



NEWSLETTER OF THE
DREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ISSUE NO. 24, FALL 2008

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Visions

Library Gala, January 31 MERRILL SKAGGS TO BE HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

By Jeevan Gurung
Candidate for Ph.D. in English

The featured author for the Friends of the Library Gala on January 31 was to be our own Dr. Merrill Maguire Skaggs, Baldwin Professor of Humanities, Emerita, and Cather scholar of national renown. Her sudden death on November 3 alters that plan.

But Professor Skaggs was never one to let important matters wait until the last minute. She had already written her talk for the Gala and given it to one of her former students and Cather scholar, Marilyn Callander, for some editing.

continued on page 5

“WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE NUC??!”

By Bruce Lancaster, Reference Associate

That looks like a very ordinary library reference question, in print up there...but live, it was spoken with an edge, trembling very near panic. The library user was an older man, a regular library user, and I was sure he feared that the digital age had just devoured one of the anchor points of his life and research.

Fortunately, I was able to quickly restore his equilibrium; the NUC was only about a hundred feet from its previous home, actually dimly visible from where we

continued on page 4



A. Magnell

Spanning a long, interior wall of the Rose library building, The National Union Catalog is surely “the freight train of reference sources,” according to Bruce Lancaster, Reference Associate, shown here examining one of the 754 volumes. And while it may have stopped short of the digital age, this compendium of 13 million pre-1956 book entries supports a hefty cargo of data unavailable in any other single source.

Inside

Dean’s Corner	2
Wiesel Lecture	2
Recent Gifts	3
Take My Word For It	3
Changes, Inside and Out	4
Information Literacy	6
Professional News	7
Exhibits	8

LIBRARY ADOPTS LC CATALOGING FOR ALL NEW BOOKS

By Lessie Culmer-Nier, Head of Cataloging

As of fall 2008, all new books are being classified using the Library of Congress classification scheme instead of the traditional Dewey Decimal system, which has been in use for decades. Although the switch to LC will create a split collection for an undetermined length of time, recent changes in the Library have made this an opportune time to adopt the LC system, now the standard among American academic and research libraries.

LC numbers are distinctive by starting with one, two or three letters that denote a specific discipline within an expandable universe of knowledge (e.g. HQ 1410 .B76 2006). Dewey numbers begin with three digits that denote a specific discipline within a universe of knowledge bounded by the numerical span 001-999 (e.g. 305.489692073 B877h). LC numbers generally are broken into smaller segments that are easier to read, shelve, and retrieve.

THE DEAN'S CORNER

SARAH PALIN AND LIBRARIES

Whatever your opinion of Senator McCain's choice for his running mate, we can all agree that Governor Palin and the media thrust library matters onto the front page of our newspapers, the six o'clock news, and the talk shows. Stories circulated that during her years as mayor of Wasilla, Palin allegedly tried to fire the City Librarian when the librarian would not agree to ban books if called upon to do so. While this charge has not been substantiated, it raises some important local issues.



Shelley Kuznetz

Does our Library withstand political pressures in selecting books for its collection? Do faculty recommend books that represent a variety of perspectives and methodologies and not just their preferred authors? Do our stacks include material that may be offensive or politically incorrect? Do we purchase material in which authors speak in their own voice, not just books that characterize and analyze them? In other words, is there a balance between primary and secondary literature?

Most of us would decry any attempt to rid the stacks of controversial books. (Perhaps the Library should mount an exhibit that features books that are under constant assault in some communities.) Yet it is not easy, given our modest budget, to ensure that books that are at odds with the prevailing paradigms of our academic disciplines are also purchased.

Here is one small test case. Given Governor Palin's religious perspective, can you find books that she would endorse in the Drew University Library? Let's take a look. Many evan-

gelicals are avid readers of the *Left Behind* novels, a series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins that graphically narrates the apocalyptic events they believe will soon bring the world to an end. More than fifty million copies have been sold and five of the titles have headed the *New York Times* best seller fiction list. Two of the novels became Hollywood feature films. The books are essential reading for a major sector of our country's population.

When I checked our catalog I found that we did not own a single title of this eleven-novel series. However, we did have four scholarly books that analyze the novels, the world view that they reveal, and the people to which they appeal. I also searched the *ATLA Religion Database* for scholarly reflection on the novels and discovered dozens of full-text articles. We have ample secondary literature; we don't have the primary source literature. Would the same pattern emerge in searching current culture war topics like intelligent design vs. evolution and right to life vs. right to choose?

