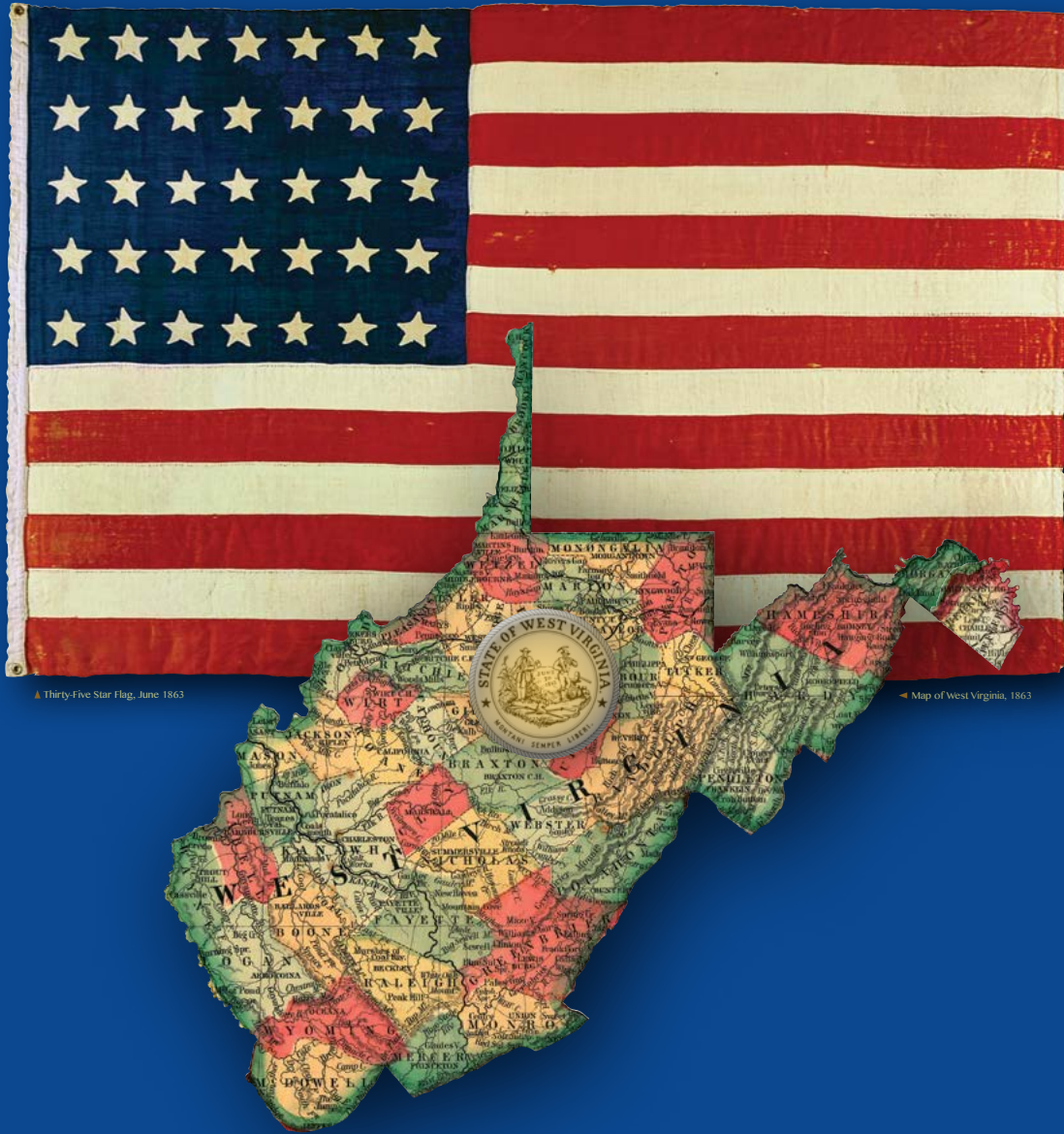


Fall 2013

Ex Libris

THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



WEST VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL

1863 – 2013

West Virginia & Regional History Center ★ West Virginia University Libraries



Dear Friends,

As you'll see in this edition of our news magazine, the WVU Libraries have had many reasons to celebrate in recent months. The most important occasion was our state's 150th birthday. The events the Libraries sponsored allowed us to learn more about the very special circumstances surrounding the creation of our state. I hope you'll enjoy reading about our speakers, unique exhibits, and a very special visitor who joined us on June 20th.

Another reason to celebrate was the launching of the first digital issues of West Virginia historical newspapers which was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Please see the article for information about accessing these newspapers. You'll also learn that the Libraries have received a second grant to digitize additional newspapers for this project — another wonderful reason to celebrate!

This semester the Libraries are also proud of a very successful renovation of our Evansdale Library. As you'll see in the pictures accompanying an article about the changes which were made this summer, the top floor of that library has been transformed. We're grateful that the University chose to improve the library and provide WVU students with space designed to meet their needs. Our new study rooms and quiet space are becoming very popular. That library has had more than 4,000 additional visits each month since the semester began — wonderful evidence that the new space is providing the right kind of environment for today's students.

Memories about special alumni, an important gift, a local poet's donation of works, a collection and services to aid non-profit organizations, a special trip to China, and the authoring of a beautiful new book about a West Virginia artist are also noted in articles in this issue. I hope you'll enjoy reading about all of these developments, and that you'll share our gratitude for these gifts and accomplishments.

Myra N. Lowe
Interim Dean

Fall 2013

Ex Libris

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On the cover:

The image on the cover was used on the West Virginia and Regional History Center's West Virginia Day poster. It includes a hand-stitched 35-star flag sewn in Shepherdstown within two weeks of West Virginia statehood and a county map of West Virginia drawn and engraved by William H. Gamble and Samuel Augustus Mitchell in 1863. The posters are available for sale.



WVU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution. The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing, and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities.

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WVU Libraries Host *Sesquicentennial Celebration*

Anniversaries are always special, but the sesquicentennial — 150 years — is a momentous milestone that calls for more than just a cake.

*T*he West Virginia University Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center organized multiple events to create a fitting celebration for West Virginia's 150th birthday on June 20, 2013.

Festivities featured a speakers' forum, an exhibit of historical artifacts and documents, a traveling exhibit on President Abraham Lincoln, a Lincoln impersonator well-versed on the 16th president, a commemorative West Virginia Day poster, and a birthday cake.

"We are honored that hundreds of people chose to celebrate West Virginia's 150th birthday with us," WVU Libraries Interim Dean Myra N. Lowe said. "We pulled out all stops to provide the community with a special West Virginia Day celebration."



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WES



The day began in Wise Library's Milano Reading Room with three speakers: Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, **Dr. John E. Stealey, III**, Shepherd University; Assistant Professor of History, **Dr. Matthew Foulds**, Shepherd University; and the John W. Fisher, II, Professor of Law, **Robert Bastress**, the WVU College of Law.

A noted scholar in the areas of American economic and legal history, **Stealey** recently published his fourth book, *West Virginia's Civil War Era Constitution: Loyal Revolution, Confederate Counter-Revolution, and the Convention of 1872*.

He focused his talk on slavery, which he called one of the most misunderstood issues of the Civil War, and its role in West Virginia's statehood movement.

"There were those in western Virginia who were morally opposed to slavery, but the primary opposition arose from how eastern Virginia used the institution to thwart constitutional reform, or what we might term democratic impulses from 1810 to 1860," Stealey said.

In 1860, Virginia had 470,399 slaves. The area that became West Virginia contained 18,371 slaves or about 4 percent of Virginia's total. Seven counties — Berkeley, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Kanawha, and Monroe — held nearly 70 percent of the thirty-fifth state's total. All but Kanawha are located along the state's eastern border.

Virginia lawmakers did everything they could to protect their slave institution at the expense of those west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. What frustrated western Virginians the most were a rigged legislative apportionment system and a discriminating tax system that favored slave holders.

First, eastern Virginia received a disproportionate number of representatives in the General Assembly because of unequal apportionment and in the U.S. Congress because they were able to count slaves in their population totals. Western Virginians had a weaker voice in Richmond and Washington, D.C.

Then, in 1851, plantation operators and other slave owners received a huge tax break when the state put a \$300 cap on the assessed value of each slave for tax purposes and eliminated the tax on slaves younger than 12. Western Virginians viewed the tax break as unfair for two reasons: because of the demand for slave laborers, the market value often exceeded the cap; and farmers and other property owners paid taxes in proportion to all their real and personal property's value.

"It's difficult to say this, but it was not the plight of the slave as a human being that primarily bothered western Virginians, but it was how eastern Virginia used the institution of slavery against them economically and politically," Stealey said.

He then discussed the role of the Rev. Gordon Battelle and others in West Virginia's first constitutional convention in attempting to address the slave issue. For various political and personal reasons, the convention basically gagged proponents of emancipation. In response, Battelle appealed publicly with a well-reasoned pamphlet addressed to the convention and national figures to confront the issue of emancipation of slaves in West Virginia.

Stealey traced the evolution of the Willey/Brown/Lane Amendment to

the West Virginia Statehood Bill and the West Virginia Constitution that freed children of slave mothers born on and after 4 July 1863 and provided for gradual emancipation of others beginning in 1867. Slaves over 21 years of age on July 4, 1863, would remain slaves. Later, on February 3, 1865, when the West Virginia Legislature ratified the Thirteenth Amendment, being the second state to do so, it simultaneously and immediately freed all Mountain State slaves by statute.

Foulds has concentrated his studies on the intersection of religion and politics in the antebellum and Civil War-era border states. His upcoming book, tentatively titled *Enemies of the State*, examines how Methodist ministers used their influence to become grassroots political leaders during the secession crisis and the formation of West Virginia.

At the podium, he joked about breaking two rules for polite conversation by talking about religion and politics at the same time.

"Religious leaders are a crucial factor in the American Revolution, a crucial factor in the Progressive Era, a crucial factor in the Civil Rights Movement, and I argue in my work that they were a crucial factor in the formation of the state of West Virginia," Foulds said.

He told the audience that members of the Methodist Episcopal Church were able to play a major role in state politics because of the vast network they established over the 20 years before the Civil War.

