Students Have Designs on a Gift from the Gridiron

Ever since University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and Provost Thomas Burish announced last spring that dividends from last January’s Fighting Irish appearance in the Fiesta Bowl would go partly to help the University Libraries, the question has arisen: How to say thank you—to the team and to Notre Dame—for this $1.5-million gift?

Proposals for an answer, spearheaded by Marsha Stevenson, head of the Libraries’ Arts, Architecture, and Media Department, took on a life—and a colorful look—of their own. Stevenson turned to Robert Sedlack, assistant professor in Notre Dame’s Department of Art, Art History, and Design, for fresh twists on the customary ways in which libraries thank donors for financially supporting the purchases of books and electronic media. (See page 2 for the Director’s explanation of planned purchases resulting from the Fiesta Bowl.)

Sedlack, who teaches a course in advanced graphic design, offered to assign his students the task of creating multipurpose images that could be used to gratefully acknowledge the “Fiesta Fund” as the money behind a particular print or electronic resource.

The ideal images could be used as bookplates (the seals often found in books citing a particular endowment, collection, or benefactor), electronic bookplates (serving the same purpose online by appearing on the computer screen as an identifying sign), bookmarks (to be given out freely by the University Libraries), and as rotating graphics on the Libraries’ Web pages.

Sedlack’s class produced a hefty harvest of ideas. Two top winners, each receiving $200 from the Libraries, used alternative media: Nina Pressly designed a jersey (left), and a floor mat was designed by James Rudy (below). Victoria Lane and Julie Ruffin also received awards recognizing their creativity. All the designs will be displayed in exhibit windows at Hesburgh Library.

Campus Pursues New Access to Insights from the Holy Land

Even though peace is terribly elusive in the Middle East, there’s no reason why one of the region’s richest storehouses of religious scholarship should remain elusive to researchers elsewhere in the world. Because this collection is housed on the southern edge of Jerusalem (overlooking Bethlehem) at an ecumenical institute administered by Notre Dame, the University Libraries are taking the first steps to bring more people in touch with the prodigious resources to be found at this quiet spot in the Holy Land.

The spot, actually a long-time center for in-depth research as well as prayerful sabbaticals, is called the Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies.

Tantur’s library holds some 70,000 volumes and ranks among the largest Christian theological libraries in the Middle East. Currently, the only access to the library’s collection is through its hard-copy card catalog, physically on the site. The University Libraries this semester have begun a project to add the Tantur records to our own online catalog. The plan was finalized during a recent visit to Notre Dame by Tantur rector Rev. Michael McGarry, CSP.

In the first phase, staff members from the Cataloging Department will test the effectiveness of working from photocopies of Tantur’s catalog cards and propose the most efficient method for proceeding. The project, which may span years, will eventually open the doors of Tantur more widely to scholars around the world.
Libraries Win Big, Thanks to Fiesta Bowl Revenue

In welcoming all of campus into the new academic year, Father John Jenkins also announced the distribution of revenue from the January 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl to key academic priorities. The University Libraries were at the top of the list. We have received $1.5 million for retrospective purchases and other library needs, which will enable the Libraries to make real progress on our strategic goal to “provide library collections and information services to meet curricular, research and archival needs.” This is wonderful news for students, faculty, and all of us in the Libraries.

The funds for the Libraries will be distributed as follows:
- History—$1 million for 20th-century texts in print, digital and micro formats
- Africana Studies—$200,000 for texts in print, digital and micro formats
- Web of Knowledge—$150,000 to complete our holdings of the e-backfiles
- IEEE Electronic Library (Engineering)—$200,000 (about four years of access)

Our considerations began with proposals from the subject librarians for strengthening library collections and expanding desktop access to e-resources. Most appropriately, their proposals fit the needs earlier identified by the campus Library Task Force in Fall 2005:
- Retrospective purchasing in critical subject areas where the monographic collections are weak, and
- Immediate desktop access to core information resources.