The Palin flap reminds us that the pursuit of intellectual diversity begins at home. The library of a liberal arts institution must always be a place where all perspectives can be found in the voices of their proponents, not just in the voices of their opponents and interpreters. A library of integrity is a place where no view is left behind.

And as you would expect, the *Left Behind* novels are now on order.



Save the Date!

ELIE WIESEL TO SPEAK APRIL 6

Nobel Peace Prize winner and Boston University Professor Elie Wiesel will deliver the second George Karpati Lecture as part of the Drew Forum Series, on April 6, 2009. The George Karpati Lectureship was established in 2007 by Alicia Kornitzer Karpati and family with the goal of annually bringing to campus a notable scholar from the fields of Holocaust studies, Jewish studies, or Eastern European history. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the Drew Box Office at (973) 408-3917.

RECENT GIFTS

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following gifts.

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In memory of Dr. John Copeland, Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, for the acquisition of books in photography.

Sarah Chapman
 Lessie Culmer-Nier, G'80
 Professor Emeritus Ed Domber, C'67
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"TAKE MY WORD FOR IT..."

Looking for a good book to curl up with one of these fall weekends? How about some personal recommendations from members of the Drew community? Below is a sample of responses to a campus request for reviews of favorite summer reading. Not surprisingly, a range of books and contributors are represented here. See the complete list on the Library Web site at <http://www.drew.edu/depts/library/recommendedbooks.aspx>.

Posthumous Keats: A Personal Biography by acclaimed American poet Stanley Plumly (W.W. Norton, 2008), is not only a riveting retelling of the life and death of the English poet John Keats, it also establishes a new sub-genre: the *personal* biography. That is to say, the book recounts the life of Keats not in the dry, reserved prose one might expect of such a book, but with all the drama and heartbreak of a fine novel. I can recommend *Posthumous Keats* not only to lovers of Keats' poetry, but to anyone with a taste for a compelling, well-wrought story.

— Patrick Phillips,
Assistant Professor of English

The Shack by William P. Young (Windblown Media, 2007), is an excellent start to raising and opening up questions about the nature of God, humanity, and the nature of forgiveness and judgment.

— Becky Parsons, Theological Student

Predictably Irrational by Dan Ariely (Harper-Collins, 2008). An illuminating and amusing look at the foibles of human reasoning. In a very accessible and engaging style, Ariely describes some imaginative and clever experiments that consistently reveal error and bias in the way we think and draw conclusions about the world.

— Stephen Kilianski, Instructor

continued on page 6

Visions

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A complete online archive of past issues of *Visions* can be viewed on the library website at:
<http://www.drew.edu/depts/library/visions.aspx>

CHANGES, INSIDE AND OUT

Many regular library users have been unable to work on automatic pilot during recent months. Furniture has been moved around, sometimes residing in unlikely places. Collections and shelving were relocated to entirely new floors. Most of the shifts took place because of the installation of state-of-the-art, Spacesaver moveable shelving on the lower level of the Library. The transformation of that area is stunning. Come take a look. The new shelving more than doubles the book capacity on that floor and does much to alleviate crowding in the stacks throughout the Library.

Other changes include:

- Relocating several collections to create space for the new books that will now be cataloged into the Library of Congress classification system
- Reconfiguring study areas, increasing general study space available to all
- Adding electrical outlets on the main floor to accommodate more laptops
- Placing all-weather café tables and chairs outside the Learning Center and Methodist Archives for alfresco study and conversation
- Moving the Chemistry library from the Hall of Sciences to the Library
- Creating space for a curriculum collection to support the new MA in teaching

NUC

continued from page 1

stood, lurking in the gloom of the C-deck stacks. I pointed, the man visibly relaxed, a little crisis vanished.

As the man fondly hugged his favorite volume of the gigantic set, I had to wonder...why were so many of us still using this Brontosaur of human knowledge, a half-century old collection of almost 800 weighty tomes, in this age of computerized everything?

The *National Union Catalog* was a titanic achievement of its time. The NUC—also commonly known as “Mansell,” for its publisher—in its first huge series contained copies of the cards representing the main collection of the Library of Congress and works from the catalogs of many research libraries of the United States and Canada. This project had begun in 1901, with financial assistance from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The actual NUC was designed to pull together the many resulting accumulations of cards and lists into a form that could be easily used and widely distributed. Drew University (marked in the work by the abbreviation *NjMD*), though smaller than most participating research libraries, was part of the project because of our very large collection of unique or rare 18th and 19th century Methodist works.

