

Summer 2008

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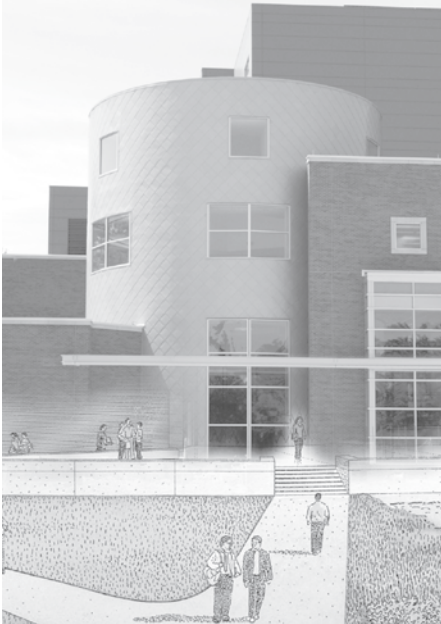
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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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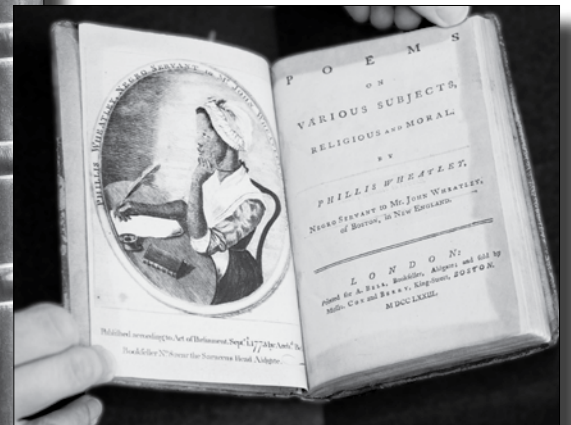
Chicago Bookseller Donates First Book of African American Poetry

John LaPine, owner of Printers Row Fine & Rare Books on Dearborn Street in Chicago, recently donated a copy of the first book of poetry published by an African American to Morris Library. Appearing in 1773, this copy of *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* by Phillis Wheatley is a first printing of the first edition of the first book published by an African American. LaPine characterized the book as, "A spectacular copy of the first literary work ever published by an African American—a landmark in the history of both African American and world literature."

Born in the Senegal-Gambia region of Africa, Phillis Wheatley came as a slave to Boston in 1761 at the age of seven as an attendant to the wife of John Wheatley, a prominent tailor. She displayed remarkable language skills, and at the age of thirteen she wrote her first poem. She was first published in a Newport, Rhode

Island, newspaper in 1767, but no Boston printer would publish her work so Phillis and the Wheatleys sought the assistance of a London printer. In 1773 *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was published. A subsequent volume was planned, but no copies are known to exist, and she died in 1784.

John LaPine, a book collector since the age of 8, has been the proprietor of Printers Row Fine & Rare Books since



With the donation of this copy of the Phillis Wheatley book to Morris, there are about 100 copies in major libraries worldwide.

2003. He is an SIUC alumnus, earning a BA in political science and a BA in German in 1988. He extols the virtues of the friendly atmosphere and small town charm of this area, stating, "The three years I spent in Carbondale were three of the best years of my life."

continued on page 7 . . .

CORNERSTONE is published four times a year. It is distributed free of charge to Friends of Morris Library, SIUC faculty and friends of the University.

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For a complete listing of the library staff, follow the **ABOUT THE LIBRARY** link to the **STAFF DIRECTORY** on our home page: <http://www.lib.siu.edu/hp/>

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SOUTHERN

Message from the Dean

A Vision Affirmed

As readers of *Cornerstone* know, the Library held a “Semi Grand Opening” of selected floors of the renovated Morris Library in early March. Despite the weather—a torrential downpour—and a power failure minutes before the start of the festivities, the event was very successful and a good crowd arrived to hear the remarks and celebrate the occasion.

