**Students Appreciate Evansdale Library Makeover**

Nick Long, a mining engineering senior, has found his new favorite place on campus. Attractive decor, large computer screens, and a serene lounge with coffee make the newly renovated Evansdale Library an ideal spot when one needs to spend a few hours preparing for a test or concentrating on a project.

“When you’re studying, the most comfortable place to be is where you want to study, and if you have to go off campus, you waste a lot of time,” Long said. “This is so much nicer than having to go home.”

Brandon Brice, an economics senior, also likes the atmosphere. He especially likes the gold and blue color scheme and the light wood used for the study carrels, tables, and bookshelves.

“I like the look and the feel to it now. It makes it a lot easier to study here.”

**William Kistler, Chemical engineering junior**

WVU Libraries and the Huntington Museum of Art have these problems on a larger scale. A $40,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will enable the West Virginia University Libraries, in collaboration with the Huntington Museum of Art, to help the state’s libraries, art and historical museums, and cultural heritage institutions identify their constraints and needs in caring for their collections.

“We need to be sure that future generations are able to see and use collections that are important to our history,” said Frances O’Brien, Dean of the WVU Libraries. “This planning grant will be the first step in identifying the preservation needs in West Virginia, and working toward the right kinds of care.”

The WVU Libraries and the Huntington Museum of Art will work closely with consultants from LYRASIS and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). LYRASIS is the nation’s largest regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals. CCAHA is the largest non-profit conservation and preservation facility in the nation.
Fashion Students Display Work at Evansdale Library

Typically, students visit the Libraries to work on a paper or project that they will then take to class, but a fashion design and merchandising (FDM) senior is setting a new trend. Amanda Gill is the first among her classmates to create an exhibit for the newly renovated Evansdale Library.

“I took a visual merchandising class and did projects within that class, but this is taking what I’ve learned and making it a real world experience,” Gill said. “I wanted to make everything look perfect and professional.”

The venue is now available because of an extensive renovation project on the Evansdale Library’s first floor last summer. During the planning stage, students expressed a need for space to display their work. The revamped Library includes display cabinets and floor space to accommodate requests.

“Evansdale Library is a great location to spotlight students’ work,” said Noel Kopriva, librarian for the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. “Students like to see what others are doing in class, and exhibitors can get feedback from their peers.”

Lynn Barnes, a fashion merchandising professor in the Davis College, appreciates her students having such a platform because it pushes them beyond what they would do for the usual window display. “This is three-dimensional exhibit so they have to be aware of every nance,” Barnes said. “Every detail has to be perfect.”

Libraries Select Information Literacy Participants

The WVU Libraries have selected six faculty members to participate in the second year of an information literacy initiative designed to help faculty to enhance their courses.

The Information Literacy Course Enhancement Program, a collaborative effort between the Libraries and the Provost’s Office, is focused on fulfilling the University’s 2010 Plan for information literacy to become a curriculum component across all disciplines.

“We have learned a great deal this year about designing discipline-specific lessons that address critical research components through active learning,” said Carroll Wilkinson, WVU Libraries’ Director of Instruction and Information Literacy. “I look forward to sharing our learning with the next group of participants in this program.”

This year’s participants are Dr. Brian Ballentine, assistant professor of English, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Louis McDonald, associate professor of plant and soil sciences, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design; Beth Nardella, instructor of exercise physiology, the Human Performance and Applied Exercise Science Department, School of Medicine; Dr. Melissa Olbert, assistant professor of human nutrition, Davis College; Dr. Kate Staples, assistant professor of history, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences; and Dr. Barbara Douglas, senior lecturer, nursing, WVU Institute of Technology.

They were chosen from among a field of applicants who submitted detailed plans for integrating information literacy into their classrooms.

Participants will work with Wilkinson and their librarian liaison to create discipline-specific active learning assignments that incorporate information literacy concepts. They will each earn a $3,000 stipend or, if a 12-month faculty member, other relevant professional remuneration.

