



# staff news

Issue 76

February 18, 2002

## Serbian Law Faculty Tour Library

Public administration scholars and law faculty from the University of Kragujevac, Republic of Serbia, toured the ES Bird Library on February 6. Reference librarian for political science and public administration, Michael Pasqualoni, introduced them to electronic and print resources pertinent to public administration and to library collections and services generally. This included a meeting with John Olson and look at the GIS lab.

The visitors were Dr. Milena Petrovic, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Finance, Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac; Dr. Bozin Vlaskovic, Dean and Professor, Law Faculty, University of Kragujevac; Ksenija Keivanzadeh, United States interpreter; and Lucille Browning, Executive Director of the International Center of Syracuse. Their visit was part of a more extended stay in Syracuse and the United States, with stops at City of Syracuse local government departments, the SU campus, meetings with Maxwell School faculty, and a tour through the College of Law.

The visiting faculty are examining relationships between public administration and political establishments, the US experience in fighting political corruption, as well as the impact of globalization on the Republic of Serbia. This includes an overview of the US Constitution and political system, approaches to public finance, and dispute resolution between public and private entities.

They are also keenly interested in the US approach to academic librarianship and its funding, given what is a severely limited budget for library resources at their home university in Serbia. They will be continuing the tour in the days and weeks to come, a first visit to the US, passing through New York City and stopping in New Orleans in time for Mardi Gras, sure to be a glimpse of American life they will not soon forget.

*Michael Pasqualoni, Reference Librarian*



## Staff Successful in Competitive Programs

The Library is very pleased that its staff is gaining access to competitive development programs around the country. As of this issue, three staff members have been accepted into programs during the next year.

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC has chosen **Donia Conn**, Assistant Conservator in the Department of Special Collections, for an advanced internship in conservation. This competitive internship will begin in January of 2003 and continue for three months. During the internship, Donia will have the opportunity to acquire high-level conservation skills, including leaf-casting and use of suction tables while working on unique materials from the Folger's rich collections. She will also construct models of historical bindings, thereby deepening her understanding of the history of the structure of the book.

**Abby Kasowitz-Scheer**, Head of Instructional Programs for Syracuse University Library, has been selected to participate in the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Institute for Information Literacy Immersion '02. This highly selective program is a four-and-one-half day intensive training and education institute for academic librarians. Abby has been accepted to Track II, "Librarian as Program Developer," which focuses on developing, integrating, and managing institutional and programmatic information literacy programs. Abby will apply the knowledge gained from the program to developing the Syracuse University Library's information literacy program, which seeks to promote effective student use of proliferating information types and formats.

The Immersion '02 program will take place at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. Abby will attend the first of two programs from July 26-31. The program is offered by ACRL, a division of the American Library Association. Courses are taught by a faculty of nationally recognized librarians and scholars.

**Peter McDonald**, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development, has been accepted to the two-week intensive Frye Leadership Institute at Emory University in Atlanta this June. The Institute's theme this year will focus on the integration of information technologies into the Academy. Peter's "practicum" will focus specifically on how the Library can be a change leader for the University in the realm of IT.

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*Aneisa Joyce, left, was introduced in the last issue of Staff News. She usually works evenings, weekends, and Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:30. Stop by and say hello at the Reference Desk.*

## In Brief

... news about our staff



A very well recognized name in the Syracuse community passed away on January 22 at the age of 98. **Ida Olsen Benderson** was an advocate for elder care, education, and women's issues long before the topics were daily news items. However, not many realize that she studied library science at Syracuse University and then spent 19 years at the SU Library, resigning in 1942 after the birth of her first child. Mrs. Benderson married Jacob Benderson, who died in 1992 at the age of 87. The couple had two sons, Bruce and Eric.

Ida Benderson received many awards and honors, including the Post Standard All-Time Woman of Achievement. Two buildings were named in her honor, the Ida Benderson Senior Center and Benderson Heights, a public housing project. According to Bruce Benderson, "She was a hyper-large personality. She had enormous willpower and enormous energy. She made an impression wherever she went, usually a positive impression."

Congratulations to **Barbara Opar**, who will serve as the Vice President/President-elect for the Association of Architectural School Librarians (AASL). She will take office after the April, 2002 AASL meeting.

Congratulations also to **Susan Miller**, who began in January as the Vice President/President-elect for the Art Libraries Society/Western New York (ARLIS/WNY).

