

A special logo was developed to celebrate Virginia Tech's 125th anniversary. Reflecting the theme, "Shaping the Future for 125 Years," the logo will be appearing on publications during the official celebration period, which began with Founders Day and runs through commencement 1998.



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Newman Lobby Has New Look and Technology



If you have not been in the lobby area of Newman Library for a while, prepare for the remarkable transformation that has occurred over the past eighteen months. Thanks to a generous gift from Virginia Tech's Class of 1945, elegant teak benches, rocking chairs, area rugs and lush green plants have replaced the hodgepodge of old library furniture. Thirty computers are now available, providing access to VTLS, the World Wide Web, several hundred databases, and many complete journals.

A new service desk was recently added, allowing staff to provide expanded basic services. In addition to the informational and circulation functions characteristic of the 'old lobby desk', staff can now provide a wide array of computer and reference-related services. For example, in terms of computer assistance, staff may teach patrons how to use VTLS, the fundamentals of Netscape and Internet surfing, and the basic

commands for a variety of databases. They can show library users how to print or download needed information. To assist patrons with general reference questions, lobby staff utilize a variety of electronic resources including VTLS and the World Wide Web. Staff can also determine when users need referral for more detailed and expert assistance within the University Libraries' system.

Among the popular new services now provided in the lobby is high-speed ethernet access for library patrons who wish to use their own laptop computers. Another service allows patrons to borrow a portable cassette player and audio tape to conduct their own personal library tour. Both of these new services require a picture ID and registration at the lobby information desk.

Of course, despite these many changes, some things in the lobby have remained

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The University Libraries

The University Libraries began in 1872 with the existence of the college which was to become Virginia Tech. Composed of Newman Library and its four branches—Art and Architecture, Geology, Veterinary Medicine, and the Northern Virginia Graduate Center—University Libraries house vast resources both traditional and high-tech.

Library friends, the publication of the University Libraries and the Friends of the University Libraries, seeks to promote the programs and interests of the University Libraries, to chronicle activities of the libraries and the Friends, and to record the generosity of their supporters. Please direct comments and suggestions to Linda Southard, Friends of the University Libraries, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001, call (540) 231-5595.

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From the Dean of the University Libraries



Eileen E. Hitchingham

Even as we are busy creating the technologies, databases, and services to establish virtual libraries for our extended campus learners, I am constantly reminded of the importance of the library as *place* for our Blacksburg community — and especially for our students. Research shows that what has been defined as tangibility, or the physical sense of the library as a surrounding, is a major contributor to overall student satisfaction with their library experience.

Newman Library can be particularly overwhelming. With five floors, a number of dead-end corners, and miles of books and journals it's even possible to get lost for a while and wonder how to find your way out. We will soon see holes in the walls as we build the tower and bridge that will link Newman to the

Advanced Communication & Information Technology Center. This will be an exciting time, with special challenges to reconfigure Newman locations, equipment and service sites to make an appealing and understandable interior flow for our visitors. It has been an absolute pleasure to have some significant gift dollars to begin this process.

An article in this newsletter notes how a major class gift has helped us to begin by concentrating on Newman's entry to create a more welcoming, helping, usable and attractive space for our students. Every time I walk through in the evening and see a crowd of students sitting cross-legged on the rugs or clustered on the benches waiting for their friends, I am reminded of how the space used to seem to echo like a bowling alley. In the morning before I walk in I can look through the front windows and see someone rocking away reading the newspaper or scooting along on one of the low stools in front of the attractive shelving for new and browsing books. The library as place is, and will continue to be, important for us. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Class of 45 who showed that they know this too through their gift. In particular I am especially grateful to the major contributors noted here.

