Hesburgh Libraries Welcome Diane Parr Walker

Diane Parr Walker, deputy university librarian at the University of Virginia, has been named Edward H. Arnold University Librarian at the University of Notre Dame, Provost Thomas G. Burish announced. Walker’s appointment is effective July 25.

“Responding to the many demands and challenges of supporting our vision of being the preeminent Catholic research university will require a forward-looking University library system that is prepared to meet the future research, scholarship, and teaching needs of faculty and students,” Burish said. “Diane Walker is a superb administrator who has the experience, vision, and leadership skills to transform the Hesburgh Libraries into a model research library of the 21st century. She is a proven innovator who understands how to manage the complex challenges imposed by rapidly changing technology and the demands of traditional scholarship. We are delighted to have Diane direct our efforts to ensure that we utilize our information resources and talent in a manner that best serves our academic mission.”

Burish added, “I am grateful to Assistant Provost Susan Ohmer for her skillful and dedicated service as interim director of libraries, as well as for the hard work of the search committee that identified, recruited, and evaluated candidates for the position.”

A member of the University of Virginia library staff for 26 years, Walker has served in her current position since 2003.

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Libraries Celebrate Leadership Gifts

Notre Dame’s Academic Recognition Weekend has traditionally been a time for the campus to count its many blessings and give thanks to benefactors for their generosity. On Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, 2011, the Hesburgh Libraries joined in these festivities for the first time, and celebrated the following leadership gifts. Singly, each gift makes an amazing difference in what the Libraries are able to provide in terms of resources, programs, and services; together, their combined strength is a daunting force in support of the excellence that is Our Lady’s University and her Libraries.

A description of each gift follows on pages four through nine.

continued on page 4
During this past Christmas shopping season the online retailer Amazon.com sold more Kindle e-books than paperbacks for the first time. Since the first of the year, readers have bought three times as many e-books for their Kindles as hardcover books, according to PC World. And younger readers are adopting the devices as well. Major publishers of children's books, such as HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster, have announced that e-book sales to younger audiences quadrupled over the holiday season, as middle school and high school students found Kindles and iPads under the Christmas tree.

We are experiencing an historic shift from print to digital books, a change that some have compared to the introduction of the printing press in the 15th century or the appearance of the Internet in the 20th century. What does this mean for libraries, the traditional home of printed books and spaces for reading them? How will libraries respond to this innovative technology and to the future generations of students who are embracing these books? How will e-books change the way we teach, do research, and study? And how do libraries respond to this new technology at a time when universities across the country face tighter budgets and more claims on our resources?

Here in the Hesburgh Libraries we are pursuing a variety of ways to support, measure, and embrace e-book technology. This past fall the Libraries partnered with the Mendoza College of Business in an experimental class where students read all of their coursework online. Across campus, many courses draw reading material from the electronic databases that the Libraries license and that our donors help support. We have even closed the reserve book room because so few professors are putting print books on reserve.

What is exciting about this new digital landscape is the research and learning that it makes possible. This year we have loaded nearly half a million e-books into our catalog. They include plays by African-American writers that describe their experiences before and after the Civil War, and works that have been out of print for more than a century. E-books make it possible for their voices to be heard again and to speak to new generations of scholars. The Libraries have also embarked on a digitization project that will highlight holdings in our Catholic studies collections. Within the next year, when you retrieve a record in our catalog for a 19th or early 20th century pamphlet about Catholics in America, you will be able to view the document online, just with the click of a mouse, and access items that have until now been “hidden away” in our library.

Although this is a challenging time for all libraries, with your support, the Hesburgh Libraries are developing creative strategies for exploring the opportunities that this new digital world has introduced. We look forward to traveling into this world with you.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Susan Ohmer
Interim Director of Hesburgh Libraries
Ryan Rare Book Room Dedication Honors Longtime Benefactor, Friend

“Architects are asked to act, and through their actions, to define how the world ought to be.”
—Michael Lykoudis, Francis and Kathleen Rooney Dean, Notre Dame School of Architecture

On Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, close friends and family gathered in the School of Architecture Library’s Rare Book Room to honor a man whose generosity contributed much to building the collection currently kept there. The room, which houses a significant collection of rare architectural books, was dedicated to Jim R. Ryan ’65, who served nearly 15 years on the School of Architecture Advisory Council.

Ryan died in May 2009 after a 10-month battle with melanoma, but not before creating a legacy that will touch the lives of countless students of architecture at the University of Notre Dame.

