

Summer 2006

## Ex Libris, Summer 2006

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# Ex Libris

Newsletter of the West Virginia University Libraries

Summer 2006

www.libraries.wvu.edu

## Health Sciences Library Undergoes Facelift

The future looks bright for students studying at the Health Sciences Library and Learning Center. An extensive renovation project is transforming the dated facility into a space on the frontier of technology and architecture.

"We've been able to build a state-of-the-art 21<sup>st</sup> century learning center – not just a library, but a learning center – a center that will help facilitate learning for students and actually enhance learning for our faculty as well so they can be better researchers, clinicians, and educators," said Dr. Robert D'Alessandri, Health Sciences Vice President.

The Health Sciences Library and Learning Center, being built at the main entrance to the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, could be considered a higher education version of "one-stop shopping."

Two new computer-based learning classrooms, three new lecture halls, a renovated auditorium, and a 27,000-square-foot library, all wired to provide access to the latest technologies, create an ideal environment to serve students throughout their educational journey.

D'Alessandri expects the newly outfitted lecture

stage makeover will dramatically transform its appearance and offerings.

Workers are currently finishing the addition which will include computers with high-speed Internet connections, spaces for independent and group studying, comfortable seating, and large windows to bathe the entire space in light.

When doors open in January 2007, renovation work will begin on the existing library to provide a classroom for library instruction courses, additional study space, and offices for librarians.

"The library will definitely be larger than what we've had in the last few years," said Susan Arnold, Health Sciences Library Interim Director. "I think with the new furniture, color scheme, and natural light, it's going to be a much more welcoming place. Students will want to come here to study and to use the computers."

As with the rest of the facility, technology will be king in the Health Sciences Library.

While the existing library has only 18 computers for public use, the new library will have 50 study carrels with computers. Medical students and physical and occupational therapy students, as a requirement, all have their own laptops and will be able to connect to the Internet via the wireless network or drops at the study tables and carrels.

Another 50 computers will be available in the two computer-based learning classrooms, which are located in the library.

Selecting a location to study will be another option

for students.

They could use a study carrel in the library, relax in one of the comfortable lounge chairs, or head to a carrel on the fourth or sixth floor of the stacks. When working on group projects, students can reserve one of 20 group study rooms.

Outside of the library, they can grab a cup of coffee at the café on the first floor or simply find a comfortable spot in the commons area. On a nice day, they could move outside and sit on a bench in the neighboring green space.

There will be plenty of attractive areas to settle into for a few hours of poring through books and scouring

*Continued on page 5...*



The large atrium holds a grand staircase that leads to the main entrance to the Health Sciences Library. The Pylons will be a centerpiece of the space.



This wall of windows floods the Health Sciences Library with light and provides a spectacular view.

halls to boost the learning process for students. First, they will be able to connect their laptop computers to the room's server and view a professor's slides on their own screen – a tremendous advancement.

"In the old days, a professor would show a slide of a microscopic cell or cells, and you're 40 feet or 100 feet away and you can't see well. Now you'll have it right in front of you, and you'll be able to zoom in," D'Alessandri said. "You will also be able to cross reference materials."

Students will return to the classroom later to take exams online. Gone are the days of broken pencil tips and Scantron sheets. Students will simply plug in their laptops and click away.

When not in class, many students may choose to make the new HSC Library their home. That prospect becomes more enticing after visiting the overhauled space.

The existing library, originally built along with the Health Sciences Center in 1956, has remained fairly unchanged except for a few technical upgrades. A two-

## Libraries to Host Author's Luncheon in Charleston

Whatever the outcome of the WVU/Marshall game in September, another match-up will soon follow. The WVU Libraries will partner with the Marshall Libraries to host an author's luncheon at the Charleston Embassy Suites on October 27.

Gwen Rubio, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Icy Sparks*, will be the speaker for the joint luncheon organized for supporters of the libraries at WVU and Marshall. This is the third such event the two Libraries have hosted in the capital city.

"We are tremendously grateful to all of our wonderful friends," said Frances O'Brien, WVU Libraries Dean. "Our author's luncheon gives us an opportunity to meet some of them and to show our appreciation."

O'Brien expects Rubio to draw a crowd. Rubio, a Georgia native now living in Kentucky, captured the attention of the literary world with her novel *Icy Sparks*.