The Methodist Church's system of circuit riding was perfectly suited to West Virginia's mountainous terrain. Ministers traveled on horseback from community to community, house to house, and became personally acquainted with as many people as they could. As a result, by 1860, two-thirds of those living in western Virginia were members of the Methodist Church.

"At the same time as they were preaching the gospel, they were bringing



Dr. John E. Stealey, III

politics as well,” Foulds said.

Ministers spoke out about issues important to their flocks, like public schools and equal representation in the legislature, and they distributed the *Pittsburgh Christian Advocate*, a religious publication that promoted pro-Union and abolitionist views.

Rev. Battelle was among several ministers who developed close ties with the state’s founding fathers. Back in school, Battelle roomed with Francis Pierpont, the future governor of the Reorganized State of Virginia, and the two remained close friends.

In a letter, Battelle posed to Pierpont: “Was there ever ... a juster cause, a



Dr. Matthew Foulds

better opportunity for any people to act for their state independence, than the people of the West now have put into their hands by Eastern disunionists? Now is the time for a new separate state of West Va.”

Similarly, the Rev. Wesley Smith rallied western men to take a stand.

“The Methodists and their friends have the numerical strength to control any election in northwestern Virginia,” Smith said.

Although Battelle passed away before West Virginia became the thirty-fifth state, he secured his reputation as an advocate for its citizens and the statehood movement.

The *Wheeling Intelligencer* praised Battelle in his obituary: “His influence was essential in preserving Western Virginia from the whirlpool of secession.”

Bastress, whose areas of expertise are constitutional and local government law, is the author of *The West Virginia Constitution: A Reference Guide*. He walked the audience through the events and circumstances that led to West Virginia’s first two constitutions.

“There were persistent political and constitutional conflicts between the west and the east,” Bastress said. “These conflicts are important in West Virginia history and in the formation of our state government and our constitutions because they became the defining features of both of our constitutions, 1863 and 1870.”

He took the audience back to Virginia’s first constitution in 1776. From the beginning, westerners’ biggest objections were a property ownership requirement to vote, the lack of a popular vote for state executive and judicial officers, and unequal representation in the legislature.

“The west complained loudly and often,” Bastress said.

A revised constitution in 1851 brought some reform. The new document dropped the property requirement for voting, established popular elections of governor and other state officers, and gave the eastern and the western parts of Virginia roughly equal apportionment in the House.

But the west had to make concessions: a tax break for slave owners. There would be no taxes on slaves younger than 12 and a \$300 cap on the value of each slave for tax purposes.

Despite some improvements, there were other ongoing points of contention. Richmond was accumulating massive debt building roads, bridges, and canals in the east, while ignoring needs in the west. And Virginia had no public school system.

“From fairly early on in the nineteenth century, westerners had been advocating for public schools,” Bastress said. “But the wealthy and the powerful interests in the east could afford to educate their own and had no interest in paying to educate others’ children.”

However, change was on the horizon,

and things began to move swiftly with the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860. Within six weeks, South Carolina seceded, and other southern states quickly followed.

As Virginia debated secession, leaders in the west discussed whether to follow or stay loyal to the Union. Following Virginia’s vote to secede, representatives at the Second Wheeling Convention voted to form the Reorganized State of Virginia and elected Francis Pierpont as its governor.

Work then began on crafting a constitution that addressed the long-held major conflicts. West Virginia’s founding



Robert Bastress

fathers gave all white males the right to vote, established public schools, required elections for all state offices, and decided that all property be taxed in proportion to its value.

The 1863 Constitution lasted only nine years because, Bastress explained, a large number of ex-Confederates and Confederate sympathizers found the state to be hostile to them. When the southern-dominated Democrats took over in 1871, they acted quickly to get rid of that “Yankee document,” Bastress said.

Ultimately, despite the rhetoric thrown around by the Democrats, the only change they made involved county governance.

“It ends up being a constitution that was relatively progressive for its time. It had all the reforms of 1861 except one, which should give us all reason to celebrate,” Bastress said.





West Virginia Day Exhibit

The exhibit in the West Virginia and Regional History Center, which officially opened on June 20, takes a broad look at the state's creation, examining the differences between eastern and western Virginia.

"The notion that Virginia west of the Allegheny Mountains was fundamentally different from the eastern part of Virginia goes way back," WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. "In Colonial times, at one point, there was consideration of lopping off the western part and making a separate colony out of it. It would have been our 14th colony."

Economics represented a key difference and is an exhibit focus. On display are business ledgers from western Virginia detailing frontier economic concerns. Visitors can also view documents focusing on the Richmond government's lack of interest in spending money to improve roads and education for their western citizens.

Other highlights include:

- * A collection of early maps, a land-grant document signed by Benjamin Franklin, and a compass used to survey the Deakins Line.

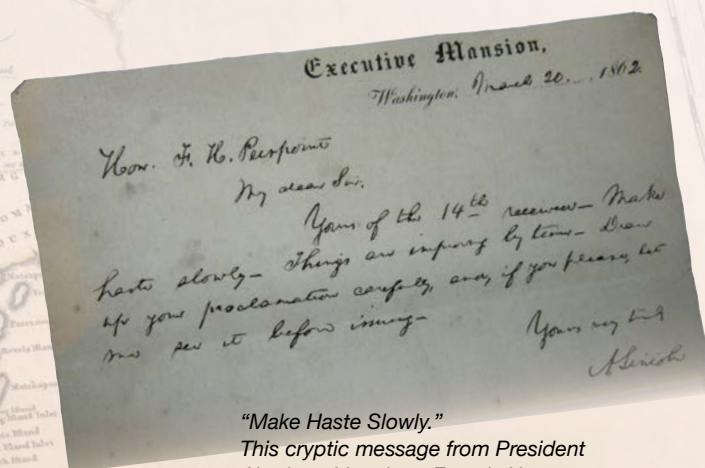
- * A sketchbook by Joseph H. Diss Debar, an artist and the creator of West Virginia's State Seal, with drawings related to statehood.

- * Documents and artifacts relating to West Virginia's three founding fathers, Senator Waitman T. Willey, Governor of the Reorganized Government of Virginia Francis H. Pierpont, and Governor Arthur Boreman.

- * A new acquisition — a large 35-star flag, bigger than the flag currently on display in the Center, was unveiled on West Virginia Day.



One of several sketches by Joseph H. Diss Debar; this drawing is titled "Members of the W. Va. Legislature receiving doubtful news pending the Battle of Gettysburg, 3d July 1863."



"Make Haste Slowly."

This cryptic message from President Abraham Lincoln to Francis H. Pierpont encourages Virginia's Union governor to proceed with both speed and attentiveness in organizing the Reorganized Government of Virginia.



the most INHABITED PART OF
VIRGINIA
containing the whole PROVINCE of
MARYLAND
with Part of
PENSILVANIA, NEW JERSEY and NORTH CAROLINA
as given by
Joshua Fry & Peter Jefferson
in 1771



This unique exhibit will remain on display through spring 2014 and can be browsed during WVRHC's operating hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Benjamin Franklin signed this land-grant document for a tract of land in what was consider by the State of Virginia to be Monongalia County.



This sketch from Harper's Weekly depicts the Second Wheeling Convention, during which delegates formed the Restored Government of Virginia.



The WVRHC unveiled this recently restored portrait of Waitman T. Willey. The portrait was hanging in the Willey home when Confederate raiders descended upon Morgantown in April 1863. Family legend holds that the portrait was slashed by Confederate bayonets when rebels entered Willey's house to arrest him but found him absent.



This 35-star flag is one of the WVRHC's latest acquisitions.



Exhibit Explores

Lincoln's Constitutional Challenges during Civil War

*L*incoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, a traveling exhibition on display at the Erickson Alumni Center this past summer, examined how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War — the secession of Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties.

The exhibit was presented in conjunction with the WVU Libraries' West Virginia Day celebration.

"Abraham Lincoln was president during a tumultuous time in our country's history," WVU Libraries Interim Dean Myra N. Lowe said. "This exhibit provides an opportunity to learn more about the complex issues Lincoln grappled with while fighting to preserve the Union."

Historians debate Lincoln's handling of these issues and therefore his place among America's greatest presidents. While some hail him as a principled leader justly celebrated as the Great Emancipator, others paint him as a calculating politician willing to accommodate slavery.

Elected president at a time when the nation was on the brink of war, Lincoln faced hard constitutional questions that divided Americans: Was the United States truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of sovereign and separate states? How could a country founded on the belief that "all men are created equal" tolerate slavery? In a national crisis, would civil liberties be secure?

