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CONNECTIONS



From the Dean's desk...

Refining and Renewing the University Library

This newsletter finds the University Library not merely at midyear, but actually starting a brand new chapter, with 2007 offering three significant opportunities for growth and change.

(1) President Nirschel has initiated a *new strategic planning cycle* in which the University Library will articulate its academic and institutional roles. (2) The *search for a new provost* invites more opportunities for the Library to contribute to teaching, learning, and research. (3) The *Rhode Island Special Legislative Commission on Libraries* (convened in December 2006) provides a statewide planning forum on which Dean Peter Deekle will serve. These remarks preface future lengthier articles about our progress in these several arenas.

Our Learning Commons planning model anticipates the shift from the Library's role in the transmission of knowledge to supporting the creation of knowledge and self-direction in learning and scholarship. The Champlin Foundations grant for an Instructional Technology Design Center will unite aspects of Library and Academic Computing public services this spring. Substantial expansions of

the contents of the Library's digital repository or "Digital Commons" are planned, while the Architecture Library will undergo another modification this winter — this time, to improve the Visual Resources Center facilities.

Benefiting from the 50th Anniversary and regional accreditation self-study, the University Archives and its new Archives Specialist, Heidi Benedict, will expand public awareness of its contents and services. And another challenging spring semester of public programs and exhibits will include the following endowed lectures and exhibitions (Mary Tefft White and Birss Memorial Library Funds):

February-March 2007 — Celebration of Jack Kerouac's novel, *On the Road* 50th Anniversary Exhibit in the Main Library.

February 13, 2007 — **Dr. Richard A. Gould** (*From Brown University Anthropology Classroom to World Trade Center Forensics*).

March 6, 2007 — **Dr. Vartan Gregorian**, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Former President of Brown University (*The Impact of Philanthropy*).

Peter Deekle, *Dean of University Library Services*

THE VISUAL RESOURCES CENTER

By Elizabeth Darocha Berenz, *Visual Resources Curator*



The Dance of Life (1899-1900)
Edvard Munch
Image © Saskia, Ltd.



Street in Venice (1882)
John Singer Sargent
Image © Davis Art Images



Mount Vernon Gardens, Mount Vernon, VA
Architect: George Washington
Image © Archivision



Kiki Smith with "Lilith" (1994)
Photographer: Ulrike Schamoni
Image © The New Yorker
(Condé Nast Publications, 2006)



Calvaryman, from the tomb of Emperor Qin
(221-207 BCE)/Artist: Unknown —
Image © Adams. *World Views: Topics in
Non-Western Art*. (McGraw-Hill, 2004)

The Visual Resources Center (VRC) at Roger Williams University is a collection of slides and digital images that are available for faculty and student use. The VRC is located within the Architecture Library in the School of Art, Architecture, and Historic Preservation. The content of the collection is available to the entire university community. Although the collection is comprised mostly of art history and architecture images, the Visual Resources Center welcomes requests for new images with any subject matter appropriate to the curriculum of the university.

The Visual Resources Center creates, acquires, and catalogs images. Due to decreased popularity of slide use, the creation of slides has been scaled back over the past several years, but we will create or purchase new slides upon the request of faculty members. The creation of digital images involves scanning images from books on a high-quality flatbed scanner, photographing images with a digital camera, or scanning existing slides in the collection. These images are then archived as tiff files, color corrected, and processed into jpegs. The jpegs are then added to MDID (the Madison Digital Image Database) for use by Roger Williams University faculty and students. Each image in the collection is cataloged to the standards of the Visual Resources Association (VRA), a national organization of image specialists, and Cataloging Cultural Objects, a VRA project that seeks to standardize cataloging data. Cataloging images involves attributing controlled information about the work depicted,

artist or creator, style, and subject matter, amongst many other aspects. If images are thoroughly cataloged they are made more accessible to all users of the collection via greater searchability.

The VRC contains approximately 100,000 slides of art history and architecture images. The slide collection is "browseable," similar to a library's bookshelves. The slides are arranged by time period, country, and creator (artist/architect, etc.). Slides are available for faculty classroom use. Students may access the collection by appointment. Students may also use slides in their own classroom presentations.

