University Libraries Storage Facility Opens

The opening in May of the University Libraries’ new remote storage facility was the culmination of a decade-long quest for additional space. The building, located close to the Virginia Tech airport at the intersection of Airport Road and Country Club Drive, was funded by a higher education bond referendum approved in the 1992 election.

The new facility, which provides office and storage space for the university's Records Management unit and the University Libraries, is based on warehousing principles and designed for the most efficient use of space. Books are stored by size instead of by call number. Shelves are arranged to accommodate the maximum number of books per shelf and rise more than 30 feet in the air. A motorized order picker is used to retrieve books from shelves that are out of reach.

VTLS, Inc., has developed a new subsystem of document delivery software that links individual books to their places on the shelf. When a book is requested at Newman Library or one of the branches, the request is entered into VTLS by library staff and sent electronically to the remote facility. A list of books to be “picked” is printed out, and staff at the storage building are directed to the book by a coded field revealing the box, shelf, and row number. When books are returned from circulation and reshelved, staff can check for shelving errors with handheld data collectors similar to the kind supermarkets use for taking inventory.

It is estimated that the new high-density, climate-controlled facility will hold one million volumes, allowing for expansion over the next 10 to 15 years. There are 300,000 volumes and 20 archives and manuscripts collections currently housed off-site, that will be moved in by the end of July. Then, a second phase will be initiated to move seldom-used volumes out of Newman Library and the branches to make room for more study carrels and public-access computer workstations.

The University Libraries and Records Management unit will both benefit from the increase in storage and work space, and their closer proximity to campus will result in improved customer service. There will eventually be on-site access to library materials for research purposes; manuscripts, archives and long runs of older journals can be examined at the building, saving wear and tear on the materials and eliminating the time for retrieval and delivery. In the future it will even be possible to fax articles or transmit materials electronically directly to patrons from the remote facility.

Leslie O'Brien
From the Dean of the University Libraries

The timing of this initial issue of library friends couldn’t be better! Having just marked my sixth-month anniversary here at Virginia Tech, this column gives me a chance to share some of my thoughts with you about the changes developing in the University Libraries.

We are experimenting with translating into practice a number of ideas about continuous process improvement and teamwork promoted by the university’s leadership development program. Over the years of my career, I’ve seen a lot of good ideas about improving the effectiveness of the workplace get started but then fizzle out. What’s exciting about what I see developing here at Virginia Tech is that incorporating these concepts into our program of operations appears to work for us.

For example, the logistics involved with programming, coding, and moving more than a quarter of a million items to the new storage facility seemed like an almost impossible project several months ago. Today, through the efforts of many people on the “move team” who had to learn to do what they had not done before and had to do it in a logical and efficient way, the project is almost completed—on time, and under budget. Good ideas with follow-through performance from the people who had the good ideas made this move a success.

Similar team approaches address several other areas that are important to improving the delivery of information services. A continually changing work environment demands consistent and relevant learning opportunities for staff, whose talents are one of our most important resources. A program to ensure every staff member a defined instructional program related to skills we all need to be effective is the outcome of one team’s effort. Another team will be working with VTLS, Inc., to do pilot testing of new systems being developed. As one of the larger libraries using VTLS, we can provide a broad perspective on the design process and see system changes that will mirror the needs we have to make the system more accessible by users and more efficient in its application to processing for purchasing and cataloging. A third team is examining the best way to present the University Libraries’ vast resources on the libraries’ web page. They will address design and follow through on services. A fourth team is looking at the many ways we work with financial records with an eye toward simplifying our internal processes, providing more information to those who manage funds, and maintaining coordination with financial system developments at the university level. I will keep you posted as we progress.

Finally, I was especially pleased on my arrival here to find a strong Friends organization already in existence. The enthusiasm of the members and the interesting schedule of activities sponsored by the Friends are particularly impressive for such a newly formed program. I’m confident that I can look to all of you to widen the Friends’ circle even more. Your support can help us make a difference as we support the teaching, research, and public service needs of the Virginia Tech community.

