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
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A librarian assists a student in her research efforts.

An NEH grant will enhance access to newspaper archives.

The Libraries mark Charles Dickens’ 200th birthday.
Downtown Campus Library Marks 10th 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 134,000 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.”

Karrin 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.

The shift from Wise into the new Library is a testament to how important it is. They come in droves.

The shift also brought change for the reference librarians. Although they loved 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.”

To make the new Library a monument to changing times, the Downtown Campus Library got a refresh in 2007.

“The Exam Room, a student-led initiative at WVU, is especially helpful when he’s planning for a test, or working on a project,” Kessinger said.

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 a lot more interactive than directing someone to a floor to find a book.”

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

In 2003, the Libraries extended hours to 2 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, in response to requests for increased library access.

In 2005, 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 1952. 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 and the Center for Academic Success. Tutoring services grew in popularity every semester, and we are very pleased to host one of the centers,” Pugh said.

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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 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 the 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. That’s part of why I chose to do the project, because I knew there was such a wealth of resources,” said Cioffi.

Hamrick grew up with her father, Bill Hamrick, in Weston and with her mother, Jared Jones, Miriah Hamrick, and Abigail Cioffi are the 2012 recipients of the Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award.

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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 $66,000 grant from the 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 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 Agura, Senior Program Officer, Division of Preservation and Access, NEH.

Agura is referring to the United States Newspaper Project, in which the WVRHC participated about 25 years ago. In primary goal was to seek out and preserve newspapers 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.

“The pace of progress is being made,” she said. The Collection has narrowed its focus 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.

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we believe no other academic library 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 15th-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.

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
- Multi-media projects and media digitization
- 21st century online discovery systems

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
- Electronic journals
- Designated graduate student learning space

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.

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

$1 million
$300,000
$100,000
$200,000
$100,000
$500,000
$300,000
A record number of West Virginia University faculty will participate in the fourth year of an initiative to enhance courses and 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 proud 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
- David Beach, assistant professor, College of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences
- Mikel Holcomb, assistant professor of physics, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- LaRoy Lafave, associate professor of educational leadership, 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 Weilman, 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 Kopiriva, Barbara LaGardina, Bill Rafter, Afrin Naz, 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 $5,000 stipend or, if a 12-month faculty member, other relevant professional remuneration.

Faculty will begin teaching the revised courses during the 2015 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.

“When you’re dealing with arguments about crime and justice, a lot of claims get thrown around,” Colyer said. “In our political culture, people use information the way a drunk uses a lampost—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 Rody 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 414, 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...
Two Chinese Librarians Visit During Fall Semester

Two Chinese librarians who visited WVU for the fall semester returned home 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 extravagant, but it’s very hard to make friends with them. But I think it’s very easy. I get along with them well."

"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 (SUFE). They spent time in departments at the Downtown Campus, Evansdale, and Health Sciences libraries, and also consulted with the Regional History Collection.

One similarity they witnessed again and again was work enthusiasm. "People, no matter their age, 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."

"From the employees’ positive attitude comes 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, busting 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 floor 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 hilly landscape made him think of Shanghai.

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 exciting," 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.
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 serves as 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 Mary Burkart.

“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 WVU at Parkersburg, W.Va., Buffalo, W.Va., and WVU Libraries downtown campus. “Library patrons in those days 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 database and the information sent via text message to their phone. They can use their smartphone to search the Libraries’ vast electronic resources. 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 front lines.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in English at Long Beach State University, Newborn headed to the University of Southern California for a master’s degree. At the time, USC was a leader in the field of automated library systems and offered a unique masters degree program in library science and 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 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 minicomputers. 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 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 users to access many resources via smartphones.

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

“Without good metadata, you’ll never discover things. Dennis saw you needed to do this up front”, Rafier said. “If done well, you can find everything. You have a searchable, valuable database.”

Upon his retirement, the University granted 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 his recommendation letter.

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, I was buying 16 mm motion pictures,” Burkart said. “You needed a movie projector to show it. Someone had 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. That all has to do with the computer.”

The database now contains more than 40,000 images.

“It seemed staggering at the time,” Burkart said. “Dennis was looking 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; and the WV History OnView.

When Newborn arrived on campus in 1992, as sharp as they were, those guys were 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 Collections. The most popular is WV History OnView: www.wvhistoryonview.org.

John Cuthbert, Curator of the WVRC; lauded Newborn for his technical aspect of library services and the way he led the Libraries.”

Chuck Burkart was outstanding. He’s even asked Burkart to make a list of the 20 best films so that he could watch them.

Burkart’s focus now is clearing out his family. He and his wife, Kitty, have three children, Carey Newborn, Jennifer Blom, and Sean Newborn; and six grandchildren.

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

The Parkers’ good choice to support the WVU Libraries and university community of the future. What a special legacy it is.

Investments, in fact, 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 performance-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 Student Services at 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 must design a 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 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.

“Faculty works 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.”
In Memoriam

always laugh as she remembers Brown. "It was a better place with her in it."

and politics. Brown had a great dry sense of humor and loved a good joke.

about books, movies, life, and government documents," a librarian at the Evansdale Library.

"She was a great librarian, but better friend!"

She always went more to help students and faculty," the WVU Libraries.

For example, each author has one item makes it easy to find.

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

"She was a gracious host and patient," Brown said. "She was a gracious host and patient."

"Sally had an open door policy and anyone could go to talk about anything. She was always willing to listen and give advice," Rasmussen said.

When Brown passed away two months after his wife, Forbes said. "What was Larry's specialty was Civilian Conservation Corps history, publishing a 228-page bibliography on the CC camp."

Sypolt "was one of the nation's leading experts on West Virginia's history."

"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. "Sypolt showed the importance of his intellect, a quality that sustained his engagement with a variety of historical projects, and made him a valued colleague."

Sypolt's other areas of interest and expertise included military history and related memorabilia. He would regularly speak to you," Stamm said. "If she asked you a question, she wanted to know how you were doing."

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 in his history."

"Larry was one of the nation's leading experts on West Virginia's history."
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 150th 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 150th anniversary of West Virginia statehood.
A great university requires a great library, and private giving is essential to a great library.

The WVU Libraries count on friends who understand that the Libraries are central to the University’s mission.

Friends of the WVU Libraries will receive *Ex Libris*, our magazine, and invitations to special events and receptions at the Libraries. Upcoming events include white glove tours of our Rare Book Room and of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

You can become a Friend with an annual gift of $50. All individuals who establish an endowment or make a planned gift become lifetime members of the Friends. If you have already created an endowment or a bequest, you’re already on our list.

If you would like to make a gift and join the Friends of the WVU Libraries, complete and submit the form below or make a gift today by visiting our online giving page.

www.libraries.wvu.edu/about/friends

For more information about the Friends of the WVU Libraries, contact Monte Maxwell, development representative, at (304) 293-0306 or monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu