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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Librarians at Oesterle Library take very seriously their responsibility to develop the next generation of librarians. As a result, since 1990, approximately 5% of Oesterle Library student assistants have gone on to graduate school in library and information science and entered the profession.

Ted Schwitzner’92 is an example of an Oesterle Library student assistant who was encouraged to pursue librarianship. Moreover, Ted is among a select group of former student assistants (which includes current staff members Belinda Cheek’83 and Heidi Kaul’04) who, after graduation from North Central College, joined the Oesterle Library staff.

Ted, who recently resigned his position as Coordinator of Collections, Instruction, and Technical Services at Oesterle Library to become Head of Bibliographic Services at Illinois State University, served in a variety of positions during his 13 years as a library staff member. Moreover, during this period, his contributions to Oesterle Library, North Central College, and the profession were consistently outstanding. As Belinda Cheek, who supervised Ted when he was an Audio-Visual student assistant and later worked with him as a professional colleague, observed: “The transformation from his early years as a very quiet (but industrious) student assistant to his current skills in grant writing, involvement in statewide library activities, and most especially, his passion for library advocacy at both the state and national levels is quite a tribute to his dedication to the profession of librarianship.”

Ted was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Library Association. The quiet student assistant at Oesterle Library has transformed into a recognized, respected leader in the field. With former Oesterle Library student assistants, such as Ted, transitioning to the next generation of librarians, the future of librarianship is secure.

Carolyn A. Sheehy
Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services

“COMMUNITY SPEAKS” SERIES

On March 6, **Dr. Stephen H. Macek**, assistant professor of speech communication, discussed his book *Urban Nightmares: The Media, the Right and the Moral Panic over the City* as part of the Oesterle Library "Community Speaks" series. He concluded that the media has been guilty of demonizing the inner city, depicting a place of violence and moral decay, in contrast to the safe and orderly suburbs.

Oesterle Library’s spring term “Community Speaks” series presentation will feature **John Madormo**, assistant professor of broadcast communications and general manager of WONC, discussing "Screen Writing From the Inside Out," noon-1:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 29 in the Periodicals Room.



GRADUATING LIBRARY SERVICES STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Once again library services staff members prepare to bid a group of dedicated student assistants farewell as they graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives.

Rachel Carson will be taking her Japanese and East Asian studies majors to Japan after graduation to work as an English Assistant Language Teacher outside of Tokyo. Looking back on her four years of library employment, Rachel will remember her time at the Information Services Desk most fondly because “I was able to help many people and could talk with the different people who came into the library.” Because of the close atmosphere of all the staff and student workers, she found working at the library like belonging to a small family. She cites gaining a better grasp of how to use the library tools as an additional benefit.



Colleen Conway will graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in international business with a minor in speech communication. Colleen enjoyed working at the library because “I felt comfortable. It’s more than just a workplace; it’s like a home away from home. When walking to classes I would frequently run into Pat (Thomas) on her afternoon walks. It was nice to walk into work and have Jan (Smallwood) ask how my day was or Nancy (Kamrath) ask how classes were going. When feeling ill and calling in sick Heidi (Kaul) always understood. It was nice to work at a place where I wasn’t considered just a student.” She also found that “By working at the library I have definitely learned how to do more accurate and in-depth research.”

After graduation, Colleen will go “wherever the Lord takes me.”

Shannon Duffy will graduate with a major in broadcasting and a minor in gender and women’s studies. During her four years at Oesterle Library she has risen through the ranks from student assistant to Assistant Student Coordinator and ultimately Student Coordinator. The opportunity for promotion is one of the things Shannon most appreciates about working in the library. She also feels that her own research skills have improved as a result of helping other students with their research. While working in radio is Shannon’s immediate goal, she is toying with the idea of going to library school at some time in the future.



Mariangela Guglielmo states, “I have learned a lot about customer service” while working at the library’s public service points, the Information Services Desk and Periodicals Desk. That said, she actually enjoyed her work in Technical Services more, learning the behind-the-scenes aspects of materials processing. Mariangela will graduate with a broadcasting major and theatre minor and plans to look for a job in either the television or radio market. She also plans to work in community theater.