The set, covering works through 1956, and its several supplemental sets extending its coverage, served the pre-computer research world in multiple ways: It attempted to comprehensively list books cataloged in the major libraries of North America in one place, making them potentially available for all researchers. It also served the utterly practical—and revolutionary at the time—purpose of listing the major libraries nationwide which owned each work. This was the genesis of modern Interlibrary Loan; for the first time, libraries could locate copies of books to borrow without correspondence and guesswork. Perhaps most importantly, it

allowed libraries to share, copy, and reproduce bibliographic records for their own catalogs, saving duplication of effort and promoting more uniform cataloging standards.

For many years now, we have largely worked from a huge online database of library catalogs—available to our users under the name *WorldCat*—for these functions, enabling vastly quicker and more flexible searching and covering the collections of perhaps a thousand-fold more libraries. Yet we still hold the NUC, its foreign relatives, the *British Museum General Catalogue of Printed Books* and the French *Catalogue ge'ne'ral*, and some equivalent works covering early serial publications, together occupying a vast amount of precious shelf space. Why?

Because, “The past is a foreign country”...they didn’t have computers there! A recent study (Beall and Kafadar, “The Proportion of NUC Pre-56 Titles Represented in OCLC *WorldCat*,” *College and Research Libraries*, September, 2005) found that 27.8 percent of NUC records are not found in the *WorldCat* database...a shocking blow to our faith in the computer and recently published suggestions that the NUC had finally become just an artifact of information history! And, just as this article went to press, a new statistical study was released: Christine DeZaler-Tiedman, writing in *College and Research Libraries*, Vol. 69, #5, September 2008, confirmed the continued validity of the Beall and Kafadar study and analyzed the result of the recent merger of the OCLC/*WorldCat* and RLIN databases: at least 25 percent of the NUC records are still not included in the electronic sources as of 2008.

Drew is deeply involved in 18th and 19th century research, and indeed in the whole pre-computer period, roughly prior to 1985. Our little involvement in the creation of the NUC led to decades of heavy use...which seem unlikely to end

continued on page 5



LIBRARY GALA *continued from page 1*



Author Skaggs inscribed her latest book for a Cather fan at a book-signing in April.

Besides being instrumental in the growth of the Willa Cather Special Collection, Skaggs' infectious enthusiasm for Cather led to the creation of a "Cather community" at Drew. She nurtured many of her students to become Cather scholars in their own right, and the number of Cather books—ten to date—produced by Drew owes direct credit to her scholarly acumen and mentorship.

So the Gala will hear those words, for Dr. Callander will read the speech in her stead.

The talk, entitled "Scholarship as Autobiography," will be about Drew Library's resources of past, present, and future with special emphasis on the Library's Special Collections and their history. Reflecting the intensive research activity on campus, Skaggs's talk also references Drew's record of producing Cather books.

Merrill Skaggs' contribution to Drew University has been on many fronts. Because of her initiative, Drew has become one of the nation's leading research centers for Cather studies.

Among Skaggs' publications are: *After the World Broke in Two: The Later Novels of Willa Cather* (University of Virginia Press, 1990); *Axes: Willa Cather and William Faulkner* (University of Nebraska Press, 2007); and a collaborative work with John J. Murphy, *Willa Cather: New Facts, New Glimpses, Revisions* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2008).

The Library Gala is held every second year, with proceeds benefiting the Library Book Endowment Fund. Honorary Dinner Chairs for the black-tie optional event will be Dr. Marilyn and Mr. Robert Callander. For further information, please call Deborah Strong in the Library at 973-408-3471.

NUC

continued from page 4

anytime soon. Some of our volumes may be in danger of wearing out before they become obsolete, but none of that is much of a surprise to anyone who has spent time digging into the past. The past will continue to surprise us, and every serious researcher has discovered "new" books not described anywhere. Bibliography has no end in sight.

The mighty bibliographers who put the NUC together knew their mission, and they knew that their endeavor was not new. Here's what they put on the flyleaf of the introductory volume:

Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it. When we enquire into any subject, the first thing we have to do is to know what books have treated of it. This leads us to look at catalogues...