A letter regarding LISSCNY (Library Support Staff of Central New York) was recently circulated among staff at Syracuse University Library. This organization began in 1995, but recently has not been active. A group of the original leaders are trying to revive the organization by establishing a steering committee to plan activities for all library support staff in the region. Please contact **Sally Sessler** at [sasessle@library.syr.edu](mailto:sasessle@library.syr.edu) if you are interested in volunteering for the committee or being added to the mailing list.

Daniel Vidali was chosen as a finalist in the 32nd Annual Concerto Competition of the Civic Morning Musicals and the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. He performed the first movement of the Haydn Cello Concerto in C major. Dan's string quartet, the Capriccio Quartet, recently took second place in a chamber music competition sponsored by the Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music and the Society for New Music. Dan is a freshman in high school and the son of Music Librarian **Carole Vidali**.

## New Glossary for E-Book

The Fine Arts Department has recently added a glossary to the e-book titled *An Anthology of Building Technology: The Field Condition*, written by School of Architecture Professor Ted Ceraldi in conjunction with the Fine Arts Department, ES Bird Library. This e-book, the first to be developed at Syracuse University, partially documents the construction of the Institute of Human Performance, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York. A link to this site may be found on the Fine Arts Department web page, or by going directly to <http://libwww.syr.edu/digital/collections/c/Ceraldi/title.htm>.

*Ed Gokey, Fine Arts Department*

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## Cabinet Minutes Summary

The major agenda item for the January 29 Cabinet meeting was to review our role in managing and communicating the Strategic Plan. (The actual minutes show most of the discussion verbatim.) Ideas included making better use of the newsletter as a communication vehicle (e.g., having a "special edition" plus a regular column on Strategic Plan updates) and learning to identify accomplishments using the language of the plan and making sure they are communicated. We agreed that it is easy to get bogged down in process when trying to manage progress and that, despite significant staff shortages and so many searches, quite a bit was accomplished this past year. We also considered the idea of a "shop talk" column in the newsletter so each department could report out any news or changes, particularly in relation to the plan.

*Lesley Pease, Maps and Government Information Department*

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## On My Bookshelf

**Sally Sessler** recently finished reading *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. She says it is an interesting view of the homeless in Washington, DC.



## February Peer to Peer Dialog: Academic Library as Place in the Internet Age

What is the place of an academic library on campus these days and does it still represent a tangible nexus of common culture, the social and intellectual heart of the institution? That question was the topic of this month's peer-to-peer discussion group during an engaging hour-long session facilitated by Reference Librarian, Tasha Cooper and Head of ESF's Moon Library, Betsy Elkins. Jumping off point for the talk was the November 16, 2001 *Chronicle of Higher Education* article by Scott Carlson, entitled, "As Students Work Online, Reading Rooms Empty Out—Leading Some Campuses to Add Starbucks."

With our own institution's traditional measures declining in recent years, gate counts and circulation statistics for instance, those in attendance considered issues ranging from how to make the library a more welcoming physical environment (e.g., How far should we loosen once impenetrable restrictions barring food and beverages? How might we re-examine furniture choice and placement?) to more formal user assessment. For example, Betsy described Moon's current survey of its faculty and students, and there was much interest in discussing that library's approach to this outreach effort. Other attendees lamented the demise of initiatives such as book sales at ES Bird or even the relocation of programs to the 1916 Room. Visitors were once required to plunge deeply into the upper floors of the building, but now these guests dart in and out of events, perhaps never entering the library's main gates.

What else might encourage users to see their academic library as crucial to the overall campus experience? Suggestions included

hosting art exhibits, working to maintain and improve a friendly customer service attitude or elimination of barriers to collaborative learning (e.g., Are individual study carrels underutilized and should we invest more energy in creating attractive group study spaces?). How far should the changes go? Perhaps too, it was suggested, we might better use our physical spaces to promote newer virtual services (and vice versa).

What opportunities exist to get richer feedback from the many students populating ES Bird's extended study area? Soft seating, coffee or even full-scale food services could send streams of students toward our gates; but, one attendee asked, will they stick around very long if they are not greeted by high quality, current, and usable print and electronic collections? Former President Clinton once spoke of building bridges to a new century. Should ES Bird build a bridge to Schine Student Center? What are the best ways to ensure that entering an academic library is a central part of everyone's college experience? And need we be greatly concerned if that entry is virtual and not physical?

The next Peer to Peer Library Dialog is scheduled for March 6, 12:30-1:30pm, in the 1916 Room of ES Bird Library. The topic is "Information Literacy." What is the essential conception of this term and how should library services encourage what some have called the premier competency of our time? Please join us for friendly conversation and flavorful refreshments.