Although **Megan Kelzer** only spent one year as Archives Assistant, she got a lot out of the experience. “I love that I have the opportunity to work hands on with the history of the college. I’ve really gained a wider appreciation of NCC since I started in the Archives. I’ve also learned so much from Kim (Butler) and enjoy working with her on projects. Academically, I got some great ideas for a possible thesis topic for my history capstone seminar! Also, after working in the Archives I realized that I really could do public history as a career.” With her history major and secondary education minor, Megan is considering several options after graduation: pursuing a career in education locally, teaching English abroad, getting a master’s in public history, or joining the Peace Corps



Leen Morrissey has tried every student position in the library, and says, “I love mending books because there’s an artistic quality to it, and you can be proud of what you’re able to accomplish. It’s always fun to see a book you gave new life get checked back out. And the great part about it is that the most beat up books are the most loved books – so you see a lot of really interesting titles.” For Leen, a close second was working at the Information Services Desk. “It’s good to be able to interact with people and be a part of their day.” After graduating with an organizational communication major and minors in journalism and history of ideas, “I just accepted a part-time job with a not-for-profit organization called “Feed My Starving Children,” which is opening new site locations in Chicagoland. I’ll be exploring my options with that expansion, but for now, I’m

happy to be doing something I believe in and moving in the right direction. I plan to go into non-profit work fully, hopefully someday at a hands-on management level.”



Erik Stein plans to take a year off and travel the world after graduating in June with a mathematics major and history of ideas minor. The thing he liked best about working at the Information Services Desk and Periodicals Desk has been interacting with his fellow students and other library patrons. He too credits his library positions with improving his research abilities. When he returns from his adventures in such far-flung places as Taiwan, India and Europe, Erik plans to begin graduate studies in physical therapy with the goal of becoming a physical therapist.

Although **Bill Thurston** will have only worked one year at Oesterle Library when he graduates in June with a history major and coaching minor, he credits the experience he’s gained during that year in preparing him for planned graduate studies at Dominican University in the Library Services and Information Technologies program. Bill particularly “liked working at technical services because I got to see how books are processed and all the steps they go through between being received at the library and finally being shelved.” He found his library job to be a good fit because of the flexible hours, close proximity to his dorm, and the fun people he got to work with.



In addition to cycling through all of the library units during her four years of library service, **Jenn Vanderheyden** also spent some time assisting library secretary Jan Smallwood. Jenn particularly enjoyed working at the Information Services and Periodicals Desks because she found the direct contact with patrons, helping them navigate the library, so rewarding and satisfying. When asked what she enjoyed most about working in the library, Jenn replied, “The people! I absolutely love all the staff members. They are caring, respectful, helpful, and understanding. I am definitely going to miss everyone.” Jenn also credits her library job with sharpening her research skills, a benefit that will serve her well when she moves to Chicago to work on her master’s degree in social work. She will graduate from North Central with majors in psychology and sociology and minors in social change and public advocacy.

FACULTY RETIREES

The spring 2007 Archives exhibit in the Oesterle Library lobby celebrates the retirement of two long-time faculty members: **David Frolick**, professor of political science, and **Jack Phend**, associate professor of speech communication/theatre. Both began at North Central College in the 1970s and have impacted many, many students with their teaching and campus involvements. In addition to many courses in various political science topics, David Frolick chaired the political science department and the human thought and behavior division. Frolick was the faculty member responsible for the College’s involvement in the Model United Nations, leading many international trips to representative countries as part of the group’s research. Frolick also regularly taught a seminar class on the Holocaust. His more current research interest on Jewish life in Quincy resulted in a play written by Frolick titled *Rooted in the River: Rabbi Elias Eppstein Reflects on Turn-of-the Century Quincy* about Rabbi Epstein, a leader of the 19th century Jewish settlers in Quincy. Jack Phend taught many classes in set design and theatre production and, in fact, had a major hand in the direction and set design of many Pfeiffer Hall productions. Phend was also involved in the *Rooted in the River* project, serving as director and producer of the play. Additionally, Phend designed sets for the Raven Theatre Company, and won a Jeff award for his design of *The Time of Your Life*. The exhibit features “baby” pictures of when Frolick and Phend began at North Central College and other photographs, news clippings, and publications that cover their tenure here. Stop and see their highlights!

LIBRARY ORIENTATIONS

Orientations to Oesterle Library will be held Saturday, March 31 from 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 3 from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. No advance registration is necessary. Participants meet in the lobby of the library.

THE FINAL WORD (continued from back page)

Open access journals take advantage of the internet’s unparalleled power as a distribution mechanism in order to offer end users—from esteemed scholars at well-funded institutions to students at under-funded universities in developing nations—access to scholarly information regardless of their status, geography, or wealth. As more and more scholarly communication moves into the open access realm, an increasingly greater proportion of contributions to “the Grand design of improving Natural knowledge” will become available not just to the fortunate elites, but to everyone.

THE FINAL WORD: OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS by Ryan Williams

Three hundred forty-two years ago, members of the Royal Society of London produced the first issue of *Philosophical Transactions*—one of the world’s oldest scholarly journals, and presently the record-holder for the longest continuous scientific publication.¹ These scholars’ stated purpose—to “search, try and find out new things, impart their knowledge to one another, and contribute what they can to the Grand design of improving Natural knowledge,”² might just as easily describe the goals of a contemporary scholarly publication. I uncovered the quotation above in an online database—a technology utterly inconceivable in 1665. In the 17th century, only a small and highly exclusive circle of the educated elite had access to a publication like *Philosophical Transactions*, whereas the internet has now made it possible for students and scholars around the globe to view its content at the click of a mouse.

But even in the age of the internet, access to scholarly publications like *Philosophical Transactions* does not come without barriers and limitations. For people affiliated with academic institutions that can afford expensive subscription and archive fees, a whole world of scholarly information is available to them in an instant; but for people and institutions who aren’t in a position to afford this kind of access, a great deal of this information remains out of reach. In recent years, the for-profit companies who own the rights to publish and distribute many of the world’s most significant scholarly journals have raised subscription and electronic access prices for their publications to such a degree that even many well-funded libraries and universities have begun to find them unaffordable. Some researchers have taken drastic action in order to signal their objections to the unfairly high prices of many scholarly journals: for example, the entire editorial board of the journal *Topology* recently resigned in protest of the exorbitant subscription fees being charged by its publisher.³

Another recent response to this crisis in scholarly communication has been the rise of open access journals. Scholars have long been aware of the internet’s potential to offer unfettered distribution of information, but the interests of the companies and organizations that stand to profit by continuing to limit access to important scholarly journals have most often trumped researchers’ desires to make scholarly information freely available. Open access journals—scholarly publications launched with the specific intent of distributing their contents to any and all users without charging any fees or placing any restrictions upon use⁴--can be seen as an attempt to avoid the disadvantages of the commercial publication system. Just like traditional journals, open access journals are peer reviewed, but by maintaining strictly non-commercial philosophies and utilizing the internet as a means of distribution, open source journals reduce costs and ensure that virtually anyone will have free access to their publications.

Internet distribution does not, however, eliminate all costs related to the publication of a journal—web hosting is inexpensive, but it isn’t free, and the administrative maintenance of a website and a journal often requires the work of paid professionals. If open access journals don’t charge users, how do they recoup their costs? Typically, researchers who publish in open access journals are responsible for a publication fee, which in most cases will be paid by their sponsoring institutions—universities and/or grant making agencies. Though at first this might seem counterintuitive, it’s important to keep in mind that these same institutions have also been bearing the financial burden of supporting traditional academic journals; the difference is that the support has come in the form of subscription fees paid by university libraries.⁵ The cost of supporting the journal still comes out of a university’s budget, though from a different area. (continued on page 3)

¹ “Brief History of the Society.” Website of the Royal Society of London. <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/page.asp?id=2176>. Accessed March 8, 2007.

² *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. 1 (1665 - 1666), p. 1-2.

³ Monastersky, Richard. “Editorial Board of Elsevier Journal Resigns in Protest Over Pricing.” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Volume 53, Issue 12 (Nov. 10, 2006), p. A17.

⁴ Björk, Bo-Christer. “Open Access to Scientific publications: An Analysis of the Barriers to Change.” <http://ebib.oss.wroc.pl/2005/63/bjork.php>. Accessed March 8, 2007.

⁵ Suber, Peter. “Removing Barriers to Research: An Introduction to Open Access for Librarians.” *College & Research Libraries News*, Vol. 64 No. 2 (February 2003).

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