Over the last three years, the faculty and staff of Morris Library have overcome a myriad of challenges and have done an extraordinary job of delivering Library materials and services to the campus community during renovation. Our two-hour campus delivery service is an excellent example. Over the last few years, I have received numerous unsolicited compliments from faculty and students about how well the service has worked.

The space we celebrated in March was, even in its interim state—without new furniture and with temporary service points—a major improvement and enhancement to our space. But I confess that I was concerned about the reaction of students in the coming weeks and my concerns were much deeper than whether our carpet choice or color schemes would be warmly received.

In the new Morris, one of our critical design objectives has been to create a space to facilitate a campus community of learners, educators, and colleagues seeking information. I believe this is one of the most important roles for libraries in the digital age. Space is not the only element necessary to create this “information and learning commons,” but it is a crucial ingredient. And despite our extraordinary efforts to provide essential services during renovation, there is no substitute for this kind of “learning commons” space. So after the opening ceremonies concluded, I was concerned whether students would remember what Morris Library can be to campus? Will they remember? Will they come back? After just a few weeks, the answer was a resounding *yes!*

One of the signs of acceptance was use of the new group study rooms. These rooms, of which the old Morris had none, were an important part of our design to create a collaborative learning community. It took a little bit of time for the students to discover these rooms, but word got out quickly and soon there were times where all fourteen new group study rooms were in use by students. In the new Morris we also aspire to support, not only collaborative learning, but private, focused, and contemplative use of resources for study—a more traditional library role which we did not want to abandon. While my experience is anecdotal, I can report that as I walked around Morris the first few weeks after our opening it was my distinct impression that I saw more students privately studying in a quiet corner of Morris than I had in all the weeks of the entire past semester.

The last few months have given early, but clear, evidence that our design and vision for the new Morris is being warmly embraced. It is reassuring and inspiring to see Morris Library not just coming back to life, but bringing new life back to campus.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Carlson".

DAVID CARLSON

The Library Is Seeking . . .

With research library budgets strained by the increasing costs of electronic journals and databases, more traditional reference/replacement volumes are sometimes left behind. THE LIBRARY IS SEEKING . . . looks for private funding for those items that would not otherwise be purchased by the library. If you are interested in underwriting one of these items, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.



\$105 for *The Bhagavadgita: Doctrines and Contexts* by ANGELIKA MALINAR. The Bhagavadgita is one of the most renowned texts of Hinduism, containing discussions of important issues such as liberation and the nature of action as well as the revelation of the Krishna as the highest god and creator of the universe. In contrast to many other studies, this title deals with the relationship between the Bhagavadgita and its epic contexts. On the basis of a thorough analysis of the text ANGELIKA MALINAR argues that its theology delineates not only new philosophical concepts and religious practices but also addresses the problem of righteous kingship and appropriate use of power.

The Adopt-a-Book Program encourages donors to purchase needed titles within which a personalized bookplate is placed.

For more information, please call 618-453-1633.

\$320 for *Brill's Companion to Herodotus* edited by EGBERT J. BAKKER. Herodotus' outstanding achievements as a literary figure, intellectual, historian, and ethnographer have in recent years come to be appreciated with much greater depth and subtlety. This companion offers an up-to-date and in-depth overview of current approaches to Herodotus' remarkable work.

For the first time in the history of this publication, all the items listed in the previous *Cornerstone* were underwritten. *Thank you!*

\$905 for *The African American National Biography*, an eight-volume set edited by HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. This set presents history through a mosaic of the lives of thousands of individuals, illuminating the abiding influence of persons of African descent on the life of this nation from the arrival of Esteban in Spanish Florida in 1529 through to notable black citizens of the present day. In addition to Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Du Bois and Martin Luther King, Jr., the AANB includes a wide range of African Americans from all time periods and all walks of life, both famous and nearly forgotten.

"Blows the dust off Black History Month."—*Newsweek*

"This set, a monumental creation, is now the definitive black biographical database. . . . Highly recommended. All levels."—*Choice*

"A powerful testament to our intelligence, integrity and commitment to excellence, traits often ignored by mainstream historians. . . . This reference collection is a must-have for your library."—*Essence*

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The Adopt-a-Book Program appreciates your support.