Libraries Studying How Students Work in the Digital Age

Can students Google their way to an A when writing a paper? Do students trust Wikipedia to provide them with sufficient and reliable information? The WVU Libraries want to know.

This spring, the WVU Libraries participated in a national study, conducted by Project Information Literacy (PIL), to learn how college students conduct research in the digital age.

In conjunction with the Libraries, PIL sent an invitation to participate in a Web-based survey to 10,000 randomly selected WVU sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The survey consisted of 22 questions that focused on how students find, evaluate, and integrate research sources used for course-related and everyday life research.

Molly Wilson, an Honors College junior with a triple major in Philosophy, Economics, and Women’s Studies, worked with the Libraries to encourage her peers to set aside a few minutes to respond to the survey. She lent her name for the survey invitation. “I think the survey is really important, especially for a student who has a research-intensive major,” Wilson said. “It’s going to help the librarians tailor their services to students.”

A portion of the survey concentrated on the use of Google and Wikipedia, which many students heavily rely on when completing assignments. Wilson credits an information literacy course she took for introducing her to a wider array of resources available through the Libraries.

Rather than struggling unsuccessfully to find material for a paper or project, she suggests students seek direction from a librarian to learn where they should go to gather information.

“In the end, it makes it so much easier if you’re using all the resources available,” Wilson said.

PIL received a sample of respondents from more than 30 colleges and universities across the nation. For an overview of the national project, visit http://projectinfolit.org/. PIL, funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is based at the University of Washington and is in its third and final year.

For questions or more information about WVU’s involvement in this study, contact Carroll Wilkinson, Director of Information Literacy for the Libraries: carroll.wilkinson@mail.wvu.edu.

West Virginia University Libraries Visiting Committee

Diane Hackney-Oliver, Charleston
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Betty Lou Ramsey, Belington
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Eighty percent of a student’s time is spent outside of the classroom. We provide lots of wonderful opportunities for students to spend time with faculty and for faculty to get to know their students.”

The Parisers invited Anna Schein, Associate Curator of the Libraries’ West Virginia and Regional History Collection, to serve as a Faculty Fellow.

A WVU alumna herself, Schein understands how hard it is for freshmen to acclimate themselves to such a large campus. She worked with a group of colleagues to design lectures, presentations, and tours to expose Stalnaker/Dadisman students to the full array of the Libraries’ services.

“I deeply believe it is important for students to become acquainted with the library as soon as possible after their arrival on campus,” Schein said. “If we do that during their first semester, they will know where to go when they have to do research or write a paper.”

During the fall semester, Schein taught six library instruction sessions at the Downtown Campus Library. She walked students through the Libraries’ Web site and showed them how they can Instant Message a librarian, find an electronic journal, and text call numbers to their cell phones.

She also told them that they can use iMacs on the lower level to create multimedia class projects. If they need help in a class, there’s free tutoring five nights a week. And when it comes time to write a paper, they can get guidance through the Libraries’ Term Paper clinics.

Schein believes this face-to-face contact is irreplaceable because it allows students to connect with people whom they will feel comfortable approaching when they need help. “We’re here for the students,” she said. “I tell them they can contact me if they have questions or need assistance. If I’m not the right person, I’ll get you to the right person.”

Curtis Chan, a Resident Assistant at Stalnaker and a political science graduate student from Hong Kong, took advantage of that offer. Although he’s fluent in English, he wanted to find some materials in Chinese but was stuck on where to look. Schein directed him to some digital resources.

“Now I don’t have to go back home or call my friends. I can access the materials online from my home,” Chan said.

He encourages the underclassmen he’s responsible for to take the time to learn what resources are available at the Libraries and how to use them.

“Every student should have that knowledge of how to do research.”

Andrew Dolby, Engineering senior

Librarian Anna Schein talks with students Andrew Dolby and Curtis Chan following a session in the Downtown Campus Library’s classroom.

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Andy Wall's love of reading was sparked when, as a young child, he was introduced to the idea of libraries. He became enamored with the concept of a place where knowledge was stored and where one could come to learn and grow. As he grew older, his love for reading continued to flourish, and he decided to pursue a career in librarianship.

During his time as a student at West Virginia University, Wall's passion for libraries was further cultivated. He became involved in various library-related activities and eventually graduated with a degree in librarianship. He then went on to work at the WVU Libraries, where he has been able to apply his knowledge and skills to the betterment of the library community.

For Wall, one of the most rewarding aspects of his work is seeing the growth and development of students. He enjoys helping them find the resources they need to succeed and encouraging them to pursue their interests and passions.

Wall's commitment to the WVU Libraries is evident in his dedication to the library staff and the students who rely on them. His work has been recognized with awards, including the WVLA Library Researcher Award in 2004, the WVLA President's Award in 2005, and the WVLA President's Award in 2008. These awards reflect the high regard in which he is held by his peers.

In addition to his work at WVU, Wall has been active in various library organizations, such as the West Virginia Library Association (WVLA) and the American Library Association (ALA). His leadership and contributions have been instrumental in advancing the field of librarianship.

Wall's love for reading and his dedication to the WVU Libraries continue to inspire others. His story is a testament to the power of libraries in shaping lives and building communities.
Library Faculty Assembly Names Blake Outstanding Librarian for 2010

The WVU Library Faculty Assembly has selected Linda Blake, Science Librarian and Electronic Journal Coordinator for the WVU Libraries, as the Outstanding Librarian for 2010. The triennial award 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.

“Linda exemplifies the very best in traditional librarianship while remaining alert to new technologies and trends,” said Penny Pugh, Head of the Downtown Campus Library Reference Department. “Linda possesses a breadth of vision, coupled with a keen analytical mind, and she is extraordinarily productive.”

The Faculty Assembly recognized Blake for her tireless work managing the Libraries’ electronic journals collection, her work as a bibliographer for numerous science departments, her commitment to teaching, and her dedication to the profession. Blake’s leadership has significantly improved access to the Libraries’ ever-expanding electronic journal collection.

Blake was instrumental in the Libraries’ purchase of a management system that allows usage tracking and better content linking. Her sustained collaboration with faculty in Geology and Geography, Biology, and Chemistry has become a model for instruction of information literacy and research skills.

In 2009, she collaborated with Associate Professor Tim Warner of Geology and Geography when he was awarded a grant to improve his course Introduction to Remote Sensing by developing a module on information literacy. Dr. Warner credits Blake’s work on the course for improving students’ research habits and the overall quality of their research papers.

Associate Professor of Chemistry George O’Doherty credits Blake’s collection development work for making access to the chemical literature and enhancing the academic experience.

“There is no doubt in my mind that these efforts by Linda have made us a better chemistry teaching and research university,” O’Doherty said.

Blake has also been active off campus, promoting libraries through her work with the West Virginia Library Association and the American Library Association. She has served in various capacities with WVL A since 1984 and recently completed a multi-year term as the West Virginia Councilor to ALA.

Blake came to the WVU Libraries in 1997. Previous to her current position, she managed the library at the NASA facility in Fairmont. She received her bachelor’s of arts in English and library science from Glenville State College and her master’s of library science from the University of Kentucky.
Mark Your Calendar for West Virginia Day Celebration

The WVU Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Collection will celebrate the state’s founding with an event on June 18.

This year will mark the 147th anniversary of West Virginia’s statehood. The celebration will focus on pioneer surveys, maps and patents in what was then the wild frontier. The preliminary schedule includes exhibits in the WVRHC’s Davis Family Galleries, guest speakers, and a reception.

The event is open to the public. All who attend will receive a commemorative West Virginia Day poster.

 WVU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution