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FROM THE DIRECTOR



In the winter of 1991, *EX LIBRIS*, the library’s newsletter, was launched “to inform members of the North Central College community of library services, policies and collections.” Published four times a year, I served as editor, and Sharon Nelson Takacs (Systems Librarian) was in charge of “layout.”

I continued as editor until the summer of 1993, when Helen Mellett (Reference Services Librarian and later the library’s first Instructional Services Librarian) assumed both editorial and layout responsibilities and changed the newsletter’s publication schedule to three times a year. In the summer 1993 issue, I initiated my “From the Director” column. In my first column, I discussed the library’s expanded electronic information sources and extended evening hours.

In the winter of 1996, the library’s newsletter gained a new title (*EX LIBRIS: From the Library*) and new design from its third “editor/layout,” Jennifer Sheffield (the library’s second Instructional Services Librarian). A year later, newsletter leadership was transferred to Heather Jagman (the library’s third Instructional Services Librarian). Under Heather’s stewardship, the premiere electronic issue of *EX LIBRIS: From the Library* was launched on January 29, 1997. With the Spring 1997 issue of the newsletter, automatic mail distribution to the College community of the print copy was discontinued; only a limited number of paper copies were distributed.

With the winter 1999 issue of *EX LIBRIS: From the Library*, Rosemary Henders (the library’s fourth Instructional Services Librarian) assumed the role of “editor/layout” and, after ten years of publication, again redesigned the newsletter in the winter of 2001. Tom Gill (Instructional Media Coordinator) joined as Photo Editor for that issue. However, with the introduction of the first color print copy of the newsletter in Fall 2002, Tom’s title was changed to “Graphics Editor.”

Since I am retiring at the end of this academic year, this is my last “From the Director” column. For the time and talents of the gifted library staff members who made this newsletter’s long run possible, I am very grateful.

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

LIBRARY ORIENTATIONS

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

LIBRARY SERVICES STAFF: COMINGS AND GOINGS



Shannon McGregor joined the Oesterle Library staff winter term as part-time Reference Services Librarian, working evenings and weekends. Shannon moved from the public library arena in Texas, where she had worked since earning her master of library and information science degree from Texas Woman's University in 2004, to academic libraries in Illinois, now holding part-time positions at both North Central College and the University of St. Francis. She explains, "I wanted to shift gears and focus on academic libraries, as I was getting the most challenge from questions coming from college students at the public library. I am enjoying the academic library setting and am glad that I chose to make the transition." Shannon holds a B.A. in English from the University of North Texas. Her hobbies include reading, letter-writing, jewelry-making and various other crafts, cooking and collecting recipes, and amateur photography.

After 4 1/2 years of dedicated service to Oesterle Library, **Aimee Sayles** has left to pursue a full-time position as Instruction Librarian at the University of St. Francis. Aimee joined the ranks of Library Student Assistant in 2003 and was rapidly promoted to Student Coordinator. Upon graduation she moved on to Dominican University to earn her master of library and information science degree, working as one of Oesterle Library's two part-time Reference Services Librarians at the same time. Aimee finished her degree in December, after completing a library practicum fall term with Rosemary Henders, Instructional Services Librarian, and is now a full-fledged member of the library community, serving on a national library instruction conference planning committee for LOEX 2008.



Also leaving the library staff at the end of winter term is half-time Technical Services Assistant **Pat Thomas**. Pat took the position of library Secretary in 1996, having previously worked in other areas of Academic Affairs. Subsequently, Pat moved on to the position of Circulation and Reserves Assistant, where she developed close working relationships with library student assistants as well as many faculty and staff on campus. Pat then made another transition to the position of half-time Technical Services Assistant, where she has become something of a rare books specialist. After being an integral part of the library staff for twelve years, Pat has decided the time has come to spend more time with her family.

ARCHIVES EXHIBIT: FACULTY RETIREES by Kim Butler

The spring 2008 Archives Exhibit in the Oesterle Library lobby celebrates the retirement of three long-time faculty members: Barbara Sciacchitano, professor of history, Joan Der, professor of accounting, and Carolyn Sheehy, Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services and Director of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation.

Barbara Sciacchitano began her career at North Central in 1975 as an assistant professor in the history department. She has taught many different courses within the history department over the years, many with an international focus. Most recently, Sciacchitano has also taught the capstone history course, which focuses on using primary sources for original research. Sciacchitano has previously served as chair of the history department.

Joan Der started at the College in 1984 as an assistant professor of accounting. Before coming to North Central, Der worked at Motorola, Inc, Arthur Young & Company, and with Square D. Der has taught innumerable students about accounting, taxation, and auditing. During her time here, Der has served as chair of the accounting department and as chair of the Economics and Business Division, as well as on several faculty committees.

