FRIENDS NOTE

*A*s we continue our first ever membership drive, we are pleased to be renewing old memberships as well as making new Friends. We welcome you and encourage you to share the news of the Friends of the University Libraries with your friends!

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Art & Architecture Library

October 1995

VPI AIAS

STORY ON PAGE 3

Contents

Library Services Are Focus of Faculty Panel

The Library Faculty Association recently sponsored a panel discussion entitled "The Library and Your Research," attended by approximately thirty library faculty and staff. Guest speakers represented various disciplines in the sciences and humanities: Larry Grossman, geography; Peter Kennelly, biochemistry; David Kingston, chemistry; Ray Plaut, civil engineering; and Dan Thorpe, history. In a year of self-evaluation and assessment for the University Libraries, particularly User Services, the panel served as a forum for answering three basic questions:

• What services or materials in the library do you rely on the most?

• What, if any, networked services from the library do you rely on the most?

• If there were one change in library acquisitions or services that would enhance your research, what would it be?

Each faculty member in the sciences stressed the importance of browsing current journals in their respective fields as a method of keeping up with new developments. The issue of journals being bound and reshelved in a timely fashion was extremely important.

All the panelists stated that the most important library reference items are the indexes and abstracts relevant to their disciplines, particularly Science Citation Index and Social Sciences Citation Index. The networked and electronic resources they mentioned as crucial included Dow Jones News Service, Lexis-Nexis, First Search databases and, of course, VTLS. All speakers on the panel agreed that the more they are able to use bibliographic sources electronically from their offices, the better!

The panel's enthusiasm for technical services was balanced, however, by their statement that they prefer materials in print formats over any other because of the pleasure derived from browsing and thumbing through journals and books. They pointed out that the quality of graphics in printed sources is still best and that print in standard publications is higher than most printouts and computer screens.

Even more interesting to librarians and library staff are areas where the speakers did not agree. One member of the group believes faculty loan periods on borrowed books is too long and that a quicker turnover rate is needed for heavily used items in his field; another said that long borrowing periods are appropriate in his specialty since books he desires are seldom checked out by others.

In reference to the problem of keeping current in the journal literature, the historian on the panel, Thorpe, contrasted his research needs with those of the other members of the panel saying, "Time doesn't matter to historians." Unlike the other four panelists, he stressed the importance for his work of the library's microform collections, including the Library of American Civilization (on microfiche), newspapers (on microfilm), and various census archives.

It became clear in listening to this group of bibliophiles and researchers, that the library serves a diverse faculty who have different research methodologies and bibliographic needs, depending on the varied audiences for which they publish. In the sciences, the necessity of keeping up with new developments requires library materials (preferably journals) to be acquired efficiently and kept as accessible as possible, with rapid reshelving and binding. Whereas keeping current can be

From the Dean of the University Libraries

Eileen E. Hitchingham

Several items in this issue of *library friends* touch upon preservation–how to preserve personal papers, how a preserved film will help us celebrate Newman Library's 40th birthday, and how we will preserve the intellectual creations of Virginia Tech's students in the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Project.

We have always looked to libraries to preserve a core of knowledge recorded by media ranging from marks on stones to bytes on disks so that we are provided with rich memories of our past, a chronicle of our present times, and the substance and content to dream our futures. What is so different today, even exhilarating, is that technologies allow us to take our preservation efforts far beyond the walls of the traditional library as a single geographical location.

Almost every library has exciting and unique materials that are not limited by the boundaries of copyright. These materials can include local history, genealogy, special letters, fashion illustrations, old postcards—many beautiful and rich resources that record how we looked and what we thought many years ago. With the appropriate technologies, large and small libraries can begin to make these publications available to their local users and to the world. Distance will no longer be a factor for accessing these rich resources. Our digitized pictures of the Lyric Theatre, a small part of Blacksburg's history, are as accessible to a prospective student in Japan as they are to those of us just down the street from the building.

Through the efforts of the staff of the Special Collections unit of the University Libraries, we are poised to initiate efforts to preserve and transform much of what is "special" in our collections in a way that will enrich not only us, but also our learning colleagues from around the world. An important part of the University Libraries agenda for the development efforts of The Campaign for Virginia Tech is focused on strategies that will provide support for these activities.

Eileen E. Hitchingham

University Libraries Help Set Standards for Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Virginia Tech's Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Project, funded by the Southeastern Universities Research Association, Inc. (SURA), is an effort to develop and disseminate a standard method for making graduate students' final work available online. The $91,117 grant for the project was initiated by Professor Ed Fox of computer science, who was joined by John Eaton, associate provost of the Graduate School, and Gail McMillan, director of the Scholarly Communications Project and head of Special Collections at the University Libraries.

The library and the graduate school have been working together for over two years to determine how best to take advantage of these electronic texts. The library's Scholarly Communications Project also has been working with Virginia Tech faculty for several years to publish academic research as electronic journals and on an Electronic Reserve system. These and many other projects are contributing to the development of the Virginia Tech Digital Library.

McMillan points out some advantages of electronic theses and dissertations from the libraries' point of view. "There will be more timely public access to current research–all day, everyday. It will never be checked out or overdue. We will be able to serve more users without increasing demands on staff. Electronic data does not require shelf space, physical copies, or binding. The cataloging record will come largely from existing electronic text." Eaton adds that electronic texts can allow more creativity by permitting hypertext links and, soon, audio and video recordings.

"The challenge," Fox says, "is to make it so that students are willing to do the things we need."

Virginia Tech's Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Project has explored two ways for students to put their final work into electronic form, PDF (Portable Document Format) and SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language). The Graduate School, Computing Center, and the University Libraries have made Adobe Acrobat software available, allowing PDF files to be manipulated–read as pages and searched to a limited degree. SGML allows documents to be searched more easily, to be excerpted to help graduate instruction and research, or for entries in a bibliography to be reused. Also, since HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), the basis for document display on the World Wide Web, is an application of SGML, access over the WWW should be easier from SGML. The goal of the project is to stimulate reuse of information, and SGML supports document interchange that allows access from different software systems.

The grant calls for Fox, Eaton, McMillan, and colleagues to develop an SGML-based system that people can *use*, to implement search and delivery technology so that documents are archived without library staff having to make manual entries, and to make information available so that users can search, copy, and prepare documentation and training materials for this approach to be used by other universities in the Southeast. The three principal investigators also are seeking funding from the U.S. Department of Education to distribute the Virginia Tech standard for electronic theses and dissertations nationwide.

Following closely on their successful SURA grant, Eaton, Fox, and McMillan have received notification that their proposal was one of 220 of nearly 2,000 recommended for submission as a formal proposal to the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE).

University Libraries Receive AIA Student Chapter Gift
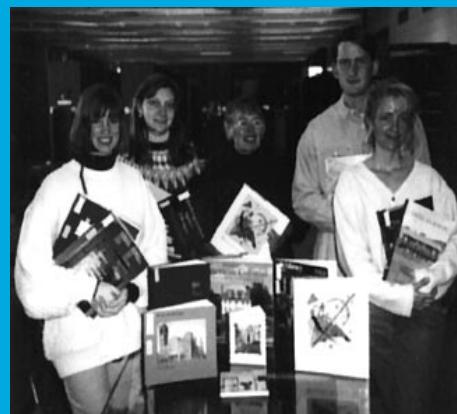
AIA Student Chapter officers display gift to the Art and Architecture Library. (l. to r.) Karen Eby, vice president; Diane Beckley Miller, president; Annette Burr, head librarian, Art and Architecture; Jay Miller, treasurer; Tanya Boone, secretary; (not pictured) Loriann Cashman, historian.

The AIA (American Institute of Architects) Student Chapter selected the Art and Architecture Library as beneficiary of their most recent fund raising effort. The event, an evening of dining with faculty hosts bid on by students, and a gift from the College of Architecture netted the group $700 which went toward the purchase of a beautiful collection of books. Art and Architecture Librarian Annette Burr received the gift at the October meeting attended by students, faculty, and Dean of Architecture and Urban Studies Pat Edwards.

