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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Illinois academic librarians are about to make library history! For many years, we have discussed the need to eliminate three existing library consortia - Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Program (ICCMP), Illinois Digital Academic Library (IDAL), and Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization (ILCSO) - and form one consortium in order to eliminate duplication and pursue collaborative efforts that had not yet been achieved. However, it wasn't until a joint meeting of the board of directors of these organizations on February 13, 2004, that a new group titled Team Illinois (of which I was selected a member) was charged with creating a concept paper outlining the issues to be addressed in order to create a new Illinois academic library consortium.

Team Illinois completed its assignment in March 2004 by releasing a white paper "A Renewal of Leadership: Visioning Academic Library Collaboration in Illinois". The team called for the integration of staff and services of ICCMP, IDAL, and ILCSO into a new single statewide organization. On June 1, 2004, the governing boards and membership of the three consortia agreed to explore opportunities for integration into an Illinois academic library consortium. A Vision and Leadership Team (of which I was selected a member) was chosen and charged with creating a comprehensive proposal to integrate the programs and operations of the three consortia into a new organization. The team issued its final report in January 2005.

The governing boards and membership of the three consortia are currently voting on the proposal. If accepted, the new Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries (CARLI) will be launched on July 1, 2005, and a new era in cooperation among Illinois academic librarians will begin!

Carolyn A. Sheehy
Director of Library Services

FACULTY RETIREES

The spring 2005 Archives exhibit in the Oesterle Library lobby celebrates the retirement of five North Central College faculty. **Howard Mueller** '58, the C. Frederick Toenniges Professor of Religious Studies, has been on the faculty of North Central College since 1976, accumulating many awards, including the Dissinger Award, the Harold and Eva White First Citizen of the College Award, and the Outstanding Alumnus Award. Dr. Mueller also was named the Outstanding Educator of the Year by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. **Mary Liaw**, professor of physics, joined North Central College in 1980 and has repeatedly chaired physics. Dr. Liaw's primary research interest throughout her career has been the study of lightning. **Marge Feters**, associate professor of marketing (continued on page 3)

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. These students have assisted the Instructional Media Coordinator and the Archivist; served as Assistant Student Coordinator; staffed the Circulation Desk and Reserves Desk; shelved books; mended damaged books; and processed periodicals and interlibrary loans. This year's graduating student assistants are:

Although **Kim James** has only worked as an Archives student assistant for three terms, she credits her job with exposing her to the different types of research she may need to undertake when she realizes her dream of becoming a journalist. She says she particularly likes the flexibility the job provides and enjoys working with the “really nice people” on the library staff. Kim will graduate with a double major in journalism and political science. Before settling down to find a job, she plans on going to a NASCAR race and making a trip to Las Vegas. There may also be a move to North Carolina in her future!



Nathan Mount will graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics with an art history minor. After four years working in acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, interlibrary loan, mending, periodicals, reserves, and stacks, Nathan says he liked mending the best because he felt like he was making more of a contribution to the library. He feels that one of the benefits of working at the library was that it inspired him to get his work done. “I figured if I’m going to go to the library I might as well get some work done.” When asked what skills he gained from working at the library, Nate responded that “Research is probably one of the skills that I improved on the most. But there are also skills gained from the interaction with co-workers and patrons.” Nate plans on working for a year after graduation and then attending art school, where he hopes to combine his math skills with something he loves to do (art).

Mary Murray has worked at the Circulation Desk, Periodicals Desk and in the periodicals unit during her two years as a student assistant. Of these jobs, her favorite was the periodicals unit, because she enjoyed learning about what happens behind the scenes in the library. In fact, she enjoyed it so much that she has decided to go on to graduate school to earn a Masters of Library and Information Science degree! Mary says that one of the best parts of working at the library was “the opportunity to interact with so many different people at school, but outside of the classroom.” She will be awarded a bachelor of arts degree in English with an emphasis on literature. When Mary accepts her diploma, she will be cheered on by four-year-old daughter Isabelle, who added to the challenges her mother faced going to school and working. Graduate school will be even more challenging, as Mary and husband Chip will be welcoming baby #2 in July.



