

Winter 2013

# Ex Libris

THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



“Without libraries...  
we have no past and  
no future.” —Author Ray Bradbury



## *Greetings*

I have just completed a year serving as Interim Dean of the WVU Libraries. I am honored to have had this opportunity, and I am so proud of all that has been accomplished. With the help of many dedicated faculty and staff, we have continued to give excellent service to our users and have launched several new initiatives.

In this issue of our newsletter, you'll learn about our experience hosting two librarians from China. I believe everyone involved would agree that this exchange was beneficial for our guests and for us. We hope the professional relationships and the friendships made during this visit will continue for many years.

We also highlight and celebrate in this issue initiatives which have continuing success. Our "Discover" event at the beginning of the semester which welcomes freshmen to campus was attended by over 4,000 students and appeared to be a positive experience for everyone. Our Information Literacy Enhancement grant program grew from five to ten awards this year. This program continues to receive excellent reviews from students, faculty and administrators.

We know many of you are excited about our growing collection of digital resources which allow access to materials that were previously available only on site. The digital newspaper project is our latest endeavor, and we hope it will result in a significant portion of one of our most popular resources, West Virginia newspapers, being available remotely.

You'll also find in this issue more information about our goals for the recently launched capital campaign. As you'll see, our first goal is to obtain more resources to support our West Virginia & Regional History Collection, a part of the library that truly serves all West Virginians.

You'll also read about three talented students who received the Robert F. Munn undergraduate Scholar awards. The evening we celebrated with these students and their families was one we'll all remember fondly.

We hope you'll enjoy these and other stories we've chosen to include. If you have comments or ideas you would like to share with us, please e-mail or call. We'd love to hear from you.

Myra Lowe  
Interim Dean

# Ex Libris

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An NEH grant will enhance access to newspaper archives.



The Libraries mark Charles Dickens' 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

# Downtown Campus Library Marks 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The library experience changed for many West Virginia University students 10 years ago. At the start of the spring semester in 2002, students began streaming into the new Downtown Campus Library.

It was a welcome change for Chris Gregory who served as Student Government Association President when the new facility opened. A political science major, he spent quite a bit of time in the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library and the infamous stacks that held the book collection. While the facility met his needs with books and resources, he said it wasn't the most inviting place.

"I think most students felt like I did," Gregory said. "You'd go to Wise to get what you need and left as soon as you could."

The Downtown Campus Library, with five floors and 124,000 square feet, offered students more options. Gregory said the study space and computer access made the new Library a tremendous resource.

"With the new Library, we knew there was always a space available where you could get folks together to work on a project or do research," Gregory said. "It made it a lot easier to work on group projects and get the most out of your education."

The new Library also enhanced the out-of-classroom experience.

"It wasn't just what they were learning from professors, it was the research they could do on their own and the interaction they could have with peers outside of the

classroom that really made that special," Gregory said.

A decade later, students are saying the same things.

Alex Kessinger knows he can rely on the Downtown Campus Library. Whether he's writing a paper, studying for a test, or finishing an assignment, he heads there to focus on his work.

"The Downtown Campus Library is a place you can come to and not have to worry about distractions," Kessinger said. "It's a safe haven for study."

The political science junior estimates that he can finish a paper in half the time when at the Library as opposed to home. Along with the quiet, he appreciates the computers and high-speed Internet access to the Libraries' electronic resources.

"A good library is probably one of the most important things on campus," Kessinger said. "On a scale of 1 to 10, this library is a 10."

Chris Linkous is at the Library three or four days a week. He prefers the Library over home because his apartment is noisy and, when home, he's too tempted to relax rather than study.

The public relations junior said the Library is especially helpful when he's working late into the night because he can get something to eat at Eliza's, the Library's coffee shop.

"I feel that when I come here I can get a lot of work done," Linkous said.

When it comes time to prepare for a test or work on a project, sports psychology senior Jordan Albright regularly reserves a study room.

"It's pretty important to get together with others in your class to study because it makes learning a little easier," Albright said. "The study rooms are great because we can talk and not bug other people who are studying quietly."

Katrina Torres credits the Library for helping her get her academic career off to a good start. The chemical engineering sophomore developed bad study habits in high school and often had a tough time concentrating on homework when her musician brother was practicing his instrument.

"When I started college, it was the first time I had quiet space. I use the library all the time and my grades went from below average to a 4.0," Torres said.



## If you build it, they will come

Penny Pugh, Head of Reference for the DCL, was not surprised by the crowds that showed up in 2002 and that continue to fill the Library now.

"We knew this is what our students and faculty wanted. It was like *Field of Dreams* — 'If you build it, they will come,'" Pugh said. "Student use of the Library is a testament to how important it is. They come in droves."

The shift from Wise into the new Library was a monumental change. On the technology front alone, it meant going from a handful of computers in the old reference room (currently the Milano Reading Room) to 180 desktops spread among five floors and Internet drops in all of the tables.

"Anywhere you could sit, you could plug in a laptop. That was really luxurious in 2002," Pugh said.

(A few years later, the Wi-Fi network enabled students to logon and work anywhere in the Library.)

The shift also brought change for the reference librarians. Although they loved their home in Wise, they were excited to be relocated to a spot that's front and center on the main floor. Today, the reference desk welcomes visitors with a large hanging banner reading: "Ask a Librarian."

The large desk has two consultation stations where a librarian and a student can sit down together, see the same computer screen, and work through a research question. Pugh explained that research and instruction are two sides of the same coin. Librarians don't just answer questions; they also have an obligation to teach.

"Customer service includes what we used to call the reference interview. What it really means is having a conversation

to understand what the student is doing and what he or she needs," Pugh said. "It's much more sophisticated than directing someone to a floor to find a book."

Over the next few years, the Libraries continued to add to its offerings.

In 2002, the Libraries extended hours to 2 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, in response to requests for increased library access.

In 2006, the Libraries opened Eliza's, a coffee shop named for Eliza J. Skinner, the first professionally trained librarian at WVU. She served as Library Director from 1897 until 1902. This popular spot was the result of a student-led initiative fronted by D.J. Casto, Student Government Association President at that time.

Lindsey Croft, an industrial engineering junior, stops by Eliza's for a jolt of caffeine whenever she's on the downtown campus. She appreciates not

having to pack up her belongings and leave the Library when she wants a snack or drink.

"If you're here for a long time, the coffee shop is a great convenience," Croft said. "When I'm here before an exam, it's a five-hour stretch."

In 2007, the Library became home to an Academic Resource Center, an initiative from the Office of Retention and Research in Student Affairs. Five nights a week during the fall and spring semesters,

tutors offer academic assistance to students in need. This popular amenity has grown to include tutoring in more than a dozen subject areas.

"Partnering with the Academic Resources Centers is another example of library support for student success. Tutoring services grow in popularity every semester, and we are very pleased to host one of the centers," Pugh said.

"A good library is probably one of the most important things on campus."

—Alex Kessinger  
Political science junior



"On a scale of 1 to 10, this library is a 10."



### The Next Decade

Interim Dean for Libraries Myra N. Lowe was Head of Reference back in 1998 when she heard the architect share his vision for the new library.

She recalls his assurance that if they built the right building, created the right kind of space, had knowledgeable librarians and staff, then the library would be busy.

"We started to get excited that there could be a transformation of what the Libraries were on campus, which is what happened," Lowe said. "I thought there would be a vast kind of change, but I didn't imagine that it would be what it has become."

Ten years later, the Downtown Campus Library remains a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing laboratory of ideas. She credits students and the Facilities Management for taking good care of the Library, and the University Administration for making a commitment to keeping resources and technology up to date.

In another 10 years, when a future dean and librarians reminisce on the milestone, Lowe expects the Library will be thriving just as much.

"From early times, people have visited the library not only to consult books and other information resources, but also as a place to contemplate, and that is not going to change," Lowe said. "Although the majority of our resources are now available online, the library remains a special place where one can contemplate, think, and create."



"From early times, people have visited the library not only to consult books and other information resources, but also as a place to contemplate, and that is not going to change. Although the majority of our resources are now available online, the library remains a special place where one can contemplate, think, and create."

—Myra Lowe, Interim Dean

## Three Receive Library Scholars Award

Three Honors graduates have been named Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars for 2012. Abigail Cioffi, Miriah Hamrick, and Jared Jones received the award at a ceremony in the Charles C. Wise Library during Commencement Weekend.

"These students did a tremendous job researching their topics and presenting their findings," said Keith Garbutt, Dean of the Honors College. "They are excellent examples of the undergraduates at West Virginia University who are engaged in extraordinary research. We are pleased these students are being recognized for their scholarship and hard work."

The WVU Libraries and the Honors College established the Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award in 2009 to honor Dr. Robert F. Munn, Dean of Library Services from 1957-1986.

The award goes to one or more graduating Honors students for outstanding humanities or social sciences research that is done in the WVU Libraries and results in an exceptional thesis. Writing a thesis is a graduation requirement for Honors students. Along with receiving a \$1,000 award, the scholar's name is added to a plaque in the Downtown Campus Library.