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Dr. Robert W. Bundy
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Redd Endowed Fund Established

Henry Barksdale "Puss" Redd is a legend at Virginia Tech. Graduating from VPI in 1921 after starring as a fullback on the football field and serving as a Lieutenant in the Artillery in France during World War I, Redd joined the the faculty teaching both agronomy and physical education. Known as "Big Bear" during his decade as football coach, H. B. Redd devoted most of his years at VPI in service to alumni. The 1921 Bugle notes of Redd "His continual interest in V.P.I., his tireless service on behalf of his Alma Mater and the Athletic Association, and his ceaseless efforts to raise athletic standards at V.P.I. have caused his name to be stamped indelibly upon the pages of Tech's memorable history of sport."

From his appointment as Alumni Secretary in 1926 until his death in 1960, "Puss" Redd promoted the college among the alumni, increasing activity and donations as well as keeping alumni informed about the growing college. "Puss" Redd's memory has been honored by a generous gift of \$25,000 from an anonymous donor. The Henry B. "Puss" Redd Endowed Fund for University Libraries' Special Collections recognizes his many years of important service to this institution.

Income from the Redd Endowed Fund will support the organizing and digitizing of special materials in the University Libraries' collection including local history, university archives, architectural works of pioneering women in architecture, and other university memorabilia. The endowment will also provide funds for Virginia Tech students to participate in this work. Our donor hopes that others who remember and revere "Puss" Redd will join in contributing to the Henry B. "Puss" Redd Endowed Fund for University Libraries' Special Collections. Contributions to the Redd Endowment Fund can be mailed to the University Development Office.

-Gail McMillan



"Puss" Redd

Newman Lobby Cont.

from page 1

the same. The familiar library "hand-outs" are still located in the lobby but will now be found in an easily accessible wall rack. A weekly display of "new" books for the libraries' collections and the ever-popular "browse" books (popular fiction and best sellers) are still on display in their traditional locations. All of these books are now housed in handsome new bookshelves that allow

more light to flood the lobby than ever before. They also provide a perfect setting for display of some of the library's more interesting 3-dimensional objects.

Overall the new lobby is far more inviting and comfortable than the old lobby. Along with the traditional resources and new services available, it has clearly become more than "just a lobby."

-Brad Nash

Thank You

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Preserving your water- and fire-damaged papers and memorabilia

Accidents seem to happen when you least expect them. Your basement floods after a heavy rain. The pipe to your clothes washer disconnects mid-cycle. An electrical fire smokes out your family room. These are all serious situations that require an immediate response, and often a significant financial burden, to restore your home to its former condition. Once the water is pumped out or turned off, or the fire is extinguished, what about your books and family papers? What condition are they in and, if damaged by water or fire, how can you restore them as closely possible to their former condition? Depending on the extent of damage, you can restore many of the materials yourself without having to resort to the expense of a professional conservator. Here are some basic tips for dealing with your water or fire-damaged papers and memorabilia.

Books:

- Wet books are fragile. Always handle gently to prevent pages from tearing and covers from separating from spines. Remove materials to a room that was not affected by your water disaster. Place dehumidifiers and fans in the room and open the windows (but only if it's cool and dry outside) to reduce humidity and promote drying. Air-dry books and papers indoors if possible, since rapid drying from sunlight can cause warping or buckling in covers and pages.
- Never scrub dirt or mud off of wet books or other materials. Scrubbing will grind in the dirt and embed it into the fibers of the paper, which complicates cleaning later and might also tear the paper. When dealing with dirty or muddy materials, wait until the book has dried and then brush it off with a soft cloth or brush.
- Fully saturated books should be dried within 48 to 72 hours to prevent the onset of mold and mildew. Equally important is to reduce the swelling of the spine and cover and the to minimize warping of pages. Begin air drying immediately. Lay fully saturated books on absorbent paper (paper towels are best) to soak up the water. If the spine is sturdy enough, place the book upright, fan the leaves of the book open, to increase the surface drying area, and interleave the pages with paper towels (every fifty pages or so). Replace the interleaving materials as they become soaked. To ensure that the cover won't sag, place the books on their tails (the bottom edge, the most obvious way to place a book). After a time, place them on their heads and keep reversing the position until the book is dry. To prevent damage to the spine, never stand a book on the front edge (horizontal to the spine).
- Books that are only a little wet, around the edges or just the bottom of the pages, can be placed upright, fanned, and air-dried. Reverse the book from tail to head if you think the cover could sag.
- If there are too many books to deal with immediately following your disaster, consider placing them in your home freezer. Freezing will keep swelling and distortion to a minimum while giving you time to make decisions about your materials. Loosely wrap books in freezer paper and place upright in your home freezer. Later, when you have time to deal remove them from the freezer a few at a time and follow the instructions above. It's best to freeze only those books that have been fully saturated, not those that were minimally affected by water-damage.
- Coated or glossy papers, like those in most magazines or in art and photography books, will stick together when wet. If the papers are just slightly wet they can be air dried; interleave every page with paper towels to prevent the pages from sticking. Fully saturated books with coated paper should be