The rare books in the newly dedicated Ryan Rare Book Room at the Architecture Library are truly special, indeed.

Despite their age, the books are not kept there solely for their historical value, inestimable though that may be. Surprisingly sturdy, their type crisp and legible, frequently marked by some previous owner’s annotations, these books are meant to be used for teaching.

As in, handled, flipped through, and read. Daily.

“The goal with this collection is to teach students,” according to assistant librarian Jennifer Parker, who has been architecture librarian at Notre Dame since August 2008.

“This is the place where Palladio, Vitruvius, and Alberti will be put in your hands.”

Parker says the Notre Dame School of Architecture is a Beaux Arts school, emphasizing history, precedent, and successful models from the past for a more sustainable and community friendly future.

“We are 100 percent focused on classical and traditional urbanism,” she says, explaining that the concept encompasses walkable communities, a good mix of residential and commercial structures. “We’re against urban sprawl.”

No one more enthusiastically supported that mission than Jim R. Ryan, a longtime friend and supporter of the University of Notre Dame, its School of Architecture, and the Architecture Library.

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Undergraduate Research Award Adds Prize Category in Its Second Year

After its successful launch in spring 2010, the Undergraduate Library Research Award moved into its second year with an additional category and a total of $2,500 in prizes.

The additional category, which is awarded to a submission by a first or second-year student, was made in response to a number of freshman and sophomore submissions the award committee received in the first year.

The research award, a collaborative effort by Hesburgh Libraries and the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement, aims to promote intellectual discovery and advancement of lifelong learning. Reference librarian Margaret Porter came up with the idea and worked with a committee to develop the award to recognize undergraduates who demonstrate excellent research skills and who incorporate library resources, collections, and services into their scholarly and creative projects.

Submissions may be in any discipline and any format, including print, film, product or prototype development, artwork, clinical investigation, or architectural renderings.

GOAL: MORE STUDENT THESES

“Last year we gave out three awards: one first prize, and then two honorable mentions,” says Porter. “What we noticed was that there were a lot of first- and second-year student submissions that were very nice, but not in the same category as those from the third- and fourth-year students. So this year we split the awards into four.”

Of those four prizes, three were carried over from the

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Thomas and Michele Baer Family Hesburgh Libraries Endowment

The Mendoza College of Business continues to astound by its upward trajectory. Its programs are expanding, its cutting-edge faculty are publishing breakthrough articles and books and sharing their expertise in the classroom, and its students are going on to careers that are impacting business and corporate cultures around the globe. In partnership, the Baer Endowment is facilitating the Hesburgh Libraries’ support of all of this activity with appropriate library resources, programs, and services.

The impact of the Thomas and Michele Baer Family Hesburgh Libraries Endowment can and will be felt and seen on campus and beyond through the electronic products that it supports, and the academic and career successes that it makes possible.

Merrill B. Frick Library Fund

The nature of information is steadily evolving, as is the nature of library buildings, and new areas of inquiry are constantly on the horizon of the University of Notre Dame. New research groups are forming as “interdisciplinary” becomes not just the catchword of the day, but the imperative of the future.

While the Hesburgh Libraries can well afford some discretionary activities in support of the academic enterprise, there is an area in which we have no choice: we must be in a position to support the academic mission of Our Lady’s University with the appropriate resources, programs, and services so that students at all levels and faculty have opportunities to flourish that are without peer.

Earnings from the Merrill B. Frick Library Fund allow us to do just that, now and in perpetuity.
Entrepreneurial Spirit Endowed Business Librarian

The Hesburgh Libraries and students and faculty of the Mendoza College of Business are the beneficiaries of this gift from an anonymous Domer.

Supporting the ever-growing needs of Mendoza and its Mahaffey Business Information Center, the endowed business librarian position reflects the donor’s recognition that “information is power,” and that there is a connection between the development of entrepreneurial skills and mastery of information that supports good judgment. And, information is what this endowment is all about.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Endowment is supporting the expansion of the Libraries’ business resources in support of Mendoza, assisting in the production of the best-quality students, cutting-edge research, and moving the College and University forward in support of their mission of excellence.

Raymond and Mary Kennedy Family Library Endowment

Supporting the Hesburgh Libraries in the most flexible and enabling way possible, the Raymond and Mary Kennedy Family Library Endowment facilitates our support of the academic programs of the University as they develop, grow, and take on forms not envisioned at their inception. For that is what the academic process is: continual growth and change that must be supported in a meaningful way by a library and its resources, programs, and services.