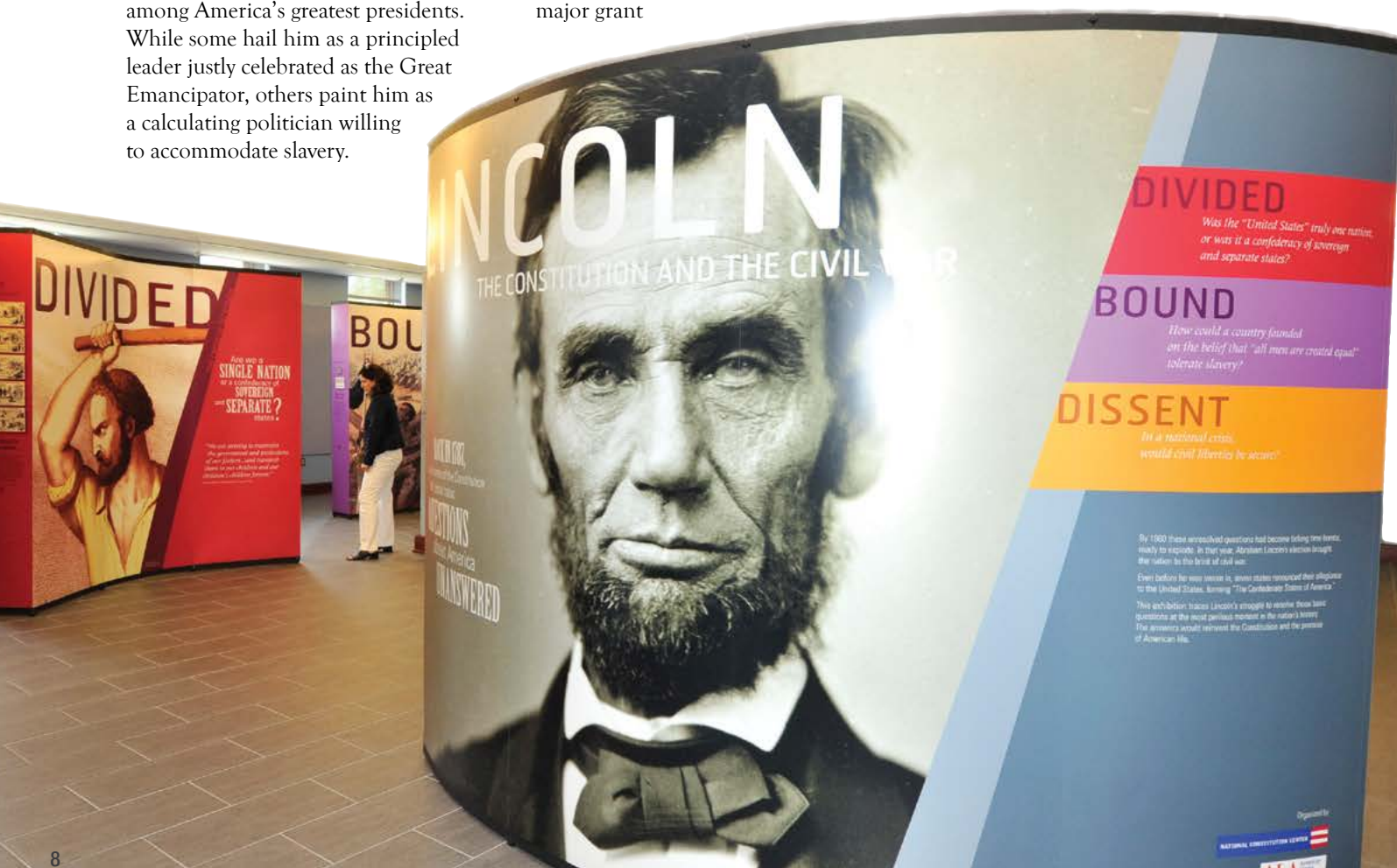
"As a new president, Abraham Lincoln inherited enormous challenges," said John Cuthbert, director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center. "This exhibition showed how he wrestled with issues of secession, slavery, and the suspension of civil liberties — all questions our country's founding charter left unanswered."

The National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized the exhibit, which was made possible by a major grant

from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The traveling exhibit is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center. Composed of informative panels, the display features photographic reproductions of original documents, including a draft of Lincoln's first inaugural speech, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Thirteenth Amendment.

"Lincoln's endorsement was essential to West Virginia statehood as he could have vetoed the statehood bill," Cuthbert said. "We know that it was a decision that he struggled with due to the irony of fighting a war over the secession of states without the nation's permission yet permitting what many saw as secession of a section of a state without the state's permission."



Lincoln Addresses West Virginia Day Crowd

Folks arriving at the Erickson Alumni Center on the afternoon of June 20 for the WVU Libraries' West Virginia Day festivities were expecting to learn about President Abraham Lincoln, but most were surprised to be greeted by his likeness at the door.

"I'm pleased to join you on this special occasion as you celebrate West Virginia becoming the nation's thirty-fifth state," Lincoln interpreter Michael Krebs told people as they streamed through Erickson's entrance.

In response, he received broad smiles, handshakes, welcomes to West Virginia, and requests for pictures. Between posing for shots, Krebs fielded questions and even threw a few out himself. Staying in character, he asked several visitors their thoughts on the new state.

It was unanimous. People conveyed their happiness for Lincoln giving his blessing to the Mountain State. Krebs smiled in return and encouraged everyone to enjoy the day of celebration.

For more than 10 years, Chicago-based Krebs has played the 16th president for President Bill Clinton, at numerous special events, in commercials, and in a trailer promoting the novel *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*.

He donned the iconic black suit and stovepipe hat at WVU in conjunction with the West Virginia Day celebration and the *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* exhibit on display at Erickson.

After mingling with the crowd, Krebs stayed in character to address an audience in the Ruby Grand Hall on Lincoln's thoughts on allowing a contingent of western counties to break away from Virginia and form a new state. He based his initial remarks on his own research.

"I can honestly say that West Virginia's statehood proved advantageous in my reelection,"

Krebs said. "I won the state's five electoral votes, and my party took 68 percent of the vote to just 32 percent for General McClellan,

"I can honestly say that West Virginia's statehood proved advantageous in my reelection,"



who was credited in helping save West Virginia from secessionists in June of 1861."

Statehood wasn't a simple decision. At the time, there was debate over whether western Virginia could split from Virginia and become its own state without first receiving approval from Virginia.

Lincoln addressed those concerns in his written opinion on the constitutionality of West Virginia's admission to the Union. Krebs performed a reading of the document:

"The consent of the Legislature of Virginia is constitutionally necessary to the bill for the admission of West

Virginia becoming a law. A body claiming to be such Legislature has given its consent. We cannot well deny that it is such, unless we do so upon the outside knowledge that the body was chosen at elections, in which a majority of the qualified voters of Virginia did not participate.

"But it is a universal practice in the popular elections in all these States to give no legal consideration whatever to those who do not choose to vote, as against the effect of the votes of those who do choose to vote. Hence it is not the qualified voters, but the qualified voters, who choose to vote, that constitute the political power of the State ...

"We can scarcely dispense with the aid of West Virginia in this struggle; much less can we afford to have her against us, in Congress and in the field. Her brave and good men regard her admission into the Union as a matter of life and death. They have been true to the Union under very severe trials. We have so acted as to justify their hopes; and we cannot fully retain their confidence, and co-operation, if we seem to break faith with them ...

"It is said the admission of West Virginia is secession, and tolerated only because it is our secession. Well, if we can call it by that name, there is still difference enough between secession against the Constitution, and secession in favor of the Constitution. I believe the admission of West Virginia into the Union is expedient."

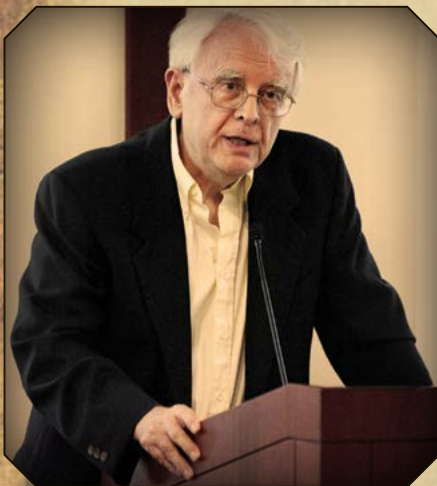
EL

Maps and Historic Elections Offer Insight into Past

Never underestimate the power of a map. Maps can help you get to where you want to go and show you possible destinations.

Just ask President Abraham Lincoln or **Dr. Kenneth C. Martis**, Professor Emeritus of Geography at WVU.

Martis delivered the closing lecture for *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, a traveling exhibit brought to campus by the West Virginia University Libraries and displayed at the Erickson Alumni Center.



Dr. Kenneth C. Martis

He believes that one map in particular may have played a big role in West Virginia becoming a state — an 1860 census map documenting Virginia's slave population. The map, a copy of

which purportedly hung on the wall in Lincoln's office, shows that western Virginia had only four percent of the state's total slave population.

"Lincoln sees this map and thinks, 'Part of Virginia is different than the Tidewater.' He has this idea that these counties could break away from Virginia," Martis said.

As we know, Lincoln's inclination was right.

Martis also shared maps charting results from Lincoln's two elections for president from his co-authored 2006 book, *The Atlas of U.S.*

Presidential Elections: 1788-2004, which is the first four-color county atlas of all American presidential elections. The atlas received the *Library Journal* Best Reference Book prize and the Association of American Publishers award for Outstanding Single Volume Reference Book in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Both of Lincoln's presidential contests involved interesting circumstances.

The 1860 race, which pitted four candidates against each other, showed

the problem that arises when the field extends beyond two contenders. Rather than providing voters with more viable options, they just split the vote.

"We think that we've got it today," Martis said. "Pollsters of the day pretty much knew how each state was

going to go, even with the plurality. They knew that Lincoln was going to be elected because the northern states were unified and the Democrats were split."

Lincoln won the presidency with just 39.8 percent of the vote. He received only 77 votes in Monongalia County or 3.7 percent of the vote. But, that's better than the 1.2 percent he received statewide in Virginia.

However, Lincoln fared much better in the northern panhandle. In Marshall County, he received almost 10 percent of the vote; Brooke, 20 percent; Ohio, 21 percent; and Hancock, 40 percent.

"This election sets up the breaking away of our state," Martis said.

The 1864 election stands out because a significant

"Questions arose as to whether an election could take place in a democracy during a civil war."



WVU Libraries Receive Second Grant to Digitize Historical Newspapers

The WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Center has received a \$135,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue digitizing newspapers published in West Virginia from 1836 to 1922.

"This new grant means that the NEH sees tremendous value in the historical newspapers housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Center, and they want to help us make more of these resources accessible to the world," said John Cuthbert, director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

The award is the Libraries' second

So far, the WVRHC has made available 39 years, or nearly 12,000 issues, of Wheeling newspapers: *Daily Intelligencer*, November 12, 1859-June

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.

WVU's 200,000-page contribution to the national newspaper project will present both sides of the Civil War conflict. Although most

of western Virginia remained loyal to the Union, *Cooper's Clarksburg Register* and the *Kanawha Valley Star* opposed abolition and the separation of Virginia's western counties to form a new state.

Researchers will also have immediate access to reporting on the growing antebellum 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.



"This database is an incredible leap forward for every type of researcher, from the student working on a paper or a scholar writing a book, to an individual studying family genealogy."

grant from the NEH as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program. This collaborative effort between the NEH and the Library of Congress enlists libraries and institutions from around the country to provide enhanced access to historical United States newspapers. In fall 2011, the NEH awarded the WVRHC a \$266,000 grant to participate in the project.