Cioffi is the daughter of Edward and Dale Cioffi of Charleston. In writing her thesis, "Dunmore's War: How Virginia's West was Won," she spent a lot of time in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, and the Appalachian Collection.

She enjoyed the research process and was surprised at the amount of material she found.

"It was fascinating being able to see history coming to life through primary sources," she said.

Cioffi graduated in December 2011 with a bachelor's in history and immediately began graduate school, where she is studying public history. She is leaning toward a career in historic

preservation and is interested in Main Street programs that work on preserving downtowns.

"When I studied art history, a lot of what I focused on was architecture. I definitely have a passion for that," Cioffi said.

Hamrick grew up with her father, Bill Hamrick, in Weston and with her mother,

close to wrapping her research only to uncover new information.

"Even though there were times I didn't want to look at another piece of microfilm again, it really kept me engaged the whole time," Hamrick said. "It almost made me feel like I was a detective."

She graduated with a double major in history and philosophy, and a minor in religious studies. She plans to take time off before beginning graduate school.

Jones is the son of Matthew and Julie Jones of Charleston. His thesis is titled "From Fraud to God: Characterisations of the Scientist in British Literature, 1726-1818." He chose the topic because it enabled him to focus on his interest in science and literature.



Jared Jones, Miriah Hamrick, and Abigail Cioffi are the 2012 recipients of the Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award.

Michelle Nutter, in Summersville.

For her thesis, "An Adversary for Mr. Bryan: West Virginia's Forgotten Contributions to the Antievolution Crusade," she did the majority of her research in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

The thesis delved into happenings on the WVU campus prior to the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. On March 11, 1922, William Jennings Bryan posed a challenge to college faculty. He offered a \$100 prize to any faculty member who could reconcile his belief in the Bible with his belief in evolutionary theory.

"I don't think I could have done the project without the West Virginia Collection," Hamrick said. "That's part of why I chose to do the project, because I knew there was such a wealth of resources."

The abundance of available information, though, meant a long process of reading articles, letters, and other materials, and determining what to include in her thesis. On a few occasions, she thought she was

"I very much enjoyed doing the research, which was good because I had a lot of it to do. But then it came down to sitting down and writing it," Jones said.

He graduated with a double major in English and German. He then began a

"I don't think I could have done the project without the West Virginia Collection. That's part of why I chose to do the project, because I knew there was such a wealth of resources."

—Miriah Hamrick, Munn Scholar

fellowship at Ohio State University with their MA/PhD program in literature.

"Everyone on the selection committee was impressed with the efforts of these honors graduates," said Myra N. Lowe, Interim Dean of the WVU Libraries. "Clearly, undergraduates at West Virginia University are engaged in some interesting and important research."



# Libraries Moving Forward on Digital Newspaper Project

The WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection is moving forward on a project to digitize 100,000 pages of newspapers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In the fall of 2011, the WVRHC received a \$266,000 grant from National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize newspapers published in West Virginia from 1836 to 1922.

The effort is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). The NEH and the Library of Congress are partnering with libraries and institutions from around the country to provide enhanced access to historical United States newspapers.

"We see this digitization program

to the *Wheeling Intelligencer* and six other papers. The project's advisory committee identified the *Intelligencer* as the most significant newspaper for the time period.

"The only daily newspaper being published at the beginning of the Civil War, the *Intelligencer* was anti-slavery, pro-Union, and the strongest supporter of the statehood movement," said Harold M. Forbes, Associate Curator of the WVRHC.

Wheeling also became the capital when West Virginia received statehood on June 20, 1863.

The WVRHC will digitize all existing issues of the *Wheeling paper*, currently preserved on microfilm, from 1852-1903.

*Clarksburg Register* and *Kanawha's Star* supported the Confederacy.

That's just the beginning.

The second half of the 19th century also encompasses the continuing conflict between eastern and western Virginia, John Brown's Raid, West Virginia's statehood movement and establishment, West Virginia's constitution of 1872, Reconstruction, and the United States' Centennial.

"There's a lot going on in that time period, and it's the period of industrialization. Railroads, mines, and all of West Virginia's industries are really getting cranked up," Forbes said.

have here," said WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert.

Along with researchers from outside the University, students will also benefit from the enhanced access.

"Professors often expect their students to go to original sources and draw their own conclusions rather than rehash what somebody else has written and adopt someone else's conclusion," Cuthbert said. "I anticipate students will get a great deal of use out of the results of this project."

Researchers are likely to find some new and interesting perspectives to the events that shaped our state and country.

Journalists for the *Intelligencer* and the other papers wrote articles from the point of view of someone living in West Virginia or western Virginia, someone with family members fighting on both sides of the Civil War, someone whose family settled in the hollow generations ago, someone who was tired of listening to Richmond and truly believed that *Montani Semper Liberi* (Mountaineers are always free).

Internal issues and local politics add multiple layers to what was reported in the national media about the war, slavery, and other happenings.

"You're not really looking for the known facts that are in history books already," Aguera said. "Primarily, you're looking for what the newspaper articles say about how people experienced those events, and they're going to be different depending on the locality."

## Tapping a Reservoir

The Digital Newspaper Project will revolutionize historical newspaper research. The database's full-text search capability will make it easier to explore this relatively untapped wealth of information.

Currently, after deciding on a particular paper to search, a researcher must define the timeframe that he wants to explore. Then, he has to spool the first microfilm reel onto a machine and begin the monotonous process of reading page after page to find references pertaining to the topic.

Once the newspapers become searchable online, one could accomplish in an hour what now could take months to do.

"That immediacy will be an incredible step forward. It will be tremendously valuable to every type of researcher we

The other papers and the years to be digitized include:

*Cooper's Clarksburg Register*, Clarksburg (1851-1861);

*Spirit of Jefferson*, Charles Town (1844-1899);

*Star of the Kanawha Valley*, Buffalo (1855-1856), and *Kanawha Valley Star*, Charleston (1856-1861);

*Monongalia Mirror* (1849-1855) and *American Union* (1855-1859), both Morgantown;

*The Weekly Register*, Point Pleasant (1862-1909);

*The Democrat* (1868-1874) and *The Weston Democrat* (1875-1902), both Weston.

The papers selected will enable WVU's contribution to the larger project to present both sides of the Civil War conflict. Although most of western Virginia stayed loyal to the Union, *The*



as a natural extension of the work we had done before, to preserve and make accessible newspaper content through microfilm. Now the NDNP is providing a higher level of access to this content," said Helen Aguera, Senior Program Officer, Division of Preservation and Access, NEH.

Aguera is referring to the United States Newspaper Project, in which the WVRHC participated about 25 years ago. Its primary goal was to seek out every surviving newspaper title that could be located and preserve newsprint that was not already on microfilm.

She visited the WVU Libraries in early fall to check on the status of the new project and to learn how the Collection determined which papers to include. She was pleased with her visit.

"A lot of progress is being made," she said.

The Collection has narrowed its focus

and West Virginia is intertwined. The project includes several newspapers that were published when West Virginia was still part of Virginia.

When complete, the results will be

available on two websites: the WVU Libraries' West Virginia Digital Newspapers website and the *Chronicling America* website, which is hosted by the Library of Congress. The NDNP aims to include newspapers from every state and United States territory.



## Team Traveled State to Collect Old Newspapers

Long before the West Virginia and Regional History Collection began the process of digitizing 100,000 newspaper pages from its microfilm archives, the Collection embarked on an ambitious effort to rescue newspapers, many more than a century old, that were at risk of being lost to time.

From 1983 to 1988, the WVRHC participated in the United States Newspaper Project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The predecessor to the National Digital Newspaper Program, the project's primary goal was to seek out and preserve on microfilm every surviving newspaper issue that could be located and was not already on microfilm.

The Collection has long subscribed to every newspaper in the state, and those papers had already been preserved on microfilm. They were searching for papers that pre-dated their holdings, papers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"It was a pretty intensive project," said Harold M. Forbes, Associate Curator of the WVRHC. "We ended up visiting every county in the state. It was quite an experience."

The first step, which took a year, was compiling a list of people and places likely to have old newspapers. They focused on libraries, historical societies, historians, antiquarians, newspaper publishers, and families of former newspaper publishers.

They then reached out to them by mail with a one-page questionnaire.

"We had a 94 percent initial response rate. People realized the importance of what we were doing," Forbes said.

He and his team talked over the phone with these individuals to explain the scope of the project and make arrangements to borrow the papers. They also got leads to others who might have stored away papers.

Additional help came when Bill Childress, then president of the West Virginia Press Association, invited Forbes to their annual conference to share details of the project. Contacts made at several conferences led to numerous articles being written about the effort and new leads on potential newspaper holdings.

The next stage of the project – retrieving and microfilming their finds – took three years. They would bring back a crop of papers, microfilm them, and return them while on another retrieval trip.