As economic and political times and circumstances shift to occasional uncertainty, we find comfort in the fact that we have a steadfast partner to assist us in what we do as librarians and develop who and what we are as professionals, all in support of the mission of Our Lady’s University.
The Sophronia B. Schmuhl Library Endowment in American Studies and Journalism

An amazing boost to what the Hesburgh Libraries will be able to achieve in support of learning, teaching, and research in the social sciences, the Schmuhl Endowment comes to us at a time when the United States is under the world’s microscope and the role of journalism in society is facing unprecedented challenges. The Hesburgh Libraries are truly blessed to be able to provide appropriate library support to these two vital areas of inquiry through the Sophronia B. Schmuhl Endowment in American Studies and Journali

The Sullivan Family Library Endowment

The Libraries are committed to building primary source materials that will make the Hesburgh Library a true “laboratory for the humanist,” and will encompass past centuries through the written word, through novels, memoirs, travel narratives, newspapers, and popular periodicals—accessible electronically, in microform, in reprint, and sometimes even in the original. We are likewise committed to the services that attend these resources—services that provide for their accessibility, preservation, and their interpretation to current and future students, faculty, and scholars worldwide.

The Sullivan Family Library Endowment, committed to the humanities, is a critical partner in this endeavor.
Robert J. Williams, Sr. Library Collection in Theology and Science

Building humanistic collections reflective of the past and influential to the future, this endowment will allow the Hesburgh Libraries to continue to develop destination resources, programs, and services in theology. The other half of this versatile endowment will focus on library support for the sciences, where every day, students at all levels, faculty and researchers on campus and off site are making cutting-edge discoveries with global impact, discoveries that are enabled by the Williams Endowment.

The William J. Schmuhl Library Endowment in Business Management

With the robust growth of the Mendoza College of Business and its academic programs come new and ever-increasing needs for information that is growing exponentially in volume and cost. Nonetheless, our students at all levels and faculty in all aspects of business must rely on this information in order to perform at the high standard that they and the College have set for themselves. Business has evolved into a global phenomenon, and scholarly business inquiry is increasingly interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and multicultural in nature. Because of the William J. Schmuhl Library Endowment in Business Management, the Hesburgh Libraries will be able to keep pace.
We are immensely grateful to, and thank the benefactors of the following gifts that have attained new levels:

The Leo and Verna Wahl Library Endowment in Engineering

The Wahl Endowment in Engineering continues to provide critical support toward building a collection of journals in engineering without which substantive learning, teaching, or research could not take place. Over the years, this endowment has provided students, faculty, and researchers with a broad spectrum of journals in aerospace, mechanical, civil and chemical engineering, and the geological and computer sciences. We are grateful that it will continue to enable our work in perpetuity.

The Creighton Family Science Library Endowment

The emphasis of the Creighton Family Science Library Endowment is making this gift one of great impact for the University and its Libraries. As students and faculty in science and engineering seek to improve the human condition through research and discovery in the areas of human health and the environment, the information needs associated with their work grow at an explosive pace.

The Creighton Endowment is assisting the Hesburgh Libraries in supporting these critically important efforts by providing Notre Dame scientists and engineers—including students at all levels—with the appropriate resources, programs, and services in a timely and transparent manner.
J. Thomas and Bertha Cribbs
Library Endowment for Engineering, Science, and Life Sciences

On the cutting edge of science, engineering, and technology, the University of Notre Dame is pushing the envelope of innovation through its teaching, learning, and research at all levels. As current and future scholars in all areas of engineering, the sciences, and medicine vigorously explore technologies in various stages of development, they are changing the world and life as we know it for the better. The Cribbs Endowment will ensure that, in the future, library support for this amazing process can and will continue.

“The American Dream,” an Endowment in Support of its Study

The “American Dream” was a common phrase during the 1950s and ’60s, and it is regaining popularity as Americans—new and old—face this challenging economic time. It describes the hopes, particularly of immigrant families, to be able to own their own homes, have jobs, and send their children to college. This endowment supports the comprehensive study of the “American Dream” and funds the acquisition of resources such as DVDs and books that are exemplary of those who have achieved it. As inquiry into this phenomenon progresses, this endowment will support seminars and other initiatives at the University.
When did *thefe* become “these”? Or *thofe*, “those”?

Or, for that matter, *Efq*, Esq.?

For the roomful of Notre Dame librarians, faculty, staff, and campus employees who gathered for a recent forum on digital humanities, that may not be a question that comes up every day. But when it does, they need to be able to find the answer quickly.

To find out, Ron Snyder, director of advanced technology with Data For Research, goes to the [dfr.jstor.org](http://dfr.jstor.org) website and types the word “thefe” into the search box, explaining that the search will pick up the letter “f” as the typographical long s that appeared frequently in documents of earlier centuries.

Within seconds, a graph appears onscreen, with peaks and valleys demonstrating the number of times the word appeared in a given year’s published works. It’s plain to see from the graph that the use of the word “thefe” was used quite commonly up through the late 1700s, then drops off precipitously after about 1800. A sample paragraph shows the appearance of several other words using the antiquated ligature: *thofe* and *Efq*, for example.

**Imagine the possibilities**

The Data for Research service provides a set of web-based tools for selecting and interacting with content from the JSTOR archive. JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that enables discovery, access, and preservation of scholarly content through its digital archive of more than 1,000 academic journals and other resources. Snyder made his presentation on the morning of February 25 to demonstrate the range of possibilities that are continually opening up with the advent of digital humanities and text mining, two emerging technologies that are changing the shape of scholarship.

The presentation was part of a two-day forum jointly sponsored by the Hesburgh Libraries, the [Center for Research Computing (CRC)](http://crc.nd.edu), and the [Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA)](http://crra.org). The series of forums and workshops took place February 24–25 to raise awareness of the possibilities with digital humanities, and to move digital scholarship forward, especially in the area of Catholic resources.

“The goal of the forum was to raise awareness of digital humanities computing techniques,” says Patricia Lawton, associate librarian for CRRA digital projects. “With the advent of so much full text, the Internet, and ubiquitous computing horsepower, new methods for understanding the written word are manifesting themselves. The forum served to make these ideas concrete.”

**Some definitions**

During his presentation, Snyder demonstrated a number of ways in which variables can be crunched. For example: it is possible to do a search to find out how many documents on a particular subject were published in a particular year. That search can be further refined by comparing the relative weight of that result against the total number of documents that were published that year. Another type of search can determine in which documents a specific topic is most frequently cited. Researchers looking to determine outbreaks of various epidemics can search the literature to determine “spikes” in the number of references. The possibilities are many and varied, and are likely to expand as the technology itself continues to advance.

So what, exactly, is “digital humanities”?

“There’s no single concrete definition as yet,” says Eric Morgan, digital projects librarian. “Any definition anyone gives needs to be taken with a grain of salt. It’s accurate to say that it is a branch of scholarship using computers to evaluate the human condition and human expression. It goes beyond typing a paper, sending emails, or posting to a wiki. I’m talking about using computers to analyze the output of humans, to ask new questions and discover new knowledge.”

As with any emerging technology, this one isn’t limitless. The earliest document in the JSTOR database dates to 1545. The further back into history one traces the record, the smaller the numbers become, too small to yield statistically significant results.

Nonetheless, Lawton sees many ways in which the technology can enhance and support scholarship in the humanities through a technique called text mining, in which the computer “mines” designated texts for repetitions of certain words and phrases.

“You can look at how the Catholic Church has changed its use of language with reference to women,” she says. “The term ‘weaker sex’ was very commonly used around the 1940s, and now you can quantify those changes in terminology through text mining.”

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Visitors to the Hesburgh Libraries’ website have been seeing a number of changes with the beginning of the spring 2011 semester that have made it more accessible and easier to navigate.

The design is cleaner and simpler, with graphic elements used to distinguish different types of information.

A new Quicklinks section provides one-click access to the most frequently used resources.

A new carousel feature highlights library resources and news.

The new user-friendly design, which was officially rolled out January 13, was undertaken in response to feedback that the existing design was daunting for some users, particularly undergraduates, who were unaccustomed to doing online academic research. As a result, many students were turning to the more familiar Google and Wikipedia to work on research papers and projects.

**USER-CENTERED DESIGN**

According to Thomas Lehman, digital access librarian, the new design is the latest of several incarnations of the website that have developed since 1997. It has evolved over time, based on feedback from students and faculty.

“User-centered design says you should talk to users,” Lehman says. “It needs to make sense to them. The way you do that is, one, involve them in the design process, and two, test the design with them. Sit down with users and ask them to navigate. See how readily they are able to find information.”

The Libraries have worked with undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty to determine the effectiveness of each new redesign. Results are inevitably surprising.

“We did some testing on this website and found two main things,” Lehman says.

First, graduate students and faculty had no problems. Because they are accustomed to conducting academic searches, they know how to find information. “They’re fine almost regardless of the interface,” Lehman says.