According to Burr, "The books have been cataloged now and have a bookplate designed by the students. We are displaying them here in Cowgill on the Corbusier table bought for us by an earlier student benefit. I am so pleased that the students here come up with these ideas on their own initiative to benefit their library."

Welcome

friends

Preserving Your Important Papers

Patrons often ask for advice on how to preserve personal and family papers, photographs, and other memorabilia. In Special Collections we have the advantage of climate-controlled storage areas and a preservation budget devoted to the purchase of acid-free folders and boxes, Mylar enclosures, and deacidification spray. The average collector does not have these amenities readily available, so here is some practical advice on how to preserve your treasures to make sure they are available for future generations to enjoy.

Provide a proper environment where the temperature will remain steady (no higher than 72°F) and the humidity low (between 40 and 55%). Higher heat and humidity could promote the growth of mold. The best areas in a home to place papers are main rooms, where the temperature is monitored and kept stable for your comfort, or internal closets (not against outside walls). Avoid the attic and basement; these spots are most likely to be cold in winter and hot or damp in summer.

Direct sunlight and unfiltered ultraviolet rays are very harmful to paper. Excessive exposure will cause fading, yellowing, brittleness, and weakening of paper fibers. Lighting should be kept to a minimum, and when items are not being viewed, they should be stored in boxes out of direct sunlight.

Dust can abrade paper and photographs, and it usually holds inactive mold spores. If the humidity rises, the mold on the materials can become activated and grow. Materials should be placed in boxes with lids to protect them from accumulated dust or in rooms where the air circulates from the use of fans or air-conditioning.

A principal factor contributing to the deterioration of paper is its chemical composition. Prior to the mid-1850's, paper was made from cotton and other fibers. After this period, paper was printed on wood pulp. The chemical process used to turn wood pulp into paper adds acids and other chemical impurities that cause brittleness and yellowing in a short time. Since newsprint is a very cheap and acidic paper, it is best to photocopy news clippings that you treasure. If you want to keep a full newspaper, place it in a flat box (preferably acid-free) big enough to allow the paper to be completely unfolded. Acid-free or archival-quality folders and boxes are available through suppliers such as Light Impressions (1-800-828-6216) and Gaylord (1-800-448-8160). Catalogs from these suppliers are available for viewing in Special Collections.

• Remove all paper clips, staples, and pins from your documents; metal will rust and eat through paper.

• Remove rubber bands; they will dry and crack, leaving stains on books and papers.

• Unfold all documents as completely as possible; creases and folds will deepen and split paper (do not keep letters folded in their original envelopes).

• Never repair a tear in paper with Scotch or masking tape; use only archival tape to repair rips. Regular tape will dry, yellow, and flake, and the glue will attract bugs.

• Interleave original documents with acid-free paper to prevent the acids in one document from affecting another.

• Never laminate precious papers; laminating accelerates the chemical aging of documents and uses harmful adhesives and heat. Encapsulate your most treasured papers in polyester film or Mylar enclosures, never regular plastic or vinyl. An encapsulated document is well protected, entirely visible, and can be handled safely (a word of warning: do not encapsulate papers with powdery materials such as charcoal, soft pencil, or chalk on the surface, since the static of the polyester will strip these media from the paper).

• Contact with regular plastic will damage paper, so never enclose materials in zip-lock bags or any plastic that you are not sure is archival quality.

Laura Katz Smith
Manuscripts Curator

Upcoming issues : tips on protecting photographs, scrapbooks, artwork, videotapes, and what to do if your materials meet with flood or fire.

TechConnect Moves to Media Center

TechConnect, a true collaborative effort between the Computing Center and the University Libraries, is now located in the Media Center, second floor, Newman Library. TechConnect provides Internet and e-mail software for all Virginia Tech associates upon presentation of a valid ID, changes pass words for users who have forgotten their passwords, and provides forms and accepts completed applications for Modem pool accounts. Those not affiliated with Tech can receive the same services at the BEV (Blacksburg Electronic Village) office located at 428 North Main Street. Any University Libraries patron can use the fifty-one MACs in the lab and receive immediate help with the software on those computers.