Before heading out, they created a travel plan to cover the state efficiently. They would spend multiple days in one area and visit several of their contacts.

But their workdays were far from streamlined. Hospitality was always very important to those they visited.

"Visitors from West Virginia University were not commonplace in many parts of the state and we were universally welcomed," Forbes said. "It took time to go around and visit everyone. We had to make time to socialize."

That meant if it was close to lunchtime, they would be guests for lunch. When it came time to get to work, they worked.

Forbes recalls spending cold winter days and hot summer days in barns, attics, and basements gathering fragile and musty papers. Although the conditions where many of the papers were stored were poor, the newspapers were fortunately in good enough shape to be microfilmed.

"It was pretty demanding work looking through this stuff," Forbes said. "Trying to figure out what it was and if we needed it to fill gaps."

They also discovered newspapers they had never seen before. In some cases, a paper was only published for a few years; other times, the paper was bought out or absorbed by a rival paper or larger publishing company.

"There were lots of early 20th century newspapers that we knew existed, and we knew had to be out there," Forbes said. "We were able to find many of those."

Close to 25 years after finishing the project, Forbes still believes numb fingers, back aches, and the miles on the road were worth it.

"We anticipated that the Newspaper Project was an important thing to do. We were microfilming newspapers that were unavailable to researchers, so it was an extremely important endeavor," Forbes said. "The project preserved over 700 volumes of historical newspapers."

# **A STATE OF MINDS** The Campaign for West Virginia University

WVU President James Clements often says that no other university means more to its state than WVU means to West Virginia. The WVU Libraries agree with that sentiment.

When we began planning for *A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University*, we first examined the way we serve the University community and residents of our state.

Our users range from the freshman searching for a book for an assignment to the scholar wanting to study a 1623 first edition of William Shakespeare, from the graduate student beginning her thesis to the West Virginia native tracing his roots back to early settlers in Randolph County.

Considering the preeminence of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection and Special Collections,



we believe no other academic library means more to its state. The WVRHC has a responsibility to preserve our state's history and to assist all West Virginians in their pursuits to learn more about their place in that beautiful mosaic.

Special Collections help visitors find their place in the world. A gem of our Special Collections is the Rare Book Room, which houses treasures such as the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, a 15<sup>th</sup>-century illustrated history of the world, and Puritan clergyman Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*. The collection also includes first editions of many renowned authors, including John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regain'd*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Clearly, our decision to make the WVRHC and Special Collections a priority was an easy one.

We are also focusing on raising support for the electronic resources used by students and faculty, and enhancing our offerings to graduate students.



A gift from  
The Arthur S. Dayton  
Collection



## Our Priorities

### Acquiring and preserving materials for the Collection ..... \$1 million

Funds are needed to support the cost of acquiring rare books and manuscripts, to preserve them for posterity, and to make them available for research. The acquisition of rare materials can be expensive regardless of whether they are purchased or donated. The funds enable us to move quickly on unique opportunities so that historically important items are not lost.

### Digitizing unique and rare materials ..... \$1 million

We need funds to create digital files of our unique collections, both for increased access and for preservation. This work has already begun with rare books, folk music, photos, newspapers, and Civil War documents. Your support will sustain and enhance these digital initiatives, which require new technology and are extremely labor-intensive. We will also continue building the renowned West Virginia History OnView digital photo collection, and integrate it into West Virginia K–12 teaching.

### Naming Opportunities in Wise Library

Naming the Rare Book Room, including an endowment for acquisitions and preservation ..... \$500,000

Naming the Reading Room in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, including an endowment for acquisitions and preservation ..... \$500,000

### Building the WVU Libraries' Future in the Digital Age

The Digital Library Fund will secure the WVU Libraries' future in this fast-changing digital age, which is profoundly changing the world's libraries. We will create new information portals for students, faculty, and scholars as we transform our physical resources into digital ones. We will add sophisticated discovery systems to enable information retrieval across topics and formats worldwide. We will collaborate with other libraries. Your support will enable students and faculty to find the information they need and allow us to pursue digital content and access:

Library web resources and information portals .....	<b>\$200,000</b>
Multi-media projects and media digitization .....	<b>\$100,000</b>
21st century online discovery systems .....	<b>\$500,000</b>

### Library Support for Graduate Teaching and Learning

As WVU graduate enrollment increases, the Libraries will provide distinctive online tutorials, library guides, digital delivery systems, and expert library instruction tailored to advanced students and researchers. In collaboration with faculty, we will enhance an already strong set of services to reflect the ways graduate students learn. Graduate students and researchers need the most current journal literature, which requires additional funding for electronic resources as the pace of and expectations for WVU research increase. This is a tremendous opportunity for the WVU Libraries to expand our vital role in graduate education.

Graduate student library support .....	<b>\$100,000</b>
Electronic journals .....	<b>\$300,000</b>
Designated graduate student learning space .....	<b>\$300,000</b>



# Students Discover the WVU Libraries

Before taking any notes, listening to any lectures, or sitting through any classes, freshman Jesse Bradt went to the Downtown Campus Library.

That's where he and more than 2,000 other incoming freshmen spent part of their Saturday afternoon before classes began. Close to 1,800 students visited the Evansdale Library, and about 600 toured the Health Sciences Library.

The event, *Discover! WVU Libraries*, was part of the 2012 First Year Academy. Its goal was to introduce students to the particular library and the people who will help them with their academic endeavors. Depending on their major, students visited the Downtown Campus Library, the Evansdale Library, or the Health Sciences Library to learn about the services and resources they offer.

"I thought it was cool," said Bradt, a business and economics major from Delaware. "I like how it got everyone involved. It was an interesting way to get you used to how the Library works."

Library employees used games, tours, and brief presentations to make the experience fun, as well as instructive.

Students at the Downtown Campus Library learned about texting a librarian for help and got to try out the service. They also had opportunities to win prizes for answering questions about services and resources the various departments provide.

In the Atrium, there was an exhibit on the history of the WVU Libraries. Upstairs on the sixth floor of the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library, students could visit the West Virginia and Regional History

Collection to browse a Civil War exhibit.

At the Evansdale Library, students learned how to use their smartphones to check the availability of computers and study rooms.

“Everyone was nice. I feel more comfortable coming back.”

At the Health Sciences Library, students got a preview to a new exhibit titled *William Shakespeare and the Four Humors*.

Students also had the chance to meet and have pictures taken with Mountaineer Mascot Jonathan Kimble.

"It was hectic, but it was good to see the services the library offers," said Allison Eckman, an English major from Lancaster, Pa.

She said she now feels more confident about coming back into the Library to work on assignments.

"When you're actually on your own, you have to find your way around. You're not following the crowd around," Eckman said.



The visit paid a quick return for Jessica Hall, a pre-psychology major from Mingo County, who was back in the Library early Monday.

"This morning I had to put money on my Mounty Bounty card, and I would have had no idea where to go if it wasn't for Saturday," Hall said.

She also learned the layout of the Downtown Campus Library and knows where she can go when she needs assistance on a paper or project.

"Everyone was nice," Hall said. "I feel more comfortable coming back."

Along with becoming more astute about the Libraries, students had opportunities to register for prizes. Nine students were winners in a raffle for an iPad, a Kindle Fire, an iPod, and gift cards.



## Course Enhancement Initiative Begins Fourth Year

A record number of West Virginia University faculty will participate in the fourth year of an initiative to enhance courses to help students improve their research skills and become more discerning when searching for and using information.

"From feedback I've received, it is clear that the Course Enhancement Program has helped students to become better researchers and to gain more from the classroom experience," said **Myra N. Lowe**, Interim Dean of Libraries. "I'm pleased with what has been accomplished thus far, and I'm excited that we've been able to increase the number of collaborations to 10 this year."

The Information Literacy Course Enhancement Program, a collaborative endeavor between the Libraries and the Provost's Office, focuses on fulfilling the University's 2020 Plan which calls for "engaging undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in a challenging academic environment." Information literacy is the ability to effectively find, evaluate, and use information.

In previous years, the Libraries had capped the group at six. **Carroll Wilkinson**, WVU Libraries' Director of Instruction and Information Literacy, is eager to build on the past success and is prepared for the increased involvement.

"During the first three years of the program, we learned a great deal about designing and teaching discipline-specific lessons that address critical elements of the research process," Wilkinson said. "I look forward to encouraging collaboration among participants this year and to seeing the student learning results that take place."