frozen and then professionally vacuum freeze-dried. Unless these items have great monetary or sentimental value, it might be best to just discard all coated paper materials if they become wet.

- If mold develops on your books, plan to immediately air-dry them, even if the pages of the book are dry. Active mold is fuzzy or slimy and will have a distinctive moldy smell. Dry out active mold using the techniques for drying books described above.
- Once the mold has dried (dry mold is powdery) you can brush it off with a clean, soft cloth or brush. Never place a book with active mold back into your collection; it will easily spread to your other books, especially if the books are stored in an environment that is not cool and dry.
- Only trained conservators and paper restorers should attempt to use disinfectants on books. Avoid bleach, detergent, or adhesive tapes at any time on affected materials at any point in your cleanup. Never place a wet book in a sealed plastic bag; this will promote mold.
- Once books are fully dried they can be laid flat and pressed with weights. If the book has not returned to its former condition, and you consider it to be valuable, you might want to hire a professional conservator.
- Usually books that are affected by fire damage are beyond salvage, but check carefully to determine whether pages are charred or just covered with soot. If there is soot on the item then use a clean cloth to gently wipe it off, stroking away from the spine. You can deodorize the materials by placing bowls of baking soda near the book (preferably in a small enclosed area). Do not apply baking soda directly on the books.

Papers, Maps or Posters:

- Like fully saturated books, handle all wet individual sheets of paper gently. Blot excess water off of the documents. Do not attempt to separate the individual items while still wet.
- Manuscript pages can be laid on clean blotting paper and air-dried. If available, lay wet pages on clean window screens to increase air circulation to both sides of the paper.

- When items are fully dried, place them between sheets of clean newsprint (available at art and office supply stores) and put a light weight on them to flatten damaged paper.

Photographs:

- The fate of photographs is severely jeopardized when they come in contact with water. Water quickly softens the emulsion on photographs, often irreversibly affecting the image. Avoid touching the surface prints and negatives as much as possible. As with books, always place boxes with photographs on high shelves and away from any area of your home that is prone to water damage.
- Fully saturated black and white photographs should be rinsed of dirt in a pan of clean, cold water for thirty minutes with a change of water every ten minutes. Rinse with Kodak Photo-flo solution. Hang photographs to dry with clothespins on a line or spread out on blotters or paper towels and allow to dry fully.
- Color photographs can be cleaned in the same way but don't need to be washed as long. Black and white photos usually tolerate water much better than do color photographs. Never place photos in freezer unless advised to do so by a conservator.

Video and audiotapes:

- Wash exposed edges with clean water and let the tapes air dry. Fast wind the tape against a felt pad to remove dried dirt. Copy the tapes onto new tapes and discard the damaged ones. Restoring your books and memorabilia from water or fire damage is a time-consuming chore, and often the results are not satisfactory. It is a sad truth that in many cases water- and fire-damaged materials are simply beyond salvage. While you should be open to the idea of hiring a conservator, because of the high costs involved you might only want to fully restore those items you truly treasure.

