Summer 2009

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Scholars Award Honors Longtime Library Dean

Two Honors graduates are the first to be named Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars, Chelsea Derlan, who earned degrees in psychology and Spanish, and Kelly Trimble, who earned her degree in Slavic and East European Studies, received the award at a ceremony in the Charles C. Wise Library during Commencement Weekend.

“These students did remarkable work. There is a tremendous amount of scholarship in these theses,” said Keith Garbutt, Dean of the Honors College. “This award recognizes and rewards it.”

The WVU Libraries and the Honors College of WVU established the Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award to honor Dr. Robert F. Munn, Dean of Library Services from 1957-1986.

The award goes to one or more graduating Honors students for outstanding humanities or social sciences research that is done in the WVU Libraries and results in an exceptional thesis. Writing a thesis is a graduation requirement for Honors students. Along with receiving a $1,000 award, the scholar’s name is added to a plaque in the Downtown Campus Library. “I was really honored that everyone found my thesis worthy of the award,” Trimble said. “I’m very grateful.”

Along with a full schedule of classes, she spent the past academic year researching and writing her winning paper, titled “Women’s Conflict Journals: World War II through the Yugoslav Wars.” “It wouldn’t have been possible to have done all the research without the library,” she said.

Derlan said she was amazed and honored to learn that her research efforts were recognized. Her thesis is titled “The Significance of Parenting Stress, Substance Abuse, Intimate Partner Violence, and Other Potential Risk Factors on Treatment Outcomes and Adherence for Child Maltreatment.”

She began preliminary work on her thesis upon entering the McNair Scholars Program, the summer after her sophomore year, and also spent a lot of time in the library. Derlan believes being named a Munn Scholar will help her as she makes the transition into graduate school.

“It’s going to help me so much to be able to demonstrate that I can do research,” Derlan said. “Professors in graduate school don’t expect a lot of undergraduates to do research. So having this opportunity has been amazing.”

Trimble heads to the University of Michigan this fall to pursue a master’s in Russian and Eastern European studies and eventually sees herself as a professor. Derlan is still considering her graduate school options but wants to study in an urban area. Her goal is to be a professor and to focus on ethnic minority issues concerning children and families.

It was at a similar juncture in his life that Dr. Ken Martis, who spoke at the ceremony, met Munn. Martis shared his memories about meeting Munn when he came to WVU in 1976. Although Martis felt intimidated by the Library Dean at first, Munn encouraged him and provided valuable direction that aided Martis in publishing a book.

“I want you two to know how special Dr. Munn was,” Martis said. “He gave 30 years of his life to this Library and made it the beautiful institution that it is today.”

Arriving at WVU in 1952, Munn rose to head the Library in 1957. Over the next three decades, he directed the expansion of the Library from a modest centralized facility into a campus-wide system of libraries with holdings in excess of a million volumes.

Munn also had a profound impact on WVU as a whole. He served as provost under three presidents and as an advisor and confidant to several more. A scholar and author of numerous articles and several books relating to various topics including Appalachia and the coal industry, Munn was dedicated to promoting scholarship and literature especially regarding West Virginia subjects. As a vehicle to publish manuscripts of merit, chiefly of state and regional interest, he founded the WVU Press in 1981. Munn’s contributions were not limited to WVU. He had an international reputation in the field of librarianship, served on boards of several leading libraries with holdings in excess of a million volumes.

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W as John Brown a revolutionary or our nation’s first terrorist? An expert on the abolitionist wants people to contemplate that question to gain a better understanding of the legendary figure.

“If he was a terrorist, why are we here celebrating and why is there a John Brown exhibit on federal property?” Paul Finkelman, an Albany Law School professor and a specialist in American legal history and slavery, asked the audience during his West Virginia Day presentation in Wise Library’s Milano Room.

The WVU Libraries marked the state’s founding with a lecture and exhibit focusing on Brown. This year is the 150th anniversary of his raid on Harpers Ferry. On Oct. 16, 1859, he and a band of followers seized control of the Harpers Ferry Armory in a plot to build an army to overthrew the South and free the slaves.

