From the Librarian

by Terry Snyder

We delight in the return of our students to campus, and we look forward to many dynamic and intellectually stimulating conversations around their academic projects throughout the year.

In preparation for our students’ return, and in order to better meet their needs, Library colleagues spent a good part of the summer in a series of intensive strategic planning meetings. We engaged in active, critical internal self-assessment, analyzed existing studies and reviewed feedback from meetings with students and faculty held during the Spring 2011 semester. Our critical self-examination led us to reconsider ways the Library could improve in key service areas.

Though we are still establishing our specific goals, this examination allowed us to identify a few key areas of growth and to address important staffing needs. As a result, we reorganized and redeployed staff to areas of under-realized opportunity. For example, we will add staff expertise in: 1) providing reference and research support for the departments of English Literature, Comparative Literature and Languages; 2) managing our growing electronic collections; and 3) developing digital research support and services.

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Summer Researcher Luncheon

by Margaret Schaus

Like swallows to San Capistrano, the lunch for student and faculty researchers signals a change in season from the academic term to the summer. The stately reference room at Magill Library is packed with tables and chairs in every direction for the lively gathering. The Library organized the first luncheon for summer research interns and their faculty in 2006, when 12 students were sponsored by the Hurford Humanities Center. This past June, more than 130 students, faculty and staff shared information about their summer projects with the group. In addition to the Hurford Humanities Center, sponsors this year included the Office of the Provost and the Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center.

Examples of student work during the 2011 summer include the Global Terrorism Research Project, under the direction of Professor Barak Mendelsohn (http://gtrp.haverford.edu/), and Professor Suzanne Amador Kane’s lab group, which investigated how bird flocking and flight spatial trajectories work in predator-prey relationships. In addition, students pored over 18th-century newspapers, websites for Renaissance music and many other collections with support from subject librarians. Working with students and faculty on these innovative projects provides a valuable and rewarding means of contributing to the scholarly output of the College.

— Margaret Schaus is Lead Reference Librarian & Bibliographer
iPads Arrive

by Dawn Heckert

iPads for loan by the Library? Yes! With assistance from Instructional Technology and Training staff, the Library has established a program to lend tablets to the Haverford community. We have purchased five Apple iPads for the fall semester, with plans to add additional tablets in the spring.

The iPads are available for a one week loan with the ability to renew for another week. We have loaded close to 20 apps on each device, including Skype, iBooks and a few basic study tools. In addition, users can sync the Library’s iPads with their own iTunes account to utilize their personal library of music, movies and apps.

We are soliciting feedback on each user’s experience in order to gauge their interest in this device and improve this service. Additional information about the Library’s iPad program is available at www.haverford.edu/library/services/ipad.php.

— Dawn Heckert is Circulation Services & Building Projects Manager

Electronic Books on Demand

by Norm Medeiros

An emerging trend in libraries is the availability of electronic books (e-books) on demand. The Tri-College Libraries are piloting one of these services this academic year, which enables faculty and students to choose from among thousands of e-books in the online catalog.

Through Ebook Library (EBL), the Libraries will add to Tripod records for thousands of recently published e-books from academic publishers such as Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and the University of Chicago Press. The arrangement with EBL allows students and faculty to download entire books to laptops, iPads and mobile devices; to print or copy portions of books; and to take reading notes that are preserved on the EBL site.

In contrast to other electronic book collections in Tripod, EBL charges only for books that are used, so the Libraries can make available a wider array of books at the point of need.

To ensure that only valid members of the Tri-College community can activate rentals, you’ll enter your HaverApps email and password to access EBL e-books in Tripod. This means you can access EBL e-books from wherever you happen to be — on or off campus.

We are eager to hear your thoughts about the service. Please send feedback to nmedeiro@haverford.edu.

— Norm Medeiros is Associate Librarian of the College
The Art and Artifact Collections Database

by Anne Moore

The Special Collections units at Bryn Mawr and Haverford are pleased to introduce the new Art and Artifact Collections database. The database (http://triarte.brynmawr.edu) includes over 24,000 objects from Bryn Mawr’s archaeology, anthropology and fine art collections, with images accompanying over half of the records. At Haverford, student workers have been assisting librarians with the digitizing and cataloging of hundreds of art pieces including drawings, prints, photographs, paintings, artifacts, maps, vessels, sculptures and posters. At present, more than 750 of Haverford’s art objects are accessible with images through the database. We continue to add objects monthly with each new update.

Students, faculty and staff can browse featured collections, search using artists’ names, locations and media. Featured collections at Haverford include a gallery of Haverford Presidents’ portraits, objects from the College’s collection of Classical Antiquities and images from Native Americans pulled together from a number of collections, as well as other photographic and print portfolios. In addition, instructors can work with librarians to compile portfolios, which can then be accessed through the “Classes and Research” link on the database.

We invite you to take advantage of this growing digital collection to explore the treasures of Bryn Mawr’s and Haverford’s special collections.

– Anne Moore was Digital Collections Librarian

From the Librarian (continued from p. 1)

These changes represent some of the early steps we will take to move the Library from a traditional repository paradigm to a user-focused one—one that will allow the Library to serve as an active, intellectually vital academic center for the Haverford community.

In this newsletter you will read about a few of our other new initiatives. We invite your thoughts about these projects and solicit your ideas for improving our services. Finally, we thank you for your interest and for your support of the Library!

– Terry Snyder is Librarian of the College

Librarian of the College: Terry Snyder
Newsletter Editor: Norm Medeiros
Contributors: Dawn Heckert Anne Moore Mike Persick Margaret Schaus

The Library Newsletter is available on the web at www.haverford.edu/library/about/news

Please e-mail comments and suggestions to library@haverford.edu
Staff News & Notes  by Mike Persick

Laurie Allen, Coordinator for Digital Scholarship and Services, published an EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) bulletin in July in collaboration with her Measuring Information Service Outcomes (MISO) colleagues entitled “Evaluating IT and Library Services with the MISO Survey.” She also presented with two of the MISO team at CLAC, the Consortium of Liberal Arts Colleges, at Kalamazoo College in Michigan in June. Their presentation was titled, “What Students and Faculty Want: Insights from the MISO Survey.”

Norm Medeiros, Associate Librarian of the College & Coordinator for Collection Management and Metadata Services, has been appointed to the Project Muse/University Press Content Consortium (UPCC) Library Advisory Board. In January 2012, Project MUSE will launch electronic book (e-book) collections on its platform in collaboration with the UPCC, constituting some 65 university presses and related scholarly publishers. The Library Advisory Board provides insight and feedback on topics including content and collection development, pricing, functionality, e-book trends and needs among academic library staff and patrons.