Undergraduates, on the other hand, were experiencing some difficulties. “We thought they would be used to doing Google searches, but that didn’t translate to ease in using our site. So one thing we did in our second redesign in 2008–2010 was to make the search box much more prominent. It became a large box in the upper left side of the screen. We also moved our large graphics down to the bottom of the screen, where they would be more out of the way.”

**THREE MAIN GOALS**

The new design, the work of Mark Dehmlow, head of library web development, had three main goals:

- Simplify. “We kept hearing that our previous designs had been too complex,” Lehman says. “Even though we kept making it simpler, incoming students were struggling. We looked at comparable university websites and saw that they were all going from link-heavy design, where you load everything one click away from the home page, to a much simpler design.”
- Add more color. Library staff heard that previous designs were too bland and monochromatic. The new design uses variations of the Notre Dame blue and gold palette.
- Streamline the size and content. “With more students using laptops, people had smaller screens that were too small to get a lot of the stuff along the bottom,” Lehman says. “We’ve made the window more compact.”

The website is managed by the Library Web Department, headed by Dehmlow, with the help of a committee called the Web Presence Improvement Team (WPIT). WPIT’s philosophy of user-centered design is that a website exists to meet the needs of its users, and to make changes based on demonstrated user need. As a result, the new website is simpler, more attractive, easier to navigate, simpler to maintain and to update with new features and functionality. In addition, it features a better infrastructure to allow for future expansions to continue meeting the needs of Notre Dame students, faculty, and staff.
One gift will enable the Libraries and Archives to apply digital scholarship techniques to key Catholic resources held by the University.

Another will provide an online resource, highly desired by organic chemists, to replace older print versions and is part of a plan in the science and engineering branch libraries to convert key holdings from print to online format.

A third enables the Hesburgh Libraries to acquire a substantial list of key titles to support the study of inter-religious conflict and to encourage Catholic/Muslim dialogue.

**Supporting the Notre Dame mission**

This year, seven initiatives have received funding that will foster the Hesburgh Libraries’ mission to serve the entire University community, thanks to the generosity of the President’s Circle.

Members of the President’s Circle provide significant resources with the common goal of assisting University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., in advancing Notre Dame’s key mission distinctions—to seek God, study the world, and serve humanity—in this case, through the work of the Hesburgh Libraries.

Each year, Father Jenkins directs President’s Circle funding toward emerging and strategic priorities that speak to Notre Dame’s unique calling among American universities.

With their ongoing efforts to meet the rapidly changing nature of university scholarship and research, the Hesburgh Libraries have been blessed by receiving President’s Circle funding. Those efforts include proactively seeking interdisciplinary approaches to academic inquiry, and empowering undergraduate and graduate students, as well as top scholars and researchers, to do independent and team research.

**A diverse range of initiatives**

By providing funding for the creation of the Notre Dame Catholic Americana Digital Collection, an online interactive tool for knowledge discovery across texts, President’s Circle funding allows for enhanced access to significant Catholic scholarship, while at the same time facilitating the discovery of new knowledge. The goal is to create an online collection of Catholic Americana resources and to develop an online discovery environment that allows users to conduct extensive keyword searching within and across texts, and to analyze texts and detect patterns across documents using such tools as charts, graphs, and timelines.

The President’s Circle has also allowed the Hesburgh Libraries to support the new Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS) Department by developing a collection of journals and monographs to support its graduate program. The initiative also allows ancillary research in statistics to be pursued in a variety of areas on campus, and could be used to enhance library holdings in support of this interdisciplinary program.

Other President’s Circle gifts targeted a pilot project to assess patron-driven acquisition of e-books published by major university presses. This initiative will help to shape acquisition plans for packages that will become available in fall 2011.

Within the science and engineering libraries, President’s Circle funding of Bio-Rad’s KnowItAll U online database replaces older print versions and is part of a plan to convert key holdings from print to online format. This will enable students to compare the spectroscopic data they have obtained in the laboratory with corresponding data in the many spectroscopy databases that are available. Previously, such comparisons were done manually. The Bio-Rad KnowItAll U database provides the most comprehensive compilation of this type and will give faculty a greatly enhanced tool for their teaching and research. It will also provide students with excellent training for their professional careers as scientists and engineers.

In its efforts to enhance the study of inter-religious conflict and to encourage Catholic/Muslim dialogue, in 2009 the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies recruited Emad Shahin as the Henry R. Luce Associate Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding. Professor Shahin’s specialty is Islamic law (Sharia), and he has developed and prioritized a core list of Sharia materials appropriate to Notre Dame—approximately 1,300 titles. President’s Circle funding enabled the acquisition of those titles, building a solid foundation for future collection development in the area.