Finkelman, an often-cited legal historian, has authored more than 100 articles and 20 books, including His Soul Goes Marching on: Responses to John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid.

He said critics who brand Brown as a terrorist cite the deaths during the raid and in the Bloody Kansas battles a few years prior. Finkelman, however, considers Brown a combatant in the war to end slavery, and the outbreak of fighting in Kansas as the start of the Civil War.

“Terrorism is the indiscriminate killing of people for the purpose of striking terror in their hearts. Warfare is the killing of the enemy in battle,” Finkelman said. “In Kansas, John Brown was involved in a very bloody, brutal Civil War.”

Guerilla warfare between slaveholders and abolitionists erupted in Kansas after Congress enacted the Nebraska-Kansas Act of 1854 and thereby nullified the Missouri Compromise, which said there would be no slavery in federal territories north of the southern boundary of Missouri. Many northerners viewed the Nebraska-Kansas Act of 1854 and thereby nullified the Missouri Compromise, which said there would be no slavery in federal territories north of the southern boundary of Missouri. Many northerners viewed the Nebraska-Kansas Act as a violation of a sacred agreement.

Brown joined in the fighting and gained notoriety in May 1856 for the killing of five pro-slavery southerners in the Pottawatomie Massacre, which was in retaliation for attacks on the anti-slavery town of Lawrence, KS. Finkelman, though, believes much can be read into the fact that Brown targeted only men.

“If John Brown was a terrorist, he would have killed the women and children, too,” Finkelman said.

Finkelman sees a similar picture develop in Harpers Ferry. Brown cut the telegraph wire but allowed a stopped train, with no passengers harmed, to continue on to its destination and alert authorities.

Although Brown and his men succeeded in their mission of capturing the armory, they stayed put rather than flee with the weapons. Finkelman questions whether Brown had suffered a mental collapse at this point or if he had a sudden epiphany about what his capture and execution would mean for the cause.

More insight into his intent can be gained by Brown choosing not to take advantage of the destructive power in his hand.

“If he had been a terrorist, today we would not be celebrating things in Harpers Ferry because Harpers Ferry wouldn’t be there anymore. John Brown had enough gun powder to probably move Harpers Ferry to Maryland,” Finkelman said. “He could have certainly blown up the town.”

What happened between his arrest and execution is interesting. In October, the nation was shocked by his actions. But, by his execution on Dec. 2, many people viewed him as a martyr for the anti-slavery cause.

Finkelman credits a massive public relations campaign that erupted during this brief period. Brown wrote hundreds of letters to people all over the country explaining his position and support began to grow. In turn, ministers in Boston, New York, and elsewhere began preaching sermons on Brown and his noble fight to end slavery.

Abolitionists who opposed violence suddenly saw Brown as a Christ-like figure willing to sacrifice his own life to end slavery. Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that executing Brown would turn the gallows into the cross. Finally, Brown even turned away a friend who came to the Charlestown jail with a rescue plan.

“This becomes the transformation of John Brown from terrorist, if you call him that, to martyr.” Finkelman said.

The end result is that Brown moved the debate from the dead end of Congress, the dead end of newspaper wars, the dead end of skirmishes over fugitive slaves, and gave America an ultimatum.

Finkelman said Brown essentially told America: “Either you’re going to end slavery, you’re going to end the United States, or you’re going to go to war. There aren’t any other choices.”

Finkelman, an often-cited legal

An exhibit of David Hunter Strother’s sketches that focused on John Brown’s Raid on Harpers Ferry and its aftermath is now open in the J. Hornor Davis Family Galleries on the sixth floor of the Wise Library.

Strother created some of the most outstanding primary resources of the Raid in terms of eyewitness accounts. Arriving in Harpers Ferry within 36 hours of the raid, Strother saw Brown and some of his co-conspirators lying wounded on the floor of a makeshift jail before they received medical attention.

Even before authorities had the chance to extensively question Brown, Strother talked with him about his failed plot. Strother also made many sketches of Brown and co-conspirators at that time and then later during Brown’s trial and execution.