Laura Katz Smith, Manuscripts Curator,
Special Collections Department

Do you have any questions about how to preserve your treasures? Please feel free to contact me at (540)231-9215, via e-mail at LHKSMITH@VT.EDU.

Thank You

friends

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Ludwig
Timothy L. Mainland
Margaret G. Major
Dawn A. Maneval
Nanette P. Manning
Thomas J. Marlowe
Anika McPhie
Peter J. McVeigh
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Thank You

friends

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Easley S. Smith
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It is with great sadness that we note the death of two of our Friends. Pat Johnson passed away on September 3, 1996. Pat was well known as a local historian and author of 15 books on the history of the New River Valley. Fran Carson died on October 13, 1996. Fran will long be remembered for her numerous philanthropic works. The Friends will gratefully remember both.

Recent and Significant Donations to the Special Collections Department

International Archive of Women in Architecture:

Abbye A. Gorin, architectural historian of Metairie, Louisiana. Videotape about the demolition of an historic New Orleans building, and a catalog of her work.

Judith Edelman, architect of New York, New York, active in championing the position of women in architecture in the 1960s and 1970s. Papers of information about the various committees she served on to promote women in architecture, and photographs and other information for seven projects she designed.

Lois Gottlieb, residential designer of San Francisco, California. Collection spans her career with many architectural drawings and files about her projects from the 1940s to the present.

Sigrid L. Rupp, architect of Palo Alto, California. Collection consists of her extensive office files, photographs, and architectural drawings and contracts for the many designs she did of residential, commercial, and institutional structures, mostly in the San Francisco Bay area.

Zelma Wilson, architect of Ojai, California, and a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Donation consists of architectural drawings and project and administrative files, donated by Wilson's daughters upon her death in 1996.

Other:

James J. Pandapas of Blacksburg, Virginia. Oral history interview conducted in July 1997 with this prominent Blacksburg businessman.

George Snead, of Salem, Virginia. Donated large collection of Civil War letters of Isaac White, Snead's great-grandfather and a Confederate surgeon from Shawsville who served with several Virginia regiments.

League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. Donated records and printed literature collected and created by the league.

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Montgomery County branch. Donated the Smithfield Preston Foundation papers, consisting of original letters of the Preston family, a prominent founding family of Montgomery County.



Halloween spirit is high as library staff celebrated the day. Over the years, the University Libraries staff has enjoyed luncheons, wearing outrageous costumes, skillfull decorations, and lots of leftover candy.

Library Services

High Tech With A Personal Touch

The University Libraries are ever-changing in our effort to provide the newest and best information services to our patrons. Many of our services are now available at the touch of a (computer) button. Interlibrary Loan requests can be made, recalls can be submitted for materials already checked out, reference questions can be asked, and information can be found using a wide range of databases. Many instructional services are also available electronically from the Libraries' web site ('http://www.lib.vt.edu'). Patrons can take a virtual tour of Newman Library, get help with library research (VTLS Searching Help), find subject-oriented guides to library and Internet resources, and much more. With the help of technologies such

as the Internet, learning can now happen anytime and anywhere. Library users need not wait for the library doors to open; 'physical' location no longer impedes the retrieval of information and the subsequent generation of knowledge.

But never fear. While the Internet may allow us to reach those beyond our walls, the Libraries' will never lose that personal touch. New library users can become acquainted with the Libraries by attending one of our tours scheduled the first several weeks of each semester or by contacting our Library Instruction Coordinator at 231-8684. The Newman Library Lobby Information Desk staff are also ready to greet you and offer basic information. For research assistance, our

Reference Librarians can help with strategies and resources for finding the information you need. Keep in mind that there are several reference areas at your service: Humanities/Social Sciences, Science/Technology, Special Collections, and our Branch Libraries all have reference services available. Should your question completely stump us, we can always call upon our College Librarians to provide helpful insight into finding information in their areas of expertise. So what's in store for libraries in the 21st century? Video conferencing, Internet conferencing, virtual realities such as MOOs, Chat Rooms? All of these applications or others not even conceived of yet might be used every day to help library users find what they need. Technology will certainly provide new methods of communication and access to information, but librarians will always be here to help people master these technologies and navigate through this increasingly rich information society.