\$110 for *China's Telecommunications Revolution* by ERIC HARWIT. This book tells how China conducted its remarkable "telecommunications revolution." It examines both corporate and government policy to get citizens connected to both voice and data networks, looks at the potential challenges to the one-party government when citizens get this access, and considers the new opportunities for networking now offered to the people of one of the world's fastest growing economies.

Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe

This summer, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, will present **BUCKMINSTER FULLER: STARTING WITH THE UNIVERSE**, the first major American exhibition in decades devoted to the visionary mind and work of Buckminster Fuller and the most inclusive show to date of Fuller's work. This exhibition is on view from June 26 to September 21, 2008.

Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895–1983) was one of the great American creative thinkers of the twentieth century. Philosopher, forecaster, designer, poet, inventor, and advocate of alternative energy, Fuller is probably best known as the originator of the geodesic dome, but his theories and innovations engaged fields ranging from mathematics, engineering, and environmental science to literature, architecture, and visual art. Fuller was one of the great transdisciplinary thinkers and made no distinction between these spheres as discrete areas of investigation. He devoted much of his life closing the gap between the sciences and the humanities, a schism he felt prevented a comprehensive view of the world. He believed in the significant interconnectedness of all things and concluded that certain basic structures and systems underlie everything in our world. Today his prophetic concepts are a touchstone for discussions of issues including environmental conservation, the manufacture and distribution of housing, and global organization of information.

Michael Hayes and Dana Miller, curators of the exhibit, state, "Fuller sought to produce comprehensive anticipatory design solutions that would benefit the largest segment of humanity while consuming the fewest resources . . . Starting as he did from

Visionaries Buckminster Fuller and Delyte Morris were colleagues and board members of the Marjorie Lawrence Foundation in the 1960s.

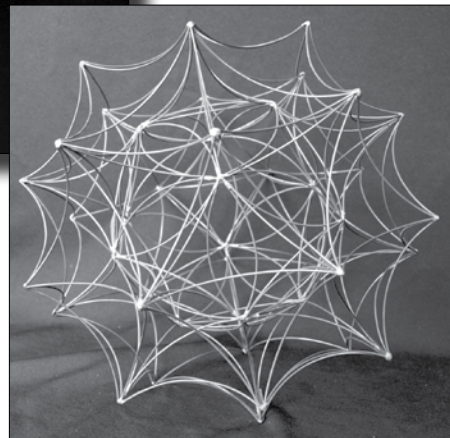
Tetrascroll portfolio; several geodesic study models; as well as numerous sketches, notebooks, and other artifacts. In fact, there are twenty-six geodesic study models and some film clips in the exhibit that are held by the Special Collections Research Center of Morris Library of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Buckminster Fuller, more popularly known as "Bucky" Fuller, was born in Milton, Massachusetts. Fuller attended college at Harvard, but he was expelled twice due to contradictory actions. He later received a Doctor of Science degree from Bates College. During his early years, Fuller worked in Canada as

a mechanic in a textile mill and later as a laborer in a meat packing industry. He married Anne Hewlett in 1917. Fuller was a renowned scholar at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he was professor of generalized design science exploration from 1959 to 1971. He was also a visiting professor on the Edwardsville campus from 1972 until 1974. Fuller died July 1, 1983, at the age of 87.



Courtesy of Special Collections




Courtesy of Special Collections

This scale model, "Mathematical Principles," was one of twenty-six models, designed as structural concepts, lent by Special Collections to the Whitney for the Fuller exhibit.

the universe and ending up with visual-spatial models with which to ponder universal philosophical problems in the here and now, it is not surprising that Fuller has had a tremendous impact on the visual arts and architecture."

This exhibition offers an opportunity to study the pioneering thinking of an intensely passionate, prolific, and idiosyncratic individual. It includes original examples of Fuller's important works from both private and public collections, among them the sole extant Dymaxion car; models of the Wichita house, the

For more information about the collection held in Special Collections Research Center, please visit <http://archives.lib.siu.edu/controlcard.php?id=8&q=Fuller>. 