“David Hunter Strother was a gifted writer and a gifted artist,” Cuthbert said. “If you wanted to find one person to document what happened there, I don’t think you could find a better person than Strother.”
Can I use Wikipedia to write a paper? Is this website credible? Where can I find the latest developments in my area of interest?

These are a small sampling of the questions students ask daily as they begin working on a class project, delve into any type of research, or seek out information for personal enlightenment. They’re discovering that the old adage holds true: You can’t trust everything you read.

Helping students learn how to find reliable information sources is a goal of the WVU Libraries and the purpose behind the Information Literacy Course Enhancement Program. Information literacy means the ability to effectively and critically locate, identify, and use needed information.

While the Libraries have been teaching information literacy courses, the new initiative takes a more proactive approach and incorporates information-gathering techniques into the curriculum. This spring, the Libraries selected five faculty members to participate in the pilot project to enhance their courses.

Dr. Tim Warner, a professor of geology and geography in the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, has had a personal interest in information literacy ever since he was a graduate student and struggled with what he felt were the slow, inefficient, and ineffective literature search methods of that time.

"Today, despite, or perhaps because of, the incredible resources in computer databases and the ease of Internet access, information literacy is in some ways even more challenging," Warner said.

He wants his course to help students build strong information literacy skills so that they are able to build on what he teaches them in the class, and stay current in the field. He also wants to improve his own competency in this area, as he has not always kept up with all of the latest available resources.

"The one thing I can guarantee my students is what I teach them will be out of date in just a few years," Warner said. "This is because my subject (remote sensing, mapping the earth with airborne and satellite-based imaging devices) is rapidly changing. Therefore, information literacy is a crucial skill for students in their lifelong learning after they graduate in order to stay current in this field."

Dr. Gonzalo Bravo, an assistant professor in the School of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences, agrees that the constant bombardment of new information is an unavoidable issue researchers must continually

"With the discovery of quality information, they will be able to illuminate their ideas better."

Gonzalo Bravo
Professor

Courses to be enhanced include intermediate, discipline-specific, and graduate courses in the WVU curriculum. They are: Effective Public Speaking SPA 270 (Potomac State); Sport in the Global Market SM 375; Introduction to Remote Sensing Geol/Geog 455; Great Universal Expositions of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries ARHS 494; and Scientific Underpinnings, Nursing 715.

The course enhancement grants will be offered again in the summer of 2010.

Honor with Books

A WVU Libraries Honor with Books donation is the perfect way to provide a lasting tribute to special people in your life.

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Honor a friend, family member, or favorite professor.

Acknowledge an accomplishment.

For as little as $100, you can honor the person of your choice. Every $100 increment funds the acquisition of one new book to be selected by a WVU Librarian. Names of the honoree and the donor will appear on a bookplate inside the book's front cover and in the computer display of the Libraries' online catalog. We will endeavor to fulfill any preferences regarding subject matter for books purchased. All gifts are tax-deductible, and notification of gifts can be sent to the honoree or the honoree's family.

For more information, contact Monte Maxwell at (304) 293-0306 or email monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu.

Ex Libris Newsletter of the West Virginia University Libraries

Libraries Launch Info Literacy Initiative

Cengage Library Undergoing Makeover

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t and technical services in one location.

New carpeting, wallpaper, a fresh coat of paint, and a Flying WV tile inlay near the entrance will tie together the floor.

"Students played a big part in our planning of this makeover. We listened to their recommendations," Strife said. "I'm eager to see them filling the new space once we're done."

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West Virginia University Libraries
Visiting Committee

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West Virginia University alumni hungry for some nostalgia can now get their fill. The WVU Libraries have digitized every volume of the Monticola, the University’s yearbook, and posted the electronic versions online.

“...a very popular part of our collection,” Libraries Dean Frances O’Brien said. “We’re excited to help Mountaineers everywhere to reminisce about their days in Morgantown.”

The West Virginia & Regional History Collection, located in the Wise Library, has long housed copies of the Monticola. Previously, to browse the pages, one would have to make a trip to campus and stop by the Library during operating hours. People can now simply go online to reel in the years.