History and Africana Studies are two areas where retrospective purchasing is needed. The History Department is a growing department and a flourishing discipline in serious need of expanded library collections to support the undergraduate curriculum, graduate programs and research. Enhancing library collections is a top strategic priority of the College of Arts and Letters. Although the full extent of collection needs is not yet completely known, we are certain that real progress requires the infusion of a substantial amount of funds. We anticipate a significant and visible improvement in the collections through the acquisition of thousands rather than hundreds of texts. Africana Studies is a relatively new area of study on campus and again, one without adequate support from the library collections. Although not the only new area studies program, Africana Studies was recently strengthened through the formation of a new department and thus is an area where expanded collections are urgently required.

The Web of Knowledge (also known as Web of Science) contains three citation indexes—Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index—all heavily used on campus according to the usage statistics for this and prior years. The purchase of the backfile will provide access to the complete indexes back to 1900. Providing immediate desktop access to this core resource will benefit all students and faculty. Last, access to the full IEEE Electronic Library represents an important step forward in meeting the knowledge needs of faculty and students in engineering, particularly those in computer science and electrical engineering. The value of this database, however, is not limited to engineering as it also contains literature on biomedical topics. Access to the back and current content together will greatly enhance desktop access to this important literature.

We thank the football team and the Department of Athletics for giving us such an exciting beginning to the new academic year.

Jennifer A. Younger
Edward H. Arnold Director of University Libraries

FROM THE DIRECTOR...
A Defender of Intellectual Freedom

The library profession has been on the front lines defending the unfettered pursuit of information, says Judith Krug, director of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom. She offered an update on the battles with government policymakers during a visit to Notre Dame’s University Libraries at the end of last semester.


Krug affirmed intellectual freedom as the core value of the American library profession, with privacy as a close second. She defined intellectual freedom as guaranteeing “the availability of and access to information” needed by the citizens of a constitutional republic to engage in effective self-government. Privacy allows citizens to exercise their intellectual freedom without fear of government intrusion or intimidation.

She used the debate over reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act to highlight the concern for privacy. Noting that the American Library Association had helped to generate the scrutiny the law received, Krug said the reauthorized version still left much to be desired even though some improvements were made in controversial provisions like section 215 and section 505.

One example of improvement in section 215 requires that the director of the FBI or one of his or her two designated assistants must personally approve requests for library or bookstore records, she said. Previously, any FBI agent could initiate such a request.

In a separate concern about privacy, Krug said the ALA is working closely with industry groups to develop policies and principles for the manufacturing and use of RFIDs, pronounced ar-fids (see Access no. 88, spring 2006 edition). These Radio Frequency Identification tags being attached to library books are a boon for inventory control and sorting at libraries, she said, but the ALA wants to ensure that the privacy of library patrons will be protected.

Loved the Book? Catch the Film... Microfilm, That is

“Lord, you have the words of everlasting life,” says Psalm 19. The Catholic Church has generated countless volumes of its own words over the centuries through its engagement with the timeless “Word of Life”—Christ the Teacher, honored in the Hesburgh Library’s famous multi-storey mural. The mural celebrates the passing along of religious thought with help from a preservation technology if they are to be passed along. The University is extending the life of many volumes of religious thought with help from a government grant and a technology you may not expect—microfilm.

The University Libraries are using a $450,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to film 4,200 monographs in their collection that were published between 1800 and 1959. Those books, about Catholic life and thought, as well as early Christianity including the Eastern Orthodox Church, were printed on acidic paper. Unto dust they shall return, and about half of them are already brittle. No other library has committed to preserve these particular books, despite their value to scholars worldwide, so Notre Dame is stepping up.

“We’re among the premier collections on this subject,” says Julie Arnott, head of preservation at the University Libraries. “We’re ensuring that this material is available for future researchers.”

She acknowledges that the method of preservation, using a stereotypically old-fashioned storage medium, raises a few eyebrows: “I don’t know many people who want to use microfilm.” But the fact is, the film lasts for hundreds of years—longer than modern books, longer than CDs.

Also, today’s microfilm readers aren’t the intimidating metal contraptions of the past. They can convert the tiny images into user-friendly printouts and digital documents, and library staff can handle the conversion for a fee. What’s more, microfilmophobics can still reach for the original books, which will be retained.

With help from microfilm, Notre Dame will continue to be a place not only where the Church does its thinking, but also where it does its remembering.
It used to be easy to measure the quality of academic libraries. A college could boast that its library held 2 million volumes, far surpassing another institution with only 500,000 books available to peruse. The focus has shifted. Easy, speedy access to resources is still paramount, but in an age when torrents of multimedia information are available anywhere, librarians have realized that customers need these torrents made more manageable and more meaningful in the context of their particular lives and lifestyles.

“It’s not just number of volumes anymore,” says Sherri Jones, head of reference services. “It’s how well you’re meeting users’ expectations for service.” Jones has been a leader in assessing that very thing at the University Libraries of Notre Dame because of her close cooperation with an ambitious project of the national Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

The latest cooperation occurred early this year when Notre Dame joined with more than 200 other institutions in the ARL’s massive survey, called “LibQUAL+” (pronounced Libe-Qual Plus).

On this campus alone, more than 2,700 people completed the survey. The group included 1,850 undergraduates as well as more than 500 graduate students and more than 200 faculty members. ARL independently tabulated the results, and you can find details at http://www.library.nd.edu/libqual/LibQUALSummary.shtml.

In short, undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty agreed that the University Libraries rank very high in such traits as staff courtesy and personal attention, but they each chose “print and/or electronic journal collections I require for my work” as a top area that needs improvement.

The hunger for more journals is nearly insatiable, Jones said, but the survey also pointed out some user needs that could be addressed promptly. Respondents wanted stronger enforcement of the Libraries’ recall policy, and that policy has indeed been toughened, she pointed out.

Respondents made it clear that “the library is a place that is still important as a quiet, comfortable study space,” Jones noted. But they also asked for new equipment and systems that would empower them to find information on their own.

“Since [the late 1990s], the technology change has been unbelievable in terms of how it affects the library,” according to John Weber, a professor in the Department of Marketing who chairs the University Committee on Libraries (UCL). Faculty and student expectations of the Libraries’ digital capabilities have grown...
exponentially with the new dependence on instantaneous desktop access to crucial information, Weber told a September meeting of the Faculty Senate, *The Observer* reported.

“So when it comes to measuring library performance, there is a real emphasis on access speed, e-journals, connections with consortia, and fast searches,” Weber was quoted as saying. The UCL’s own judgment about the University Libraries is that they are “doing well, setting dynamic and realistic goals, and using foresight to capitalize on the opportunities available,” he said.

What are some of the opportunities for the future? Can libraries be both safe, cozy places to study and socialize and centers of super-efficient technological entrepreneurship?

That was a question the University Libraries’ staff explored last spring when they gathered for their annual May Institute—a combination of outside speakers and presentations by in-house staffers, all intended to keep skills levels sharp and specializations up-to-date. This year’s theme was *Springing Forward: Building Our Common Body of Knowledge*.

Library technology expert Michael Stephens, who previously worked for a number of years with the St. Joseph County Public Library, warned the group that “this next generation is going to challenge libraries like never before.” In his talk, he said librarians must make their institutions more inviting and useful to young people who are inherently nomadic multitaskers who love to collaborate, try new things, and create their own customized versions of information.

Echoing Weber’s point about information seekers increasingly being do-it-yourselfers, Stephens said librarians need to be in step with the equipment and the ethos of high-tech researchers. “We need to find ways to be where they are when they’re looking for information.”

That could include utilizing instant messaging, or incorporating features in online library catalogues that emulate the personalized features of booksellers like Amazon, Stephens said. It could mean empowering library patrons to generate their own content, such as blog entries and book reviews and collaborative web materials connected with library resources.

Librarians could become one of the groups helping to educate people about the potential and the pitfalls of Internet information, about the good and bad ways to conduct research, Stephens suggested. Again, he was echoing Weber’s address to the Faculty Senate. Weber warned against what he reportedly called “deteriorating information literacy”—a lowering of standards among students for whom research has become synonymous with typing into an Internet search engine.