A review in *The New York Times* called Rubio "a writer of uncommonly warm and tender vision, often comic, brimming with love and hope." Oprah Winfrey selected the title for her book club, and the Discover Great New Writers program included the book for its list "The Next Wave of Great Literary Voices."

Her latest novel, *The Woodman's Daughter*, was a Book Club Pick of the Week on the Barnes & Noble web site and received stellar reviews in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The Denver Post*, and *Booklist*, the review journal of the American Library Association.

# Ex Libris

## Librarian Edits Book About WVU's Peace Tree

For many of the thousands of students who daily walk by the sturdy white pine growing near Woodburn Circle, it's simply a tree. They are unaware of the rich history rooted in the tree's origin.

University Librarian Anna Schein hopes to enlighten them and others with her new book *White Pine Spirit of Peace: The WVU Peace Tree*. The book details the 1992 tree planting ceremony and the 1,000-year-old account surrounding the original Iroquois Great Tree of Peace.

"Something about the story itself – the story of the coming of the Peacemaker – interested me. It's something I've never forgotten," Schein said.

She stood among the crowd on September 12, 1992, and listened as Chief Leon Shenandoah, Tadodaho of the Iroquois Confederacy, shared from the Haudenosaunee oral tradition. Shenandoah took those assembled back 1,000 years to when the Creator sent a Peacemaker to unite the warring Iroquois nations by planting the original Tree of Peace at Onondaga and teach the Iroquois the Great Law of Peace.

"There was a message from the Creator that we shouldn't fight anymore," Shenandoah told the crowd. "(The Peacemaker) said, 'There must be Peace, Friendship, and the Power of a Good Mind to work amongst us.'"

To ensure that they would refrain from war, the Peacemaker later uprooted the Peace Tree he had planted, instructed the people to drop their weapons into the hole, and then replanted the tree on top of the weapons.

Shenandoah said the Peacemaker then assured them: "Now, we will have peace, welfare, forever."

The Chief's message stuck with Schein, and she soon found herself traveling to the Seneca Iroquois Reservation near Salamanca, N.Y., to visit their museum and library. She recalls walking out with an armload of books to learn more about the Iroquois and their Great Law of Peace.

"A peaceful way of living still continues today among the Iroquois despite everything they have faced to maintain their sovereignty during more than 500 years of contact with European settlers and the United States government. They have been able to do this

because the Great Law of Peace outlines another way to resolve differences in peaceful ways," Schein said. "That's the main message of the book."

The message also captured the attention of Provost Gerald Lang.

In the book's preface, Lang urges readers to reflect on the possibilities of peace in their own lives and to recognize that the responsibility for action lies within each person.

"As in the time of the Peacemaker, peace today begins with you and me, here and now," he wrote. "We need to strive for peace so that future generations can

Schein said.

Serving as another reminder is Schein's book, which contains remarks by Lang; Shenandoah; Swamp; Chief Oren Lyons, Onondaga Nation; Chief Robert TallTree, Swan Creek Black River Tribe of the Chippewa; former WVU President Neil Bucklew; former Eberly College of Arts & Sciences deans Duane Nellis and Rudolph Almasy; Linda Karus, President of the West Virginia Native American Coalition; and Ann Paterson, Chair of the WVU Native American Studies Committee.

Along with editing the book, Schein contributed several of the photographs included in it.

Schein's photographs of contemporary Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy events have been exhibited in the U.S. and the Confederacy and archived in the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. She is co-editor with G. Peter Jemison, Seneca Nation, of *Treaty of Canandaigua: 200 Years of Treaty Relations Between the Iroquois & the U.S.*

She was a member of the international media documentation team for the Tombouctou 2000 millennium event in Mali, West Africa, and more than 300 of her photos of this event are in the Mali National Archives.

She is currently a project consultant and English language editor for "Rediscovering Ancient Pathways to Peace," an international electronic open-access indigenous peace studies series.

The Office of the Provost, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, the University Libraries, and the Native American Studies Program were the sponsoring units for the project.

In the book, Ann Paterson credits Carolyn Reyer, founder of the WVU Native American Studies Program and a generous supporter of the University Libraries Native American Studies collections, for bringing to WVU an awareness of the history and culture of the indigenous people who lived in the region long before Columbus arrived.