-Nicole Auer

For more information, call Lobby Information Desk.....231-6170
Humanities/Social Sciences Reference Desk.....231-6045
Sciences/Technology Reference Desk..... 231-5532
Special Collections Reference Desk..... 231-6308
Art & Architecture Branch Library..... 231-9271

Campaign Update

Under the able leadership of Vinod Chachra, Chairperson of the Library Development Campaign, and through the contributions of all of our library Friends, \$1,663,664 has been raised toward the goal of \$3.5 million for the Virginia Tech Libraries. Chachra, Virginia Tech Class of '68, and entrepreneurial leader of VTLS, a global company for library and information systems, is a long time friend of the Virginia Tech Libraries. A breakdown of funds raised to date includes \$15,575 for *Student Support*, \$419, 628 for *Program Enrichment*, \$924,487 in donated collections or financial resources in support of *Facilities and Equipment*, and \$303,974 for *Current Operations*.

Achieving the \$3.5 million goal will enable the Libraries to provide innovative support services for the recently updated University Plan. Specifically the Libraries want to:

- Renovate facilities and collaborate with faculty to develop instructional programs to enable students to become life-long learners
- Provide the collections and electronic resources that are the inspiration behind the patents, papers, and innovative projects developed in a major research university
- Serve as a significant information resource component of outreach and economic development initiatives
- Experiment with information technologies to improve our understanding of how people search for and use information
- Provide resources and information experiences that allow our students to learn, live and work in an increasingly global community
- Make partnerships with other agencies and institutions interested in solving problems associated with living in an information dependent society.

Achieving the \$3.5 million goal is a challenge. Fundraising for the University Libraries is new initiative with this Campaign. Unlike more traditional areas, there is not a historical pool of donors associated with past giving to the Libraries. We are at the very beginning stages of identifying individuals, corporations and foundations for partnered support.

Some of you receive this newsletter because you have supported the Libraries. We thank you for your past contributions and always welcome any additional things you find that you are able to do. Networking and collaboration are also increasingly important. We would be especially pleased if you would consider talking to friends that you believe might be happy to be associated with the Libraries goals. If they are interested there are many ways that the Office of Development (T.O. Williams, 231-2801) can work with them to meet their special needs.

Friends Plan Upcoming Events

The Friends of the University Libraries will offer a schedule of events for the upcoming year, including a book sale, annual luncheon meeting, and programs conducted by library faculty concerning materials preservation and genealogy.

The preservation presentation was held on November 12 in the library's Board Room. Laura Smith discussed the care of books and papers, paintings, photographs, recordings, fabrics, and other artifacts. She touched upon methods that the library and Special Collections apply in preserving library materials.

The genealogy program is scheduled for March 26, 1998. Jan Carlton will moderate a discussion of resources readily available to genealogical researchers. Final arrangements will be announced at a later dates.

The Committee will sponsor another Gift



University Libraries' Friends gather at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon held at the German Club Manor on April 25, 1997.

Book Sale when sufficient books are on hand. Ralph McCoy and Charles Modlin, who have headed up previous book sales, predicted that such a sale would be possible during the spring of 1998. At present, no specific date has been set.

The Friend's annual luncheon meeting

will relate to both the 125th anniversary of Virginia Tech and the Bicentennial of Blacksburg. History Professor Peter Wallenstein, author of the recently published *Virginia Tech: Land-Grant University, 1872-1997* will speak.

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