From the University Archive

The Class of '44 entered V.P.I. in September 1940. In September 1941, the class began an accelerated program at the request of the War Department. Since many class members were slated to enter the service in April 1943, their Ring Dance was held in October 1942, with the class making a gift of the Ring Dance proceeds to the USO. Corsages for their dates were made of war stamps. The Ring Dance favor was a two-and-half-inch, sterling silver pin (pictured below) featuring a sword engraved "44 RING DANCE" and its scabbard emblazoned with a V.P.I. shield, crossed swords, and an eagle.

This pin is a recent gift to the University Archive from Shirley C. Farrier Strother (M.S. '60), Ed.D., Family and Child Development, retired faculty member from the College of Human Resources .

Because so many students were called into service in the 1940's, because there is no *Bugle* for 1944, 1945, and 1946, and because the *Virginia Tech* ceased publication between December 1943 and May 1945, there is a need for memorabilia and photographs that help to document student life at Virginia Tech in the 1940's. The University Archive is particularly grateful for the gift of this lovely Ring Dance favor.

Tamara Kennelly
University Archivist

A Note of Thanks

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

Martin Josef Bauer
Early edition (c 1900) of Auf Zwei Planeten, *an influential German science fiction work by Kurd Lasswitz.*

Douglas Jonas
Genealogical books and periodicals

Doug Martin
Additions to theUniversity Archive's collection of University Presidents' Papers, letter from President Dwight D. Eisenhower to Dr. Walter S. Newman, and from Booker T. Washington to Dr. J.E. Eggleston as well as Dr. Eggleston's reply

Bruce C. Parker
Additions to the Phycological Society of America Archive

Richard Taylor
*1863 letter written by Henry M. Fowlkes*
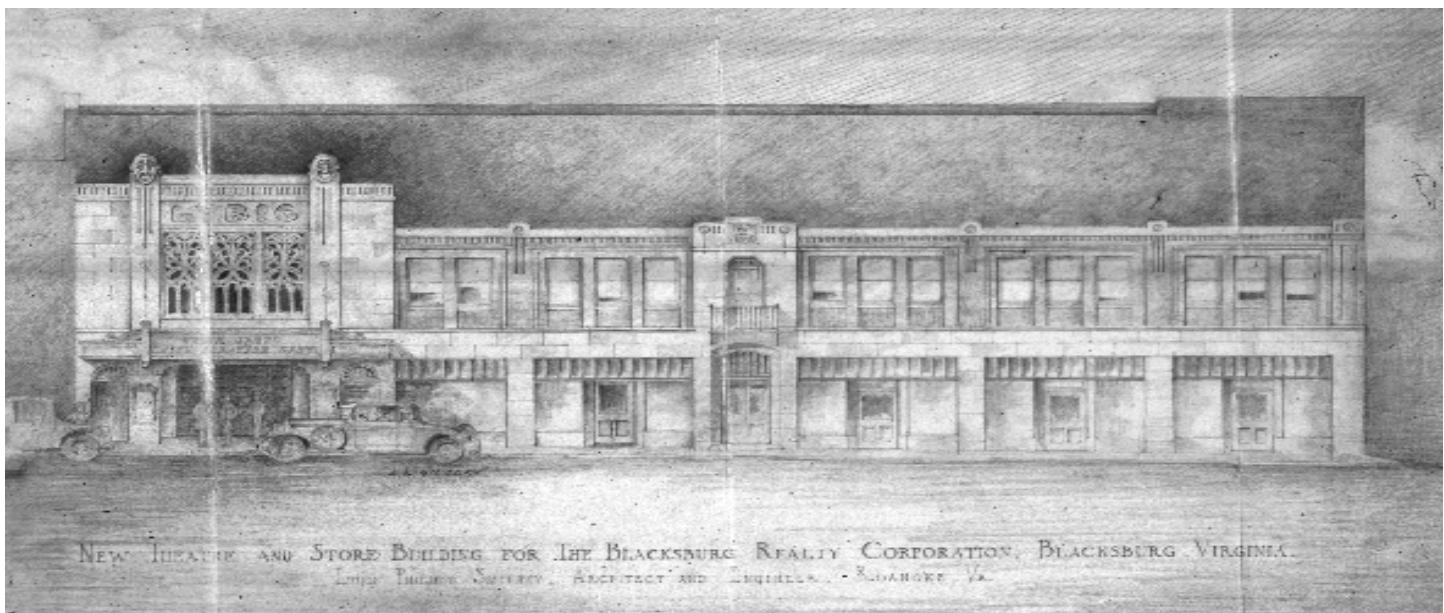
Illustration: New Theatre and Store Buildings, drawing by Louis Philippe Smithey