Eileen E. Hitchingham

From the Dean of the University Libraries
Virginia Tech’s Scholarly Communications Project, established in 1989, publishes over a dozen electronic journals, newspapers, and other Internet resources. The project experiments in scholarly communications by working with faculty and staff to create new Internet resources and by digitizing various traditional library resources.

Experimentation has led to the availability of electronic theses and dissertations and to Electronic Reserves, the Internet version of the library’s Reserve Desk. These exploratory efforts resulted in extensions of copyright law and fair use guidelines into an electronic information environment. The Scholarly Communications Project provides not only the university community, but also the Commonwealth and the rest of the world with access to unique library resources through the Internet.

In May 1995 the University Libraries, Scholarly Communications, and the English Department opened the Center for Textual and Editorial Studies in Newman Library. The center is designed to improve the theory and methodology of textual study through editing and producing text in traditional and electronic formats. VIVA (Virtual Library of Virginia) is another source of experimentation in access to Internet library resources for the benefit of all Virginians by Virginia Tech and the other doctoral granting institutions in the Commonwealth.

These and other Internet library resources, including VTLS, are accessible to University Libraries clients on campus through a wide-ranging variety of equipment including the VTLS Network Stations and InfoStations. Several Network Stations are currently available to the public. The InfoStations support the live link between the bibliographic record and Internet resources such as the Scholarly Communications publications and experiments including electronic journals, theses, image collections, and electronic reserve.

Gail McMillan and Don Kenney

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Gail McMillan and Don Kenney

**Keeping up with Scholarly Communications**

**University Libraries Share Treasures . . .**

**Discovery Works**, the children’s science museum in Radford, Virginia, recently exhibited a variety of artifacts from the Michael Collins Collection, part of the *Archive of American Aerospace Exploration*. The display included medals, a sunscreen from the Gemini capsule, the joystick from a fighter aircraft, and other articles related to Collins’s career as a pilot and astronaut.

**Kunsthalle Wein** in Vienna, Austria, is holding an exhibit entitled “Visions and Exiles,” which is a survey of works by architects who emigrated from Austria to the United States between 1911 and 1941. On loan from the *International Archive of Women in Architecture* is the work of Austrian architect Liane Zimbler. Zimbler, fled Austria after the Nazi takeover and settled in Los Angeles, where she continued to work. The drawings and items displayed are almost exclusively private residences, apartments and houses (including one roof garden), and include works completed in Austria as well as California.

**Brandywine River Museum** of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, has organized a major exhibition entitled "N.C. Wyeth: Experiment and Invention 1925-1935." The exhibit includes approximately twenty-five large paintings produced by N.C. Wyeth from the mid-1920’s to the mid-1930’s, many of which have not been shown in over half a century. Wyeth’s *Pennsylvania Barn*, housed in the Special Collections Department of Newman Library, is considered essential to the undertaking which will examine a period when the artist experimented with styles and subject matter in response to the constraints of illustration and other influences. The painting, a gift of Friends members Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Dorey, Jr., is on loan for this unique exhibition which will continue through September 4, 1995.

**News...News...News...**

Gail McMillan, Director of Scholarly Communications, has been appointed head of the Special Collections Department effective July 1, 1995. She will remain Director of Scholarly Communications in addition to her new duties in Special Collections.
The Friends of the University Libraries already
We hope to share that history through these

“The heart of the university,” is what Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., called the University Libraries in his address to an enthusiastic audience of Friends of the University Libraries last fall. The address was part of the inaugural Friends Fall Festivities held September 24, 1994, at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center to honor special patrons of the University Libraries, Elden E. “Josh” Billings for his gift of the Billings Civil War Collection and Mr. and Mrs. R.C. “Bob” Dorey, Jr., for their gift of N.C. Wyeth’s painting Pennsylvania Barn.

Bud Robertson (l.), Friends Chair, and Lon Savage, Co-Chair, take up the reigns of leadership, succeeding Co-Chairs of the Founding Committee, Frances M.H. Russell (l.) and Louisa Dekker.

Pre-World War II Thanksgiving at V.P.I. by Col Harry Temple marks publication of the first Friends’ holiday keepsake.

Friends greet the new Dean of University Libraries, Eileen Hitchingham, at a reception in her honor in February. Dean Hitchingham comes to Virginia Tech from Drexel University in Philadelphia where she was University Library Director.