When Carolyn Sheehy came to the position of director of the library in 1990, much work awaited her in order to improve the library's collection and services. She was successful in doing so and the library was removed as a concern during the 2000 re-accreditation process. Although too many to enumerate here, during her tenure, Sheehy has been involved and chaired many campus-wide committees, several state and national library groups, and was named the "First Citizen of the College" in 2002 and the "Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year" in 1999.

The exhibit features "baby" pictures of the retirees' early days at North Central College and other photographs, news clippings, and publications from their tenure. Stop and see their highlights!

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.

Nick Devlin, graduating with a degree in broadcast communication with a minor in journalism, hopes to make a career for himself in sports radio. “I’d love for it to be in Chicago, but as long as I’m in a major Midwestern city with some kind of a baseball team, major or minor league, I’ll be content.” He hopes that an internship this summer at either WGN or WSCR in Chicago will lead to that dream job. Nick has worked for the library for four years, first as a Student Assistant and the last two years as an Assistant Student Coordinator. Asked what he enjoyed most about these jobs, Nick stated, “There are a lot of people I consider friends now, but if it weren’t for the library, our social bubbles would never have coalesced.”



Faith Harrington-Taber found during her four years as a Library Student Assistant that she got the most satisfaction out of shelving and shifting the book collection, “moving the books around, making sure they’re all nice and neat and have plenty of room to spread out and let new books in.” Among the skills she developed while working in the library are: “focus, using computer programs and online services, customer service, organization, prioritizing, taking directions, and self-discipline.” Faith will graduate with a B.A. in humanities with an emphasis on religion and minors in classical civilizations and Latin and gender and women’s studies. Three weeks later she will get married! “Then I’m finishing up my last year towards my master of liberal studies degree as part of NCC’s five year integrated program.”

During her four years as a Library Student Assistant, **Ashley Hazek** has held numerous positions, but the two that stand out in her memory are the Information Services Desk, because it stays busy most of the time, and being assistant to library Secretary Jan Smallwood, because she learned so much from her. Ashley will graduate with a degree in English with a writing emphasis, which she is considering using in the field of publishing. She credits the “interesting and rewarding experience” working in the library for the development of her computer, research and customer service skills. “The flexibility while in school was very helpful and I’ve enjoyed working with the whole library staff.”



Katie Kring, obviously a “people person,” states that after four years working in the library, she likes her job at the Information Services Desk best because it gives her the opportunity to interact with library patrons. The thing she most likes about working in the library in general has been “observing how much the staff members enjoy their jobs.” Among the skills Katie reports having developed on the job are: learning how to work with people in a variety of settings, balancing a job with her school work, and interacting with co-workers. Her post-graduation dream is to work in the Milwaukee area as an elementary school music teacher.



Of all of the jobs **Will Murray** has held during his employment at Oesterle Library, his favorite is Student Coordinator. “The job of being a Student Coordinator has given me a lot of responsibility that I may not have received with other jobs. It also made me more independent and reliable at doing my job, since I am responsible for making sure things are taken care of at the library during the night shifts. Out of my six years here, I don’t think that I have ever had a bad day while working.” Will’s immediate plan after graduating with a psychology major is to join the Peace Corps. His long term goal is to “have a career that will allow me to live openly and experience new things.”



In her four years at the library **Jessica O’Brien** has served at all three employment levels: Student Assistant, Assistant Student Coordinator, Student Coordinator. “My favorite job would be Student Coordinator, because it gave me more responsibility and allowed me to interact more with the patrons. I like being able to help people find the information they need,” Jessica stated. “The supervisory skills I have gained are invaluable. Learning how to effectively communicate with both patrons and student assistants is a big asset also. Employers are looking for people who have had experience supervising others, so it’s a great thing to put on a resume!” Never short of goals, after graduating with a psychology major and professional conflict resolution minor, Jessica plans on working to save money for graduate school in business or industrial/organizational psychology and travel to Morocco, South Africa, Kenya and Australia.

Sal Rizzo feels that his three years as an Instructional Media Student Assistant have made him more flexible, adapting his busy schedule to the needs of the job. With a major in journalism and minor in broadcast communication, Sal's long term goals include earning a masters degree in applied Orthodox theology from the University of Balamand in Lebanon, eventually going to an Orthodox seminary to be ordained to the priesthood. "A major goal of my life is to spread the Orthodox Christian gospel to people who have lost all other hope in this world," Sal states. But first there's the matter of his July 27 wedding.



"My major goal is to have an occupation that allows me to directly influence the lives of others. Personally I think the best job a person could have is one that improves the life of someone else." **Justin Stech** obviously has lofty plans for his psychology major and history and speech communications minors, plans that may lead him to becoming a high school teacher, guidance counselor or private detective. Justin states that during his four years as Instructional Media Student Assistant "I have gained the awareness that when an individual is working in a large organization he or she needs to learn to rely on network connections with other people in order to get work done in an effective and efficient manner."