President’s Circle contributions have also facilitated the purchase of journals, monographs, and databases to support the work of the Asian Studies Department, particularly in the area of China.

Major progress can now be made toward a collaborative pilot project between the Libraries and the University of Notre Dame Press to develop strategies for converting the University of Notre Dame Press’s backlist into e-books suitable for vendor library packages.

**Vital support**

Every year, the members of the President’s Circle pledge their support to initiatives identified by Father Jenkins as central to the University of Notre Dame’s distinctive mission. This support is vital to help the Hesburgh Libraries meet their goals in expanding services and programs to serve the increasingly sophisticated needs of a world-class University.
Graduate Student Stipend Work Reveals “Hidden Surprises”

At first glance, the faded photograph seems rather ordinary. In it, a few wooden buildings are clustered along a waterway.

But on closer inspection, the image reveals its hidden surprise: there, faintly visible in the distance, one can just barely make out the outline of a cathedral.

The photo is significant for two reasons, says Ph.D. student Nathan Gerth.

“It provides a view of the wooden architecture that has long since disappeared in Moscow,” he says.

More importantly, it provides a tantalizing glimpse of the famous Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow—“a scant five years before its demolition by the Soviet government.”

NO PARTICULAR ORDER TO THEM

This is precisely the sort of detail Gerth has been assigned to tease out of the heretofore unsorted materials from the personal effects of Herbert Marshall (January 20, 1906–May 28, 1991), an English actor who studied film and theater in the Soviet Union during the 1930s.

The 200 cartons and boxes in this particular collection contain materials that reflect a significant portion of Marshall’s life and career, which spanned several decades and took him to several countries.

The collection of Marshall’s personal papers and letters came into the Hesburgh Libraries’ ownership in 1991, says special collections curator George Rugg.

“Someone had gone through Marshall’s office at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and packed everything in boxes,” Rugg says, explaining that it was bought for hundreds of books it included pertaining to film and theater, as well as art, literature, and history. The accompanying ephemera, broadsides, posters, and periodicals were never developed as a collection.

“There’s no particular order to them,” Rugg says. “That’s how they came to us, and that’s what Nathan is now sorting through.”

CAPITALIZING ON SPECIAL EXPERTISE

Thanks to a newly established stipend, Gerth will work a specified number of hours per week sorting through the materials in search of memorabilia from Marshall’s Russian experience. The stipend is the brainchild of Susan Ohmer, interim director of Hesburgh Libraries, who worked to establish a fund that would allow graduate students to obtain experience working in original materials.

“It so happened that we had this collection that matched with Gerth’s graduate work in Russian,” says Lou Jordan, head of Special Collections. “He was brought in to work on a very specific portion of the collection. He’ll be here through June. Then another student will start in the summer, and we’ll use that stipend to work on another collection. It allows students to gain some experience and decide whether to teach, pursue a career in library science, or perhaps take another direction. It also gives us the option to train and provide expertise where we need help with specific subject areas.”

With his specialization in Russian history, Gerth is tasked with focusing on materials that represent Marshall’s time in Russia studying with film director Sergei Eisenstein (January 23, 1898–February 11, 1948), whose pioneering works such as Alexander Nevsky and Battleship Potemkin earned him the moniker “Father of Montage.”

“We aren’t trying to come up with an item-by-item list, but rather to obtain some indication of what’s in those boxes,” Jordan says. “We’re making use of Nathan’s Russian language skills. He will focus specifically on the materials pertaining to Russia.”

STEPS IN PROCESSING COLLECTIONS

When Gerth has completed his work, Special Collections staff will determine how to proceed. Although it is too early in the process to determine how or whether the materials will be used, Jordan says a collection typically is processed through a series of logical steps:

1. First, an attempt is made to determine whether the materials are worth preserving. “First we have to get an overview of exactly what parts are of intellectual significance,” Jordan says. “Developing and keeping any collection costs time and money. If it’s not worth saving, we don’t want to spend the time on it. Old phone books from someone’s office are probably not of value.”
Undergraduate continued from page 3

inaugural year and were awarded to students submitting work at the third-year level or higher:

• One first prize of $1,000
• Two honorable mentions of $500 each

In addition, one $500 award was presented to the winning submission from first- and second-year students.