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Provided by Special Collections Research Center, the above article was adapted from the Whitney Museum's press release on the Fuller exhibit and SCRC's own Website.]

Lincoln Author Jason Emerson to Speak at Friends Fall Dinner



Jason Emerson is scheduled to speak at the dinner of the Friends of Morris Library on Saturday, October 25, at 8:00 PM in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors in Morris Library. Emerson is the author of *The Madness of Mary Lincoln*, published in 2007 by SIU Press, which was recently won Book of the Year from the Illinois State Historical Society. Of the book Society Director William Furry said, "This extremely well-written and researched study is based on the newly discovered letters that have prompted a fresh interpretation of well-known sources."

Emerson has based this effort on twenty-five letters, long presumed lost, that were discovered in the steamer trunk formerly owned by Robert Lincoln's attorney. Mary wrote most of these letters herself, and the majority of these were written while she was in the insane asylum where she had been committed by her son. The first book in twenty years with revealing new evidence, *The Madness of Mary Lincoln* is the compelling story of the troubled state of mind of the country's most tragic first lady.

Jason Emerson is an independent historian and freelance writer living in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He has worked as a park ranger at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Arch) in St. Louis. He has also worked as a professional journalist, a newsletter publisher, and a freelance writer. Currently, he is a stay-at-home dad while he writes.

How have you been able to uncover previously unknown/lost Lincoln documents?

The simplest answer is that I have been looking where no one else has. Of course, it takes more than just looking; I've spent years researching; understanding, piecing things together, postulating. Robert Lincoln has been



Courtesy of Illinois State Historical Society

Emerson received the Book of the Year from the Illinois State Historical Society in 2008.

mostly ignored by the community of Lincoln scholars, and so papers by him or about him have been neglected. I found previously unknown letters about the Lincoln assassination aftermath in a closet in Robert Lincoln's house; I found letters containing Robert's opinion about the authorship of the Bixby letter in a public archive that no one had ever bothered to look through. I found Mary Lincoln's lost insanity letters after five months of searching. The discovery began with two obscure letters I found at Robert's house. They began my chase that led me to the final cache. Without my previous understanding of Robert and his papers, however, I would not have understood what the letters referred to, and therefore would not have followed their trail. I have discovered innumerable other items about Robert

Lincoln, his parents, the Lincoln legacy, even Garfield's assassination during my research—but you'll have to wait to read those until my biography of Robert comes out in 2009!

Did you ever really consider not publishing the newly found MTL letters?

Yes I did. I revealed my discovery in an article in *American Heritage* magazine, and was going to write nothing further. At the time, I was not sure the letters would sustain an entire book, but, more than that, I was in the midst of my Robert Lincoln biography and did not want to get sidetracked. However, once the article was published and other Lincoln scholars heard about my find, I was encouraged by more than one person to write a book. I was finally convinced, and am very glad I was.

What was the most surprising element found in the MTL letters?

Actually, there were many surprises. Perhaps the biggest was the depth and vehemence of Mary's antipathy at Robert for having her committed. The names she called him in her letters to Myra Bradwell were heartbreaking to read. The biggest surprise though was one letter in which she asked Myra Bradwell to help her get revenge against Robert by publishing lies about him in the Chicago newspapers. To her credit, Myra Bradwell did not help, and, faced with the threat of publication about her own shady past by Robert's attorney, Leonard Swett, Mary did not make good on her threats.

What question wasn't resolved in the MTL letters?

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I think the question of whether or not Mary truly suffered from mental illness will never be resolved, no matter how much evidence is brought forth. It is far too emotional, and even personal, an issue for everyone to agree. Likewise, the question of whether or not Robert Lincoln was a good man or a mustache-twirling villain, also will never be resolved, because too many people already have characterized him as the latter.

What criteria guided your writing of THE MADNESS OF MARY LINCOLN?