Selected from a field of applicants, this year's group includes:

- **David Beach**, assistant professor, associate undergraduate writing coordinator, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- **David Bess**, associate professor of music education, College of Creative Arts
- **Kristen Dieffenbach**, assistant professor, College of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences
- **Mikel Holcomb**, assistant professor of physics, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- **Lauryl Lefebvre**, assistant professor of educational leadership studies, College of Human Resources and Education
- **Afrin Naz**, assistant professor,

computer science, WVU Institute of Technology

- **Donley Studlar**, Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

- **Sven Verlinden**, associate professor of horticulture, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design

- **Lisa Weihman**, associate professor of English, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

- **Mark Wilson**, associate professor of economics, WVU IT

They will work with Wilkinson and their librarian liaisons (**Linda Blake**, **Kelly Diamond**, **Noel Kopriva**, **Barbara LaGodna**, **Bill Rafter**, **Jill Rafter**, **Alyssa Wright**, **Martha Yancey**, and from WVU IT, **Mitch Casto** and **Jewel Rucker**)

to create discipline-specific, active-learning assignments that incorporate information literacy concepts. Faculty will each earn a \$3,000 stipend or, if a 12-month faculty member, other relevant professional remuneration.

Faculty will begin teaching the revised courses during the 2013 academic year and take part in the Information Literacy Showcase during the Libraries' Faculty Assembly program in May 2013.

### Success Stories from 2012

Over the past three years, the initiative has involved more than 1,150 students. At the Information Literacy Showcase in May, participants from the 2012 academic year shared their experiences.

**Corey Colyer**, assistant professor of sociology, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, worked with librarian Alyssa Wright to help students in his criminology class enhance their ability to critically engage with a problem and the information they need to solve the problem.

He encouraged them to examine both the claims people make and the roots of the claims. For example, he pointed to two commonly held beliefs: increasing a police patrol will solve a particular problem and imposing the death penalty will cause crime to go down.



(1) Lisa Weihman, (2) Alyssa Wright, (3) Martha Yancey, (4) Linda Blake, (5) Mikel Holcomb, (6) Carroll Wilkinson, (7) Kelly Diamond, (8) Jewel Rucker, (9) Afrin Naz, (10) Kristen Dieffenbach, (11) Barbara LaGodna, (12) Jill Rafter, (13) David Beach, (14) Donley Studlar, (15) Lauryl Lefebvre, (16) Cyndi Conner Bess, (17) David Bess, (18) Noel Kopriva, (19) Mark Wilson, (20) Sven Verlinden, and (21) Bill Rafter.

"When you're dealing with arguments about crime and justice, a lot of claims get thrown about," Colyer said. "In our political culture, people use information the way a drunk uses a lamppost — for support rather than illumination. They cherry pick bits of information and use it in often inappropriate ways."

**Jay Malarcher**, associate professor of theater, College of Creative Arts, worked with librarian Beth Royall to create an integrated research component in his history of theater course.

In addition to the regular course work, students selected topics to research in depth on their own. Along with gaining new knowledge, they read the course text more closely to discover how their topic fit into theater history.

"Students who learned information literacy in my class can apply those skills to any other class, be that a science class or anthropology," Malarcher said. "That's the goal — lifelong learning."

**Mary Ann Samyn**, associate professor of English, Eberly College, worked with librarian Kelly Diamond to introduce the concepts in English 418, the Capstone in Creative Writing.

Samyn assigned each student three information literacy projects designed to help him or her write a final project, which is a lengthy work of original fiction, creative nonfiction, or poetry. She explained that the assignments helped them find resources to research

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# Libraries Mark Dickens' 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Long before any children attended Hogwarts, visited Narnia or met a vampire, a scrawny nine-year old boy raised his empty bowl and asked for more food.

He had no wand, magic spell, nor lion to protect him. Yet the orphan set fear aside and stood up to authority. That literary moment has inspired millions since Charles Dickens first penned the classic tale *Oliver Twist*, serially published from 1837-1839.

"We all appreciate stories in which the little guy fights against the powers that be. That's a theme with broad appeal," said Kelly Diamond, a librarian at the Downtown Campus Library.

Dickens is receiving some special attention this year as libraries and universities worldwide are celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The WVU Libraries marked the occasion with a group of exhibits in the Downtown Campus Library.

The exhibits focused on his serialized novels and his influence on contemporary culture, and provided a timeline of events happening around the globe during his life (1812-1870).

It might be difficult to imagine reading a serialized work today. Many people stood in long lines to buy the latest *Harry Potter* novel, dashed home, and read it over a weekend. The same happened with fans of the

*Twilight* and *Hunger Games* series.

However, early fans of *Oliver Twist* starved for their next helping. Publishers dished out chapters in 26 monthly installments. *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield* were also published as serials. The Libraries' Rare Book Room houses an original full run of each of these novels.

Serialization kept the author and his work in the public eye for a longer time. Word would spread and interest in the next chapter would grow.

Also, the system provided a platform for advertising. Ads for diet aids, bedding, clothes, and other items appeared inside and on the back cover of the bound installments.

"People have always wanted to make money, and they have always used writers and artists to make money," Diamond said. "It was a good arrangement for Dickens."

Another interesting component of the library exhibits is a timeline chronicling events that occurred during the author's life. Most would

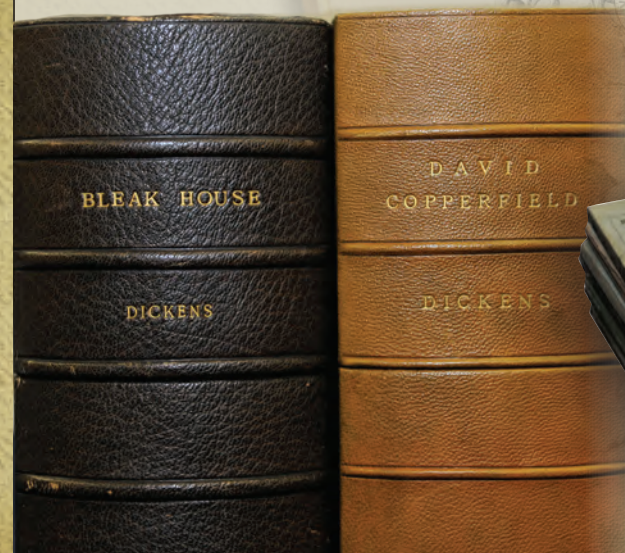
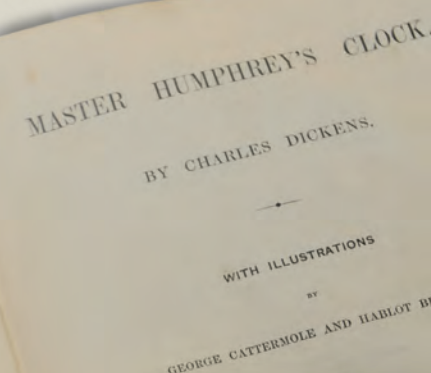
probably be surprised to see Dickens connected to the birth of West Virginia, the establishment of the Cincinnati Reds, and the discovery of Neptune.

"When people think of history, it gets very compartmentalized. We think of Victorian England and we think of the American Civil War, but we don't think of them happening at the same time," Diamond said.

Dickens has even made it to "where no man has gone before." The exhibit section on Dickens' contemporary influence mentions a traveling *A Christmas Carol* play that is delivered in Klingon, an alien race encountered in the *Star Trek* series.

Along with being remade countless times on television and in theaters, *A Christmas Carol* has served as inspiration for holiday episodes of many television shows.

"Dickens' themes resonate still," Diamond said.



## Two Chinese Librarians Visit During Fall Semester

Two Chinese librarians who visited WVU for the fall semester returned home with more than just ideas for enhancing their library in Shanghai. They now have several friends here in West Virginia.

"What surprised me is that people are friendlier than I thought they would be," said Huang Yu, who goes by Henry. "Someone told me that Americans are easygoing, but it's very hard to make friends with them. But I think it's very easy. I get along with them well."

Gong Deyu, who goes by Ben, agreed. "This is the reason I like Morgantown and WVU. People here are very friendly and hospitable," Gong said.

The two also learned volumes about how an academic library is run in the United States.

Hosted by the WVU Libraries, Gong and Huang studied daily operations throughout the WVU Libraries to help create a model for their library at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU). They spent time in departments at the Downtown Campus, Evansdale, and Health Sciences libraries, and the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

One similarity they witnessed again and again was work enthusiasm.

"Everyone, no matter their rank, likes their job very much," Huang said. "They pay attention to every step of the job, and everyone believes their job is important to the library. So I think it is the reason your library is most popular by the students."

Gong said the employees' positive attitudes came through as they explained their work.

"The librarians and staff are so caring. They told me a lot of things, and they were very helpful to us," he said.

Their three-month stay also allowed time to explore campus, the region, and other parts of the United States.

Morgantown was a nice change from Shanghai, bustling with 23 million people. They liked being surrounded by mountains and enjoyed trips to Cheat Lake and Coopers Rock.

"Shanghai is a modern city," Huang said. "You can't see the mountains and trees. You just see skyscrapers and people."

Gong added: "The air is better here. It's very fresh."

As with most guests who travel to Morgantown in the fall, they learned

to cheer for the Mountaineers. They attended the football game versus Kansas State, the basketball game against VMI, and multiple soccer games. They especially enjoyed game day atmosphere around the stadium.

"Football is so popular here. People are very crazy," Huang said. "Everyone, including young child and old people, they all shouted."

