DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Summer is the time when we look back over the past year and forward to the next. As always, looking back is bittersweet. Kathy Stefanowicz, Interlibrary Loan Assistant for more than 20 years, retired last July. Margery May, who worked in Olin for 45 years in several positions, most recently as Acquisitions Administrator, retired at the end of October. Andrew Klein, Science Librarian since 2008, moved on to a job in Minneapolis in December. Kathy, Margery, and Andrew are very much missed both within the library and by the many students and faculty they worked with through the years.

We have had several new arrivals as well, and others who have moved from one position to another. Lisa Pinette, who for many years worked in a variety of departments, became a full-time Interlibrary Loan Assistant, replacing Kathy Stefanowicz. To take Lisa's place, Jasmine Cardi arrived in February 2013 as Access Services/Reference Assistant. Melissa Behney, who had been at Wesleyan for a year working on the weeding project, was selected to be Wesleyan's new Science Librarian. And by the time this goes to press, the library will have hired a Monographic Acquisitions Librarian/Coordinator of Collection Development. Last but definitely not least, Devyn Benton arrived in February—congratulations to Linnea Benton, Cataloging Assistant, and her husband Drew!

The library's old public printers, copiers, and scanners also have departed to make way for a new printer/copier/scanner system. The new system arrived in the spring, and it has been a challenge at times. But overall we are optimistic that the new system will both streamline our internal processes and improve services for our students, faculty, and visitors.

In the coming year, the library will premiere Summon, a search interface that will make it possible to simultaneously search the library catalog, our online repository (WesScholar), many of our online databases, and other freely-available scholarly Web resources. This new search system is a powerful research tool that will allow students and faculty to find important but previously hard-to-discover scholarly resources. And toward the end of the year, we will complete the library weeding project and prepare a new space for the Art Library.

No doubt the library will have its share of staff departures and arrivals in the coming year. As sorry as we are to see people leave and to lose their experience and commitment to service, we will celebrate with them the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. And we will welcome staff who join us to seize new opportunities and tackle new challenges. Have a good summer, everyone!

— PATRICIA TULLY, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN —

Summer 2013

GET IT NOW!
ILL article access in minutes

In March 2013, the library integrated the Get It Now service into our interlibrary loan workflows. Get It Now provides access to full-text articles from more than 9,000 leading journals in academia. In recent years more students are choosing broad research topics interconnecting multiple disciplines and need access to many more journals than the library can afford. Using Get It Now, the library can quickly deliver to faculty and students articles that previously took a week or more to receive through traditional interlibrary loan.

We have incorporated this supplemental service in a way that is seamless for faculty and students. Upon receiving a request, interlibrary loan staff check Get It Now and place an order if the article is available, giving the requestor immediate access to the article. If the article is not available through Get It Now, the request will be handled through the normal interlibrary loan process. We think Get It Now is a great option for quickly filling article requests and providing access to high-quality, full-text, and full-color scholarly journal content.

— EUNJOO LEE, HEAD OF ACCESS SERVICES —

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— PATRICIA TULLY, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN —
In May 13, about 40 people took a break from the frantic, end-of-the-semester race to the finish line. Students, faculty, librarians, members of the Friends of the Library, and visitors gathered in Olin Library's Devlin Room to listen to students describe their projects and read from their work for Creative Criticism and Inquiry: Writing Documentary Nonfiction and Poetry (WRCT 267/ENGL 268), taught by Teagle Fellow Kate Thorpe. The mesmerized audience put their looming deadlines aside as students shared their poetry and creative nonfiction based on documentary sources. It's no exaggeration to say that you could have heard a pin drop as Aron Chilwech '14 read a cycle of poetry based on the Civil War letters of Roswell S. Douglass (Class of 1861) or Cameron Couch '13 wove his own experiences at Wesleyan into a meditation on the collection of ephemera related to the Arthurian legend assembled by Nathan Comfort Starr.

Each of these students—and their nine classmates—had spent the whole semester working intensively with a collection housed in Wesleyan’s Special Collections & Archives (SC&A). They chose from a list of varied collections selected by Kate Thorpe and Suzy Taraba, Director of Special Collections & Archives. Options included personal papers, such as the diaries of Bertha Drew Hartzell, a woman who traveled to Europe in the early 20th century and befriended pianist Arthur Rubenstein; the poetry of Carl Carlson (Class of 1941), who died during World War II; and the papers of former Wesleyan faculty members Paul Horgan (writer-in-residence), Russell "Butch" Limbach (art), and David McAllester (music). The records of the Wesleyan Museum and the Hewlett Diversity Archive also served as source material for writing projects. Early in the semester, in a one-on-one meeting with Suzy Taraba or Leith Johnson, University Archivist, each student learned about the origins of the collection she or he had picked, how it could be researched, and related resources held by SC&A or other institutions. Students went on to immerse themselves in "their" collections, spending many hours in the SC&A reading room, and to write creative pieces that spun off from that intense experience.

