of the group and were able to host two guest speakers: noted Virginia author Sharyn McCrumb in October 2007 and Tom Camden, Director of Special Collections for The Library of Virginia and W&L class of 1976, in May 2008. Each event included a reception and Ms. McCrumb did a book signing following her very entertaining talk. We also did our annual membership drive in August 2007 to over 6,000 alumni. Each of the



Friends received two *Folios*, the Friends newsletter, during the year. Active members will receive a copy of Tom Camden's talk in early October.

Additionally, the Friends created a \$3,000 fund to help Special Collections conserve and restore fragile books. The Friends spent \$3,000 to purchase a large format laminator to go with the large format printer and scanner the Library uses for student and faculty projects. And we purchased two digital collections: *The Papers of John Adams* and *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Last but certainly not least, the Friends again purchased a PC for on-loan use by students and faculty.

Another highly successful year for the University Library, courtesy of our many Friends.



## Poster Project

In the April *FOLios*, it was mentioned that we were starting a faculty and administration poster project. The posters show a member of the W&L community holding a favorite piece of reading. Each poster was laminated – on the large format laminator purchased by the Friends – and displayed in the appropriate area of the stacks in either Leyburn or Telford Library. We are happy to report that almost 70 posters were created and now add color and interest to the stacks! The nice thing about them is that they are movable, so we can change them out each term and people will see ones they might not have noticed before.

## Friends Events

We hope you didn't miss former Virginia Governor Linwood Holton's '44 talk on Oct. 4. He was wonderful! To keep up with future activities of the Friends, check out our web site at <http://library.wlu.edu/friends>. Then check UPCOMING EVENTS to see what's coming and when. If nothing shows immediately, look at the recent postings on the right of the screen.

## Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again when we ask you to renew your membership for the next year. You may pay by sending a check to the attention of Karin O'Callaghan, or by credit card on the Friends web site (<http://library.wlu.edu/friends>) under SUPPORT.

## Ever wonder?

In the recent faculty and student satisfaction surveys done by Public Services, one thing became abundantly clear: the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) department is very highly favored by campus users! As they should be. They acquire books/materials for our users from libraries all over the U.S. and around the world. Elizabeth Teaff, Access Services manager, reports she has borrowed from South Africa, England, Canada, the Netherlands, and as far away as Hong Kong.

This past summer Professor David Bello was in Japan and e-mailing back here to have W&L materials sent to him there; it was faster than determining where else he might find what he needed.

## Words from the Chair



Three years ago our Friends of the Library was brand new, with Bob Huntley as our first Chair, the Friends got off to a great start. Now that Bob's term has expired, and I have succeeded him as Chair, it is gratifying to look back and see how much we have accomplished in that short time. The Friends have made annual gifts of books, data bases, furnishings, and restorations to help W&L's students and faculty. These gifts have totaled in the thousands of dollars, all made possible by dues and contributions of our members.

In addition, we have hosted semiannual speakers and receptions for members, beginning with Roger Mudd, '50, and continuing through our latest speaker, Governor Linwood Holton '44, who provided another entertaining success story for the Friends earlier this month. Not surprisingly, both of them have recently published memoirs that should command the interest of us all.

Now is the time for us to look to the future. The renovation of Leyburn Library is certain to open new opportunities for us to support the Library and the University. We welcome your comments and suggestions, your assistance and support, whenever and however you can provide it.

Hardin



## At Last

I, for one, am glad to see Leyburn boarded over as if for an approaching hurricane. Walking through the entrance sally port into a narrow plywood corridor with only a few signs to indicate life exists somewhere within does my heart good. Walking up from Woods Creek and hearing the sound of demolished walls being regurgitated down three stories and into a dumpster is music to my ears. If only I could have a chance to take my own hammer to the place, my life would be complete.

No, I am not one of those who see the façade of the Leyburn Library an architectural affront to the memories of Washington, Lee, and the guy with the chain saw who carved Old George for the roof of the colonnade. Neither am I one who thinks books are a thing of the past, and sit reading my Kindle imagining the library razed to make room for a garden of servers or a forest of cell phone towers.

Nope – none of that. To me, Leyburn's present state is like a wrapped present under the tree a few days short of Christmas. I can't wait for the day to come to unwrap it and enjoy all that's inside. It's a gift that I, along with many, many others, have been anticipating for the last several years. A bit of the history of this wait may be of interest.

In early 2002, Barbara Brown, who had skillfully directed the Leyburn Library (nee University Library) since 1985, announced her plans to retire. President Tom Burish pondered the question of whether W&L should join those colleges and universities that had merged their computing and traditional library functions into a single operation, and thus replace Barbara with a Director (Vice President, Tsar, whatever) of Information Services. President Burish asked Larry Peppers to chair an *ad hoc* committee to examine this question. In January of 2003 the Peppers Committee submitted a concise report with the following key recommendations:

Begin a search for a new University Librarian.

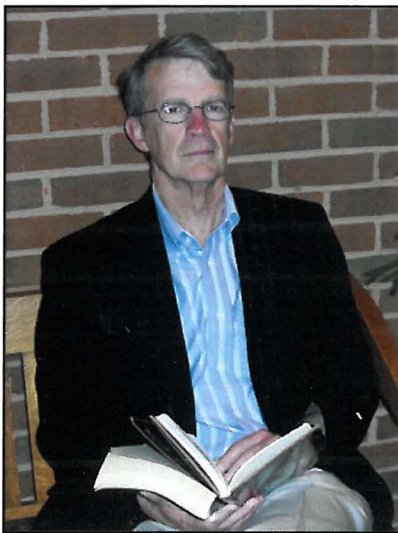
Create an integrated service model, with Library Services and Computing Services under separate directors, but working closely to create a seamless information service environment for the university.