— Samuel Johnson, April 18, 1775

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ASSESSING A FIRST-YEAR INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAM AT DREW

By Elizabeth Patterson, Ph.D. and Catherine Ryan, Reference Librarians

Information literacy at Drew is integrated into the undergraduate curriculum at several points: as part of the First Year Seminar offered to all incoming students and as part of several writing programs required of most students. Specialized instruction is also available for all undergraduate courses on request by the faculty. Drew reference librarians have several ways of assessing the undergraduate information literacy program here. The focus of this research is the 75-minute library session given during the First Year Seminar (FYS) program.

In constructing the FYS information literacy program, members of the Reference Department first isolated essential information literacy skills for incoming students by consulting the ACRL (Academic Colleges and Research Libraries) Information Literacy Competency Standards. An assessment tool to test these skills was developed. The tool has been piloted on over 700 students since 2006. Interestingly, the results from this assessment revealed some unexpected insights regarding the

information literacy of our students.

One assessment question asked students to identify how to access full text from a database record using the link resolver icon. We expected this question to be a “no-brainer” for students who grew up with texting, icons, and the Internet. Yet, despite a demonstration of how the link resolver icon worked during the session, only 73% of students got this correct on the test! We were also surprised to find that students scored better on higher level skills, like choosing the correct database for a specific subject (98% correct) and identifying characteristics of a scholarly article (79% correct) than they did on lower level skills, such as identifying parts of a citation (73% correct) or understanding the use of the link resolver, mentioned above.

The most significant insight we gained came from a question about discipline-based access to subject-specific, online resources. Students showed a



Fall semester full house in the reference area.

wide discrepancy in their ability to link subjects with disciplines. Incoming students scored well on familiar high school subjects, like biology and music, but they consistently misidentified disciplines for unfamiliar subjects like anthropology and philosophy. Based on this information, we significantly changed our web page design. The Library web page now offers access to online resources through the majors and minors offered at Drew and a simple alphabetical list of titles. This was truly an unexpected consequence of our information literacy assessment research.

“TAKE MY WORD FOR IT...” continued from page 3

Obsidian Butterfly by Laurel K. Hamilton (Jove Novel, 2000). A story of vampires, witches, and zombies, *Obsidian Butterfly* takes a strong heroin into a world of Aztec lore and the sun-drenched town of Santa Fe to battle one of her most mysterious cases yet.

— Ciara B. Perez, Class of 2010

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathon Safran (Houghton Mifflin, 2005). I read this book a few summers ago. It is one of my favorite books that I continually recommend to people—a very heartwarming story that you won’t forget.

— Sara Koepf, Lab Instructor

The Fratricides by Nikos Kazantzakis (Simon & Schuster, 1964.) Set in the context of the Greek civil war of 1942-49, *The Fratricides* is the story of an arguably Christ-like priest’s struggle to restore peace, freedom, solidarity, and justice in his small mountain village. The novel, Kazantzakis’ last and least well-

known, at once inspires us to hope and compels us to doubt that such struggles for a better world, indeed for a better humanity, can succeed.

— Kenneth Alexo, Jr., Director of Corporate, Foundation & Government Relations

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas; Richard Pevear, trans. (Penguin USA, 2006) is a truly unforgettable book, rollicking in its adventure, humorous in its dialogue, and memorable in its characters.

— Eddie Gonzalez, Class of 2012

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri (Alfred A. Knopf, 2008). This moving collection of short stories explores the many challenges faced by the American-born children of Indian immigrants. The characters are immediately sympathetic, and the writing is beautifully subtle.

— Charles Green, Graduate Student

The Lusiads by Luis Vaz de Camões (or Camoens), translated by Landeg White

(Oxford World’s Classics, 1997). A new translation of this witty, 1572 Renaissance poem which celebrates the discoveries of Vasco de Gama and the Portuguese opening of the world.

Camoens, the first European writer to cross the equator, uses classical style and imagery, such as Bacchus and Venus competing on Mt. Olympus, to describe in mythical terms how new discoveries surpass the ancients’ knowledge of the world.

— John Lenz, Associate Professor of Classics

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes (Originally published 1605; Penguin Classics translation by John Rutherford, 2003). I was surprised at how readable and contemporary this translation felt, and found myself laughing out loud at the hilarious exploits of the title character and his trusty sidekick, Sancho Panza. I even came to understand the true meaning of quixotic.