The extensive digital newspaper database is available on the *Chronicling America* website hosted by the Library of Congress. Now, instead of painstakingly poring over page after page to find mention of a desired topic, users can use a few keystrokes to quickly search decades of newspapers.

"This database is an incredible leap forward for every type of researcher, from the student working on a paper or a scholar writing a book, to an individual studying family genealogy," Cuthbert said.

"This new grant means that the NEH sees tremendous value in the historical newspapers housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Center, and they want to help us make more of these resources accessible to the world."

24, 1865; *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*, August 24, 1852-November 11, 1859; *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*, June 26, 1865-December 31, 1898.

The Libraries are focusing on the *Intelligencer* because the WVRHC's project advisory committee identified it as the most significant newspaper for the time period.

"The *Intelligencer* is the perfect newspaper for this project. The only daily newspaper published in western Virginia at the beginning of the Civil War, it held anti-slavery and pro-Union stances, and it was the strongest supporter of the statehood movement," WVRHC Associate Curator Harold M. Forbes said.

The next step is to finish digitizing all existing issues of the *Wheeling* paper, currently preserved on microfilm in the WVRHC, from 1852-1903.

Attention will then turn to six other papers:

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*,

WVU Libraries Go Online with Digital Newspaper Collection

The first crop of the West Virginia University Libraries' contribution to the National Digital Newspaper Program can be viewed at the *Chronicling America* website.

To browse the digitized *Intelligencer*, visit <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=West+Virginiaðnicity=&language=>

Or go to the *Chronicling America* website, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>, select "West Virginia" from the list of states, and key in the words you want to search.

WVU Libraries **Rename WVRHC**

The WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection has a new name. The letters WVRHC now stand for **West Virginia and Regional History Center**.

The change is intended to better reflect the nature of the state's leading historical archives-library.

“Rather than simply a subject area within the WVU Libraries, the WVRHC is, in fact, a complex research organization with distinct reading rooms and galleries, expert staff, and not one, but many collections and units,” said John Cuthbert, director of the WVRHC.

Located in the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library, the WVRHC serves thousands of researchers engaged in investigating West Virginia and Appalachian history and culture each year.

“People travel from every county in the state and from across the country to consult our resources, which include leading research collections in nearly every information format and subject area,” Cuthbert said.

The Center's Archives and Manuscripts collection alone consumes more than half of the total shelf space in the ten-story Wise Library. Included

are the majority of deposited papers of West Virginia's early governors and economic leaders, along with those of authors, soldiers, doctors, musicians, coal miners, and indeed, people of all walks of life. The Center's collections of West Virginia and regional books, photographs, early sound recordings, and historic newspapers are also the most comprehensive of any institution.

The WVRHC's origins date back to 1930 when the University Library accepted responsibility for preserving the papers of Senator Waitman T.

Willey, a founding father of West Virginia. The papers of other key political and industrial leaders soon followed, including those of Francis H. Pierpont, governor of the Reorganized Government of Virginia (1861-1863), and Henry Gassaway Davis and Johnson Newlon Camden, both U.S. senators and capitalists.

The West Virginia University Board of Governors formally authorized the Library's growing "Division of Documents," as the Collection was initially known, in 1933. The Collection

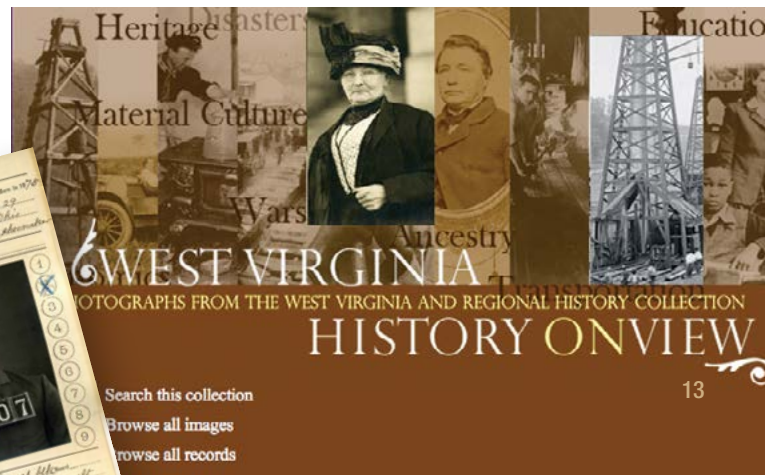
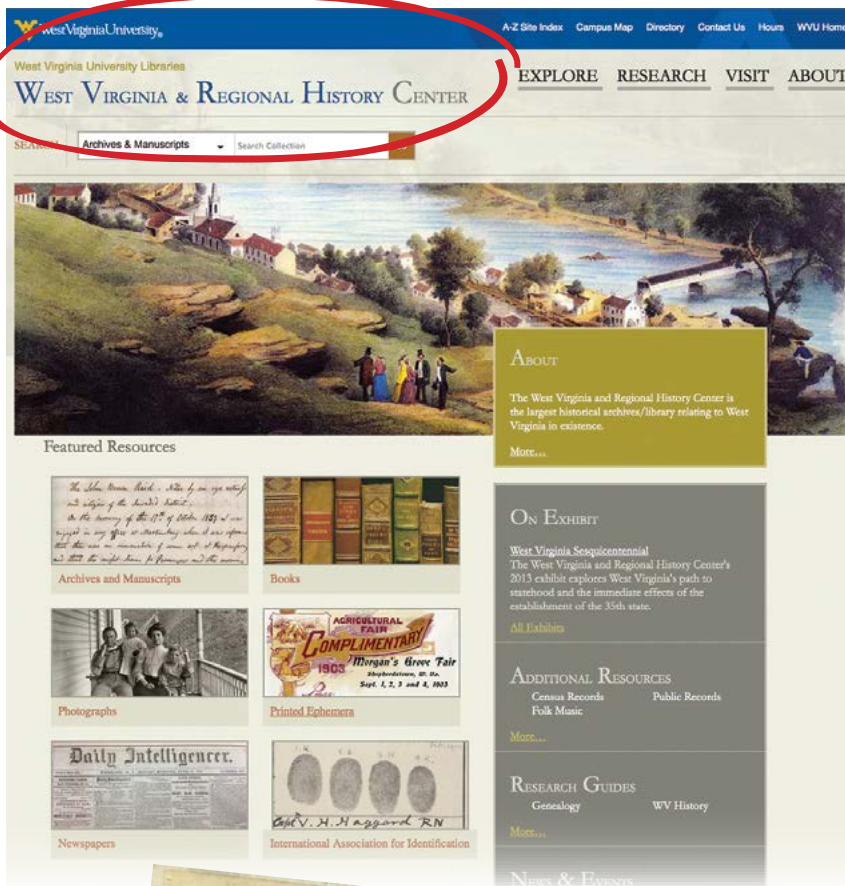
was made an official depository for state government records by an act of the West Virginia Legislature the following year.

The WVRHC serves thousands of researchers each year through both onsite services and a growing offering of digital collections and services.

Among the most popular of the latter is *West Virginia History OnView*, a digital photograph database that provides online access to more than 40,000 historical photographs. Visit the site at **www.wvhistoryonview.org**.

For more
information about
the WVRHC, visit:

www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection.



Renovated Evansdale Library Welcomes Students

Many students have found a new favorite study spot at the Evansdale Library.

Phase one of the library's extensive renovation has transformed the building's second floor into an aesthetically pleasing space conducive to studying, doing research, collaborating on group projects, or taking a break between classes.

"The designers have done a wonderful job creating an area that is inspiring and relaxing," Evansdale Library Director Mary Strife said. "Whether students need to work or recharge, they are going to really like spending their time at the Evansdale Library."

The bright, open layout allows visitors to quickly survey the entire floor to identify an available carrel, study room, or comfortable chair. Options are plentiful: 25 study rooms, a quiet-study room that seats 46 people, 74 study carrels, a cyber bar, and multiple comfortable seating areas.

Natural light cascades into the space thanks to the interior glass walls of the study rooms lining the floor's perimeter. The walls' upper portions are clear glass, and the lower are frosted.

"We think the glass walls are a great addition. You have a view of the outside from almost anywhere on the floor," Strife said.

The revamped floor provides welcome solace for Mikaela Sullivan, a second-year graduate student studying music.

Normally, she spends her time in the basement of the Creative Arts Center.

"I like it here. It's bright. It makes me want to come to the library more," Sullivan said.

More room to work together on projects and more quiet space topped student requests for the redesigned floor. Ten new study rooms bring the floor's total to 25. When it's time to shut out distractions and concentrate, students

with ten tall stools and is accented by multiple hanging pendent lights. The other side of the cyber bar, the curve's interior, houses bookshelves that will probably hold the library's collection of plays.

When a student is ready for a break, he or she can grab a book from the leisure reading collection and relax in one of the several soft seating groupings.

Inspiration is just a glance away. Two large murals, honoring some of the great minds and innovators from centuries past, frame the front and rear entrances.

One gold, the other blue, they are emblazoned

with the faces of Alexander Graham Bell, Mary McLeod Bethune, George Washington Carver, Marie Curie, Sally Ride, William Shakespeare, and Booker T. Washington — along with images of Chuck Yeager's plane, Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man, and Johannes Gutenberg's printing press. The words "discovery," "innovation," "creativity," and "knowledge" are interspersed throughout.

"We are very happy with the transformation of Evansdale's second floor," Interim Dean of Libraries Myra N. Lowe said. "Students told us what they wanted in the space, and we are eager to see them make it a central location in their academic pursuits."

The second phase of the project — renovating the first floor and lower level — will occur in summer 2014.

Whether students need to work or recharge, they are going to really like spending their time at the Evansdale Library.

can move to the quiet study room. Posted signs discourage conversations and cellphone use.

Praveen Majjigapu and Biyush Soti, both second-year civil engineering graduate students, were working on an assignment in one of the group study rooms.

Majjigapu thinks the renovation created a better environment for studying. He likes that there are several places for students to have discussions.