A trip to the United States to learn about libraries would be incomplete without a stop at the Library of Congress. The Libraries and the College of Business

and Economics arranged a visit to the library where they received a special behind-the-scenes tour of the impressive facility. A highpoint was seeing the first map of America.

"It was amazing," Gong said.

On their own, they took excursions to Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and the Grand Canyon. Huang liked San Francisco and said the hills made him think of Morgantown.

As for American food, one of their first meals in Morgantown was at Texas Roadhouse, which provided a new experience. In their homeland, steak is more expensive and reserved for formal restaurants. But they did enjoy their steaks, and the music and line dancing that accompanied their meal.

"In China, the steak house is very quiet, but here it's very noisy and excited," Huang said.

They also developed a taste for chicken nuggets, pizza, French fries and burgers. Although those foods are available in Shanghai, they say there's a difference.

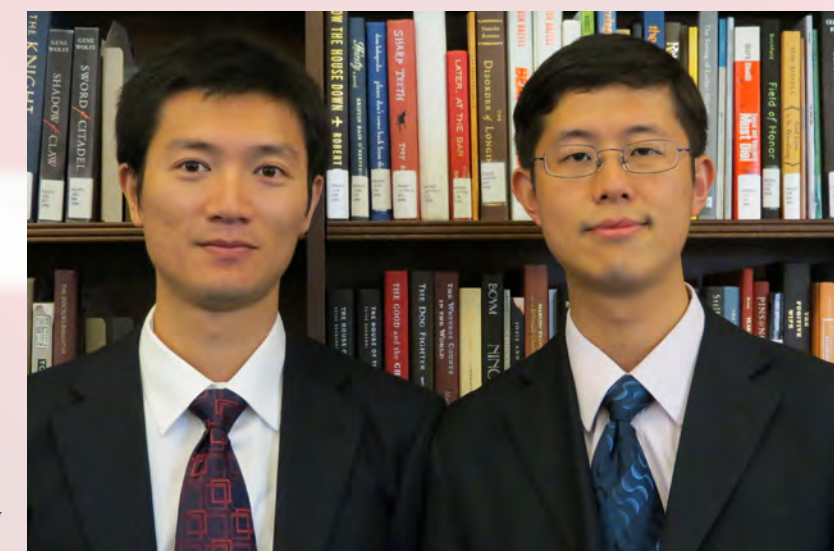
"Here it's traditional. American food in China is Chinese-style American food," Gong said.

Huang added that the servings back home are "very small. Here they're bigger."

With everything they saw during their stay, they said what they will remember the most is the people.

"I will remember everyone who gave us help," Gong said.

Gong and Huang's visit was part of an exchange agreement between WVU and SUFE that began in 1993.



Ben Gong and Henry Huang

Bill Riley, Chair of the Finance Department in the College of Business and Economics and Director of the Center for Chinese Business, was part of the first WVU delegation to visit SUFE. The two schools signed an agreement saying that they would work together focusing on faculty and student exchanges.

Over the years, several faculty from SUFE have visited WVU, including SUFE Vice President Shuhai Cong. Currently, two undergraduate students and one graduate student from SUFE are taking classes at WVU.

Last year, in an attempt to recruit more undergraduate students from China, WVU renewed the agreement and discussed faculty and staff exchanges. Then, while WVU Provost Michele Wheatly was visiting SUFE last summer, SUFE Vice President Zhongfei Zhou asked Wheatly if two librarians could come to Morgantown to learn about the WVU Libraries.

Riley wants this exchange to be the beginning of many. He would also like to see several SUFE students coming to WVU each year. There are already discussions about two librarians from WVU visiting Shanghai next year.

"China is all about relationships or 'guanxi', and we hope to have a long-term relationship with SUFE," Riley said. "This visit is just one more way to cement the relationship."



## Systems Head Logs Off After 20 Years with the WVU Libraries

Most students wouldn't recognize **Dennis Newborn** if they passed him on campus, but he has helped them check out books, find electronic journals, use Library resources remotely, and write papers over the past two decades.

Newborn, who served as Head of Systems for the WVU Libraries for 17 of the last 20 years, retired at the end of June.

"Dennis played a vital role in the Libraries' ability to serve the University community and the public," said Interim Libraries Dean Myra N. Lowe. "There has been tremendous growth in the technical aspect of library services over the past two decades, and Dennis helped the WVU Libraries keep on the forefront."

When Newborn arrived on campus in 1992, a massive card catalog stretched along the walls of the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library's Reference Room. Back then, students would flip through cards packed in long drawers to find a title or author and jot the pertinent information on a scrap sheet of paper.

Today, students click through the online catalog and have the call number sent via text message to their phone. They can use their smartphone to search the Libraries' vast electronic resources. They can find an available computer at the Downtown Campus or Evansdale libraries. They can chat online with a librarian.

"At this point, you can get things on your phone that a few years ago you wouldn't even get access to on a computer," Newborn said. "The users are leading the way, and everything is going mobile."

Newborn began his career on the forefront.

After receiving his bachelors in English at Long Beach State University, Newborn headed to the University of Southern California. At the time, USC was a leader in the field of automated library systems and offered a unique masters degree — a combination of information systems and librarianship.

"I got into automating things from day one," Newborn said.

When he graduated in 1972, Howard University recruited him to automate their acquisitions department. They had a large book budget and were unable to spend all of the money annually.

"We jumped right in and automated



the acquisition department within six months and had their money spent," Newborn said.

The next 15 years at Howard were exciting. Howard was one of the first institutions to buy an IBM Series 1, one of the first small-scale mini-computers. Newborn also led efforts to develop a circulation system, connect their systems to a mainframe, and install hardware and software to run a digital cataloging system called NOTIS.

Ruth Jackson, the former Dean of the WVU Libraries, recruited Newborn to help the Libraries move into the computer era by installing NOTIS.

Once done at Wise, he traveled to get operations moving at other schools, including West Virginia Northern, Fairmont State, Potomac State, and WVU at Parkersburg.

Over the next few years, he and his staff began to focus on automating the circulation and acquisitions departments.

In the meantime, the Libraries were growing. Wise had a handful of computers in the back corner of the Reference Room; but when the new Downtown Campus Library opened in 2002, it offered 180 desktops computers. The number of computers at Evansdale Library also increased.

Students have choices now: Dell PC or Mac? Desktop or laptop? Study rooms are equipped with computers and large monitors for those working on group projects.

When the DCL opened, students appreciated that all study tables had computer drops so they could plug their laptops into the Internet. A few years later, the Libraries installed Wi-Fi.

One of the latest moves has been to mobile devices. The Libraries created a mobile website that enables user to access

many resources via smartphones.

Newborn credits his former staff for keeping the Libraries ahead of the curve.

"Those guys are as sharp as they come," Newborn said. "We've got people with so much experience. I don't think there's a better group in the country, and I've been to a lot

of places. We're extremely fortunate to have those guys down there."

When he moved into phased retirement three years ago, Newborn changed his focus to heading up work on the Libraries' efforts to digitize holdings and make them available to the public. Most of the material has come from the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, and the most popular is WV History OnView: [www.wvhistoryonview.org](http://www.wvhistoryonview.org)

John Cuthbert, Curator of the WVRHC, lauded Newborn for his support and enthusiasm in developing digital projects.

"Dennis immediately grasped the importance of embarking on these ventures," Cuthbert said. "He recognized the uniqueness of the treasures in the WVU Libraries special collections and jumped in with both feet."

WV History OnView began as a test project to digitize 300 historic photographs from the collection. Because of the tremendous reception it received, the Libraries decided to make it a priority and set a goal of digitizing and cataloging 25,000 photographs.

The database now contains more than 40,000 images.

"It seemed staggering at the time," Cuthbert said. "Dennis buying in to the concept that 25,000 wasn't an excessive number and that we could do it was important to bringing that project home."

Other digital projects include agNIC, a project to digitize the West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletins, which date back to 1888, and create a searchable database of full-text bulletins; Guide to Archives and Manuscripts, which is used by researchers worldwide to search the holdings of

the WVRHC; and the Roy Bird Cook Collection, which chronicles the 31st Regiment during the Civil War.

"Content is where it's at now," Newborn. "We're creating a huge amount of content as opposed to just managing a book collection."

William Rafter is the current Head of Systems and also Head of Cataloging. He said he appreciated that Newborn was also a cataloger and that Newborn regularly stressed the importance of metadata (the information that describes an item).

"Without good metadata, you'll never

discover things. Dennis saw you needed to do this up front," Rafter said. "If done well, you can find everything. You have a searchable, valuable database."

Upon his retirement, the University granted Newborn emeritus status for his efforts as Head of Systems and work during phased retirement.

"His record is one of distinction, with notable accomplishments that had a direct positive impact on faculty and student research success and on the management of library resources by staff," the peer review committee wrote in its recommendation letter.

The accolades and the people behind them make retirement bittersweet.