*Michael Pasqualoni, Reference Department*

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## Poets Exhibited in Reference Department

The lives of poets Paul Laurence Dunbar and Langston Hughes are explored in the Black History Month exhibit, "Two American Poets," in the first-floor lobby of ES Bird Library. The exhibit will be shown throughout the month of February.

Dunbar wrote poems in literary English as well as in black dialect, but was better known for the latter. Works such as *Majors and Minors* included both styles. With the 1896 publications of *Lyrics of Lowly Life*, Dunbar's literary reputation was established, and he published and gave public readings until his death from tuberculosis at age 32.

Hughes wrote poetry, short stories, novels, plays and children's books. His first volume of poetry, *The Weary Blues*, began a prolific career. An active participant in the Harlem Renaissance, Hughes championed leftist causes and supported younger black artists, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Zora Neale Hurston and Margaret Walker. This year is the 100th anniversary of Hughes's birth.

*Cyndi Moritz, SU News Services*



*The Reference Department's Black History Month exhibit is located behind the remote Reference Desk.*

## Media Services Department Schedule for Spring 2002

The Library Media Services Department has scheduled a host of presentations, videoconferences, and satellite downlinks on multiple topics for the spring semester. Upcoming sessions are listed below and reminders will be published in future issues of *Staff News*. Please note that some of the sessions require advance registration.

### Getting to Know Us, Spring, 2002

#### Information sessions

February 20      **Introduction to scanning with PhotoShop**  
1:00-2:00 p.m.    Room 045

Ron Bouverat, Library Multimedia Consultant, will give a basic overview of using flatbed scanners with PhotoShop to acquire images for use in documents, PowerPoint presentations, web pages, and scholarly publishing. Bring materials for scanning and we will work with as many as possible during the session.

February 27      **Using iDVD to record DVD-Video**  
1:00-2:00 p.m.    Room 045

Using iDVD software and a Mac DVD-R burner, Kannan AMR, Library Multimedia Coordinator, will briefly describe and demonstrate how to create an MPEG-2 video clip and record it to a DVD-R which can be played in most DVD-Video players and DVD computer drives.

#### Training workshops

February 21 and 26      **Scanning workshop**  
2:00-3:30 p.m.      Room 045

This introductory workshop will begin with a 45-minute presentation on the principles of image scanning and will be followed by 45 minutes of hands-on scanning. Registrants will be paired up, two per scanner, for the hands-on session. The workshop, limited to 8 registrants, will be repeated on February 26. To register, please contact Library Media Services, 008 ES Bird Library, 443-2438.

February 28 and March 5      **Digital video capture on a Mac G4**  
2:00-3:30 p.m.      Room 045

This introductory workshop will begin with a 45-minute presentation on the principals of digital video capture and will illustrate capturing video to a digital file. This will be followed by 45 minutes of hands-on work with previously captured digital video files. Registrants will be paired up, two per workstation, for the hands-on session. The workshop is limited to 8 registrants and will be repeated on March 5. To register, please contact Library Media Services, 008 ES Bird Library, 443-2438.

#### Satellite downlinks

*Television and the War on Terrorism* - a five-part series

The Museum of Television & Radio explores how television has transformed the national consciousness following the events of September 11 in this multi-part University Satellite Seminar series. The first three parts were presented on February 11, 12, and 13. Parts 4 and 5 will be held on March 6 and 7.

March 6      **Television's Creative Community Responds**  
7:30-9:00p.m.    Room 045

Television professionals will explore the role of entertainment programming during national crises. The creative community's response will be compared with the role television and radio comedy and drama played during earlier conflicts, such as World War II and the Vietnam War. The discussion will also address such issues as the relevancy of entertainment and the appropriateness of humor, irony, and satire during such times. Panelists include: Alan Alda, actor/writer/director; Joan Ganz Cooney, creator of *Sesame Street*; Michael Davies, President, Diplomatic Television; Executive Director, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*; Tom Freston, Chairman/CEO, MTV Networks; Sheila Nevins, Executive Vice President, Original Programming, HBO; Henry Schleiff, Chariman/CEO, Court TV Network.

March 7      **The Artistic Community Responds**  
7:30-9:00 p.m.    Room 045

Leading personalities from the performing and visual arts will assemble for an in-depth discussion on the artistic community's response during times of war and other national crises. The discussion will address how the voices of individual artists have been affected by the nation's tragedy. Panelists include: Ken Burns, filmmaker; Richard Dreyfuss, actor; Peter Eisenman, architect; Twyla Tharp, choreographer; Robert Wilson, theater director.



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Please send material for the next *Staff News* by Thurs., Feb. 28, 2002 to the editor at 219 E.S. Bird Library.

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