Soti agreed. He also likes the open layout.

"It makes you feel at home," Soti said. "I think I'll spend most of my time here."

Another interesting feature is a cyber bar, which will be a convenient location to work on laptops and tablets or charge mobile devices. A long counter runs along one side of a large curved structure



DISCOVERY



The renovated second floor gives students options for studying with classmates or alone.

IDEAS

TRANSFORMATION



Comfortable seating is abundant. There are several groupings located around the floor.



KNOWLEDGE



The quiet study room provides students with a distraction-free environment to concentrate on studying or writing a paper. It has seating for 46 people.

INNOVATION

CREATIVITY



Trip to China Inspires Visitors and Hosts

West Virginia University librarians Jing Qiu and Martha Yancey brought home more than just souvenirs and photographs from their recent two-week trip to China. They returned with a renewed enthusiasm for serving library users.

Earlier this summer, Qiu and Yancey traveled to China through a partnership that began last fall when two librarians from Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Deyu "Ben" Gong and Yu "Henry" Huang, spent the semester in Morgantown learning about WVU Libraries' operations.

During that visit, Yancey first witnessed the pair's eagerness in serving library users. In China, upon meeting Gong and Huang's colleagues, she discovered that the attitude is rampant throughout the SUFE Library.

"I was struck by their youthful zeal and their commitment to service," Yancey said.

"I've been in this business for 20 years. It's wonderful to be

reenergized by those who haven't been in the profession that long and are so interested in providing quality service."

Qiu and Yancey's whirlwind schedule began with meeting SUFE Library Dean Xiaoye Li, touring the campus, and delivering presentations detailing aspects of their jobs.

In her talk, Yancey focused on a customer-service training program

the WVU Libraries instituted last year. The presentation received such a positive reception that the program might be incorporated into SUFE's daily operations.

In her presentation, Qiu discussed the importance of teaching information literacy and the reasons that librarians should teach. SUFE's credit course in

areas where SUFE can improve.

"The librarians at SUFE are interested in what we're doing at WVU and want to learn from us," Qiu said.

The visit was a learning experience for Yancey and Shanghai native Qiu, as well. Although Qiu had studied and checked out books at the library, she never took advantage of any of the



West Virginia University librarians Jing Qiu and Martha Yancey (second and third from left) traveled to China to spend two week at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics Library. They are joined by Na Li, Foreign Books and Periodicals Reading Room librarian (left); SUFE Library Dean Xiaoye Li; and SUFE Library Associate Dean Xiao Chen.

information literacy has to be taught by librarians with teaching certificates, and the library has only one such librarian; however, other SUFE librarians have made attempts at instruction. They offered drop-in sessions on how to use available services, but saw relatively low attendance.

"In the United States, teaching is a responsibility for most academic librarians including, technical services librarians, but the concept was foreign to the technical services folks we talked with at SUFE," Qiu said.

Next, Li asked Qiu and Yancey to meet with each department in the library to learn what SUFE is doing and offer critiques. Li wanted them to share their impressions on what SUFE is doing well and make suggestions in

other services while attending college. So she was on equal footing with Yancey as they walked through her hometown's libraries.

"I noticed many different things. It was fascinating," Qiu said.

One observation involved operating hours. While students at WVU and other schools in the United States campaign for libraries to be open around the clock or into the wee hours of the morning, there's no late-night studying at the SUFE Library. The Library closes at 10:00 p.m., and some academic libraries in Shanghai close at 8:00 pm.

"They've done surveys, and students say these are the hours they want," Qiu said.

Another difference involved what Qiu referred to as the culture's obsession

with food. Every day at noon and 5:00 p.m. beautiful music flows from the intercom, and a soft voice reminds students to take a break from studying to eat.

"If we did that here, people would say, 'Who are you to tell me when to eat?'," Qiu said.

Jiao Tong University

Qiu and Yancey also explored the city, visiting tourist spots and other libraries. Guiding them was their old friend Huang, who is now secretary of foreign affairs for the SUFE Library.

One tour was of Jiao Tong University, the region's flagship university, and its new library. Opened in 2010, the facility is a showplace for modern design and the latest technology. The space is bathed in natural light, and the open design provides a view to the outside from any spot in the building.

Yancey noted the glass walls around most study rooms, the spacious and modular collection areas, and a spiral staircase and escalators to move visitors between floors.

On the technology front, Jiao Tong made arrangements with Apple for a "petting zoo": two tables lined with Apple hardware and software for students to try before beginning work on a project.

When students are ready for a break, they can go to the bookstore, convenience store, or gift shop.

The administration and designers also remembered the employees running the building. Their large staff lounge is a relaxing haven; it is equipped with exercise bikes, a foot massager, a ping pong table, and a full kitchen.

"I was quite impressed with Jiao Tong. It was a stunning facility," Yancey said.

上海财经大学图书馆
Evaluation Questionnaire for Visiting Librarians

Dear Guest,

We hope that your visit to Shanghai University of Finance and Economics in Information and Resources is fruitful. We would be most grateful if you could provide feedback to us.

Name: Qiu Jie
E-mail: qiuji@sufo.edu.cn
Institution/University: West Virginia University
Country: USA

I. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

A. How would you rate our arrangement and schedule as a whole?

Excellent ☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐

Comments:

II. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

A. How would you rate the level of your presentation?

Excellent ☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐

B. To what extent did this visit increase your understanding of Chinese libraries?

Very Significantly ☐ Significantly ☐ Moderately ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all ☐

C. To what extent did this visit increase your understanding of SUFE Library?

Very Significantly ☐ Significantly ☐ Moderately ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all ☐

Comments:

上海财经大学图书馆
Evaluation Questionnaire for Visiting Librarians

Dear Guest,

We hope that your visit to Shanghai University of Finance and Economics in Information and Resources is fruitful. We would be most grateful if you could provide feedback to us.

Name: MARTHA C. YANCEY
E-mail: MYANCEY@WVU.EDU
Institution/University: WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
Country: USA

I. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

A. How would you rate our arrangement and schedule as a whole?

Excellent ☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐

Comments: Very good. I enjoyed the tour and the presentation. The library is very modern and the staff is very professional. I was very impressed with the level of the presentation and the quality of the facilities. I was also very impressed with the level of the presentation and the quality of the facilities.

B. To what extent did this visit increase your understanding of Chinese libraries?

Very Significantly ☐ Significantly ☐ Moderately ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all ☐

C. To what extent did this visit increase your understanding of SUFE Library?

Very Significantly ☐ Significantly ☐ Moderately ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all ☐

Comments: I was very impressed with the level of the presentation and the quality of the facilities. I was also very impressed with the level of the presentation and the quality of the facilities.

The Next Step for SUFE

At SUFE, the librarians and Dean Li are exploring changes that they want to implement, such as putting in a café and transforming some areas to be modular and flexible.

One effort might involve digitizing some of their special collections. Qiu explained that SUFE wants to focus on resources and materials that will make them unique, and on ways to better serve their faculty and students.

As part of this process, Gong, who visited Morgantown last fall, recently received approval from the Shanghai Society for Library Sciences to do a comparative study on reference services at WVU and SUFE.

Qiu and Yancey are optimistic that SUFE will be successful because they have already demonstrated that they possess energy and commitment.

"The librarians at SUFE are young and dynamic, and they want to make changes. All they need is some time and a little bit of help," Yancey said. "And I think they'll be doing a spectacular job."

The collaboration will continue. Although plans are not yet finalized on when the next group of SUFE librarians will visit WVU, a forum for academic library deans is already on the calendar for November 2014 in Shanghai.



Kawalek Named Munn Library Scholar

The West Virginia University Libraries have named **Jessica Brielle Kawalek** the 2013 Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholar.

“Brie did a tremendous job researching her topic and presenting

graduating Honors students for an outstanding humanities or social sciences thesis based on research conducted in the WVU Libraries. 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.

Kawalek, the daughter of Don and Janet Kawalek of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, won the award with her paper titled “Psychopathy as a Mediator between Disgust and Violent Behavior.” The thesis examined correlations between psychopathy, disgust sensitivity, and violent behavior.

“It’s a construct that people find intriguing but almost a little bit terrifying,” Kawalek explained.

“Someone high on the scale may not have a conscience.

They can commit violent crimes. They’re manipulative. They do what they can to get to the top, be that a serial killer or a CEO.”

However, by studying the disorder, hope exists for those afflicted.

“If we can learn about psychopathy, we can possibly prevent some things from happening,” Kawalek said.

She credits Dr. Natalie Shook and John Terrizzi, a graduate student, for sparking her interest in delving into the topic. They also helped her collect data

from human subjects.

The foundation of her work, though, came through hours of sifting through journals and other materials.

“I was constantly using the online databases and coming to the library between classes to see what was previously done in the area,” Kawalek said. “I wouldn’t have been able to do my thesis without the library because that’s where I got all of my literature.”

Those long hours paid off for her.

“I’m sure Dr. Munn would be proud of Brie and the level of scholarship she undertook,” said Myra N. Lowe, interim dean of the WVU Libraries. “It always excites me when a student starts with a hypothesis, thoroughly researches it, and clearly and concisely presents it in a finished paper.”

After graduating with degrees in psychology and German, Kawalek began a year in Germany teaching English on a Fulbright Scholarship. It will be her second trip to Deutschland. She was there for two months last summer.

As for what’s next, she’s keeping her options open.

She has already been accepted in WVU’s Teaching English as a Second Language Program, and she plans to explore opportunities at other schools. A master’s in psychology is also on the horizon. The question is whether she’d pursue it in the United States or in Germany.

“I’d like to do research, teach, and be a mentor,” Kawalek said. “No matter what I end up doing, it will involve teaching.”



Jessica Brielle Kawalek is the 2013 Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholar.

her findings,” said Keith Garbutt, dean of the Honors College. “She exemplifies the undergraduates at West Virginia University who are engaged in extraordinary research. We are pleased the Libraries are recognizing her for her 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

Course Enhancement Initiative

Hits Fifth Year

The WVU Libraries have selected six faculty members to participate in the fifth year of its Information Literacy Course Enhancement Program, an initiative to enhance courses to help students improve their research skills and to become more discerning when searching for and using information.