"This place has been absolutely fabulous to me from day one, but there comes a time when you're ready to hang it up, as they say," Newborn said.

He plans to spend time with his family. He and his wife, Kitty, have three children, Carey Newborn, Jennifer Blohm, and Sean Newborn; and six grandchildren.

"Most of what I do is going to be related to my family and grandchildren," Newborn said. "Those are the things I enjoy most."



## Former Media Services Librarian Retires

**Chuck Burkart**, the former Head of Media Services for the Libraries, retired June 30. He has watched the technological landscape around him change since he arrived on campus in 1990



"When I first came here, we were buying 16 mm motion pictures," Burkart said. "You needed a movie projector to show it and someone to thread the film. It wasn't exactly something you could take home and watch on your own."

Videotapes made films obsolete, DVDs then made videotapes obsolete, and most recently, streaming video is pushing aside DVDs. Add to the bin record albums, reel-to-reel tapes, and cassettes.

"There've been more changes in visual education in the last 20 years than the last 5,000 years. The velocity of change keeps accelerating," Burkart said. "You can't keep up with it."

Although he's a self-admitted bibliophile, his interest in media outweighs his love for books. Burkart earned his bachelors in history, masters in instructional system technologies, and masters in library science, all from Indiana University. Before coming to WVU, Burkart worked at Murray State University, Madisonville Community College, and Illinois Wesleyan University.

Burkart looks back on the past two decades at WVU as an enjoyable run.

He liked playing a role in the academic

process and regularly suggested films to faculty to show in class. Steve Zdatny, the former chair of WVU's History Department, appreciated the guidance.

Zdatny showed films in all his classes and often consulted with Burkart on what would be relevant based on a particular historical subject. He said Burkart was knowledgeable on films and world history.

"Chuck Burkart was amazingly good at his job and a terrific asset to me as a teacher," Zdatny said. "I don't know what I would have done without him, and I'm sure that the library, the faculty, and the students of WVU are going to miss his expertise and helpful spirit."

Films have always been Burkart's strong suit. For the last five years, he and librarian Beth Toren had taught a film genre study course.

"I asked Chuck to teach the class with me. He knows so much about film production and criticism, I couldn't have done it without him," Toren said.

The class focused on media literacy and how to become a more informed viewer of film. Students learned criteria to evaluate films and what to look for when deconstructing films. They examined several topics: clichés and stereotypes, vocabulary, different camera shots, and techniques.

"Chuck's knowledge goes beyond film and contributed to being able to put films in the context of history," Toren said.

John Cuthbert, Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, called Burkart's knowledge of films and the history of filmmaking outstanding. He's even asked Burkart to

make a list of the 20 best films so that he could watch them.

Cuthbert was quick to add that Burkart's wealth of knowledge spreads beyond films.

"Chuck is an exceptional person in terms of his intellectual curiosity," Cuthbert said.

"He's a voracious reader. People say that a lot, but they don't know what that means until they're up against Chuck. Chuck reads on every subject. He's incredibly learned in a variety of fields." His fields of interest stretch from human civilizations to anthropology to societies to foreign cultures to religion to military history.

Burkart had a collection of portraits of dictators that he called the "Wall of Shame," but more recently, he has shifted his interest to Japanese art, specifically woodblock prints from the 18-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

"Chuck has the best personal collection in the state, and I don't think that's an exaggeration. He has become an avid collector," Cuthbert said.

Burkart's focus now is clearing out his home, or the "Warehouse," as he refers to it and preparing it to be sold.

"I'm thinking about moving back to Indiana so not to confuse the genealogist. If I'd die here, I'd be the only one in my family not to pass away in that region," Burkart said.

Along with being close to family, he would be able to take advantage of musical programs and other events at Indiana University. He also has plans for travel and wants to focus on his health.



## Former Professor and Wife Make Bequest to Benefit the Libraries

Both **Dr. Franklin Parker** and his wife, **Betty**, have spent countless hours in libraries while serving (on four continents) as teachers, librarians, researchers, professors, writers, and editors.

"At WVU, we not only found what we needed in the libraries, but also found competent, caring professional help and friendly faces at every turn behind the Reference Desk, in Circulation, and in the stacks, where we often encountered the then Library Director, Dr. Robert Munn," Frank said.

Betty agreed, "In those pre-Internet years of 1968-1986, working in libraries was essential. We needed to consult the card catalogue, read book reviews, and check reference sources to keep up to date and do ongoing research. We collected bibliographical data for a number of book-length annotated bibliographies. We regularly wrote articles and book reviews. In short, libraries provided what we needed to be competent in our careers."

Both are now retired and find many activities to interest them. They often begin their days with swimming for fun and exercise.

"We decided many years ago when we wrote our wills to



leave part of our estate to the WVU Foundation to support the WVU libraries and to show our appreciation," said Frank.

"Now that online databases collect information worldwide and put it at one's fingertips, we know the WVU Libraries have many electronic subscriptions. We also know that such resources need to be kept up to date and that budgetary pressures threaten such

investments," said Betty. "For that reason, we have directed that our future gift from our estates will set up a permanent endowed fund to support online databases."

Now residents of Tennessee, the couple recently returned to Morgantown for the first time in 26 years. In October 2012, Frank was inducted into the College of Human Resources and Education's Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments during his 18 years on the faculty as Benedum Professor of Education.

The Parkers' good choice to support the WVU Libraries through their estate plans will help the professors, students, and university community of the future. What a special legacy that is.



West Virginia University's first library was housed in a single room of Martin Hall. The first building dedicated exclusively to library use opened its doors on April 10, 1902, at a cost of \$100,000. The State Legislature provided \$1,000 to furnish the elegant new building, now known as Stewart Hall. Today, the Wise Library, Downtown Campus Library, the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, Evansdale Library, and Health Sciences Library are available for learning year-round.

Amazing progress has occurred since those Martin Hall days, based on the University's commitment to

ensure that students, faculty, staff, and the community have access to needed resources.

Looking to the future, you may consider a personal way to assure that the WVU Libraries can continue to provide the services and resources which their many users need. There are a number of options, including a gift in a will or revocable trust. Using the wording of "to the West Virginia University Foundation for the benefit of the WVU Libraries" in your gift provision will make it happen.

Your attorney can add special wording if you would like your gift to be used for academic journals, technological resources, facility

improvements, collection acquisition and preservation, or discretionary purposes.

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

To learn more, contact Monte Maxwell at (304) 293-0306 or [monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu).

## Athletics and Libraries Renew Touchdown Challenge

The WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the WVU Libraries have again teamed up on the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge, a fundraising campaign to benefit the Libraries.

Last year, Athletics and the Libraries partnered to launch the initiative in which participants pledged a dollar figure per touchdown scored by the Mountaineers during the 2011 season and subsequent Orange Bowl. The 63 touchdowns resulted in numerous donations for the Libraries.

"I'm pleased that our alumni and fans made the initial Touchdown Challenge a success," Athletic Director Oliver Luck said. "As excitement about West Virginia University continues to build during our inaugural Big 12 season, I encourage Mountaineers everywhere to express their enthusiasm by stepping up to support the Libraries through the Touchdown Challenge this season."

The inaugural campaign coincided with Dana Holgorsen's first year as Mountaineer head coach. Holgorsen finds it gratifying that his players' hard work on the field benefited the Libraries. He believes the partnership sends a good message about the importance of academics.

"We all need to remember that those young men executing plays on the field are student-athletes," Holgorsen said. "Just like every student here, our guys have to focus on their classes, study, and earn good grades. Students with busy schedules know the WVU Libraries can help them excel in their academic pursuits."

It was an especially exciting season for Myra N. Lowe, Interim Dean of Libraries. A longtime Mountaineer fan, she felt a personal investment each time a player entered the end zone. She is appreciative of the collaboration and the recognition the Libraries are receiving.

"Oliver Luck understands the importance of a great library and helpful library employees," Lowe said. "He was a record-breaking quarterback, earned first-team Academic All-American honors, led us to a win in the Peach Bowl, and graduated magna cum laude."

The Libraries will use the funds raised through the first Challenge to add digital cameras, editing software, and other equipment to transform a study room in the Downtown Campus Library into a space where students can practice presentations. The decision was based on student comments.

The Libraries will use student feedback to determine where to direct funds raised from the upcoming Touchdown Challenge.



Oliver Luck quarterbacking for WVU 1978-1981

### Enhancement continued from page 11

characters, for instance, or helped them discover publishing venues or information about authors they admire.

"The students reported really positive feelings about the library, about research in general, and about their own writing as influenced by the information literacy projects," Samyn said.

**Jason Langley**, a physical education lecturer at WVU Institute of Technology, teaches a class for students working toward their certification as coaches. The job will require them to know and understand rules dictated by state and national organizations. They will have to be knowledgeable in ethics and physiological issues. They'll also be expected to provide advice that will affect the health of their athletes.

He believes his students left the class better prepared to quickly find the latest available research so that they can respond immediately to issues and situations.