Submissions were judged by librarians and by faculty across a variety of disciplines. The entries were evaluated not only on the intellectual merit and demonstration that the work met the highest standards of its field, but also how well the project and the essay demonstrated an understanding of the use of such library resources as printed materials, databases or other electronic collections, library services, manuscripts, and archival or special collections.

“One of the goals of this award is to increase the number of students doing a thesis,” says Cheri Smith, coordinator for instructional services and psychology reference librarian, who worked with Porter to promote the award on campus. Promotional efforts included posters, table tents, bookmarks, and multiple emails to all faculty and to the undergraduate email lists.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Submissions were accepted through April 8. Winners were announced during the last week of April 2011, and awards will be presented during the undergraduate research conference on May 6.

Graduate Student Stipend continued from page 13

2. Once the value has been determined, Special Collections staff then look at what parameters the collection fits within.
3. Next, staff try to get some sort of “intellectual control” over the material, which means making an inventory or list.
4. Physical control comes next: putting the materials in new folders and boxes and housing them in a responsible way (for example, using acid-free materials to preserve fragile documents).
5. Finally, a cataloging and labeling system is meticulously created to list the specific contents of individual folders and boxes within the collection.

EXCITEMENT AND VIBRANT SPIRIT

For his part, Gerth says he has been particularly drawn to those items in the collection that capture life in Russia following its civil war—i.e., during the early 1920s. His search has unearthed “a rather large number” of photos, playbills, theater programs, and ephemera related to European avant-garde movements in Europe during the 1920s.

“These materials capture the excitement and vibrant spirit of artistic endeavors at that time in history,” Gerth says.

By late January, Gerth had made his way through about 30 cartons, looking for things that might be of historical interest. When he reaches the end of his stipend period, Special Collections staff will review his findings and determine what the next steps should be.

“We were hoping there would be a lot of material from Marshall’s involvement in avant-garde Russian theater that he brought back with him,” Jordan says, adding that their hopes appear to have been well rewarded.

“We’ll find out where we go from there,” he says.

Innovations... continued from page 10

Tools to do the work faster

For Stephen Little, acquisitions editor at Notre Dame Press, the appeal of attending the forum was evident even before he attended the first session of the day.

“Like librarians, we work with information in publishing, too, but we use it in a different way,” Little says. “Maybe these tools will help me to do my work faster.”

Other offerings at the forum included:

• Eric Morgan’s overview and demo of the Catholic portal. The Catholic portal is a project of the CRRA whose mission is to provide enduring global access to Catholic scholarly materials that are rare, unique, and uncommon. The desired result of such digitized scholarship is a vetted, curated collection of common materials with uniform accuracy, with the goal of building larger collections that can be shared among major Catholic institutions. A focus group conducted on campus in spring 2010 indicated strong interest in such a portal, which is currently under development.

• Representatives from Crivella West (crivellawest.com/research.html), who described their work in applying text mining computing techniques to the Cardinal Newman archives for the purposes of providing enhanced understanding of Newman’s writings and thought.

Resources...
Pascal Calarco has accepted a position as associate university librarian for Discovery & Digital Services at the University of Waterloo, effective July 4. Pascal has served as head of the Library Information Systems Department since July of 2004.

David Dressing has been appointed Latin American studies librarian in the Collection Development Department, effective April 1. David comes to Notre Dame from the Latin American Library at Tulane University where he has served as curator of Special Collections since 2001. He is a certified archivist with a Ph.D. in history and an M.A. in Latin American studies, both from Tulane.

Michelle Hudson left the Libraries in mid-March to accept a position as science/social science data librarian at Yale University. Michelle joined the Hesburgh Libraries in January 2009 as data services and economics librarian. A member of the Social Sciences Liaison Team, Michelle has also served as the Libraries’ education librarian.

Aedin Clements and Marina Smyth participated with Kathy Williams of Boston College on the panel “Irish Studies Research: An Information Session on Resources in Irish Studies,” Social Sciences and History Discussion Group & Special Topics Discussion Group, Association of College and Research Libraries/Western European Studies Section, at the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association on January 8 in San Diego. Aedin, Irish studies librarian, is interim head of the Collection Development Department. Marina serves as medieval studies librarian.

Liz Dube, conservator in the Libraries’ Preservation Department, and University of Kansas Libraries’ conservator Whitney Baker, have been awarded the 2010 “Best of LRTS” award for their article “Identifying Standard Practices in Research Library Book Conservation,” which was published in Library Resources & Technical Services, vol. 54, issue 1, pp. 21-39. The award will be presented during the annual meeting of the American Library Association in New Orleans on June 26.