Amy Wilkin plans to combine her elementary education degree and her experience working in the library for four years when she realizes her dream of becoming a fourth or fifth grade teacher. "I have spent four years at North Central preparing to go into the classroom and teach. I enjoy helping students become lifelong learners and I will use my knowledge of libraries and what they have to offer to help my students to become great readers and researchers." Amy found her technical services job especially interesting because she became a part of the behind-the-scenes process of getting new books onto the shelves. The knowledge she gained from her job also came in handy when doing research projects.



Kirstin Whittington will graduate with an interactive media studies: graphic arts major and a minor in studio art after working for one year in the newly created position of Multimedia Student Assistant. The skills she developed in turning her photographs of library events and students into icons and banners that she designed for the new Library Services Website will serve her well in her chosen career as a graphic designer. Kirstin particularly enjoyed "working independently on projects that most people would not think have anything to do with the library, but are actually an integral part of how students get information."

"COMMUNITY SPEAKS" PROGRAM FEATURES ZACHARY JACK

Zachary Jack will speak on "Literary Arts Outreach from the Grassroots: Open Letters and Exquisite Corpses" from noon-1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27 in the lower level of the library. He will describe his recent literary arts outreach projects and offer a manifesto of sorts arguing for the abundance of good, amateur writers, the symbiosis between writing and community, and utility of the personal letter as a representative, democratic art form.



LIBRARY SERVICES WEBSITE REDESIGNED by Ryan Williams

At the beginning of spring term, Oesterle Library will launch a new and completely redesigned website. The site was created with extensive input from students, faculty, and staff, and incorporates many new features in a layout that we hope our users will find both visually appealing and extremely easy to use.

The new library homepage has been designed to highlight those parts of the website that North Central students and faculty use most, and the terminology used in the site's headings and links has been rewritten in order to make it easy for users to find library resources and information online. To enhance the site's visual appeal, we've added numerous photos and have redesigned the library's banners. The new site also features videos highlighting library events and services.

The redesigned site incorporates many features intended to improve or expand access to library information, resources, and services on the web. For example: while the old website isolated all help content on a single page, on the new site, relevant tips on finding and using library resources and services appear on every page. The new site also features many new search boxes, all of which are targeted to subject-specific sets of resources in order to make searching for articles easier and more efficient. We've also expanded news and feature content on the site; instituted a chat reference service; and created a "For Faculty" page that gathers information and resources of particular interest to faculty in a single place.

The library's new website can be accessed at <http://library.northcentralcollege.edu>.

THE FINAL WORD: FAREWELL AND GODSPEED, CAROLYN



Carolyn Sheehy, Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services, with Mr. Oesterle. In 1992 she became one of only a few academic library directors to be awarded an endowed chair.

“The Final Word” takes a sharp left turn from its exploration of librarian-faculty collaboration this issue in order to allow members of the campus community to share their thoughts about the impact retiring library director Carolyn Sheehy has had on their lives and careers, as well as on the College itself. Carolyn, here are random thoughts and good wishes from some of those whose lives you’ve touched during your remarkable 18 year tenure at North Central College:

I'll miss the joy Carolyn brings to her work, and our campus. I've never worked with anyone who radiates the joy that Carolyn does every day! While I'm sure we'll find someone capable to fill her position, no one will be able to fill the cavern left by her joyful spirit. - **Gary Ireland**, Dean of Students

Carolyn Sheehy has provided a home for the scholar in each of us at North Central College. She has made us a deeper, richer, and more humane place. - **Ann Durkin Keating**, Dr. C. Frederick Toenniges Professor of History; Coordinator of Urban and Suburban Studies

When I needed a letter of recommendation to study abroad, Carolyn couldn't have been more accommodating. I was worried about asking her, since our time working side-by-side had been limited, but she drew on conversations we'd had and really made it clear why the trip was important to me in ways I never could have. The library is losing quite an asset. – **Nick Devlin**, student

The first time I worked with Carolyn was only a few months after my arrival at North Central in 1991. I assisted Carolyn in putting together the first Opening Week progressive dinner for the faculty. The Vice President for Academic Affairs at that time asked her to come up with a new idea for the Faculty Opening Week dinner, and so she did. All I remember was a mass of little slips of paper that Carolyn skillfully wove into the proper order. I was amazed then by her legendary attention to detail, but most of all by her overall good humor and positive attitude. I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure to work with Carolyn on projects and committees, and in her day-to-day dealings with the Office of Academic Affairs. I will miss her. – **Mary Kennedy**, Administrative Assistant to Vice President for Academic Affairs



Carolyn was named "First Citizen of the College" in June, 2002

When I decided that I wanted to pursue a master of library and information science degree during my senior year at NCC Carolyn gave me the guidance and support that I needed to get into the library science program. Throughout the entire time I was working on my master's Carolyn was always encouraging and interested in my progress. She went above and beyond to help me in any way that she could. – **Aimee Sayles '05**



In 1999, Carolyn was Named "Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year." She received the Melvin R. George Award for contributions to the LIBRAS Consortium in 2003.