"When someone asks you about a supplement or a performing-enhancing drug that's legal, you have got to get a

response the next day," Langley said.

Also, this past year, the Libraries ventured into new ground by incorporating information literacy into multiple sections of Engineering 101, Engineering Problem Solving I. A team of librarians and engineering faculty collaborated to work with more than 800 students.

**Robin Hensel**, Assistant Dean for Freshman Experience, Statler College, chose that course because it contains a research/writing component and it would allow them to reach a large group of students early in their academic careers.

The first major project for the students in ENGR 101 is a competition in which the students design the lightest possible bridge to span four feet and hold a six-pound truck using only cardboard, glue, and string, and present their work in a technical report. As part of this project, they are required to research different bridge designs, present that work in the background section of the technical report, and explain why they selected the design they chose to meet the

challenge. Aside from learning the parts of a technical report and the mechanics of writing one, Hensel explained that faculty want students to use appropriate resources for research, assess the validity of the information provided, and cite their sources correctly.

The results pleased faculty and students. Faculty said students produced better technical reports than in previous years. They selected and used appropriate sources, and cited sources correctly.

Students said they developed a more focused research style and were able to gather information faster. They also became aware of sources other than a simple Google search.

"Engineers work with cutting edge research in a rapidly changing field. What they learn in school provides only the foundation on which they must build throughout their careers," Hensel said. "We emphasize, early on, the importance of being able to locate, assess, and use information appropriately as they develop their skills as lifelong learners."

## Colleagues Remember Sally Brown

**Sally Brown** was the librarian who could help you find the materials you needed, and she was the friend who would encourage you by leaving a Hershey's chocolate bar on your desk. Friends and colleagues treasure their memories as they remember Brown, who passed away in July 2011.

"Sally always had a smile for everyone – colleagues and library patrons alike," said Susan Arnold, Director of the Health Sciences Library. "She would cheerfully spend hours on difficult or involved reference questions to make sure she got what the patron wanted."

Brown retired in November 2009 with 34 years of service at the Health Sciences Library. She began her career in the acquisitions department in 1975.

After earning her master's in library science, she became a reference assistant. In 2000, she was named head of reference. It was her dream job. In an article written at her retirement, Brown said that she enjoyed working in an academic environment and found it rewarding to help people with complex reference questions.

"Working with physicians and researchers made me read about what they were doing in their fields," Brown said. "It widened my outlook of what went on in this building and in research in general."

Susanne Rasmussen, a library associate, worked with Brown for 16 years and appreciated Brown as a colleague and a friend.

"Sally was a very dedicated and hardworking librarian. She always went the extra mile to help a patron and she was extremely knowledgeable about the library, especially the History of Medicine and government documents," Rasmussen said.

She also recalls long conversations with Brown about books, movies, life, and politics. Brown had a great dry sense of humor and loved a good joke.

"Sally had an open door policy and anyone could go to talk to her about anything. She was always willing to listen and give good advice," Rasmussen said. "She was patient and kind to everyone, and I miss her and so does the world, as it was a better place with her in it."

Thea Browne, a library associate, will always laugh as she remembers Brown

telling the story of spotting actor Pierce Brosnan in a restaurant in Italy.

She'll always smile as she recalls the assistance Sally provided on difficult searches and the candy bars that would appear on her desk on bad days.

"I miss Sally's utmost professionalism, her kindness and generosity," Browne said. "She was a great librarian, but better friend"

Librarian Jean Siebert treasures the books that Brown gave her each year for Christmas. She said Brown enjoyed the challenge of finding Siebert a mystery author she had not yet read.

She also treasures their friendship. "Sally was always cheerful and would patiently and carefully listen to what you had to say," Siebert said. "I really miss my friend and feel sad that she did not get more years to enjoy retirement."

## Gordon Ernest Remembered for Work Ethic and Dry Humor

**Gordon Ernst** had a way of telling a story or interjecting a comment to cause a room to erupt with chuckles and smiles.

"Gordon was funny," Librarian Linda Blake said. "We would be talking about something, and he would chirp up with a dry remark. He always kept us amused."

Mary Strife, the Director of the Evansdale Library, agreed. She still smiles when she remembers the stories and one-liners that Gordon would often spout to lighten up meetings.

"We saw the hidden wit and brilliance that helped him be the superb cataloguer that he was," Strife said.

Ernst was the authorities librarian for the WVU Libraries since 1997. He passed away in May at the age of 52.

An authorities librarian is a behind-the-scenes person who helps searches in a library's catalog run smoothly and successfully. He makes sure that the catalog information attached to every item makes it easy to find.

For example, each author has one unique entry in the catalog. All of his or her works would be attached to that form of the name.

"Gordon was an excellent authorities librarian because he had an extreme eye for detail and that's what you want in an authorities librarian," said Bill Rafter, Head of Cataloging.

In recent years, Ernst focused on creating catalog listings for the Libraries' West Virginia History OnView database and the electronic theses and dissertations collection.

Libraries across the state also benefited from Ernst's expertise. He regularly spoke at West Virginia Library Association conferences. Blake said the presentations were always well received because they were educational and filled a need.

Friends were familiar with Ernst's life outside of the Library. He talked often about his interest in Robert Benchley, an American humorist, critic, and actor.

Not just a mere fan, Ernst wrote a book, Robert Benchley: An Annotated Bibliography, which has been called the definitive comprehensive bibliography on the humorist and the only detailed volume about Benchley's writing and performing career.

"Gordon was a fountain of knowledge about classic films of the 1930s and 1940s," Kevin Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick met Ernst in Manhattan several years ago when the Robert Benchley Society and the Dorothy Parker Society had their first joint gathering at a former speakeasy. He shared his memories in a posting on the Robert Benchley Society's website.

"Gordon had a dry sense of humor and an incredibly warm personality. (He) was matching jokes with us, as well as soaking up the atmosphere of being surrounded by friends who had the same passions as he did," Fitzpatrick wrote. "Gordon resided in West Virginia, and he lived for making the trips to Boston and New York City for parties with the Benchley friends."

## Former Librarian Phoebe Schubert Remembered

Colleagues of **Phoebe Schubert** remember the former librarian more as a close friend or family member than just a co-worker.

"Phoebe wasn't just somebody you worked with, she was somebody who cared about you and who you grew to care about too," said Kim Stamm, a library associate at the Evansdale Library. "She treated everybody with great respect."

Schubert passed away in October 2011, at the age of 90. She worked as

a librarian at West Virginia University from 1966-1983, first at the Agriculture and Engineering Library in the Engineering Building and then at the Evansdale Library.

Stamm was a transplant to West Virginia when they met in 1979, and Schubert helped her feel at home.

"Phoebe would always take the time to talk with you," Stamm said. "If she asked you a question, she wanted to know how you were doing."

Schubert's memory will live on through baby quilts Stamm received at the birth of her two children.

Unbeknownst to Stamm, Schubert spearheaded a baby quilt project when Stamm was pregnant with her first child. Schubert bought material and helped each staff member learn how to design their own quilt square. The group then gathered at Schubert's home to assemble the squares and sew the quilt.

"She could have made me a quilt herself, but she shared it with everybody," Stamm said. "I thought that was really special."

Librarian Jo. Brown considers the quilt made for his daughter, Emily, a treasured heirloom. He warmly recalls his first encounter with Schubert in the fall of 1981 when he and his wife visited Morgantown to interview for a job as a reference librarian at the Evansdale Library.

"Phoebe couldn't have been nicer," Brown said. "She was a gracious host and made us feel comfortable."

Thirty years later, that warmth still brightened every encounter.

"Anytime I saw her, I got a big hug and she asked how Emily and Ben were doing," Jo. said.

Before library associate David Bell worked with Schubert, he knew her as his friend Rudy's mother. He learned then how much Schubert valued people by the way she treated her children's friends.

"She was a gem," Bell said. "She was a wonderful lady."

At the Library, Bell saw Schubert express that same kindness to all of the students and professors who approached the reference desk. He learned that she was the "go-to person." Faculty needing assistance would often ask for her.

"Phoebe was always willing to take the time to help students and faculty," Bell said. "For her, nothing was more important than helping them find the

information that they needed."

Schubert, a native of Ryan in Roane County, earned two degrees from WVU: her bachelor of science in home economics, 1947, and a master in library science, 1967. She and her husband, Oscar, were involved in the founding of the WVU Chapters of Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Kappa Phi. Oscar, who passed away two months after his wife, also had a long career at WVU. He taught horticulture at WVU from 1949 until retiring in 1989.

## Larry Sypolt: Top Notch Historian and Friend

Friends and colleagues remember **Larry Sypolt** for his expertise in the field of history and the thoughtfulness he extended to others.

"Larry was an exceptional person, the most knowledgeable person in the state in the particular areas in which he specialized as a historian. But even more than that, I will always remember his easy-going, friendly demeanor and kindness," said John Cuthbert, Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection where Sypolt worked intermittently for over thirty years.