The digital image collection is accessed on the Internet via MDID. Faculty and students may use the VRC's images in their classroom presentations. To access MDID, visit: <http://slides.rwu.edu> (email Elizabeth Darocha Berenz for a login: eberenz@rwu.edu). MDID currently contains approximately 6,000 digital images, but it is growing constantly!

If there are images you need that we don't have, please email Elizabeth Darocha Berenz with a list of artists, architects, buildings, or subject matter requested. Another digital image resource available is ARTstor, a subscription database of art history images. The ARTstor collection contains approximately 500,000 images available for educational use. To access ARTstor, visit: <http://www.artstor.org>.

THOUSANDS THROG TO MEET THE QUEEN

By Christine Fagan, *Collection Development/Acquisitions Librarian*



It is ironic that in the 50th anniversary of the University, Elizabeth I came to visit Roger Williams! That would not have actually been possible since Roger Williams was born in the year that Elizabeth I died. However, it is an interesting speculation. What would they have said to each other had they met? Most likely they would not have agreed on much with regard to religion. While both were Protestants, Roger Williams and his beliefs would have been much too radical for Queen Elizabeth. Nonetheless, both her death and his

birth were celebrated on their 400th anniversary in 2003.

The RWU Library was awarded the exhibition, *Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend*, in 2003, as a result of an application submitted in the fall of 2002. This application was successful due to the collaboration of many departments across campus that enabled the Library to put forth an ambitious programming proposal. The exhibition did not arrive on campus until the fall of 2006 since the RWU Library was one of the last libraries on the national tour. Still, it was well worth the wait!

The exhibition arrived on campus in crates on October 17th and immediately workers from the Facilities Department were on hand to set it up. From the moment it was in place, the exhibition began to attract attention as it stood seven feet in height and seventy feet in length along the perimeter of the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center. An Exhibit Preview was held during the Homecoming Weekend which also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the University. **Christine Fagan**, the Project Director, dressed in period costume, greeted visitors with a warm welcome and provided brochures describing the exhibition and upcoming programming. Upon reviewing the public comments book, it became apparent that we were initiating a project that would be very well received on a variety of levels. Alumni, parents, and students alike all praised the beauty as well as the historical content of the exhibition.

The Official Opening was still a few days away and the campus was abuzz with excitement as student vocalists practiced their parts, actors rehearsed their roles and Elizabethan Society members created their costumes. The Theater Department's stage crew even came through at the last minute to build a stage in the Mary Tefft White Center so that the performances during the opening could be properly viewed. Everything was in place for the big day.



President Nirschel, Carole Levin & Christine Fagan.

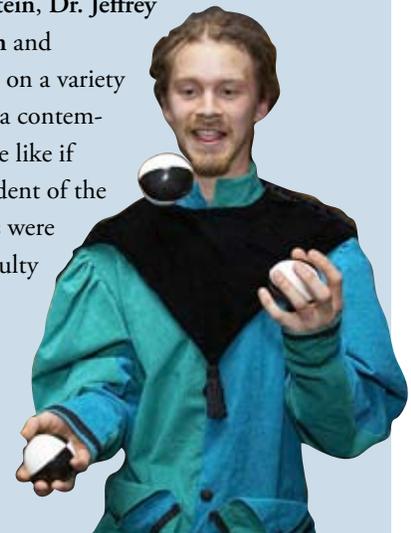
Carole Levin, Senior Historical Consultant for the exhibition and currently a Research Fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library, kicked off the events by delivering the Keynote Lecture, *Princess Elizabeth Travels across Her Kingdom in Life, in Text, and On Stage* to a full house in FCAS 157. After her informative and engaging presentation, the group "progressed" across campus to the Library for the Official Opening Reception sponsored by the **Friends**

of the Library in conjunction with the University Library. Carole Levin provided a few comments about the exhibition itself followed by the announcement by **President Nirschel** that the exhibition was officially opened! A celebration in music and drama ensued provided by select members of the RWU Chorus under the direction of Joan Roth and student actors performing a scene from *As You Like It* under the direction of Profes-

sor William Grandgeorge. Guests were captivated by the student performances after which they continued to enjoy the light buffet while viewing the exhibition and engaging in conversation. It was a magnificent beginning to what would prove to be an exciting six weeks of programming.

Clark Hulse, Curator of the exhibition, arrived on November 7th to deliver the Feature Lecture, *Elizabeth I Revealed*, which provided fascinating details about the life of the Virgin Queen as well as stories relating to the images featured in the exhibition. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session in the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center.

Faculty lectures by **Dr. Joshua Stein**, **Dr. Jeffrey Meriwether**, **Dr. June Speakman** and **Dr. Deborah Robinson** touched on a variety of Elizabethan topics, including a contemporary vision of what it would be like if Elizabeth I were to run for President of the United States in 2008. Students were very much engaged in all the faculty lectures which were followed by continued discussion.



A sumptuous Elizabethan banquet was served in the Dining Commons by Bon Appetit, featuring Cornish hens, meat pie, and a variety of roasted vegetables and delicious deserts. The Dining Commons was transformed into an Elizabethan Manor through the period music of Will Ayton & Company, with **Dr. Will Ayton**, **Dr. Catherine Hawkes** and **Dr. Marilynn Mair** performing as part of the group. **Elizabethan Society** members dressed in period costume provided additional color as saucy serving wenches and strolling musicians. Thirty faculty members joined the students for this most enjoyable event.

Other highlights of programming in support of the exhibition, *Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend*, include the events listed below.

- **Renaissomics**, a popular Cambridge-based band, delivered a lively performance of Elizabethan instrumental music. This event was sponsored by **Alive! Arts** and organized by Dr. Marilynn Mair.
- An **Elizabethan Evensong** was inspirationally performed by **Passio**, a Providence-based vocal ensemble, at St. Michael's Church.

Dr. Michael Swanson playing the role of a minister in Elizabethan times, delivered *An Homily against Excess of Apparel*.

- The **Elizabeth I Film Festival** featured films relating to Elizabethan England every Monday night with commentary provided by **Dr. Jennifer Stevens**.
- The **Socrates Café** moderated by **Dr. Deborah Robinson** posed the question, "If women ruled, how would the world be different?" to an interactive audience of over 140.
- The **Theater Department** presented nine performances of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* on a stage meticulously designed to replicate the Globe Theatre in London. The costuming was exquisite and the performances stellar.



- **Marilyn Meardon** delivered a stunning performance as Queen Elizabeth in *Elizabeth I: In Her Own Words*. Dressed in Tudor costume and using speeches, prayers, poetry and letters of Elizabeth I, Ms. Meardon truly brought the Queen's words to life.
- The **School of Education** produced an educators' workshop, *Elizabeth I: Passport to the Past*, providing materials to enable teachers to design inquiry based lesson plans on Elizabeth I or utilize the curricular units for grades K-12 written by RWU students.

Finally, the event that best represented the true essence of the Elizabeth I project was the **Elizabeth I Student Showcase** that opened alongside the national traveling exhibition on November 15th and celebrated the work of RWU students on the Elizabethan Age. The showcase featured excellent student projects, including research papers, live scenes from Shakespearean plays, posters, brochures, timelines and even a model of the Tower of London.

The success of this exhibition and the associated programs was significantly enhanced by faculty who actually incorporated the themes of the exhibition into their classes or encouraged students to become involved by offering extra credit or other incentives for participation. For this cooperation we at the Library are most grateful. To all who in any way were involved in the exhibition and programming we extend our heartfelt thanks. As *Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend* comes to a conclusion, our eyes looked forward to a time down the road when we might embark on such a journey again. We hope that when that day comes, you will join us once more with enthusiasm and academic engagement.

RWU Digital Commons Update

The RWU Library has recently launched an electronic forum for the in-house publishing of student and faculty research and scholarship as well as archival materials from the University Library. Check out the website at: <http://digitalcommons.rwu.edu/> or follow the link from our library home page.

This Spring, 2007, we will be publishing Master's theses,

contributions from the Center for Macro Projects and Diplomacy, content from the Birss Annual Memorial exhibit (this year featuring Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*), and historic photos from the University Archives.

If you have items you wish to see published on our Digital Commons site, please call Mary Wu at extension 3053, or e-mail her at mwu@rwu.edu.



Postcard depicting the Main Library in the 1970s, from the University Archives.

FOCUSING ON THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

By Veronica Maher, *Media Resources Librarian*

The title of this newsletter is aptly named when one thinks of the many ways the library serves as catalyst to the information needs of our community. During the past year, for example, the library was especially challenged when it was asked to accommodate the information needs of the 50th Anniversary Committee in locating photographs, memorabilia and documents relating to the many people and events of the past several decades.

When built in 1991, the area designated for the University Archives was specifically constructed to provide temperature and humidity controls appropriate for preserving archival items. However, no one was officially designated to provide permanent control over the accessioning and administration of these materials. Over the years, the library made every effort to collect as many publications and records as were available. This sometimes meant literally picking things out of the trash bins. Professor Emeritus Wendell Pols put in hours of effort collecting and sorting documents and photographs that reflected our history as an institution. There are volumes of minutes from board meetings, newspaper clippings, old yearbooks, graduation lists, president's papers and hundreds of photographs. Occasionally other college departments would send over files that were too old but possibly important for storage in the archives. Although the amount of material was growing, the time available to properly organize these materials was not.

Library space was compromised somewhat when the School of Education was "temporarily" housed in the library several years ago. Professor Pols retired soon after requiring that access to the Archives be carefully limited so that valuable items would not get lost or misplaced. Mary Wu, the Cataloging/Database Management Librarian, and Veronica Maher, the Media Resources

Librarian, worked together to keep things broadly organized and accessible to community members. Despite our efforts there was never enough time to devote to the Archives. Something had to be done. In the spring of 2005, Veronica Maher undertook a sabbatical leave to study archival administration and management. (See *Connections* Fall 2005). The end result was a strategic plan to initiate a new archival program for RWU. One of the proposals was to hire a professional archivist. The position of Archives Specialist was finally approved as a part-time position. In December 2006 our first Archives Specialist, Heidi Benedict, arrived from Missouri.

This is a second career for Heidi; she was formerly an elementary school teacher and a school librarian. She graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and earned her Master's of Science degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University where she earned her Master's of Library Science. Heidi has had experience working in a variety of archival settings including the Missouri Historical Society; Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records; and the Chester County Historical Society in Pennsylvania. She has processed state documents, created finding aides, transcribed nineteenth century diaries, inventoried and cataloged photographs and performed many other archival duties. Here at RWU only a few short months, Heidi has been busy establishing her priorities for getting the University Archives in good shape.

Heidi's goal is to establish the Archives as a place that supports teaching and learning and provides access to the University's history. The Archives are open Monday –Thursday. Please call extension 3049 for hours. Because of the nature of the materials and the physical limitation of the Archives, appointments are recommended.

WELCOME NEW LIBRARY STAFF

Please join the library staff in welcoming the following new staff members:

ELIZABETH DAROCHA BERENZ



Elizabeth Berenz joined the library staff in July as the Visual Resources Curator in the Architecture Library where she manages the production and organization of digital images and slides in support of the University curriculum. She comes to

RWU from the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago where she worked as a Project Coordinator in International Resources. She holds Master's degrees in both Library and Information Science and Modern Art History, Theory and Criticism. Elizabeth specializes in art history of fin-de-siècle period in France and Victorian England. Also an active visual artist, Elizabeth paints, draws and photographs.

HEIDI BENEDICT



Heidi Benedict relocated to Rhode Island from Missouri this past December in order to fill a new position as Archives Specialist. Heidi earned a Master's degree in Library Science in 2004 and also holds a second Master's of Science

degree. She has experience working with several archives and archival collections at the Chester County Historical Society in Pennsylvania, at the Arizona State Library Archives and at the Missouri Historical Society. In just two months Heidi has delved in to organizing and setting up policies for the RWU Archives.

KERRIE BEEBER



Kerrie Beeber also joins the staff of the Architecture Library part-time as the Digital Resources Assistant. Here she is responsible for processing and photographing digital images and assisting in cataloging and archiving them. Kerrie's background

is in graphic arts and design and she holds a Certificate for Print Design from the Rhode Island School of Design. She is currently enrolled in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Rhode Island. She is also an active visual artist.

DAVID EIFLER



David Eifler has worked as a part-time reference librarian at RWU's University and Metro libraries for the past several years. This semester, however, he will be working during daytime hours to cover some of Susan McMullen's

job responsibilities while she is out on sabbatical leave. David will be working at the Reference Desk and teaching library instruction classes during the spring semester. He recently made a career change into librarianship from the corporate world. He holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from URI and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from the University of California,

Editor: Betsy Peck Learned, *Associate Dean, University Library*



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