I am a historian of the school of the great German scholar Leopold von Ranke, believing that we should tell history as it was, not as we think it was or think it should have been. That was how I wrote the book. Every statement in the book is based on actual historical evidence—always from more than one source—with no unsupportable suppositions. Readers will find my endnotes copious, which I love, and, which I also find to be the mark of

“Too many books about Mary Lincoln—and Abraham Lincoln—make outrageous claims about her without any citation as to where those statements originated.”

a good historian. Too many books about Mary Lincoln—and Abraham Lincoln—make outrageous claims about her without any citation as to where those statements originated. More often than not, I have discovered many of these statements by others to be completely without foundation or fact.

Of course, we all bring opinions and suppositions to anything we do. When I began my book, I did not think Mary was “crazy”—in fact I still do not, and I do not like that term—but



Courtesy of Jason Emerson

Emerson's next book will broach the subject of Lincoln's mechanical talent and will be published by SIU Press in 2009.

I did think she was perhaps an overly emotional woman who was unhinged by her husband's assassination. But the more evidence I found, the more I pieced it all together and consulted with the psychiatric experts, the more I realized that she had very serious mental troubles. I honestly had never considered Robert too much in this event, what his motivations were. But the more I researched and wrote, the clearer I saw what Robert had suffered in trying to protect his mother, and that what he did, he did because he thought it was the correct and proper thing to do. In this way, I followed the evidence—I did not mold the evidence to suit my opinions.

What stage of authorship—the research, the writing, or the promotion of the book—do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy the research the most. I love digging through old manuscripts and books, I love the smell of old paper, I love traveling to various universities and museums and sitting in the special collections (usually by myself). I love the thrill of discovery after sitting for hours finding nothing. Of course, I think Barbara Tuchman made a great point when she wrote, “The most important thing about research is to know when to stop. . . . Research is endlessly seductive; writing is hard work.” I do enjoy the writing, especially when I find the groove of it, but writing is very difficult. In my current project about Robert Lincoln, I feel pleased when a day's work yields a solid paragraph or two.

What will be your next book and how many other Lincoln projects have you in the works?

My next book is called *Lincoln the Inventor*. It is the story of Lincoln's mechanical genius: his invention and patent—he is the only president to hold a patent—his penchant for science, math, mechanics, and invention, and how this love of his imbued his entire life. It influenced his education, his law practice, his rhetoric and composition, and his presidency. It will be published in January 2009 by Southern Illinois University Press.

In the works I still have my biography of Robert Lincoln, scheduled for a late 2009 release; I am also going to edit the unpublished manuscript about Mary Lincoln's insanity case that I found with her missing letters. I also have three other books in the planning stages currently: one on Robert, one on Abraham, and one on the authorship of the Bixby letter. Harold Holzer and I also are talking about co-authoring a book. **GP**

continued from page 1

Too, he has fond memories of area landmarks—Ma Hale’s, Giant City Lodge, Pomona General Store, and Mary Lou’s, where “early on Saturday mornings you’d get that extra plate of biscuits and gravy whether you wanted it or not.”

LaPine chose to donate the Wheatley book to complement the strides the University has made in its Black American Studies program.

LaPine said, “To establish a world-class Black Studies program with a world-class library collection to support that program, then you certainly need a copy of the first book published by an African American. It was a perfect fit.”

His decision to attend SIUC in the 1980s was prompted by the courtesies extended to him by administrators and professors. Personal letters of acceptance from the dean of liberal arts, John Jackson, and foreign languages chair, Helmut Liedloff, trumped a form letter, computerized sheets, and catalog sent to him by another Illinois university. LaPine reflected, “I came back from the military without an education. And I got one of the finest liberal arts education a person could ever ask for in a place that’s one of the most beautiful, serene, and comfortable places imaginable.”

When asked about the challenges facing an antiquarian bookseller in the digital age, he responds that the same tough

task is always present—selling books. “The book has become a tool, an object, a collectable . . . in the age of the iPod and the laptop virtually any information is available instantaneously. Not all of it has been vetted. You’ve a situation where there is a lot of false information



John LaPine looks over one of his 10,000 volumes at 715 South Dearborn in the heart of the south Loop’s Printers Row neighborhood, once the center of book publishing in Chicago.



Photos Courtesy of John LaPine

flying around that hasn’t been subject to scholarly review as printed books are.”

In speaking about colleagues in the antiquarian book trade LaPine cited knowledge, durability—the ability to withstand hard times, and passion as the key ingredients to success. He said, “And the biggest quality is passion. If they evince a passion about what they’re doing, a passion about the material that they sell, that certainly is inspirational.” **GP**

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Rare Book Librarian Melissa Hubbard Joins Morris Library

Melissa Hubbard joined Morris Library at the end of April as rare book librarian, filling the position recently vacated by Joseph Ripp. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Hubbard completed her master's degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007. With experience at an online antiquarian bookshop and public as well as academic libraries, she brings a varied background to her position. Too, specializing in twentieth-century studies, she earned an MA in English at the University College London in 2005.

As the only person currently working within the rare book unit, Hubbard seeks to manage, develop, and promote those collections. "Rare book collections are unique groups of primary source materials, so my most important job is to know the collections and select materials that will add to their overall research value. Rare book collections support a wide variety of research and teaching in the humanities, so it is important for me to assist students and teachers here with those aspects of their work."

In contrast to the books with which Hubbard works, she takes a more functional view of those volumes that she takes home. "I actually never buy a book unless I intend to read it, so I don't have any 'rare' books at home. I do keep almost every book I buy though, even text books. When I moved home from London I had to ship several boxes of books that I had picked up at markets there, because I simply couldn't part with them."

As with any position at the University there are challenges. Hubbard states, "For me, the biggest challenge is attracting researchers to the collections. We have fantastic materials that would support an endless variety of research topics, but we haven't done enough to publicize them. In the short-term, I'm



A reverence for the printed word is evident in Hubbard who stated, "While books serve as vehicles for information, they are also works of art in many cases. So far, no one has been successful in replicating the art of the book in the digital environment."

trying to reach out to faculty members and graduate students about what we have and what kinds of research assistance I can provide. I also hope to develop our Web presence, and I can't wait to move into our new space in Morris Library where I can design and mount exhibits."

Her decision to come to Morris can be simply stated, "The collections! My academic background is in twentieth-century literature, and I am constantly amazed by the things I see, as I walk through the stacks. We also have wonderful historical collections and

an excellent selection of early and fine printed books. Discovering and promoting these materials is a very exciting challenge for me."

The future of books and libraries are debated and challenged on a daily basis in this digital age, and Hubbard weighs in, "I've heard the prediction that books will go the way of papyrus, and someday rare book librarians and museum curators will be the only people who handle them. However, I don't think that will be true even if books do lose their place as the primary vehicle for the transmission of information. Books have been an integral part of our culture for hundreds of years. It will simply become more important to preserve them and to make them accessible."

But when it comes to libraries, Hubbard, perhaps understandably, takes a historical, Darwinian perspective in assessing their usefulness in these changing times. "Libraries change all the time, so I think they will continue to do what they do best: adapt to the needs of their patrons. We've come a long way from the 19th century public libraries that attempted to define 'wholesome' reading for their patrons, and from the earliest rare book libraries that attempted to hide their valuable materials away from the world. Unfortunately, I don't have the gift of precognition, and I can't envision 'the library of the future,' but I do believe that libraries will continue to play an integral role in the scholarly world and the world at large." **GP**

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

\$110 for *Atlas of the World's Religions, Second Edition* by FREDERICK DENNY. This superbly illustrated reference work remains the only comprehensive visual guide to the world's religious traditions. With text by leading experts and lavish photography, thematic maps, tables, and charts, the *Atlas of the World's Religions, Second Edition*, ranges from the travels of the Buddha to the geographical distribution of modern indigenous faiths, providing a full and informative picture of world religion, both past and present.