The semester’s work culminated in the public reading and a display of documents from some of the collections. During the festivities, Suzy Taraba announced the creation of a new fellowship program supporting creative work in SC&A. Through the generous support of the Friends of the Library, two Wesleyan undergraduates will be awarded semester-long creative fellowships beginning in Spring 2014. Details will be finalized during the summer, and the call for applications will be announced early in the Fall semester of 2013.

— SUZY TARABA, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES —
NEW STUDENT PAPERS ADDED TO MIDDLETOWN COLLECTION

Two students in Professor Ronald Schatz's HIST 71 Exploring Middletown's History service-learning class contributed papers to the Student Papers About Middletown Collection (SPMC) held in Special Collections & Archives. Earl Lin’s paper, “Reframing Redevelopment: A Historical Contextualization of Urban Renewal in Middletown, Connecticut,” which looks at Mayor (and Wesleyan professor) Stephen Bailey's redevelopment efforts in the 1950s, and Adam Marcu’s paper, "The Quarrymen: Mid-19th-Century Life in the Portland Brownstone Quarries" will be added to SPMC early this summer.

Other students in the class explored Middletown during the American Revolution, the creation of Middletown High School in the 1840s, philanthropic activities of the Russell family, and the 1912 Russell Manufacturing Company strike. All of the students made extensive use of collections in SC&A and also consulted other resources in Olin Library, Russell Library's local history collection, the Middlesex County Historical Society, and specialized repositories. At the last First Friday program of the academic year, sponsored by the Center for Community Partnerships, the students presented summaries of their papers.

Wesleyan has offered a number of courses which discuss Middletown and its history. Since 1976, student papers written on historical Middletown-area topics have been donated to SC&A. SPMC contains graduate and undergraduate papers about the history of Middletown and the surrounding area. Topics include politics, labor, commerce, ethnic and racial groups, women’s history, and leisure. The papers have been digitized and most are presently available in WesScholar (wesscholar.wesleyan.edu/middletownpapers/) and will soon be directly linked from the SPMC finding aid (wesleyan.edu/libr/schome/FAs/middletownpapers/).

— LEITH JOHNSON, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST —

SUMMER READING

Mardi Hanson d’Alessandro, Art Library Assistant, recommends Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell:

“I enjoyed the shifts from one life to another and learning how they were connected. Mind-boggling stories. If someone saw the movie without reading the book they probably didn’t get as much out of it: the book is broad and rich in its scope and ideas. I’ll be reading it again once I get my friends to give it back!”

“For fans of literature and Hemingway I suggest two books: The Paris Wife by Paula McLain and A Moveable Feast (the restored edition) by Ernest Hemingway. The former is an account of Hemingway’s first marriage and times in Paris: very evocative and well written. The latter is Hemingway’s own version of those times in Paris, the literary circles he knew and daily life. The book was ‘restored’ by his son and grandson, after his fourth wife and his editor basically re-did his manuscript!”

REUNION/COMMENCEMENT 2013

We put a question on the Olin chalkboard: What is your fondest memory of the library? Here are some of the responses:

"I didn’t go here, but it looks awesome.""There should be a Dr. Who episode here!""I was a 7th grader, and my teacher let me read all the time during recess. I’m still reading today.""I spent a lot of time at the stacks.""I loaned my library card in the 80s to clear my account and get my diploma.""Exam time—hiding away in the stacks—’08.”""Returning overdue book at 30 reunion day!""I didn’t go here, but it looks awesome.""There should be a Dr. Who episode here!""I was a 7th grader, and my teacher let me read all the time during recess. I’m still reading today.""I spent a lot of time at the stacks.""I loaned my library card in the 80s to clear my account and get my diploma.""Exam time—hiding away in the stacks—’08.”""Returning overdue book at 30 reunion day!"
THERE WERE MANY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING FOR THE FRIENDS TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER GROUPS TO ENRICH THE CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF THE WESLEYAN AND MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY, FROM A FILM SCREENING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE BOOK, ONE MIDDLETOWN, TO TALKS FOCUSING ON THE ARTISTS TAKE ACTION: PROTEST POSTERS TODAY EXHIBIT IN DAVISON ART CENTER, WHICH SHOWCASED THREE PRINT PORTFOLIOS FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES.

On April 17, 2013, Suzy Taraba hosted an open house in Special Collections entitled Book Artists Take Action, displaying artists’ books connected to the contemporary movements featured in the art exhibition, as well as related causes. The books included Boom: a Summary of the Paper Landmine Print Project by John Risseeuw (Tempe, AZ: Cabbagehead Press, c2011), printed on paper made by the artist from the clothing of landmine victims; Julie Chen’s Memento (Berkeley, CA: Flying Fish Press, c2012), a tiny book in a locket, described by the artist as evoking “the fragility of the book and the power of reading”; Memento, part of the The Al-Mutanabbi Street Coalition, which commemorates and laments the bombing of a street of booksellers in Baghdad on March 5, 2007; and Occupy Your Wallet by Emily Artinian (Wilmington, DE, 2012), a collection of images from the Occupy movement, each presented in credit card format. If you missed the open house and would like to view these works, you can request to view them in the SC&A reading room by e-mailing sca@wesleyan.edu.

The Friends Annual Meeting on April 24, 2013 featured a panel with artists Meredith Stern, Marshall Weber, and Josh McPhee discussing art and social justice. Marshall Weber is a cofounder of Brooklyn Artists Alliance, an artist-run, consensus-governed, nonprofit organization of artists and bookmakers based in Brooklyn. Since 1999, Brooklyn has promoted artists’ books and assisted artists and organizations in documenting, exhibiting, and distributing these artworks and related archives. Meredith Stern organized the project This is an Emergency!, which combines visual art, narrative, and social justice and was included in the exhibition. She is a member of the Justseeds Artists Cooperative and her work can be investigated further at meredithstern.org. Josh McPhee is a designer, artist, activist, and archivist, and a member of both the Justseeds Artists Cooperative (Justseeds.org) and the Occuprint collective (Occuprint.org). He is the co-author of Signs of Change: Social Movement Cultures 1960s to Now, co-editor of Signal: A Journal of International Political Graphics and Culture, and he recently co-founded the Interference Archive, a public collection of cultural materials produced by social movements (InterferenceArchive.org).

Looking ahead to the fall, the Friends are honored that Ted Shaw ’76 has agreed to be our Constitution Day speaker on September 17, 2013. We are also planning an Adaptation Series film screening and a book sale on Homecoming weekend, Saturday, November 2. We’ll send further details at the end of the summer.

In closing, we would like to congratulate the student library workers who graduated this year. They played an important role in helping the library staff fill the information and research needs of its patrons. Thank you for all your hard work, and best wishes in the years to come. We welcome you as honorary members of the Friends of the Wesleyan Library for 2013–2014 and hope you will continue to follow library news.

ART LIBRARY: Alexandra Beatty, Alexa Chiappetta, Zainab Khan, Gabriella Chavez
CIRCULATION DESK: Ural Grant, Alexander Hirsch, Cara Petrucci, Christina Pham, Ian Waldron
INTERLIBRARY LOAN: Jessica Jordan, Claire Choi
OLIN LIBRARY OFFICE: Averill Roberto, Margot Sidman, Savannah Whiting
PRESEVATION LAB: Claire Dougherty, Aria Danaparamita, Hina Jafari, Alexandra (Sasha) Lamb, Elizabeth (Betsy) Sallee

RESERVES: Anwar Batte, Miriam Kwietniewska, Zoe Xiaoyu
SCIENCE LIBRARY: Heran Abate, Anwar Batte, Adam P. Jaskol, Hee-Kyong Kang, Thomas Kassel, Alex Kuvada, Maureen Malloy, Benjamin Purinton, Michael Revelas, Marina Reza, James Rosenberg, Emily A. Wolcott
SCORES & RECORDINGS: Ethan Cohen
SERIALS/MICROFORMS: Julia Black, Alex Hunt, Audrey Kielty, Dan Moakley, Kate Shervais, Shu Wang
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES: Cordelia Hyland
STACKS: Matthew Carney, May Lee Watase

— JENNIFER HADLEY, FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY —

Check It Out is a publication of the Wesleyan University Libraries that has been published three to four times annually since 1998. Its purpose is to offer timely information on recent developments in library technologies and resources available at Wesleyan to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other Friends of the Wesleyan Library.

Articles are contributed by library staff members, and the publication is edited by Pat Tully, Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian, ptully@wesleyan.edu, (860) 685-3887.

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