A distinguished historian who wore several hats at West Virginia University, Sypolt passed away in January 2012 at the age of 62.

During his extensive career, Sypolt used his knowledge and talents as an archivist and historian in WVU's Public History and Cultural Resource Management program, and the Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology (IHTIA), in addition to the WVU Libraries' WVRHC.

He spent two stints at the WVRHC.

During the first, he assisted Harold M. Forbes, Associate Curator, on the West Virginia Newspaper Project, which involved traveling the state to retrieve old newspapers, microfilm the pages, and return them to their owners.

"Larry and I made a lot of trips together," Forbes said.

The two actually met a few years earlier when Sypolt began visiting the WVRHC as a graduate student in the University's public history program.

When the newspaper project was over, the West Virginia Collection hired Sypolt full time in the microfilm unit.

A few years later, he joined the IHTIA as their project archivist. Soon after, he began teaching in History Department.

In 2005, Sypolt returned to the WVRHC one day a week to assist Associate Curator Michael Ridderbusch in processing manuscript collections.

"Although Larry's specialty was Civilian Conservation Corps history, he had a wide-ranging interest in topics related to West Virginia history that proved invaluable in his work here," Ridderbusch said. "What was outstanding about Larry was the versatility and unflagging curiosity of his intellect, a quality that sustained his engagement with a variety of historical projects, and made him a valued colleague."

Sypolt learned about the Civilian Conservation Corps while working on a master's thesis about the CCC camp at Fort Necessity. He later expanded his research to cover camps throughout West Virginia. He made an enduring contribution to his field of study by publishing a 228-page bibliography on CCC studies in 2005.

"Larry was one of the nation's leading experts on the CCC," Forbes said.

His other areas of interest and expertise included military history and related memorabilia. He would regularly go to flea markets and antique shows to search for hidden treasure.

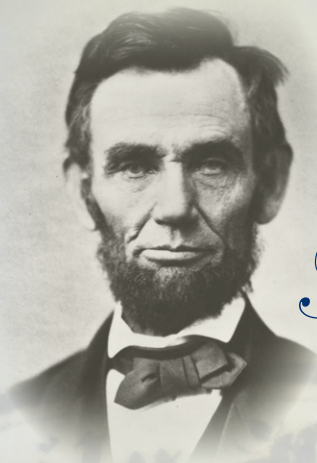
"Larry knew what he was looking for. Even if the seller didn't recognize what it was, he did. Part of that was because of his great memory," Forbes said.

He also enjoyed finding things for others. He filed away in his memory the hobbies and likes of his family and friends.

"Larry would find something that he knew other people were interested in and buy it and give it to them," Forbes said. "He uncovered a number of things for me."

Collectables aside, people were drawn to Sypolt. Some credit the enthusiasm and optimism that flowed when he talked. Some say it was the sincerity that was evident when he asked how someone was doing.

"Larry was universally loved because he was such a pleasure to encounter. He was always positive and in a good mood. It was uplifting just to be around him," Cuthbert said. "I will miss him greatly for a long time to come."



## Mark Your Calendar

Big things are in the works surrounding the sesquicentennial of West Virginia's founding.

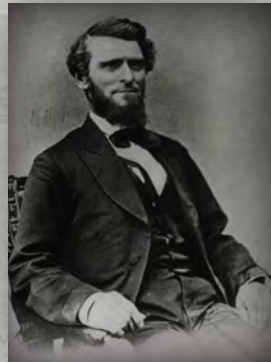
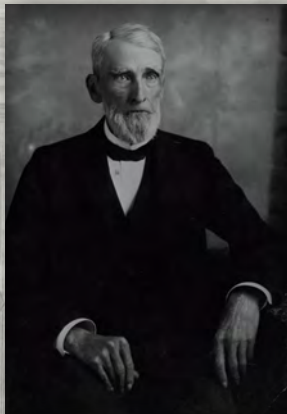
The WVU Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Collection are planning multiple events in observation of West Virginia's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 20, 2013.

One of the highlights will be a traveling exhibit titled "[Lincoln: The Constitution, and the Civil War](#)" on display in the Erickson Alumni Center's Nutting Gallery from **June 12-July 26, 2013**.

The 1,000-square-foot exhibition examines the political and constitutional challenges Lincoln faced during the Civil War — the secession of Southern states, slavery, and the suspension of wartime civil liberties.

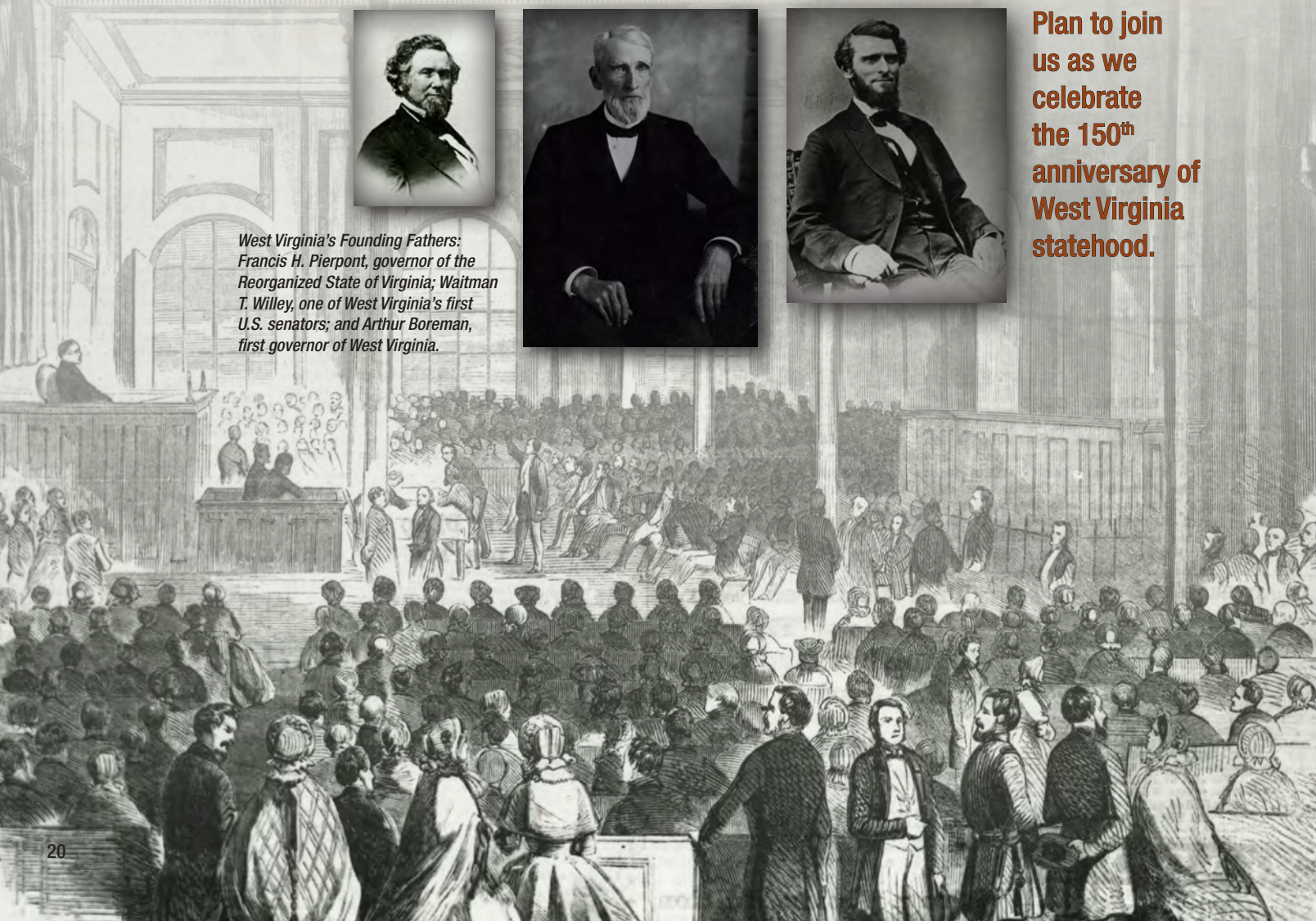
The American Library Association selected WVU as one of a handful of sites to host the exhibit, which is a joint venture of the American Library Association and the National Constitution Center and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Festivities are also planned on the downtown campus. West Virginia and Regional History Collection Curator John Cuthbert is assembling an exhibit on the history of West Virginia's statehood drawn from the holdings of the WVRHC for the Davis Family Galleries in the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library. Tentative plans call for activities to begin the morning of **June 20, 2013**, with a speakers forum in the Milano Reading Room followed by the exhibit opening at noon the WVRHC.



*West Virginia's Founding Fathers: Francis H. Pierpont, governor of the Reorganized State of Virginia; Waitman T. Willey, one of West Virginia's first U.S. senators; and Arthur Boreman, first governor of West Virginia.*

Plan to join us as we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of West Virginia statehood.



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