Leslie Morgan, first-year experience librarian and member of the User Services Learning and Assessment Team, has been named a 2011–2012 Leadership and Career Development Program (LCDP) Fellow by the Association of Research Libraries’ (ARL) Committee on Diversity and Leadership. The LCDP is an 18-month fellowship program which prepares mid-career librarians from traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups for leadership roles in ARL libraries.

Congratulations to Felicia Smith on the publication of her book, Cybrarian Extraordinaire: Compelling Information Literacy Instruction (ABC-Clio, 2011). Felicia serves as reference/outreach librarian on the Hesburgh Libraries’ Research Commons Team.

Jennifer Younger, past Edward H. Arnold Director of Hesburgh Libraries, presented “The Librarian in the Service of a Catholic University,” during a “Leadership Symposium for Academic Librarians in Catholic Institutions” on March 28. The symposium was co-sponsored by Seton Hall University’s Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies and by the Catholic Library Association.
Ryan Rare Book Room continued from page 3

Redesigned in the late 1990s by former School of Architecture chair Thomas Gordon Smith and designated as the Rare Book Room, the elegantly appointed chamber already enjoyed a reputation for the excellence of its collections when the Ryan Family donated a collection of books from the Helen Park List, a bibliography of architectural books known to be in the United States before the American Revolution. The Ryan family went on to support the acquisition of more than 65 titles from the Park list.

This generous gift formed the focus of the Notre Dame Architecture Library’s rare book collections, and serves to educate and inspire students, faculty, and lovers of the built environment.

According to cousin Pat Ryan in a tribute shortly after Jim Ryan’s death, “Jim’s goal was not to build the biggest buildings or be the largest company. His goal was to build character in his employees, build confidence in our customers, and build better communities.”

The day’s events dedicating the room began with a Mass in the Log Chapel, with Rev. Richard Bullene, C.S.C., officiating. The Mass was followed by a ceremony in the room itself, attended by a select group of Ryan’s close friends and family.

“The room was packed,” Parker says. “We had chairs lined up in tight rows, and even at that, we had people standing. Everyone who was invited wanted to be part of this special event. We felt that Jim Ryan had done so much for this school and this library, it was really important to honor him.”

In addition to the Helen Park List, the Ryan Rare Book Room Collections include:

• The Hitchcock List 1775–1895
  These books are selections from Henry-Russell Hitchcock’s American Architectural Books, a list of the first architecture books ever published in the United States and central to the study of classical and traditional architecture.
• Pattern Books
• Price Guides
• Ancient Architecture
  New titles are added yearly to the library’s holdings.

Walker continued from page 1

“This is an energizing and exciting time for research libraries in general and for Notre Dame especially,” Walker said. “It is an honor to be invited to lead the Libraries at this time of high expectations and of great opportunity. I look forward to joining the community and together with them building the Notre Dame library for the future.”

Since 2006, Walker has guided planning and coordination of all library services for the wide variety of disciplines represented at a large research institution. She has been responsible for Virginia’s library administrative services, including finances and budget, human resources, facilities planning and maintenance, and management information services. She leads the library’s strategic planning processes and directs the daily operations of a system with 12 locations, 230 faculty and staff, and an operating budget of $23 million.

Among the initiatives Walker has led or in which she has played a key role were the planning and construction of a new special collections library, a major renovation of the Charles L. Brown Science & Engineering Library, opening a café in the lobby of the main library (Virginia’s was among the first university libraries to do so), and long-range re-imagining of the physical facilities of the main library in preparation for a major renovation of a building that is more than 70 years old.

Walker also collaborated with colleagues in the university’s information technology division on an incentive and training program for humanities faculty to help them incorporate technology in their classrooms, and more recently to coordinate a strategic institutional shift from providing computer labs to making it easier for students to use their own laptops throughout the libraries and across campus. She also developed and helped to redirect collection development and management strategies as the balance has shifted increasingly from all-print and physical formats to digital.

From 2003 to 2006, Walker focused on public services, collection development, user education, facilities and interlibrary services, and established library services for the university’s Semester at Sea program.

Walker earned master’s degrees in musicology from the University of Iowa and in library and information science from the University of Illinois and her bachelor’s degree in music literature from MacMurray College.

She served for five years as music cataloguer and reference librarian at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prior to her present position at Virginia, she was the university’s music librarian, coordinator for humanities and social sciences branch libraries, and associate university librarian for user services.

Walker is a past president of the Music Library Association and has served as a member-at-large on the board of directors and as treasurer of the association.