Collaboration Results in Lyric Exhibition

The Lyric Theatre: A Look Back at the Beginnings, an exhibition of architectural drawings and sketches for the construction of the Lyric Theatre, was curated by Interior Design Professor Eric Wiedegreen and University Archivist Tamara Kennelly. Mounted in the Wallace Hall Gallery, January 15 through February 9, the gallery opening coincided with the unveiling of an electronic exhibition on the World Wide Web (**http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/ specgen/lyr/lyrhp.htm**). The gallery and virtual exhibition represent a collaboration between the Special Collections Department of the University Libraries and the Department of Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management in the College of Human Resources. The virtual exhibition will be available indefinitely on the World Wide Web, and the plans and sketches which were on display from the Smithey & Boynton Collection may also be viewed in the Special Collections Department, Newman Library.

The exhibition presents preliminary sketches and construction drawings for the Lyric as well as design alternatives, biographical information about Louis Philippe Smithey (architect and engineer, who was an instructor and special student at Virginia Tech from 1910-1914) and the others who built the Lyric, a summary of the architect's costs, and a chronology of the partnership that later formed between

Smithey and Henry B. Boynton (agricultural engineering '21 and civil engineering '23). The presentation explores the history and early homes of the Lyric and the current efforts by the Lyric Council to bring back the Lyric, which opened in its current location April 14, 1930. The opening night program, the first list of coming attractions, and articles about mechanical, structural, and design considerations are reproduced in the display. Also included are photographs, memorabilia, newspaper accounts, and Lyric and cinema ephemera.

The Lyric, as designed by Smithey, was a quantum leap beyond its predecessors. Study of the materials shows that changes were made during the entire construction process. Of particular interest is the evolution in sketch form of the auditorium into a vaguely Art Deco-Spanish Colonial interior. Such a mix of then popular design styles was certainly not the norm, but movie houses were not constrained by *normal* life. They existed to help Douglas Fairbanks or Greta Garbo transport one to exotic locals or strange and distant times. They existed to create magic. Unlike the blank box cinemas of today, the Lyric represents a time when the actual theater was of equal importance to the movie.

The Lyric was one of only three theaters in the state built for the new "talkie" sound technology. Boasting a lobby, stage,

orchestra pit, and balcony, the "fire-proof" building originally seated nearly 900 and was constructed for $150,000. Built by the Blacksburg Realty Corporation, the Lyric finally closed in 1989 when the Kelsey family, who had operated the movie house for nearly 60 years, sold the building to the parent company of Blacksburg Realty Corporation, HCMF Real Estate. Spurred on by the Lyric Council, the Lyric is now poised for a revival of activities—film, live theater, dance, music, and lectures—very much reminiscent of its early vaudeville days.

Tamara Kennelly

Faculty Panel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just as important in some areas of the social sciences such as geography and business; in the humanities, the focus becomes broader, and the researcher needs access to lesser-used, more esoteric materials available by microforms, archive, and interlibrary loan. The challenge is for the University Libraries to play a strong role in meeting all of these needs, to be able to customize service to these researchers as much as possible within the constraints of a centralized library system.