I feel more connected to this institution than I've ever felt anywhere else and I think that's largely due to Carolyn's example of professional involvement and commitment to the North Central community. –**Kim Butler**, Archivist

Although I have only known her for a short time, I have been impacted by her sense of commitment to the development of scholarship at North Central, which is strong and palpable, clearly manifested in all she has done. I will remember her most distinctively from her leadership at the Read-Out this past September. What a great lady! - **Kelsey Staudacher**, student

As a student worker in the library for the past three years, it's truly been a pleasure to work under Carolyn's leadership. She is a very charismatic, organized, and graceful director, with diverse interests and goals, ideal for the close-knit, liberal arts community at North Central. The personal attention she gave to each of us students was very meaningful and will be greatly missed. I wish her all the best in retirement.
 – **Michelle LeDonne**, student

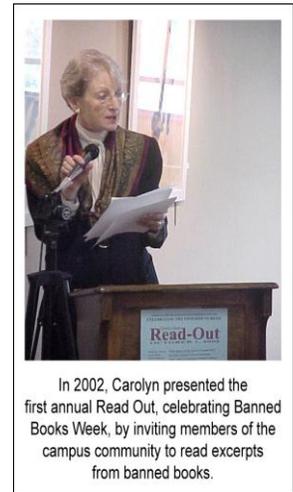
Carolyn has been so supportive and encouraging as I've entered the library world. I've grown under her mentorship; the library has greatly grown under her leadership. Oesterle Library will definitely not be the same without her. – **Jennie Johnson**, Periodicals Assistant

As a member of the library staff, I've greatly benefited from Carolyn's vision and expert direction. Her leadership has created an environment of high standards and clear expectations--but at the same time, she's also left ample room for all library staff members to explore and grow as professionals. She's given us the freedom to explore new ideas, and she has always encouraged us to put our own unique interests and abilities to good use in service of the library's goals. As a result, Oesterle Library has become highly efficient and effective at serving the North Central College community, while at the same time retaining the capacity to adapt to the ever-changing needs of library patrons. – **Ryan Williams**, Information Services Librarian



Carolyn presents graduating library student assistants with a certificate of recognition at the annual Student Assistant Picnic. A book is added to the library collection in their honor.

Watching Carolyn Sheehy in action is a wonderful way to learn useful work habits. One of the first behaviors Carolyn modeled for me ten years ago was efficiency. She never sets an issue aside without taking that first step toward resolving it. If a subject comes up while meeting with her, she immediately turns to her telephone or computer to make the phone call or send the email needed for resolution. I never left her office wondering if she'd remember to follow up on our discussion, because she already had! When I start to feel overwhelmed by the need to multi-task, I always ask myself, "What would Carolyn do?" – **Rosemary Henders**, Instructional Services Librarian

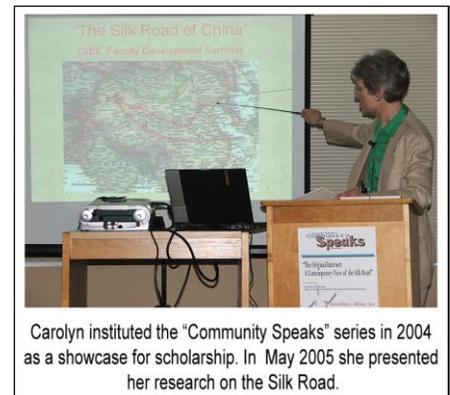


In 2002, Carolyn presented the first annual Read Out, celebrating Banned Books Week, by inviting members of the campus community to read excerpts from banned books.

Carolyn Sheehy was almost like a guardian angel over the library. She cares about her library. Personally, she kept me in her interests, and I had no idea that I even existed to her, since I was just a student assistant. - **Corey Williams**, student

I served on numerous college committees with Carolyn in the last decade. I will always remember her as a dancer, not only in the ways she moves with such poise, grace and purpose physically, but also the ways her dance training translated into a similar, most effective, leadership style. – **Sara Eaton**, Professor of English

Watching Carolyn Sheehy in action is a wonderful way to learn useful work habits. One of the first behaviors Carolyn modeled for me ten years ago was efficiency. She never sets an issue aside



Carolyn instituted the "Community Speaks" series in 2004 as a showcase for scholarship. In May 2005 she presented her research on the Silk Road.

EX LIBRIS: From the Library is published Fall, Winter and Spring Terms. Also available online at the library's Web site: http://www.noctrl.edu/library_ncc/about_us/exlibris/exlibris.htm
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