A collaborative endeavor between the Libraries and the Provost’s Office, the program 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 defined as the ability to find, evaluate, and effectively use information.

“We at the Libraries are proud of the integral role we play in every student’s academic pursuits,” said Myra N. Lowe, interim dean of Libraries. “We are pleased that the Course Enhancement Program continues to help students to become better researchers and to gain more from the classroom experience.”

Carroll Wilkinson, WVU Libraries’ director of instruction and information literacy, is eager to build on the past success and work with the new teams.



Library Faculty Assembly Names Fredette Outstanding Librarian for 2013

The WVU Library Faculty Assembly has selected **Hilary Oblinger Fredette** as the Outstanding Librarian for 2013.

The award, presented triennially, recognizes a faculty librarian who has made exceptional contributions toward the delivery, development, or expansion of library services or special programs for the constituencies of WVU.

"We applaud Hilary Fredette for her efforts and dedication to significantly improve library services for WVU students and faculty," said Barbara LaGodna, chair of the LFA Awards Committee. "She has a record of sustained excellence over many years."

Since 2006, Fredette has served as the head of Access Services at the Downtown Campus Library, coordinator of Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery, and coordinator for Distance Education for the Libraries. For the past five years, she has also managed Multimedia Services at the Downtown Campus Library.

Harold M. Forbes, associate curator of the WVRHC, lauded Fredette for myriad enhancements to services implemented under her watch. He noted the introduction of a document delivery service for faculty, the launch of library services for distance education users, improvements in requesting materials from the Depository, and the addition of large monitors and other hardware to the Libraries' study rooms.

"Hilary has consistently demonstrated an awareness and mastery of new ideas, methods, and technological changes in library and information sciences,

as well as exceptional adaptability to changes both within the profession and institution," Forbes said. "In addition to the accomplishments of recent years, she has a long and stellar record of achievements at WVU."

Mike Bond and Brian Sinsel, Library Systems employees, have worked closely with Fredette on several projects involving use and delivery of the Libraries' electronic resources. From streamlining the Electronic Reserves system to adding computers and monitors to Library study rooms, they said that she always kept her focus on simplicity for users.

"Hilary's insight has provided users of the WVU Libraries with an easier path to finding the information they required. She continues to look for new and creative ways to provide information to those seeking it," Sinsel said.

Even after implementation, Fredette listens to feedback to determine how and where to make future changes and enhancements.

"Hilary's desire to create better services for the Library's patrons and easier work flow for the staff is never ending," Bond said.

Extending her focus beyond campus,

Fredette is a longtime member and past president of the local chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

"Hilary is an advocate for ACRL and for academic libraries. In these roles, she



Hilary Fredette (center) is joined by Myra N. Lowe, interim dean of Libraries, and Penny Pugh, head of Research Services for the Downtown Campus Library.

has provided leadership and focus for the organization," said Martha Yancey, Access Services coordinator for the Evansdale Library.

Fredette began working as a part-time reference librarian at the Charles C. Wise, Jr. and Evansdale libraries in 1998. From 1999 to 2006, she worked as government documents librarian. She received her bachelor's of arts in history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and her master's of library science from Indiana University.



"Fostering collaborative teaching between librarians and faculty is a challenging and rewarding part of my responsibilities in the University Libraries. To see the positive results in student learning is really exciting," Wilkinson said.

Selected from a field of applicants, this year's group includes Jenny Boulware, lecturer in the Department of History, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences; Brian Jara, senior lecturer, Center for Women's and Gender Studies/Eberly; John Jones, assistant professor, Department of English, Eberly; Ugur Kale, assistant professor, technology learning and culture/ College of Education and Human Services; Tom Sydow, professor, English, Potomac State; and Farshid Zabihian, assistant professor, engineering,

WVU Institute of Technology.

They will work with Wilkinson and their librarian liaisons Linda Bane, Potomac State; Kevin Fredette; Jewel Rucker, WVU Tech; Mary Strife; Jessica Tapia; and Martha Yancey, 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 fall 2013 or spring 2014 semester, and take part in the Information Literacy Showcase during the Libraries' Faculty Assembly program in May 2014.



Health Sciences Library Hosts Exhibit on Nineteenth-Century Author and Work

How do you handle the stresses of daily life?

Some thrive on a non-stop schedule. Others take up a hobby, read, or seek out a few quiet moments to escape a hectic day.

A century ago, a doctor might diagnose a stress-laden woman with neurasthenia, or nervous exhaustion, and prescribe her months of isolation and rest. That diagnosis was the case for artist and writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

“A century ago, a doctor might diagnose a stress-laden woman with neurasthenia, or nervous exhaustion, and prescribe her months of isolation and rest.”

Her experience, referenced in her short story “The Yellow Wallpaper,” was the topic of a National Library of Medicine (NLM) traveling exhibit on display at the WVU Health Sciences Library in spring 2013.

In the late 1800s, when Gilman consulted Dr. S. Weir Mitchell for help dealing with a bout of melancholy, he advised her: “Live as domestic a life as possible ... And never touch pen, brush, or pencil as long as you live.”

The NLM’s website for the exhibit explains that Mitchell was among many medical and scientific experts who believed that mental health issues were “rife among women who attempted to exceed their natural limits.”

Gilman followed Mitchell’s instruction and found herself brought to near madness. She credited her “remnants of intelligence” and a wise friend for her recovery.

“I cast the noted specialist’s advice to the winds and went to work again — work, the normal life of every human being; work, in which is joy and growth and service, without which one is a pauper and a parasite; ultimately

recovering some measure of power,” Gilman later wrote.

After her recovery, she penned the short story “The Yellow Wallpaper,” about a young woman driven mad by the rest cure.

Critics called the short story sensational and said that it would hamper attempts to help those suffering from neurasthenia. However, according to the NLM, Gilman’s words “served as an indictment of the medical profession and the social conventions restricting women’s professional and creative opportunities.”

In a piece published in *The Forerunner* in 1913, Gilman explained that her goal was “to save people from being driven crazy, and it worked.”

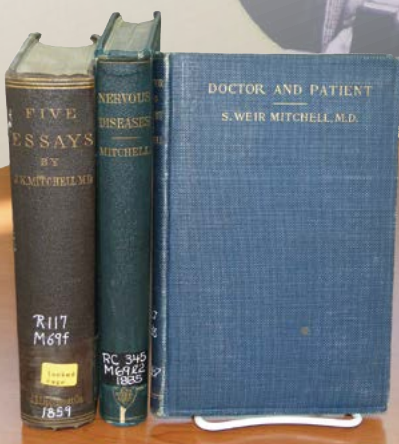
“It has to my knowledge saved one woman from a similar fate — so terrifying her family that they let her out into normal activity and she recovered. Many years later I was told that the great specialist had admitted to friends of his that he had altered his treatment of neurasthenia since reading ‘The Yellow Wallpaper,’” Gilman wrote.

EL

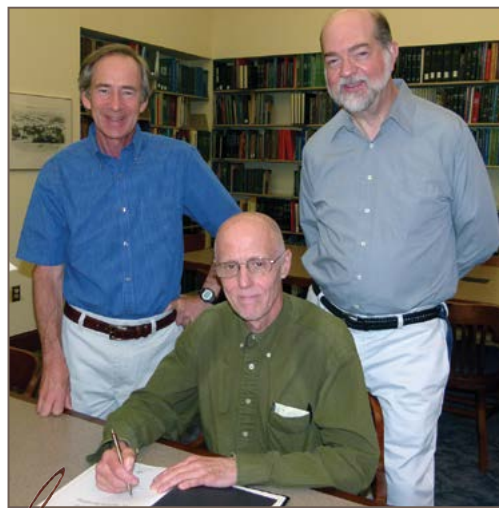


Lindsey Lawler, a multidisciplinary studies senior, browses the exhibit at the Health Sciences Library.

The Health Sciences Library’s rare book collection contains three books by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell.



Local Poet Donates Works to West Virginia and Regional History Center



G. Sutton Breiding autographs his books while West Virginia and Regional History Center Director John Cuthbert and Associate Curator Harold M. Forbes look on.

G. Sutton Breiding

G. Sutton Breiding visited the West Virginia and Regional History Center recently and autographed his books of poetry in the collection. The Center aims to comprehensively collect books by West Virginia authors. The library already owns several of his books, and he donated a selection of books to complete the WVRHC's holdings.

His journey to the collection was atypical. Breiding is not a stereotypical West Virginia poet writing about "coal miners and Queen Anne's lace ... the clichés of hillbillies and bluegrass," as he described it. He creates marginal art that merges the natural world, the cityscape, the fantastic and the everyday in an imaginative story.

The story told in his work encompasses diversity: an early childhood living in Oglebay Park, in Wheeling (where his father was director of nature education and naturalist in the Oglebay Institute Nature

Department), living in San Francisco enmeshed in the underground and alternative culture there for sixteen years, and returning east to live in

SAN FRANCISCO

bliss of melancholy
crystal of vodka
seen through midnight
the whole city
in a drop of fog

Morgantown and Youngstown, Ohio. Many magazines and underground publications distributed his poetry while he lived in San Francisco. While there he won the 1990 Rhysling Award (for science fiction poetry) in the short poem category, which later appeared in the Science Fiction Writers of America Choices for the Best Science Fiction & Fantasy of the Year (#26, 1992).

Breiding described the sense of place in his work:

"The entire universe is my region, but it's also region specific. When I was in San Francisco, my writing was imbued with that sense of place. I'm also writing about

Morgantown and the terrible beauty of West Virginia, which I do love, the raggedy hills, the rivers, the ravines, are a part of my consciousness.

"I was raised in an environment of the woods, and I have a particular and profound love of the natural world. I also love cities, but I am continuing to be fascinated by the idea of urban ambience and have been very depressed by the fact that the cities continue to be sterilized and burnished and polished to the point where someday there will be no filth left in the cities whatsoever. And to me squalor was always a part of city life."