All West Virginia academic and public libraries will receive copies of *White Pine Spirit of Peace: The WVU Peace Tree*. Copies will also go to the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Library, all Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy libraries, and the WVU Libraries' Rare Books Room.



Librarian Anna Schein edited the book *White Pine Spirit of Peace: The WVU Peace Tree*.

live in a world of harmony, not mistrust and conflict."

Despite the beauty of the message, vandals chopped down WVU's Peace Tree in August 1996. However, University officials quickly rallied with members of the Native American community to organize another ceremony and plant another tree on October 18, 1996.

"We didn't know if we should plant another tree, but Mohawk Chief Jake Swamp told me that people needed a visible reminder of the peace that was formed in our community when the first tree was planted,"

## Health Sciences Library to Host National Exhibit

While today's students may see boundless possibilities on the horizon, barriers lined the road for many people just a generation ago.

An exhibit coming to the WVU Health Sciences Center this fall will spotlight the pioneers who opened the way for them.

"Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians" is a traveling interactive exhibit created by the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health and the American Library Association.

Stretching from the mid-1800s to today, "Changing the Face of Medicine" introduces visitors to women who faced daunting barriers to practice medicine and who made great advancements in their field. Relying on the latest multi-media technology, it brings history alive through continuous video shown on a large screen, computer work stations, and traditional displays of photographs and explanatory text.

"This exhibit will highlight differences women have made in the practice of medicine in the United States over more than a century," said Carroll Wilkinson, Head of Access Services for the Downtown Campus Library and site coordinator for the exhibit. "As the exhibit's web site notes, women practicing medicine today have made their mark in part by bringing issues such as women's health and affordable care to the forefront and proposing real solutions."

The exhibit runs from October 18 through December 8 at a location to be announced near the

Health Sciences Library.

Complementing the exhibit will be a series of lectures and events organized by a committee comprised of Wilkinson, HSC Library Interim Director Susan Arnold, and representatives from the offices of Social Justice, Development, and Alumni Affairs as well as from Nursing, Dentistry, and Medicine.

The tentative schedule includes a keynote address on October 24. Wilkinson is currently in discussions with Dr. Antonio Novello, Health Commissioner for the state of New York. Having served under the first President Bush, Novello was the nation's first Hispanic surgeon general.

On October 28, the HSC will host a seminar titled "Creating a Network of Women in Science." Speakers will include Dr. Margaret Albrink, with the WVU School of Medicine, and Dr. Grace S. Rozycki, with Emory School of Medicine.

On November 6, a teleconference will explore the impact of the Health Sciences & Technology Academy (HSTA) program on current and former participants. HSTA is a community-based program designed to encourage minority and under-represented high school students to pursue careers in health care.

The panel will include Dr. Emme Chapman, a 2006 WVU School of Medicine graduate who benefited from HSTA and the School's Health Careers Opportunity Program; Dr. Katrina Poe, who runs a rural practice in Mississippi; and two current HSTA participants.

On November 13, the WVU Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy will each honor one of

their own living legends during a special event.

On November 16, Terri Ottosen, Consumer Health Coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, will give a talk on consumer health titled "Prescription for Success."

On November 27, Dr. Barbara Howe will give a lecture focusing on early women physicians in West Virginia, such as Dr. Harriet B. Jones, the first woman to graduate from medical school and be licensed as a physician in West Virginia.

Plans also call for the WVU Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy to each create parallel exhibits to highlight the women pioneers in their disciplines. The West Virginia and Regional History Collection and the Morgantown Public Library will also develop exhibits.

For more information about the exhibit: [www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine)

### West Virginia University Libraries Visiting Committee

Diane Hackney-Oliver, Charleston  
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R. Samuel Oliver Jr., Charleston  
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## Library Curator Helps Wheeling Steel Return to Stage

Long before Brad Paisley learned to play a guitar, Wheeling produced another sensation that attracted national attention.

During the Great Depression, the Northern Panhandle town captured the ear of America with weekly broadcasts of amateur musicians. Millions gathered around their radios Sunday afternoons to hear an announcer proclaim "It's Wheeling Steel."

The familiar steam whistle has blown once again. This spring an audience crowded into Capitol Music Hall in Wheeling to hear the Wheeling Symphony recreate the popular show, which originally aired on WWVA radio and was heard nationwide on the Mutual Network stations and the NBC Blue Network from 1933 to 1944.