The electronic yearbooks can be found on the Internet Archive, www.archive.org. To get to the WVU Libraries’ page, first click “Texts,” then “American Libraries,” and then “West Virginia University.” Finally, click on “All items” to see a list of all Monticola volumes along with other available WVU materials.

The Monticola was published every year from 1896 to 1986 and then in 1992 and 2000.

Putting the Monticola online is the second phase of an initiative that began last fall as a pilot project in which the Libraries digitized 10 items from its Rare Books Collection and made them available through the Internet Archive.

The Libraries are currently in the process of digitizing 1,000 books over the next few years. The books will also be available at www.archive.org.

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**Libraries Co-Sponsor International Conference**

The WVU Libraries co-sponsored an international conference focused on publishing academic research online and providing free access to the public.

ETD2009: Bridging the Knowledge Divide, the 12th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD), was held in June at the University of Pittsburgh.

“The conference was a tremendous success,” said John Hagen, Program Coordinator for ETDs and conference co-chair. “We helped many institutions around the world enhance access to their research by learning about ETD program implementation and the benefits of open access, which will lead to greater advancements in research and help to enhance the lives of people in their communities."

WVU has been a pioneer in the scholarly communications world since 1998 when it became the second university to require students to submit their master’s theses and doctoral dissertations electronically. Today, anyone can go online and browse more than 83 percent of the University’s over 4,000 ETDs; some ETDs maintain restrictions because of copyright-sensitive content.

ETDs are popular among academics, private sector researchers, and the general public. The research, much of it state or federally funded, impacts communities locally and around the globe.

For example, since 2005, people downloaded Shirley Stewart Burns’ online dissertation about mountaintop removal more than 100,000 times. The Wyoming County native went on to publish a revised version of Bringing Down the Mountains: the Impact of Mountaintop Removal Surface Coal Mining on Southern West Virginia Communities, 1970-2004, and the title became a bestseller for the WVU Press.

WVU is also a leader in Institutional Repositories (IR), the newest frontier in scholarly communication. An IR contains ETDs, Electronic Honors Theses by undergraduates, and faculty research. All of the content is freely accessible online.

Researchers and librarians from more than 30 nations participated in ETD 2009. Some came to share their knowledge about digital library collections while most gained insight into how to establish a program at their institutions.

WVU was well-represented at the event, with Daniel Ferreras, an associate professor in the Foreign Language Department, and Patrick Conner, Eberly College Centennial Professor, as featured speakers, and Gordon Ernst, an associate university librarian, as a presenter.

Conference participants also came from WVU’s Office of the Provost, Office of Graduate Education, Honors College, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, WVU Libraries, and Office of Information Technology. Interim Provost E. Jane Martin welcomed attendees on behalf of WVU.

ETD2009 was organized by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) and co-sponsored by WVU and Pitt.

The Conference Proceedings are available online at www.library.pitt.edu/etd2009/.

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**Help is Just a Few Thumb Clicks Away**

Remember scribbling call numbers for books on scraps of paper? You can now add that task to the growing list of by-gone activities such as searching for a pay phone, turning the knob on the TV, and rolling down the car window.

Researchers who find materials in the Libraries’ online catalog can now simply text the listing to themselves or others. A new service sends the text message containing a selected book’s title, location, and call number to your cell phone. First, find a book in MountainLynx, the Libraries’ online catalog. Next to the call number is a link reading, “Text me this call number.” Click on the link, key in your cell phone number and service provider, and the information will show up on your phone within a few seconds.

Starting this fall, text messaging will also make it easier for students to get help. They will be able to connect with a librarian via text message to silently ask a question and get a quick answer. The option is especially helpful when searching for books in the stacks, working without a computer, or studying in one of the Libraries’ deep quiet zones.

“Text a Librarian” is the newest option in an expanding list of ways to contact WVU librarians for research assistance. Users can also ask questions in person, over the phone, by email, or Instant Message.

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**WVU Libraries Facts**

1.6 million volumes
35,000 electronic journals
190 electronic reference resources
1.9 terabytes of digital collections
35 librarians
77 support staff
—Cutbert Joins Board of the Music Hall of Fame—

John Cutbert, Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame.