— Lee Arnold, Assistant Professor of Art

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Christopher J. Anderson, Methodist Librarian, edited, with Kenneth W. Rowe, *United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies*, 5th edition. (Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2008). His article, "To 'Elevate Unfortunate Humanity' On-Screen: Linking World War I and Protestant Missions through Silent Film," appeared in the *Journal of Religion and Film*, 12:2 (October 2008). He contributed five entries to the *Westminster Handbook to Women in American Religious History*, ed., S. Lindley, S. Hill, and E. J. Stebner (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.) In May, he presented "Designing Virtual Bridges: Considering Trans-Pacific Collaborations" at the University of Melbourne; and in June, "Before PowerPoint: Lantern Slides in Theological Library Collections," Special Collections Group, American Theological Library Association, in Ottawa.

Jody Caldwell, Head of Reference, presented research from her 2007 sabbatical in a paper given at the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Boston during the summer— "Catholic without the Roman": Catholic Identity at *Spiritus Christi Church*."

David Cupo, C'05, Catalog Associate, completed coursework and earned his Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree from Drexel University over the summer.

James Farrugia, Systems Librarian, gave a talk entitled "A Skeptical Look at Open-Source Tools for Libraries" at the FutureTech for Libraries Symposium at the Technical College of New Jersey in June. He also presented "Unicorn, VuFind, and the DLF ILS-DL" at the SirsiDynix Northeast Regional User Group at Lehigh University in June. He co-authored a paper entitled "Unveiling Jangle: Untangling Library Resources and Exposing them through the Atom



Italian Ice was served up outside the main entrance for the Library's annual welcome to students, just as the semester got underway.

Studying al fresco,
Zayzay Gwepougee Kpadeh,
Drew Theological School student,
finds the patio study area an
inviting space on an early fall
day in front of the Library.



Publishing Protocol," which appeared in the *Code4Lib Journal*, Issue 4, September 2008, at (<http://journal.code4lib.org/>).

Jennifer Heise, Library Web Manager and Reference Librarian, is the author of two recent books: *Hygiene of the Middle Ages and Renaissance*, Volume I: *Personal Grooming* and Volume 2: *Domestic Arrangements*, published as special issues of *The Compleat Anachronist*, Volumes 136 and 137. (Milpitas, Cal.: Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., 2008).

Dorothy Meaney, Electronic Resources and Serials Librarian, completed her Masters degree in Library and Information Science from the School of Communication, Information and Library Science at Rutgers University in May 2008.

Elizabeth Patterson, Government Documents and Reference Librarian, and **Cathy Ryan**, Reference Librarian, presented "Assessing a First Year Information Literacy Program at an Academic Institution: Intended and Unintended Consequences" at the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference, Research Forum section in May [See related article in this issue.]

Andrew Scrimgeour, Dean of Libraries, served on the Association of College and Research Libraries' nomination committee for the 2008 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, which honors libraries for creativity and innovation. Scrimgeour also received a travel grant from the Kasper Foundation to conduct interviews in Montana, Oregon, California, and Florida during the summer for a biography of Robert Funk.

LIBRARY EXHIBITS **MAIN LIBRARY****Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass****September 19-November 17, 2008*

An exhibit from the Special Collections of Drew University Library. Curated by Merrill M. Skaggs, Baldwin Professor of Humanities, Emerita, and Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger. On view in the Reference area.

Wicked Words: Books from the George Fraser Black Witchcraft Collection*October 8-November 15, 2008*

Early printed books from the Black Collection include a 1580 edition of the *Malleus Maleficarum*—or *Witch Hammer*—by Henricus Institoris and Jacobus Sprenger. Originally published in 1486, the volume gave unprecedented attention to the Inquisition-era topic of combating witchcraft. Curated by Jennifer Heise.

Faculty Publications*Ongoing*

A rotating exhibit in the permanent display cases in the Library lobby showcases recent faculty work.

Martin Luther King, Jr.*February 1-28, 2009*

This exhibit will commemorate the historic visit of Martin Luther King, Jr. to Drew forty-five years ago and subsequent visits by members of the King family. It will also highlight the participation of Drew students in efforts such as Freedom Rides, voter registration, and local protests for civil rights.

METHODIST LIBRARY*November 1, 2008 - January 31, 2009*

Methodist Historical Exhibit from the General Commission on Archives and History.



"Haberland and Schwendy," an illustration by Jacob Landau for a special edition of The Tales of E.T.A. Hoffman. Drew has received over 200 illustration-related works of art from the Jacob Landau Institute. They will greatly enrich the archive of Jacob Landau that is located at Drew. Landau (1917-2001) lived in Roosevelt, New Jersey, a thriving community of artists that included his good friend, Ben Shahn.

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