"It's an amazing story how a little radio program broadcast from Wheeling, basically for a local audience, had such a charming nature to it that other radio stations found out about it and wanted to run it. And it took off and became the fifth most popular radio program in the country," said John Cuthbert, Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. "That's pretty amazing."

Cuthbert played a key role in introducing new generations to the phenomenon and rekindling memories of those who got to experience the show the

first time around.

"Everyone in that theater, whether octogenarian or 30-somethings, felt the energy and power of great music performed over the many years of 'It's Wheeling Steel' shows," said Susan Hogan, Executive Director of the Wheeling Symphony.

The performance broke a decade-long attendance record for the Wheeling Symphony, drawing an audience of nearly 2,000 people.

"People are still talking about it on the street, and they will continue for a long time," Hogan said.

Last year, Hogan contacted Cuthbert about developing an event to recognize the broadcast. Rather than simply featuring music from the show and talking about it, organizers decided to recreate the program.

Charged by Hogan with writing a script for the tribute, Cuthbert turned to the WVRHC archives and shifted through scripts from original shows to draw some inspiration. His script contains many quotes from the original shows but also has new material written in the manner of the original programming.

The lines guided the action for the Wheeling Symphony, a group of local actors, and the singing ensemble Five by Design.

"It was essential that the show have a portrayal of all of it," Hogan said. "John captured through his

research the humor, the love, the fear, the agony, but especially the joy found in this radio program. We were very fortunate to have a talented team and John as writer."

"It's Wheeling Steel" was a trendsetter in the field of homegrown musical variety shows. One of its unique traits was that it featured Wheeling Steel employees and their families providing the musical entertainment.

The concept sprang from the mind of John Grimes, marketing chief for Wheeling Steel, who saw the idea as simply a tool for improving relations between employees and management.

More than enhancing Wheeling Steel's image in the community, "It's Wheeling Steel" gained the attention of the nation. *Life* magazine spotlighted the program in March 1938, and soldiers on the warfront during World War II listened to broadcasts. At its peak of popularity, more than 80 radio stations aired the program, and it became the fifth most popular show in the NBC lineup.

West Virginia University played a role in the history of the program by hosting a broadcast as part of a war drive in 1943. The packed WVU Field House brought in \$663,000 toward the construction of bombers.

The final broadcast of "It's Wheeling Steel" aired on June 18, 1944.

## Campus Perks Up to Eliza's

It is 10 p.m., a huge paper is due tomorrow morning, and sleep remains hours away.

However, the student studying in the

Downtown Campus Library might find some solace at Eliza's, a new coffee shop on the fourth floor.

Opening its doors in February, the café quickly became a popular spot for students to grab a cup of coffee between classes or just a much-needed break while studying.

Eliza's served up a relaxing experience for Elizabeth Hitaffer. The biology junior sat alone on a quiet afternoon sipping an iced mocha while reading a newspaper. She said she appreciates the convenience the coffee shop brings.

"I don't have to leave the library to get coffee. I can just stay here," Hitaffer said.

Ben Saunders, a biology/psychology senior, echoed Hitaffer's thoughts. He said Eliza's eliminates the need to leave the Library in bad weather or late at night to get a snack or caffeine boost.

Previously, quenching one's thirst or silencing a grumbling stomach required walking to the Mountainlair

or somewhere off campus. Besides the time lost, the trip could also cost someone his or her seat at a computer.

Instead, students can stay close to their computers and enjoy fresh-brewed Starbucks coffee, tea, blended drinks, bottled soft drinks, juice, and water. The menu also includes bagels, oversized cookies, and a variety of healthy snacks.

Another appeal of Eliza's is the pleasing aesthetics. "I like coffee shops in general," Saunders said. "I really like the atmosphere here."

Eliza's resulted from the efforts of a student-led initiative fronted by former Student Body President D.J. Casto. He and other student leaders took the idea to Provost Gerald Lang and soon began working with Lang, Senior Adviser to the Provost Nancy Lohmann, other University administrators, and library staff.

All groups involved saw the café's potential to enhance the experience for students doing research and studying at the library.

Eliza's was named as a tribute to Eliza J. Skinner, the first professionally trained librarian at WVU. She served as Library director from 1897 until 1902, when she



A student picks up her coffee order at Eliza's.

accepted a position with the Library of Congress. Her portrait and biography hang near the shop's entrance.

## New Library Resources Connect Users to a Wealth of Research

Two new West Virginia University Libraries offerings are being praised for bringing a tremendous boost to research at the University. Web of Science and Science Direct, among the top academic digital resources, can now be reached with just a few clicks on the WVU Libraries' web site.

Web of Science is an index to 22,000 journals, 23 million patents, 12,000 conference proceedings, 5,500 web sites, 5,000 books, and scholarly Web content. Science Direct includes electronic versions of frequently used journals from 1995 to the present.

"We heard what the faculty was asking for and, through the support of the Research Corporation, we've been able to provide that to the faculty," Provost Gerald Lang said. "Like everything else, the educational environment and our learning environments are changing, and I think that the ability to provide access to the scientific literature in a much more contemporary way – at one's desktop – will improve the quality of our faculty members' research and student learning."

Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said Web of Science was the Libraries' most requested database from faculty and graduate students.

Dr. Stephen Alway, Chair of Exercise Physiology, considers Web of Science a critical addition for his and other departments on campus because it enables users

to quickly retrieve the most up-to-date research.

He witnessed its impact on one of his classrooms after finding a recently published paper shed new light on a topic they had been discussing.

"Some of the things that we have been thinking about in the last couple of years may not be correct based on this new data from last week," Alway said. "Being that current and not being out-of-date by two years, as we all know textbooks are, just makes a lot more sense in terms of pure education."

Dr. Greg Elmes, a geography professor, holds high expectations for how Web of Science will impact his work and his classroom. He sees great potential in the resource's comprehensive history of citations for an article. Rather than simply finding works cited in an article, users can move forward and find research sparked by a particular article.

"It's obvious that Web of Science is a fundamental tool for research at every level, and if WVU wants to be in the forefront of research universities, it can't afford to be without these sorts of resources," Elmes said. "The University has demonstrated a major commitment to research."

Elsevier's Science Direct online journal package, the other resource purchased by the Libraries with funding from the Research Corp. responds to requests to increase back issues in the Libraries' electronic journal holdings. This arrangement increases online access to

more than 300 formerly unavailable journals.

Dr. Fred Minnear, who considers access to electronic journals essential to survival in the research world, is an advocate of delving into older literature to give his students a broader view of a subject.

"Sometimes it's nice to go back to the old articles. I like to give the history of how a particular area was researched," said Minnear, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, School of Medicine. "The earlier scientists came up with exciting ideas and conducted simple, novel experiments."

Science Direct also gives Minnear a better chance of finding articles that he needs immediately, which he believes is extremely advantageous when writing grants.

"You've got deadlines," Minnear said. "If you can be efficient in your time in accessing particular articles for information purposes, it really helps you a lot."

Minnear, Elmes, and Alway represent several faculty members who have given librarians glowing reviews about Web of Science and Science Direct. O'Brien is especially pleased by the positive response because Provost Lang and the Research Corp. took the lead in securing these resources.

"We are very grateful to the WVU Research Corp. for providing the funds for these purchases," O'Brien said. "We could not have bought either one of these new resources without the Research Corp. allocation."



## Bacon Collection Enriches Rare Books Room

William VanVliet Bacon loved books and possessed a keen eye for spotting treasures. He lined his study with first editions of Walt Whitman, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde, and other greats.

Many of those gems now fill the shelves of the WVU Libraries' Rare Books Room. After Bacon's death in 2002, his family donated a part of his 5,000 volumes to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection's Rare Books Collection.

"The Bacon collection includes a wide variety of books that span the past six centuries," said Harold Forbes, Rare Book Curator. "With their wonderful bindings, marvelous illustrations, fine paper, and artistic typefaces, they are stunning examples of the bookmakers' arts."

Forbes considers the two-volume *Missale Romanum* the most visually impressive of the group.

The missals date back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century and were made in a monastery, according to WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert. He described the set as jointly containing nearly 400 vellum pages, each meticulously hand-inscribed with Latin text in Gothic script, musical notations, and profuse decoration. Measuring nearly two feet tall by two and a half feet wide when opened, the books are bound in calves' leather over oak boards, sewn together by half-inch braided rope.

Obviously, they don't make books like that anymore. The journey from there to the mass-produced paperbacks we read today is one that interests Stewart Plein, who has spent the past year studying and cataloging the Bacon collection.

Plein, a rare book specialist, views the collection as a glimpse into the history and evolution of the book itself. She is especially entranced by the 19<sup>th</sup> century tomes.

"I study binding design and so much transpired in that century to make books more the object we view it as today," Plein said. "That evolution is evident in those

19<sup>th</sup> century books."

For instance, cloth, first used as a binding in 1823, revolutionized how books were created and sold. Previously, someone would buy a book in sheets and take it to his binder who would then encase it in a leather binding to match all the other books in the person's library.

"You had to be a wealthy person to purchase a book," Plein said.

That changed with the advent of cloth bindings and a growing public who could read. Suddenly, there was a rising middle class with the leisure time to read and books were obtainable.

Bacon began collecting books while attending Princeton and continued to grow his collection after settling in St. Albans in the 1930s to work as an engineer.

While he collected mostly literature and books about religion, he provided several historically important additions to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Forbes noted a group of 19<sup>th</sup> century books concerning the Virginia and the West Virginia mineral springs and promoting their health benefits and recreational attractions. The volumes document a debate on the medicinal merits of the mineral waters between two promoters of the springs.

"The Bacon collection not only complements the present strengths of the Rare Books Collection, but it also impressively expands some subject areas that we have been developing in recent years," Forbes said.

The Rare Books Room, located on the sixth level of the Wise Library, contains old and rare books from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The keystone is the Arthur S. Dayton Collection, which features Shakespeare's *Four Folios*, as well as dozens of the important 17<sup>th</sup> century to middle 20<sup>th</sup> century editions of his collected plays and poetry.

The Rare Books Room also holds first editions of several important authors, as diverse as John Milton,

the author of *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regain'd*; Jesse Stuart, the acclaimed Kentucky writer; and Isaac Asimov, the prolific science fiction writer. A recent gift from a WVU alumnus, the Asimov collection tops 600 first-edition books, games, audio recordings, videos, and wall charts.

A few of the particularly significant works housed in the Rare Books Collection include: *Nuremberg Chronicle*, a 15<sup>th</sup> century illustrated history of the world; *Encyclopedie*, edited by Denis Diderot from 1751 to 1772, which championed the Enlightenment and provided intellectual preparation for the French Revolution; Puritan clergyman Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*; and a first edition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.



The Bacon Collection contains a set of missals dating back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. The vellum pages of each tome are meticulously hand-inscribed with Latin text in Gothic script, musical notations, and profuse decoration.

## WVU History OnView Hits 12,000 Photos

The WVU Libraries' online database of historical photographs has recently grown beyond 12,000 digital images.

The milestone came only five months after launching West Virginia History OnView. The database made its debut during Mountaineer Week in November 2005 with about 5,000 images.

"We created the database with the ambitious goal of cataloging 25,000 photographs from our West Virginia and Regional History Collection, and I'm pleased that we are making brisk progress," Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said. "We are also all delighted that the site already draws thousands of users every month. People have found WV History OnView to be a valuable research tool."

Since November 2005, the Libraries have counted 20,000 individual visits to the site a month, according to Dennis Newborn, Head of Systems for the Libraries.

High usage actually caused the site to crash shortly after going online.

"Its popularity is pretty obvious," Newborn said.

Newborn credits the success to long hours that the Libraries' staff have dedicated to the project.

"It's been amazing the number of photographs we've been able to add to the site," Newborn said. "It's a lot of hard work on the part of lots of people in the Library."

O'Brien praised the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, Library Systems Department, and Cataloging Department for their long-term commitment to the project.

In building the databases, West Virginia and Regional History Collection staff members scan the photographs, and Gordon Ernst, Libraries Cataloger, edits the description of each image and creates multiple subject headings to ensure accurate and comprehensive searches. The Systems Department then makes sure the

database is easily searchable.

"I'm proud of the Libraries' effort and the product that we've produced," O'Brien said. "It's tremendously rewarding to be able to make such a valuable resource available to people in West Virginia and everywhere."

The database provides users with immediate access via the Internet to some of the best images from an archive of more than 150,000 photographs owned by the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

The physical collection, located in Wise Library, has been used regularly by students and faculty at WVU and other institutions, researchers, historians, and members of the media. Many of the pictures often end up in term papers, classroom presentations, newspaper and magazine articles, and documentaries.