Susan Ariew

Scholarly Communications Web Site Given 3-Star Rating
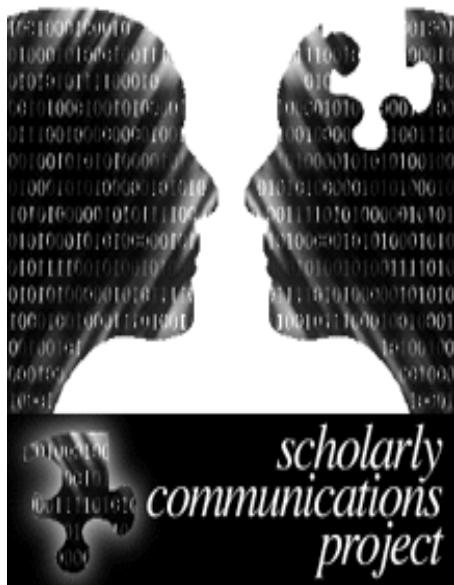
The Internet site of the Scholarly Communications Project of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University was recently awarded a 3-Star rating by the McKinley Group's professional editorial team. The McKinley Group publishes *Magellan*, a comprehensive Internet directory of over 1.5 million sites and 40,000 reviews. The 3-Star rating is a special mark of achievement based on McKinley's rigorous review process that considers depth of content, ease of exploration, and Net appeal.

The University Libraries' Scholarly Communications Project is devoted to electronic publishing and exploration of new ways to present scholarly research such as faculty-edited electronic journals, and theses and dissertations. Recent experiments in electronic communication include the libraries' electronic reserve system and the Virginia News project, which publishes local and regional news–daily news broadcasts from WDBJ 7 and local news reports from the *Roanoke Times*.

The technical success of the project is largely based on the expertise of James Powell, technical director, and the newest staff member, Peter Haggerty.

Scholarly Communications Home Page
http://scholar.lib.vt.edu

FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE NEWMAN ANNIVERSARY

NEARLY COMPLETED, is the new library, at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg. New students will never know the joy that many alumni had watching library personnel chasing squirrels around the upper ledges of the old building which was at one time a church.
Montgomery News Messenger, *August 25, 1955*

Forty years ago on May 11, 1956, the university community participated in the dedication of the Carol M. Newman Library. To commemorate the anniversary of this event, the Friends of the University Libraries will be hosts at a Birthday Party on May 9, 1996. The program will be held in Newman Library and be followed by a reception on the Alumni Hall lawn. Accompanying the festivities will be a special exhibition in Newman Library of letters, photographs, and drawings pertaining to the building's planning, construction, and occupancy. It will also feature a film entitled *King Size Diary*, produced by the Virginia Tech motion picture unit in 1957—filmed in color, in the library, and shown around the state. You are cordially invited to celebrate with us.

Calendar of Events

February
• Reading by Robert Wrigley, poet; English Department's Visiting Writers Series, sponsored in part by the University Libraries; Friday, February 23, 7:00 P.M., Volume II Bookstore

March
• Reading by John Engels, poet; Visiting Writers Series; Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 P.M., Volume II Bookstore

April
• Friends' book signing and reception in honor of Col. Harry Temple in celebration of the publication of *The Bugle's Echo*, volume one of his history of Virginia Tech (date and place to be determined)

• Reading by Michael Joyce, hypertext writer, novelist, and theorist; Visiting Writers Series; Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 P.M., Volume II Bookstore

May
• BIRTHDAY PARTY, hosted by the Friends of the University Libraries, in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Dedication of Newman Library; Thursday, May 9, 10:00 A.M.; program in Newman Library followed by reception on Alumni Hall lawn

• Exhibition *Newman Library: Looking Back* opening in Newman Library lobby, May 1

Yes, I want to be a Friend!

As a Friend, your yearly donation of twenty-five dollars or more entitles you to privileges that include use of the varied resources and services of the University Libraries, receipt of *library friends*, invitations to special Friends events, and association with others whose wish is to support the "heart of the university." We are shifting our Friends' year to run from June to June, rather than January to January, so that membership spans the academic year. The result is that those who are renewing memberships or joining the Friends now have six months *gratis*—your membership is valid until June 1997.

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Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of the University Libraries.

FJ

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