Nate Paufve joined the library staff the summer of his sophomore year. When asked what he liked most about working in the library, Nate responded that he “enjoyed working with the library staff. They have been so accommodating throughout the time that I have worked here. Everyone goes out of their way for everyone else, and allows for it to be such a great place to work.” Getting to know how to do library research ranks high on the list of skills Nate acquired through his library work, but he states that “working with all of the students and community members that come into the library is a skill that will be most important in my post-graduation career. I will have to be able to work with a multitude of individuals wherever I work.” Nate will graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology: urban studies and policy with a minor in history. He hopes to work for National Student Partnerships in Chicago through AmeriCorps, and eventually go to graduate school to study public policy.

When **Joe Simpao** graduates in June with a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry, he will head for St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa to pursue a second degree in criminalistics. With these two degrees in hand, Joe plans to satisfy his interest in police detective work and scientific research by pursuing a job in forensic science. He has worked for the library for four years, first as a student assistant and this year as an Assistant Student Coordinator. In addition to his regular class load and his job duties, Joe has filled his spare time working on an independent study testing the affects of genetically altered yeast strains on the fermentation products. Just in case forensic science doesn’t work out, the Head Brewer at Miller Brewing Company has expressed interest in his findings.





Beth Wilhour, who spent the majority of her four years as a library student assistant working in periodicals, enjoyed the quiet atmosphere of the Periodicals Room. Typical of most student assistants, she also enjoyed the treat bags library staff members provide for Halloween, Valentine’s Day and Student Appreciation Week. Beth cites an improvement in her research skills and awareness of library resources as two of the major benefits of working in the library. She plans to work for a year after graduating with majors in political science and Spanish and a minor in history of ideas. Her plans beyond that year include earning a master’s degree in international affairs or political science.

Lauren West wasn’t exactly sure what being an Instructional Media Student Assistant entailed when she was hired three years ago, but she quickly learned to set up data projectors and VCRs and change batteries and lamps, as well as deliver equipment. Lauren has been particularly helpful to Instructional Media Coordinator Tom Gill in setting up and maintaining statistical databases for the Instructional Media unit. Lauren says she has learned a great deal about organizational databases such as Microsoft Access and Excel, which will definitely be useful in any setting. “I really enjoyed working with the library staff. They are very dedicated not only to their specific jobs but also to creating a good community for all the students and staff that work in the library.” After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and a minor in history of ideas Lauren hopes to work in a service field for a few years before continuing her education.



E-MAIL NOTICES IMPLEMENTED

Since fall term, Oesterle Library Access Services staff have implemented several email notifications in order to more quickly communicate with patrons. “Overdue Notices” previously sent in paper format via campus mail or U.S. mail, are now sent to North Central College faculty, staff, and students’ campus email address. The change to e-mail format has resulted in savings in paper, postage and staff processing time.

In addition, faculty, staff and students now receive a “Courtesy Notice” three days before library materials they have checked out are due. This new notice, which has been well received by patrons, serves as a reminder of the upcoming due date and encourages patrons to either return or renew the item promptly. Renewals may be completed online via the patron’s “MyAccount” in CardinalCat, by calling the Circulation Desk (630-637-5700), or in person at the library Circulation Desk. There is a limit of three renewals per item, after which the item must be returned to the library.

“Oesterle Library Interlibrary Loan Item Available” notices are now also being sent via email. These notices inform faculty, staff and students of any interlibrary loan material that has been received for their use. Prior to implementation of this email service, patrons were notified of interlibrary loan item availability via telephone.