The West Virginia History OnView site can be reached by going to the WVU Libraries' homepage and clicking on the West Virginia History OnView link at the bottom right of the page.

## ALA Spotlights WVU Libraries' Databases

Rave reviews for the West Virginia University Libraries' online databases came out of the American Library Association Annual Conference held in New Orleans in June.

During the conference, West Virginia and Regional History Collection Curator John Cuthbert held a poster session on the Libraries' online databases. The Libraries' efforts caught the attention of hundreds of colleagues from academic libraries across the nation and representatives from PALINET, an organization representing libraries in the Mid-Atlantic region.

"They expressed great interest in what we're doing," Cuthbert said. "They said we are light years ahead of regional institutions."

After the conference, an official from PALINET interviewed Cuthbert for a podcast on its website. PALINET plans to use WVU Libraries as a model for other institutions in the region.

Much of the attention is focused on West Virginia History OnView, an online database of historical photographs from the WVRHC. For more information about WVU Libraries: [www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection/databases.htm](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection/databases.htm)

**The Digitizing Process**

John Cuthbert, WVRHC Curator, promoted the Libraries' digital databases at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in New Orleans.



## Alumni Association Provides Gateway to Libraries

Graduation no longer means bidding farewell to the WVU Libraries. A partnership between the Alumni Association and the WVU Libraries now connects alumni with many of the valuable library resources students use daily.

"Many of our alumni have expressed an interest in accessing our library online resources, and we want to thank Dean Frances O'Brien and her staff for their assistance in developing this unique program," said Jim Gardill, Alumni Association Chair. "I know our alumni will be excited about this new endeavor."

Among its multiple features, the Alumni Library Gateway provides users with quick access, from the comfort of home, to thousands of articles in reliable journals. The convenience of instantly finding useful information is something WVU students, faculty, and staff have grown accustomed to on campus. The expectation is that alumni will appreciate that power, too.

"When you want to know more about a topic, perhaps global warming, Alan Greenspan, or the Winter Olympics, you can retrieve full-text online articles that are more reliable than some Internet sites," Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said.

O'Brien and Stephen L. Douglas, Alumni Association President and Chief Executive Officer, first began discussing alumni access to WVU Libraries' resources a few years ago. However, it only recently became feasible when EBSCO, one of the Libraries' database providers, began offering alumni packages to schools.

Typically, academic libraries must sign license agreements that permit only students and faculty to access library electronic resources and exclude alumni. WVU is the first university in West Virginia to offer these popular EBSCO databases to alumni.

"We are pleased to team with WVU Libraries to provide our members with quick and easy access to a

wealth of information through the WVU library system," Douglas said. "For some time, our alumni have expressed an interest in using these resources, and we are excited to offer them this new program as an added benefit through membership in the WVU Alumni Association."

Access is available to current members of the Alumni Association who register for the service. Alumni can register on the Association's webpage: <http://alumni.wvu.edu/>.

Database selections include EBSCO's Academic Search Alumni Edition and Business Source Alumni Edition, both databases offering full-text electronic journal articles from more than 3,500 academic journals.

This introductory version of the Gateway may only be the beginning. If alumni like the service, O'Brien plans to investigate additional databases that could be added.

## WVU Libraries Celebrate State's Founding

The West Virginia Day celebration on June 20 at the Downtown Campus Library drew people from around campus and the Morgantown area. More than 100 people stood in line for a piece of cake and a poster commemorating the 143rd anniversary of the Mountain State's founding.

This year's celebration was dedicated to highlighting the Libraries' growing digital resources in the field of West Virginia history. Included among those is the highly popular West Virginia History OnView: <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvconline/>, which offers online access to some 12,000 historical photographs. Making its debut was the comprehensive Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection: [www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection/](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection/).

The guide brings catalog records for all archival collections in the West Virginia Collection together in a single finding aid for the first time in several decades.

The new resource should be welcome news for many as the Collection's existing guide has been the most popular hit on the WVU Libraries web site since its founding.

The West Virginia and Regional History Collection designs a poster to mark each birthday for the state. The 2006 edition of the West Virginia Day poster features items from the West Virginia and Regional History Collection: a WVU cadet cap, a letter from a Civil War soldier, and a drawing by David Hunter Strother.

Posters are still available at the West Virginia and Regional History Collection on the sixth floor of Wise Library.



Sewit Araia, a senior, enjoys a piece of cake while chatting with Sudiksha Joshi, a graduate student, during the West Virginia Day celebration.

## Leaving a Legacy for Future Scholars

The information age and its electronic wonders are all around us. The proverbial touch of a button can take each of us on a fascinating journey of learning any time we want.

Are personal computers therefore likely to replace libraries soon? The answer is "no." Public and educational libraries provide valuable services and access to specialized subscription materials that are too expensive for home use.

Assuring that the appropriate staff and academic resources continue to be available for students, faculty,

staff, and the public is a vital mission of the WVU Libraries. Consequently, each of us who understands the importance of this mission may choose to provide personal support for it.

One option is to include a gift provision in your will. Making sure that your attorney uses the wording of "to the WVU Foundation for the benefit of the WVU Libraries" will yield that special support in the future. You may choose to specify that your gift will be for academic journals, technological resources, facility improvements, collection acquisition and preservation, or discretionary use.

Designating the WVU Foundation as the beneficiary of a retirement account or transferring ownership of a life insurance policy to the Foundation can also benefit the Libraries in the future. An agreement about how the gift will benefit the Libraries can make sure that your gift will do exactly what you want.

Helping the Libraries will impact the University in a valued and beneficial way. What a special legacy that is.

To learn more, call Monte Maxwell at (304) 293-4040 ext. 4004.

## Health Sciences Facelift continued from page 1...

online resources. The innovative architecture complements the technological features and other resources and ties the state-of-the-art facility to its past.

Just as architects preserved the limestone façade of the Wise Library when building the new Downtown Campus Library, the designers of the Health Science Library and Learning Center made the landmark Pylons a centerpiece of their vision.

New construction and renovated space enclose the marble monoliths in a sun-drenched atrium. Natural light cascades in from above and through the glass entrance of the library on the second floor.

Visitors will also see the Pylons in a new way. Standing on the walkway outside of the library's main entrance, people enjoy a bird's eye view of the engravings.

As with the atrium, generous natural light fills the

library thanks to long glass walls that stretch across the front and back of the space. Along with admitting light, the windows provide a spectacular view of the rolling hills surrounding Morgantown. The Coliseum can be seen nestled amongst the trees.

The Health Science Library and Learning Center is scheduled to open its doors in January 2007. However, the existing auditorium undergoing renovation is set to reopen at the start of the fall semester.



## WVU Libraries Join Agricultural Resources Group

The West Virginia University Libraries have recently been accepted as a member of the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC), a partnership of about 50 institutions and organizations dedicated to offering quick and reliable access to quality agricultural information and resources.

The goal of WVU Libraries' initial AgNIC project is to make the research of the West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station more visible and accessible. The WVU Libraries are participating in a cooperative agreement with the National Agricultural Library to digitize the *West Virginia University Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletins*.

"By providing full-text access to the publications, we will increase availability of these valuable research publications to both the public and the scientific community, which is consistent with the land grant mission of West Virginia University," said Jill Rafter, Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences Librarian and coordinator of the AgNIC project.

The *Experiment Station Bulletins* began in 1888 and now number more than 700. The project plan starts with the most recent bulletins and will work back retrospectively as funding for processing allows. A \$5,000 grant from the Agricultural Research Service helped launch efforts.

Digitization is currently underway, and a searchable database of full-text bulletins is expected to be available in late fall.

In addition to making these valuable publications available electronically, the project will add information about the bulletins to Agricola, a primary public source for world-wide access to agricultural information maintained by the National Agricultural Library, as well as the AgNIC portal, making the research information much more widely accessible.

Rafter is also working on a web site of online resources related to the study of Appalachian hardwoods as part of the AgNIC membership requirements which call for each member institution to take responsibility for information in a particular subject area.

AgNIC initially consisted primarily of land-grant universities but has now expanded to include other organizations "with significant, freely accessible quality electronic information and resources" of benefit to agricultural communities and researchers around the world.

AgNIC serves a wide audience from local farmers and associations to researchers and governmental bodies. Working with universities and other groups around the nation, AgNIC is able to provide services on its web site including helpful publications, web sites, databases, and other resources. Visit the AgNIC site at [www.agnic.org](http://www.agnic.org).

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