The mission of the Hall of Fame is to recognize West Virginians who have contributed to the field of music, collect and preserve their sound recordings and memorabilia, and educate the public about the artists.

“This organization works to recognize West Virginians’ contributions to music regardless of genre or style,” Cutbert said. “One of my goals throughout my career has been to create broader awareness of the tremendous diversity of West Virginia’s cultural heritage in the arts. I look forward to being able to do that in regard to the field of music.”

Cutbert brings to the table a wide knowledge of West Virginia music history. Originally hired at the WVU Libraries as a musicologist, he was given the task of listening to, transcribing and cataloging the Libraries’ vast folk music recordings during the early years of his employment. More recently, he has collaborated twice with the Wheeling Symphony in creating tributes to the radio program “It’s Wheeling Steel.” Produced by the Wheeling Steel Corporation from 1936 to 1944, the musical variety show was among the most popular radio broadcasts in America during the 1940s.

—International Group Honors Three from WVU—

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) consortium honored a WVU Libraries staff member and two former students for their achievements with Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs).

John Hagen, Program Coordinator for ETDs, received the ETD Leadership Award, which recognizes members of the university community whose leadership and vision has helped raise awareness of the benefits of ETDs and whose efforts have improved graduate education through the use of ETDs.

“Over the past decade, John’s commitment to ETDs at WVU has resulted in a program that serves as a model for many other universities,” said Christine Jewell, NDLTD Board Member and Awards Committee Chair. “John has led regional and international workshops for the NDLTD, and he has hosted many visitors who come to WVU to learn about the ETD program. John has become recognized internationally for his ETD implementation and open access advocacy.”

Dr. Shirley Stewart Burns, who earned her Ph.D. in history from WVU, won the Innovative Learning Through ETDs award, which recognizes a student whose professional life has been enhanced by the ETD process. Burns’ dissertation, published in book form, went on to be a bestseller for the WVU Press.

Kelly C. Barkhurst, who earned her Masters of Fine Arts from the College of Creative Arts, won the Innovative ETD Award for her work titled “Design Taking Action: A Holistic Approach to Design Problem Solving Applied to Disease Education.”

The NDLTD presented the awards at the ETD 2009 Symposium in June.

Scholars Award Honors Longtime Library Dean

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foundations, and assisted in the establishment of libraries in developing countries around the world. Several alumni and current and former faculty who knew Munn have voiced their appreciation of the Libraries for establishing an award in Munn’s name.

“We now have an honor that is appropriate for someone who devoted his life to the University and to the Libraries,” said Myra Lowe, Associate Dean of Libraries.

Cuthbert, who previously served on the nominating committee, will help assist the Hall of Fame in many ways, including collections management and emerging plans for a museum facility.

Established in 2005, the Hall of Fame has inducted two classes to date.

The 2007 inductees included George Crumb, composer; Billy Edd Wheeler, singer/songwriter; Hazel Dickens, singer; Johnnie Johnson, rock ’n’ roll pianist; Molly O’Day, country singer; Little Jimmy Dickens, singer/entertainer; Blind Alfred Reed, singer/songwriter; Leon “Chu” Berry, jazz saxophonist; Clark Kessinger, oldtime fiddler; and Bill Withers, singer/songwriter.

The 2008 inductees included Ann Baker, jazz singer; Robert Drasnin, composer; Maceo Pinkard, songwriter; Charlie McCoy, musician; Red Sovine, singer; The Lilly Brothers & Don Stover, singers/musicians; Phyllis Curtin, opera singer; Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper, bluegrass duo; Frankie Yankovic, polka king.

Cutbert and Tim McEuen, the Hall’s Director, plan for a museum facility. Plans for a museum facility.

To comply with federal law, your gift check (rollovers up to $100,000 are permitted) must come directly from the IRA and be made payable to the WVU Foundation. Please let Monte Maxwell, Development Representative, at 304-293-0306, know of your intentions in advance of the check’s arrival.
Storming of the Engine House at Harpers Ferry, Capture of John Brown, sketched by David Hunter Strother. The WVU Libraries marked West Virginia Day this year with an exhibit and lecture on John Brown’s Raid of Harpers Ferry. Check out the article inside on page 2.