The dangers notwithstanding, libraries now find themselves in a universe of information that is less static and more creative than it used to be. A majority of Internet users generate content and don’t merely consume it, Stephens told the Notre Dame audience at the May Institute. Reiterating the goals of Notre Dame’s ongoing participation in the LibQUAL+ process of user surveys and continuous quality improvement, Stephens issued this prescription for library survivability: “Put your users at the center of everything you do.”

### RefWorks: A New Resource to Try

The University Libraries, in collaboration with the Office of Information Technologies, are pleased to announce a new Web-based bibliographic management tool. This new tool enables faculty and students to build their own online personal database, import references from databases, manage references, insert references in a variety of formats (e.g., MLA and APA), and generate bibliographies.

RefWorks is free to the Notre Dame Community. All you need is a RefWorks account. To create an account, go to [https://www.refworks.com/Refworks/login.asp](https://www.refworks.com/Refworks/login.asp) from any campus computer and click on “Sign up for an individual account.”

More information, demonstrations, and workshops will be announced in early January.
Digital Collections Provide New Links to the Past

New digital collections of printed materials from the United States and England stretching as far back as the 15th century are making it possible for Notre Dame students to undertake the kinds of historical research that even well-established professors might have found too costly and time-consuming in the past.

What’s more, the combination of keyword searchability across a plethora of these documents and the new sensibilities and questions that today’s students can bring to the research promises to yield new insights, or at least new opportunities for exploring the past through increasingly diverse lenses.

That is the vision of history professor Thomas Slaughter, who advised the University Libraries on some of their latest history-related purchases in the growing marketplace of digitized mega-collections.

Four of the newer collections, acquired at costs running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars and constantly expanding through ongoing subscription fees, are these:

- **Early American Imprints**: books, pamphlets, and other items from the 17th through 19th centuries in the US
- **Early English Books**: virtually all printed matter published in England from the 15th through 18th centuries
- **Eighteenth-Century Collections Online**: English-language materials published in the 18th century
- **Early American Newspapers**: facsimiles of pages, including advertisements, from newspapers published from 1690 to 1922

Given Notre Dame’s increasing emphasis on independent research by undergraduates, databases like these—used singly or in combination—can enable students to pursue an almost endless number of topics, says Slaughter. How did the medium of the book change over time? How did advertising reflect the explosion of a consumer market for goods in the 1800s? How was the boom in advertising linked to the evolution of the newspaper? How did uses of particular phrases or terms emerge and change?

Clues to an answer are now readily available, so undergraduates’ curiosity may be more easily sparked—and rewarded. “I know it’s there, so I can help them find the answer themselves, which is an entirely different learning experience,” Slaughter points out.

Digital collections of rare publications that might have existed in only one library in England or New York make it possible to tap into these documents multiple times, with different questions each time, without the costs of repeated travel, and with the ability to study an author’s writing in the context of other authors who might have been familiar with each other and with the broader discourse of their own times.

Such abilities enriched Slaughter’s own research for his spiritual biography of John Woolman, an 18th-century Quaker whose writings were seminal calls for the abolition of slavery in the US. When Woolman cited other authorities in his writings, Slaughter says he could more easily locate the written work of those less well-known people and better understand the connections that Woolman was making in his own mind.

That’s just the beginning, adds Slaughter, because the very meaning of context is changing for future digital scholars. Whereas context once focused on the surrounding passages in one person’s book, it now can span multiple people, books, societies, and time periods, and be as accessible as this morning’s headlines.
Appointments in Reference, Instruction, and More

Sherri Jones has been appointed head of Reference Services, effective July 17. She has previously served the Libraries as Life Sciences librarian and as head of Resource Delivery.

Parker Ladwig has assumed the new role of Mathematics and Life Sciences librarian, effective November 1. Ladwig has served as Mathematics librarian since August of 2000.

Cheri Smith has been appointed coordinator for Instructional Services. She has served for a year as interim coordinator of library instruction.

Ken Kinslow will act as interim head of the Resource Delivery Department through next June.

George Sereiko

“You are quiet and accomplish a great deal without making noise.”

(Fortune cookie message found in George Sereiko’s library carrel)

In his typically quiet manner, Dr. George E. Sereiko passed away on the morning of April 25, 2006. During his 30 years at Notre Dame, Sereiko served in three key library positions: as assistant director for the Social Sciences Division, as assistant/associate director for Public Services, and as associate director of Libraries. He influenced nearly every aspect of library service, but is best remembered for his impact on people.

Sereiko came to the University Libraries of Notre Dame in 1962. He built friendships with faculty, students, staff and clergy, and participated on campus committees. He reconfigured the space in Hesburgh Library in order to support student study and faculty research, spearheading the creation of the Current Periodicals Room. He was also an early leader in the area of book preservation.

Sereiko was genuinely intrigued by the thoughts and stories of others. Although he set direction for his division, he encouraged others to lead various efforts. The encouragement included subtle coaching and charming wit.

Though Sereiko considered himself “blessed”—by the opportunity afforded him as a G.I. to gain a university education, in his work at both Case Western and Notre Dame, in his many friendships, and by his great fortune to live 45 years with his wife, Maria,—those in the Libraries and on campus who worked with this special gentleman know that we are the ones who were blessed.

John F. Nash

John F. Nash—football player, World War II veteran, teacher, coach, banker, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and loyal Notre Dame subway alumnus—died peacefully in his sleep March 28 at age 86.

Grateful that he is at rest but missing him deeply are his devoted wife of 17 years, Janet, and a large family.

Born October 22, 1919, Jack grew up in South Bend, played football at Indiana University, and served in World War II as an Army infantry officer until being wounded in Italy. He returned to teach history and coach football at his high school alma mater, South Bend Central. His distinguished banking career began in 1946 at First Bank and Trust Company of South Bend and culminated in his leadership of the American National Bank of St. Paul from 1961 to 1976.

Jack loved Notre Dame. His career success allowed him to make generous endowments to the University Libraries, and he served on their Advisory Council. He considered himself especially honored to be a non-graduate member of the Notre Dame Monogram Club.
"Latin American Literary Manuscripts" will be on display in the exhibits room of the Department of Special Collections of the Hesburgh Library next semester. The exhibit celebrates the steadily increasing depth and breadth of two Notre Dame collections related to Latin American literature: the Robert O'Grady Collection of Southern Cone Literature and the José Fernández Collection of Hispanic Caribbean Literature.

Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates will all enjoy this chance to look beyond the best-known books of great authors like Pablo Neruda, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, and Gabriela Mistral.

Discover poetry and a variety of genres by these and other Latin American literary legends. Read the written correspondence that writers exchanged, such as letters from the author of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Manuel Puig, to one of his closest friends.

Stories Behind Great Latino Literature…
Look into the Creativity and Craft

An exhibit of books, newspaper excerpts, and movie posters greeted passers-by in the main corridor of the Hesburgh Library this semester—and it also reminded them that this is a dangerous world. The exhibit, titled "Terrorism: Perspectives from European Cinema," brought the subject close to the Notre Dame community even as it focused on places and time periods distant from our own.

The University Libraries highlighted a range of resources that faculty and students can use to probe the many dimensions of terrorism. J. Douglas Archer, coordinator of Reference Desk Services and subject liaison for Peace Studies, has compiled a guide to books and electronic resources on the subject. But in this campus-wide project, conducted in collaboration with the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the primary spotlight was on film.

As of this printing, a symposium on terrorism in Europe was being planned for March 2007. Notre Dame's Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts has provided support.

Film Series Focuses Interest in Topics of Terrorism

Visit the exhibit “Latin American Literary Manuscripts” from January 15 to May 30, 2007, Department of Special Collections, 102 Hesburgh Library.

Puig in Rome (photo courtesy of Mario Fenelli).