Breiding's early imagination was forged by natural beauty, woodcuts by Wanda Gág and Breughel the Elder, reading imaginative literature and science fiction, and attending Catholic School. The

HALLUCINATING JENNY

... Redamber of your hair held
in place by dragonflies (pine forest, pileated
flare in ice, the golden fields of your
embrace, mist in every hollow of your purity,
ten thousand doors in the rain).

Beats followed, with Dadaists, surrealism, punk, and modern and European poetry.

He describes poetry as "an adventure in language that has to do with imagination, vision, saying the impossible with the impossible medium

of words ... I think a poem should get you high like a drug, as high as chemistry with somebody."

Leaving as a youth, growing up in a city,

and returning to live in West Virginia is not that uncommon. Documenting your journey in poetry infusing the natural world and the city is. Reading a poet's biographical background can illuminate their work, but to know a poet read their poetry.

For more poetry, information, or to contact Breiding, visit www.facebook.com/gsutonbreiding.

THE PERSIMMON TREE/1

drinking root beer in a science fiction landscape
under the womblike maples
of summer afternoons: that was the myth of childhood
an airplane fading into the vanishing point
of its own sound
now in that pitchdark place of grown-ups
I rip morning out of its mind
it looks like riverfog
it looks like my mother ancient tiny and glasslike
it looks like a crow's wing dipped in gold



Alumna's Gift Helps *Preserve State History*

The West Virginia and Regional History Center is already benefiting from a \$100,000 donation from WVU alumna **Louise Amelia Robinson**.

Its first fruit is a thick sketchbook from Joseph H. Diss Debar, the artist who designed West Virginia's state seal. Inside the cover are page after page of drawings of figures and events that shaped state and world history.

"Louise Robinson's gift to the West Virginia and Regional History Center has made an immediate impact," WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. "The Diss Debar sketchbook has far exceeded my expectations. There are numerous sketches relating directly to the creation of West Virginia as the nation's thirty-fifth state."

The WVU Libraries recognized Robinson's donation during a ceremony in the spring. A plaque recognizing Robinson now hangs in the WVRHC.

Robinson made the bequest with the intent of assisting the WVRHC in its mission to acquire and preserve important artifacts, documents, and materials that tell the story of the state's history.

The West Virginia native learned quite a bit about the importance of preservation throughout her career. After graduating from WVU in 1944 with a bachelor's degree in history, Robinson went on to work with *National Geographic* for more than 40 years.

One of her duties was clipping and cataloging articles from newspapers from around the world. *National Geographic* writers would later use them in research when penning their own articles.

The practice carried over into her personal life. Her niece, Nancy Walker, said that Robinson kept clipping envelopes for family and friends on anything she thought involved their interests.

"Aunt Louise believed in historic preservation," Walker said. "She thought we have a lot to learn from the past, and we need to preserve it as much as possible."

Working with the Robinson family, the Libraries used the bequest to establish an endowment for future acquisitions and preservation endeavors, and a fund for immediate purchases.

"This gift enables us to preserve in the West Virginia and Regional History Center things we would not otherwise have been able to afford and would likely have ended up

in collections outside of West Virginia," Cuthbert said.

The Diss Debar sketchbook definitely falls into that category. Acquired through an auction house, it was at risk of landing in a private collection or at a museum in another state because of the content's wide appeal.

There are drawings of members of royal families, author Charles Dickens, editor Horace Greely, industrialist Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Mexican General Juan Almonte.

Of interest to state historians, Diss Debar captured President Abraham Lincoln meeting with Sen. Peter Van Winkle, a state founder; a large group chatting about the succession and statehood; and a gathering of West Virginia legislators receiving news from Gettysburg.

There's also some controversy among the pages. Two sketches of abolitionist John Brown appear to corroborate claims that he visited Clarksburg. One depicts Brown sitting in the Harrison County Courthouse watching a slave kidnapping trial. It is dated two months before the Harpers Ferry raid and has a note that Brown was "incognito." Another sketch is of Brown and Diss Debar traveling by horseback from Clarksburg to Shinnston.

"This sketchbook is a tremendously rich resource of images of people and places in West Virginia and far beyond," Cuthbert said.

Robinson's gift was made in conjunction with A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University. The \$750 million comprehensive campaign being conducted by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the University runs through December 2015.



The WVU Libraries honored the family of Louise Amelia Robinson in a ceremony in the Wise Library's Grand Foyer. Pictured from left to right are: Katie McKinney, Adrienne McKinney, Carolyn Robinson Kovach, Nancy Walker, Tom Seiler, Susan Robinson Greaser, Terri Seiler, and Michael Robinson.



Milano Memories

The fall of 2013 marks the tenth year since the WVU Libraries rededicated the renovated Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library. WVU alumni **Jim** and **Ann Pozega Milano** donated \$500,000 to help make it possible.

At the time, Jim Milano ('40) said he wanted to give back to the University and to help preserve the reading room where he asked the then-Ann Pozega ('41) out on their first date, which happened to be a movie at the Met Theater. The two went on to enjoy 58 years of marriage.

A friend who was with them at the beginning was **Edna Coakley** ('41). She and Ann met in a home economics class when they were freshmen. They quickly became inseparable.

"We were together whenever it was possible," Edna said. "Professors would say, 'where's your partner?' when one of us came to a class that we had together. Usually, the other wasn't far behind."

While the two women did spend a lot of time at the Library, they tended to study at Elizabeth Moore Hall. There was space on the second floor where they could leave their books and study. Because they lived off campus, they had to bring all their books with them.

"We would go there and study because we could talk," Edna said.

One characteristic Edna remembers about Ann as a college student was that she was very competitive.

"If I made a percentage more than she did on a test, she took it all apart and found why," Edna said.

After graduation, Edna moved to Parkersburg and married John E. Foster. Ann and Jim married in 1945. They lived in multiple locales, but were attached most to their house in Charles Town, West Virginia.

Over the years, Ann and Edna kept in contact through letters.

And they always remembered birthdays and Christmas with cards and gifts.

Jim Milano passed away in 2004 and Ann Milano passed away in 2012, but their legacy lives on at WVU. The James V. and Ann Pozega Milano Reading Room houses the Libraries' Appalachian Collection, which contains more than 9,000 volumes and is one of the nation's most complete collections on Appalachian regional culture.

“Professors would say, ‘where’s your partner?’ when one of us came to a class that we had together. Usually, the other wasn’t far behind.”



Ann Pozega Milano



Jim Milano



Ann Pozega Milano and Edna Coakley

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Virginia B. Evans: An All-Around Artist



**Book Paints Beautiful
Picture of West Virginia
Native's Life and Works**

A new book is sparking a resurgence of interest in an artist who made her mark as a painter, glass industry designer, and teacher during the twentieth century.

Virginia B. Evans: An All-Around Artist is about the life and works of Moundsville native Virginia B. Evans (1894-1983). It's an appropriate title, according to John Cuthbert, author of the book and director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

"There can be little doubt that Virginia B. Evans is among the foremost figures in West Virginia art history," Cuthbert said. "The extensive body of her artwork that survives is worthy of enduring recognition, not only in the Mountain State but well beyond, for its inherent quality and its evidence in representing the art of its time and place."

He's not alone in his assessment. Coinciding with the book's release, a retrospective exhibit of Evans's work was on display this past summer at the Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum in Oglebay Park in Wheeling.

"Virginia B. Evans deserves to be recognized and remembered for her role in elevating community culture, for her influence on her peers and students, and for the enduring value and insights of her work," Oglebay Institute Director of Museums Christin Byrum said.

Evans's art studies took her from the Mount de Chantal Academy in Wheeling, to the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, and the Pennsylvania Academy for the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. In 1924, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation awarded her a fellowship to study in New York. She capped off her studies by attending the School of Art for American Students in Fontainebleau, France.

Evans enjoyed a long and diverse career. In his book, Cuthbert chronicles her success as an impressionist landscape, still life, and portrait painter, and her experiments with other realist and



The Guitarist, ca. 1929, housed in the WVRHC.

modernist currents. Cuthbert believes Evans did her best work in a regional impressionist style.

Evans ventured into glass in the 1940s and quickly became a leading designer in the Upper Ohio Valley glass industry. While she worked for several companies, including Fostoria, Viking, and Warwick, she is best remembered for a product line she designed for the Imperial Glass Company. Inspired by Asian motifs ranging from dragons to butterflies, Evans created Imperial Cathay Crystal, a mix of more than 30 items ranging from ashtrays to candle holders, which debuted in 1949.

"Through Evans's vision, what was initially intended to be modest dinnerware evolved into a distinctive line of functional and decorative gift objects that would include some of the finest pieces of molded crystal glassware made in America," Cuthbert said.

Throughout her life, Evans continued to paint and also found time to teach art at Mount de Chantal and West Liberty State College, serve as a mentor, promote the importance of art education, and travel to Europe four times.

Evans moved to Florida in 1957 and experienced a rejuvenation of interest in painting. The Oglebay Institute brought her back home for two exhibits, one focusing exclusively on her work, during the 1960s.

In 1974, the artist returned to West Virginia to spend her final years in

Glen Dale. She died at Mound View Health Care Center, Moundsville, on March 23, 1983, at the age of 89.

"Despite the fact that she exhibited successfully and quite broadly in her lifetime, Evans's work is largely unknown today. She is represented in very few institutions,"

Cuthbert said. "I hope this book will put her on the map, both in this state and far beyond."

Lavishly adorned with nearly 200 color plates and illustrations, *Virginia B. Evans: An All-Around Artist* is available through the WVU Press.

Those who missed the Oglebay Institute exhibit will have a second chance to see Evans's work this spring at the West Virginia State Museum in Charleston where an Evans exhibit will open on March 18, 2014.



Cathay Crystal Ku Ribbon Vase housed in a private collection.

Downtown Campus Library Now Assists Nonprofits Seeking Grants

West Virginia University's Downtown Campus Library offers funding information to grant-seekers.

The Downtown Campus Library recently became a partner in the Funding Information Network of the Foundation Center of New York. In this new role, the Library will serve as a hub for the Foundation Center's resources and provide access to detailed information on grantmakers and how to apply for grants.

These materials are open for use by individuals from nonprofits and social service agencies, along with those in the University community.