Dean Hitchingham (l.) and Margaret Shuler, Executive Secretary of the Friends, share a moment at cake cutting.
Stephen Zietz, Head of Special Collections and faculty sponsor of the Friends has been appointed Director of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Newport, RI, leaving the Friends a legacy of knowledge, ideas, and enthusiasm.

Special Collections was the setting for a reception in honor of patron Preston Frazer in March (story, p.6).

In honor of National Library Week, April 9-15, the Friends helped to sponsor "River of Earth: In Story and Song", featuring Appalachian author James Still and musician Randy Wilson, whose performances were the highlight of Appalachian Studies Week.

Dorothy Bodell, Friends Hospitality Chair, presides over the punchbowl at McMullen reception.

Bud Robertson, author McMullen, and Harry Temple

Friends Honor Preston Frazer

Blacksburg artist Preston Frazer was recognized this spring at a reception in his honor given by the Friends of the University Libraries. The event began with the skirl of the bagpipes of Professor Ed Robinson, who piped Frazer and his friends to the event held in the Special Collections reading room of Newman Library.

Frazer, who served as professor of life drawing at Virginia Tech for 35 years, was praised by master of ceremonies Lon Savage for “years of devoted and distinguished service on the faculty, as an invaluable contributor to our community, and as a patron and benefactor.” Savage thanked Frazer for contributing his own art and the art of others to the university, including a painting of Einstein which, Savage said, “is one of the few done from life—this one by noted German artist Max Westfield.”

Frazer’s works have been published in several books and exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., Honolulu Academy of Fine Arts, the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, Harvard, and the University of Tennessee at Nashville. The reception featured a Frazer Exhibition showcasing drawings from Special Collections as well as works on loan from the private collections of Robert Miller and Rengin Holt.

(l. to r.) Michael Grandstaff, II; Mike Grandstaff, Sr.; Preston Frazer; Mac Favrao.

Welcome from University Libraries Access Services

As a Friend, your yearly donation of twenty-five dollars or more entitles you to benefits and privileges which include use of the vast resources of the University Libraries. The Friends Borrower Identification Card is valid from January through December and allows patrons the following use of library materials:

* You may check out fifty books at any one time for a period of thirty days
* Renewals can be made by telephone up to four times
* Books must be checked out in person; however, they may be returned by mail or at any branch of the University Libraries (Newman Library, Art and Architecture, Geology, Veterinary Medicine, and the Northern Virginia Graduate Center)

There is a fine for overdue books, ten cents a day per book (maximum of ten dollars per book) with a five-day grace period, and all books are subject to recall by others.
From the University Archive
Tamara Kennelly, University Archivist

The history of the university finds a repository in the University Archive, which lasts from generation to generation and serves as a constant resource for students, alumni, and researchers alike. Its myriad treasures depicting student life, sports, and various aspects of university history are often displayed, revealing the richness of experience that is our history. The University Archive actively seeks additions to its trove, the breadth of which is reflected in the variety of gifts acknowledged below.

The University Libraries wish to thank all those whose generous gifts help to preserve the university’s heritage. These donors include:

William Atkinson, Jr.
Sports-related material

Carrie Tate Ayler, Manley H. Ayler, and Louise A. Montague
1886 parchment diploma

Rosemary Powley Cole
Dance Card Collection and other university memorabilia

Robert A. Creech
Watercolor lithographs and other university-related material

William M. Deemer
Copies of The Gray Jacket

Jeanette Hamlin
Items relating to the university and local history, including phonograph records

Ivis Hutcheson
Personal papers of John R. Hutcheson, President of VPI, 1945-47

D. Lyle Kinnear
Scrapbooks of university-related material

Doug Martin
Correspondence and ledgers relating to the university and local history

Margaret Preston Moore
Land grant to William Preston signed by King George III

John W. Sample, III
University memorabilia: photographs, cabinet cards, cartes de visites, 1898 and 1900 commencement programs

Col. Harry D. Temple
Tapes of Virginia Tech music, scrapbooks, photographs, and memorabilia

UPCOMING EVENT - September 9, 1995
Friends to Recognize Gift of Marshak Papers

University Libraries patron Ruth E. Marshak, Ann M. Rothstein, and Stephen Marshak will be guests of honor at a reception and luncheon to be given by the Friends of the University Libraries. The September 9 event to be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center will express appreciation for the gift to the University Libraries of the Robert E. Marshak Papers. George Collins, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics, and Luke Mo, Professor of Physics, will be the featured speakers.