Establish, as soon as possible, an information commons for library and computing services in Leyburn Library.

The librarian search began early in 2003, and concluded quite happily when Merrily Taylor, University

Librarian at Brown University, was persuaded to join the W&L faculty as University Librarian beginning in the summer of 2004.

The information commons idea was pursued by utilizing the most American of institutions – ROAD TRIP!!! An unlikely troop of librarians, computer technologists, and administrators – a group just one VW van away from becoming the Merry Pranksters – headed north in late April of 2004 to visit a group of schools which had implemented some form of a



merged library/computing operation, and featured some variety of information commons: Brown, Wellesley, Wheaton (MA), Connecticut College. (On a later trip, we also visited Dickinson College.) The trip yielded several profound insights:

Even schools with complete administrative merger of library and computing retained separate cultures and shadow administrative separation just below the surface. (It seems as though librarians and computer technologists, like oboists and violinists, are parts of profoundly different cultures who prefer to work as distinct parts of an ensemble, rather than all being turned into a single troop of, say, obolin players.)

While there were information commons, there was no Information Commons. This term described a different feature at each school we visited, attempting to provide that form and level of merged service seen needed by each institution. There is no common Commons.

Providence, RI, in mid-spring is colder than Lexington in January, perhaps explaining, in part, Floridian Merrily Taylor's decision to become a General.

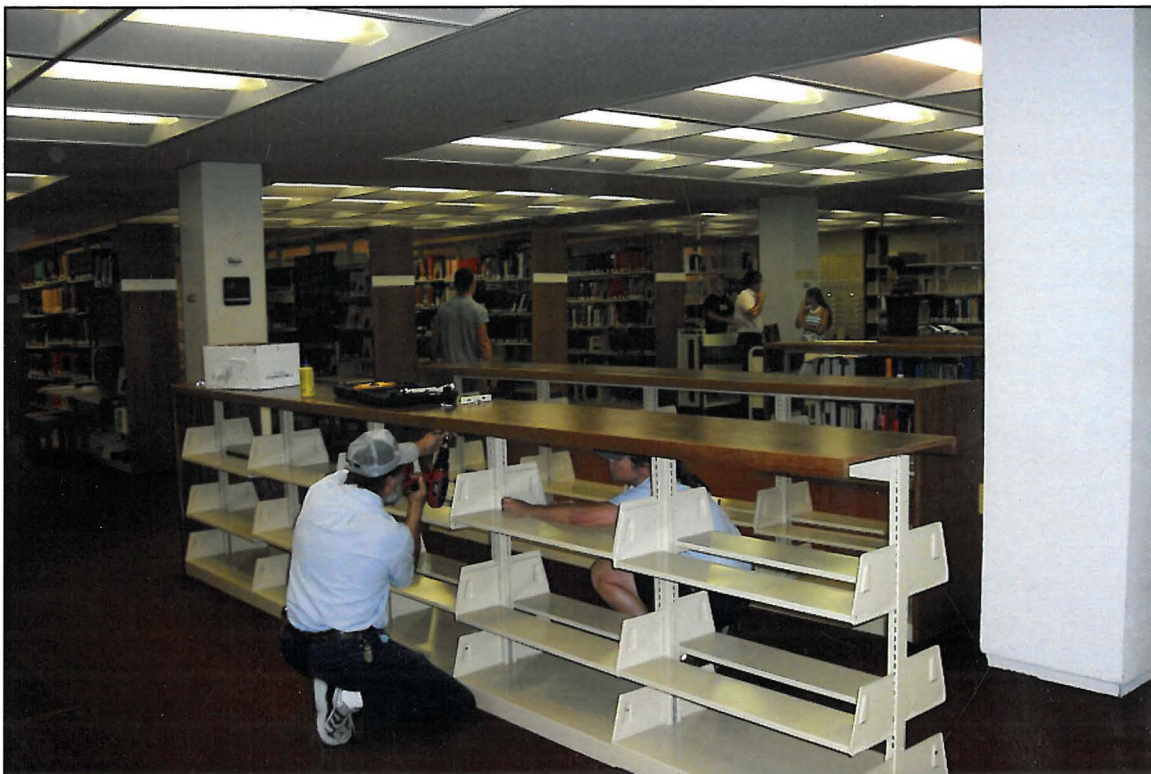
From that trip to the present, many became involved in our planning for appropriately merged computing and library services, delivered in a renovated Leyburn Library. We schemed, sketched, plotted, planned, cursed the reluctant, cajoled the unconvinced, and preached to the choir. With the help of lots of folks, and a final push from Provost June Aprille, this boulder was finally rolled to the peak and over, and a beautifully conceived renovation plan for Leyburn spawned a beautiful construction site.

As often as I can I shall walk by, around, and into Leyburn this fall, savoring the plywood barriers, sniffing the plaster dust, until that fine day in January when I, in fact when all of us, can crawl under the tree and unwrap this splendid gift. I cannot wait!

— Thomas Williams, former Provost  
Professor of Physics



# —UNDER CONSTRUCTION—



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I'd like to make an additional donation to support the Library's collection: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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





*Students Find Many Ways  
to Utilize the Library*