"The WVU Libraries are excited to join the network of Cooperating Collections," Penny Pugh, head of Research Services, said. "With looming federal and state budget cuts, the role of philanthropy has never been more important. These resources will better equip nonprofits and social service agencies to secure financial support for


crucial programs that serve the people of West Virginia."

The Foundation Center's core collection includes the Foundation Directory Online, a directory profiling more than 100,000 U.S. grantmakers; Foundation Grants to Individuals Online, a database of foundation and public charity programs that fund students, artists, researchers, and other individual grantseekers; Philanthropy In/Sight, a tool that combines the Google Maps interface with the Foundation Center's wealth of data into a powerful, visual asset; print directories; and proposal-writing guides.

The Downtown Campus Library offers workshops for University classes on how to effectively use these resources and identify potential funders. Faculty may request a workshop by contacting Penny

Pugh at ppugh@wvu.edu (304-293-0334) or Alyssa Wright at Alyssa.wright@mail.wvu.edu (304-293-0337).

Established in 1956, the Foundation Center is the nation's leading authority on organized philanthropy serving grantseekers, grantmakers, researchers, policymakers, the media, and the general public. Thousands of people visit the Center's website each day and are served in its five regional learning centers and its national Funding Information Network.

For more information about Foundation Center resources, visit www.foundationcenter.org. 

Grant Gives Libraries Role in Bridging Culture Gap

An award from the National Endowment for the Humanities will help the West Virginia University Libraries serve as a bridge between those who have questions about Islam and the Muslim community.

The Libraries are among more than 800 institutions across the nation to receive the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, a collection of books, films, and an online database assembled to introduce the public to Muslims and the Islamic culture in the United States and around the globe. The Bookshelf is part of NEH's Bridging Cultures Initiative.

"Borrowing from the title of the grant, we want to help build bridges where there are deep misunderstandings, mistrust, and a lack of knowledge," said Beth Toren, a research and religious studies librarian.

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf is

the first in the NEH's planned series of Bridging Cultures Bookshelf programs. The NEH, along with the American Library Association, awarded the WVU Libraries with 25 books, three documentary films, a DVD of short films, and a one-year subscription to *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*.


The NEH describes the Bookshelf as a tool to introduce readers to some new and diverse perspectives on the people, places, histories, beliefs, practices, and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

"This collection will definitely complement the religious studies curriculum, which focuses on world religions. Learning about a great religion in more detail is a fantastic opportunity

for students," said Dr. Aaron Gale, chair of the Religious Studies Program.

Sohail Chaudhry is imam at the Islamic Center of Morgantown and teaches a class on Islam in the Religious Studies Program. He is also impressed with the books in the collection.

"There's a lot of misconception about Islam and Muslims. These books will go a long way in helping religious studies students and other students who are interested in Islam to gain deeper insight and a more diverse knowledge base," Chaudhry said.

A list of all Bookshelf resources is available at the Muslim Journeys' website, www.programminglibrarian.org/muslimjourneys. 

In Memoriam

Carol Bartron

Before Excel spreadsheets and e-mail, **Carol Bartron** balanced the books at the West Virginia University Libraries' Acquisitions Department. She did it with paper, pencil, and erasers.

"She had to juggle all those numbers and books — things we do electronically now — she did all this manually," said Allyson McKee, head of Continuing Resources for the Libraries.

Back in the day, there were five-part order forms, paper invoices were sent through the mail, and every dollar was recorded in a huge ledger.

"There were volumes of paperwork. We still have a lot of paperwork now, but then it seems like it was mountains of it," Allyson said. "Carol was always on top of things."

Bartron retired from the WVU in 2002 with 29 years of service to the Libraries. She began her career in 1973 as an accounting assistant at the Main Library in what is now the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library. She moved to the Law Library in 1999.

When Stephanie McCormick, a library associate, worked with Carol at Wise, they would take walks together on breaks and talk about things happening in their lives.

"We always had a good time," Stephanie said.

Cindy Larew

Those fortunate enough to be friends with **Cindy Larew** warmly remember a side of her she didn't often show.

"Around a lot of people, she was quiet," said Ginger Larew, a library associate.

"But, around those who knew her, she had a very funny sense of humor."

Ginger and Cindy were distantly related and became friends while growing up in Newburg.

They were roommates during their freshman year at West Virginia University, and they both found jobs as student workers at the University Library.

After graduating from WVU with a bachelor's degree in 1988, Cindy joined the full-time staff in the Reserve Library in Colson Hall and later moved to the Audiovisual Library, also located in Colson.

During a stint as circulation supervisor at the Law Library, Cindy was named Staff Person of the Year. In 2009, she moved to the Downtown Campus Library where she was the first staff person hired by Access Services to work the new late shift until 2:00 a.m.

Access Services Head Hilary Fredette said Cindy set a high standard on how to be in charge of the library during the night hours.

"Cindy was a perfect person to work in the late hours. She never let situations upset her; she didn't get ruffled or frustrated with all the odd things that can happen during the late night," Hilary said. "She exuded calm, and she dealt with people in a very composed way."

Nancy Ieradi, who recently retired from WVU, worked with Cindy in Access Services, and the two had been friends for several years.

"Cindy had a terrific sense of humor, a delightful laugh, and I still miss her," Nancy said.

Kyla Lucas, a program assistant, worked alongside Cindy during the evening shift.

"Cindy had a type of lighthearted laughter which I would always try to elicit," Kyla said.

She also learned a lot from Cindy about life and work.

"Cindy had a patience that very few people in my life have matched," Kyla said. "She was one of the most honest people I knew, and conveyed it through words and her actions."



Retirements

Nancy Ieradi

Nancy Ieradi may have spent most of her life in Buffalo, New York, but she understands the feelings that stir inside Mountain State natives when they hear John Denver's "County Roads."

"The first time I crossed the border into West Virginia, I felt like I was coming home," Ieradi said. "Although autumn in Buffalo is quite lovely, in West Virginia, it is breathtaking."

Ieradi, who retired as a library associate at the end of June, was hired in January 1993 to work in the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library's Circulation Department as a library technical assistant.

"Being a part of the Library, for me, was like being the proverbial kid in a candy store," Ieradi said.

She found the university environment

invigorating and liked that you could always count on the unexpected.

"No matter what I had on my to-do list, something would change the direction of the day," Ieradi said. "My job was never monotonous, and most of the time, for that I was grateful."

Her supervisor, Access Services Head Hilary Fredette, praised Ieradi for her service and dedication over the years. Fredette said Ieradi was adept at all facets of her job, whether it involved focusing on the behind-the-scenes technical side, providing guidance to student workers, or assisting users at Access Services desk.

"Nancy truly loved interacting with students, both those that came into the library for help and those who were working for the department," Fredette said.

Ieradi warmly recalls the students

she watched grow from freshmen to graduating seniors. She said they, along with all of her former colleagues, will always hold a special place in her heart.

"I cherish the friendships I've made; the people who came into my life through being at the Library," Ieradi said.

A few months into retirement, she is back to making to-do lists. She is setting aside time to focus on her interests: gardening, quilting, drawing, and, of course, reading. And she's also making room for the unknown.

"My philosophy is that life is meant to be a learning experience, so don't be surprised when you see me on campus taking classes," Ieradi said.





LEAVE A LEGACY®

Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow


What would Benjamin Franklin think of today's libraries? The co-founder of the Library Company of Philadelphia would surely be excited about the limitless access to information available through Internet searches that span the globe in seconds.

Private subscribers kept the Library Company functioning in the mid-1700s. Today, gift support is just as important to the WVU Libraries, and we need your help.

During 2013, those age 70½ and older can use funds in their IRA (up to \$100,000) to support the Libraries. The first step: Direct the plan administrator to send a check from your account payable to the WVU Foundation, PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507. Second step: Let the Foundation or Libraries staff know how you want your gift to be used. This gift will avoid taxation on the federal and West Virginia levels (and other states as well) and will satisfy some or all of your 2013 required minimum distribution.

For future support, including a gift provision in your will or trust to support the Libraries is a worthwhile direction too. The wording of "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries" is needed. You may have your attorney specify that your gift is to be used for academic journals, technological resources, facility improvements, collection acquisition and preservation, or discretionary purposes. Funds for all of these aspects of the Libraries' ongoing efforts are needed.

For those 70 and older who include such a gift in their estate plan, please let us know so that your support can be included in A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University to reach the Libraries' goal.

Ben Franklin cared about the dissemination of knowledge. In the twenty-first century, it's just as important as it was in the eighteenth century. 

Mountaineers and Libraries Kick Off Third Touchdown Challenge

The West Virginia University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the WVU Libraries have teamed up again for the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge, a fund-raising campaign to benefit the Libraries.

The initiative, in its third year, enables participants to pledge a dollar figure per touchdown the Mountaineers score during the 2013 season and subsequent bowl game. The proceeds will support a project within the Libraries.

"The Touchdown Challenge is a fun way for our alumni and fans to celebrate academics and football simultaneously," Athletic Director Oliver Luck said. "Every touchdown we score this fall will help benefit all students throughout the University."

Head Football Coach Dana Holgorsen helped launch the Touchdown Challenge when he came to WVU in 2011. He likes that the program stresses the importance of academics.

"Before any player can suit up and hit the field, he has to make the grade in the classroom," Holgorsen said. "We are fortunate to have great libraries and great library employees who can help students achieve their full potential academically."

Funds raised through the first two years of the Touchdown Challenge enabled the purchase of digital cameras, editing software, and other equipment to transform a study room in the Downtown Campus Library into a space where students can practice making presentations. The acquisitions were

based on student requests.

Student feedback will determine where funds raised during this season's Touchdown Challenge are directed.

"We are grateful to everyone — Oliver Luck, Coach Holgorsen, every player, and our wonderful fans — for making the Touchdown Challenge an ongoing success," said Myra N. Lowe, interim dean of Libraries. "It has been exciting to be so invested in our football team's efforts."

If you're up for the Challenge, visit www.mountaineerconnection.com/touchdownchallenge. For more information, contact Monte Maxwell, Libraries development representative: 304-293-0306. 

Become a Friend of the WVU Libraries

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 the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

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

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