FACULTY RETIREES (continued)

and management, a member of the faculty since 1989, served as chair of business administration, and has been very involved in community organizations. **Daphne Lee**, associate professor of accounting, has also been at North Central College since 1989. She has served as chair of accounting. **Winnie Makowski**, associate professor of education, has been a member of the faculty since 1989 and often served as chair of education.

LIBRARY RENOVATION: PHASE TWO

Library patrons would have been justified in believing they were witnessing a science fiction film recently as an entire new room appeared in the northwest corner of Giere Audio Visual Center over the course of only two days. The intrepid North Central College maintenance staff built the room as a secure storage area for materials being moved out of the west wing of the library basement in preparation for phase two of library renovation. Phase one resulted in the beautiful new Periodicals Room and Technical Services area (completed in 2002). Phase two will provide new spaces for Archives and Instructional Media, finally bringing all aspects of those two units into one location. Phase two renovation is expected to be completed by September, 2005.



THE FINAL WORD: EVENING AND WEEKEND REFERENCE SERVICES LIBRARIANS

Many of the library's daytime patrons probably are unaware that the library staff includes two librarians they never see. One might wonder what inspires someone to seek out a job that begins when the rest of the staff goes home to their families and leisure activities. Meet Lucia Testin and Bronwen Culhane.

Lucia Testin finds her current 5:00 – 10:00 pm shift as Reference Services Librarian a breeze compared to her original 9:00 to midnight shift. She was hired for the evening shift at Oesterle Library shortly after her family moved to the area from Florida. She found "The hours were perfect at the time because it enabled me to be home with my kids during the day, while my husband stayed with them in the evening." Working three days a week (two evenings and one weekend day) and having summers and holidays off has been great for me and my family, as far as not having to find daycare and being able to spend that special time with my kids." A side benefit has been that her husband has had a more active role in raising their children. "Spending time away from my kids is hard but seeing the relationship that they have with my husband makes it worth the sacrifice."



Lucia was awarded her master of library and information science degree from Dominican University in June 2003, completing studies that she began at Florida State University prior to moving to Illinois. She developed an interest in librarianship while working as the computer operator/telecommunications specialist at the State Library of Florida.

In contrast to daytime staff, the evening and weekend Reference Services Librarians work only with student assistants. According to Lucia, this has its pluses and minuses. "On the plus side, I learn a great deal about other areas of the library and how they work because I have to. There is no one to ask questions of when the need arises, so I have to find the answers myself, and I tend to learn better that way." A minus is "the pressure I put on myself to come in when I'm really not feeling well. In the back of my mind I know that if I can't come in, someone who's already been there for eight hours has to work five additional hours and may also need to be back in at 8:00 am for a meeting."



Bronwen Culhane was drawn to libraries since childhood, so it was only natural that her first high school job was as a page at the public library. Although she majored in corporate communications at Northern Illinois University, she always knew that she wanted to eventually earn a master of library and information science degree and return to working in a library. Financial necessity initially drove her to work in marketing and sales for a wholesale food distributor, but in 2002 Bronwen decided it was time to realize her dream and enrolled in Dominican University's library science program. She finished her degree in 2004, at the same time that Oesterle Library was looking to add a second evening and weekend Reference Services Librarian to its staff.

When asked how she likes her first "professional" library job, Bronwen responded, "I enjoy working in an academic library and interacting with both faculty and students. I feel lucky to have a career that allows unending intellectual stimulation and growth, as well as the opportunity to contribute to an outstanding organization such as North Central College. I have enjoyed helping the enthusiastic students here, as well as public patrons."

Like Lucia, Bronwen states "it is wonderful to have Christmas and Spring break off to spend time with my daughter. I enjoy being able to drop her off at school and pick her up and have an early dinner with her before I have to go to work. I am able to be involved in her school activities and I don't have to worry about day care expenses during breaks."

LIBRARY ORIENTATIONS

Orientations to Oesterle Library will be held Tuesday, April 5 from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. and Saturday, April 9 from 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. No advance registration is necessary. Participants meet in the lobby of the library.

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