Author McMullen Guest of Friends

Glenn McMullen, author of the recently published A Surgeon with Stonewall Jackson: The Civil War Letters of Dr. Harvey Black, was guest of the Friends of the University Libraries at a reception, lecture, and book signing in his honor. The event was held May 20 at the University Volume II Bookstore. Dr. James I. “Bud” Robertson, Jr., Civil War historian and Friends Chair, welcomed a large and enthusiastic party, including Friends members and many descendants of Dr. Harvey Black.

Dr. Harvey Black, grandson of one of the founders of Blacksburg, Virginia, served as surgeon of the Fourth Virginia Regiment, as Stonewall Brigade surgeon, and as surgeon in charge of the Second Corps Field Hospital of the Army of Northern Virginia. Literate and perceptive, Black had interesting things to say about figures like Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, Jubal Early, and Thomas Rosser. In addition to Harvey Black’s letters, the book contains three letters of his wife Mollie, all that have survived. The letters poignantly reveal the trials Southern women faced during the war, fending for themselves and their families.

Author McMullen, formerly head of Special Collections at Virginia Tech, is head of the Special Collections Department at the Iowa State University Library. He has a BA in Philosophy, an MA in History, and an MLS in Library Science, all from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. His publications include articles on Civil War history, railroad history, and the history of libraries.

The Friends acknowledge with appreciation the gift from Glenn McMullen of royalties from the day’s sales to the University Libraries to enhance and preserve the Civil War Collection. All available copies were sold on the day of the event; the book has since been restocked and is available.

Glenn McMullen with portrait of Dr. Harvey Black
A Note of Thanks

We wish to thank friends of the University Libraries for their gifts of books, manuscripts, photographs, and other library materials during the past year. These donors include:

Dean Allen
Books of Spanish literature

Howard S. Avery
Avery-Abex Collection of metallurgical samples and documentation

Elden E. “Josh” Billings
Additions to Billings Civil War Collection

Pauline E. Burks
Burks family papers

Cheryl Caputo
Veterinary books

Richard Cupp
Portrait of Dicey Fogleman by artist / illustrator William Williams, Preston Frazer sketches

Guy DiCarlo
Civil War files and bound volumes

Marshall W. Fishwick
Large collection of popular culture, English, humanities

Preston Frazer
Paintings

Robert S. Gilmore
Early 19th century English printed fabric

Irene F. Glennon
Works of English language literature

Marjorie Grene
Works on philosophy and education

Maynard Hale
Large collection of books of Russian literature, history, culture

Edmund Henneke
Books on education, music

Bill Heron
Additions to the William J. Heron Science Fiction Collection

James O. Hoge
Books of American, English, and Greek literature

Kathryn Kane
Books on psychology and religion

David G.I. Kingston
Books on chemistry

Michael Lambur
Books on education

Timothy W. Luke
Works of political science, sociology

J. Richard Lucas
Periodicals on science, coal mining

Ruth G. Marshak
Personal and professional papers of Dr. Robert E. Marshak

Ralph McCoy
Fine private press books, Abraham Lincoln items

Kenneth Motley
Additions to the Smithey and Boynton Architectural Collection

Mary J. New
Books on Asian Studies

Joseph C. Pitt
Science fiction collection

Richard C. Rich
Books on political science

Charles Roberts
Books on meteorology

Randall Robertson
Works of philosophy

Kathleen K. Ross
Books on varied topics

Frances M. H. Russell
Scrapbook and photographic additions to local history collection

Thomas Sherman
Books of children’s literature and child psychology

Paul Smeal
Books on education

Robert Stuart
Books on geology

Ellie Sturgis
Books on history and management

Col. Harry D. Temple
Additions to the Temple Heraldry Collection and the Temple Papers

Bruce Wallace
Books on genetics