"Academic libraries will find this volume useful in reinforcing the relevance of religious impulses in history and the present. . . . Recommended."—*Choice*

To underwrite any of these items contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633

\$265 for *The World Atlas of Atmospheric Pollution* by RANJEET S. SOKHI. Air pollution affects us all in a number of crucial ways, causing lasting damage to our health and our environment. *The World Atlas of Atmospheric Pollution* summarizes our understanding of the state of air pollution on city and global scales. Using high-quality graphical illustrations, this atlas opens with a historical perspective before addressing topics such as urban and global air pollution, long-range transmission of pollution, ozone depletion and the impacts of air pollution, as well as future trends. The illustrations are supported with explanations and other background material, allowing the reader to gain an informed insight to emission sources, the resulting atmospheric concentrations of key pollutants and their associated impacts.

\$800 for *Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society* edited by ROBERT W. KOLB. The five volumes of this ultimate resource recognize the inherent unity between business ethics and business and society that stems from their shared primary concern with value in commerce. This encyclopedia spans the relationships among business, ethics, and society by including more than 800 entries that feature broad coverage of corporate social responsibility, the obligation of companies to various stakeholder groups, the contribution of business to society and culture, and the relationship between organizations and the quality of the environment.



\$535 for *Encyclopedia of the Cold War* by RUUD VAN DIJK. Between 1945 and 1991, tension between the USA, its allies, and a group of nations led by the USSR, dominated world politics. Called the Cold War, this period stopped short of a full-blown war. Benefiting from the recent research of newly open archives, the *Encyclopedia of the Cold War* discusses how this state of perpetual tensions arose, developed, and was resolved. This work examines the military, economic, diplomatic, and political evolution of the conflict as well as its impact on the different regions and cultures of the world. Using a unique geopolitical approach that will present Russian perspectives and others, the work covers all aspects of the Cold War, from communism to nuclear escalation and from UFOs to red diaper babies, highlighting its vast-ranging and lasting impact on international relations as well as on daily life. Focusing on the 1945–1991 period, it explores the roots of the conflict, starting with the formation of the Soviet state, and its legacy to the present day.

\$655 for *Encyclopedia of Special Education, Third Edition*, a three-volume set edited by CECIL R. REYNOLDS. The third edition of this highly acclaimed work has been thoroughly updated to include the latest information about new legislation and guidelines. In addition, this comprehensive resource features school psychology, neuropsychology, reviews of new tests and curricula that have been developed since publication of the second edition in 1999, and new biographies of important figures in special education.

"This critical reference includes entries addressing the full gamut of special-education research. . . . This is a valuable resource for parents, professionals, and other laypeople with an interest in the education of youths with special needs."—*Library Journal*

Leave a Legacy

A major gift of \$25,000 or more can ensure your eternal commitment to a particular subject area. Such a gift will create an ENDOWED FUND, assuring in perpetuity the funding of a subject area that is considered essential to the mission of Morris Library. Approximately twenty funds currently exist benefitting areas as diverse as Illinois history, journalism, Hispanic linguistics, religious studies, and criminology.

If you'd consider leaving a legacy that would benefit the world of tomorrow, please contact Kristine McGuire, kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

Focus on Library Faculty

Mark Watson

Like other faculty who have been the focus of this feature, Mark Watson brings a variety of experience to his position at Morris Library, where he serves as instruction coordinator within the information services division.

A native of southern Illinois, Watson has also lived in Indiana, Washington DC, and Arizona. With no intention of staying, Watson came to SIUC in 1992, after receiving degrees from Indiana University in economics and library science. He has also been employed as a hospital's director of patient finance and a military intelligence interrogator in the Urdu language.

Tell us about the requirements of your position.

Teaching, for the most part. I teach about a dozen sections of a credit class, CI 199, during a school year (and have taught it about seventy-five times over the years). In addition, there are a good number of classes for English 101 and 102 and University 101 that I do every year, as well as a variety of others in various disciplines. I tend to focus on freshman and sophomore-level classes. I enjoy working with them more than upper-level undergraduates and graduate students.

In regards to outreach, I work with visiting high schools and other such groups. I especially like high schools, because some of the students may end up at SIU, and I like trying to sell them, indirectly, on attending here.

In terms of on-campus outreach, I work with the Core Curriculum, the Writing Center, Supplemental Instruction and other such groups, and I provide orientations to international students,

new teaching assistants, and others. For the SOAR program, the orientation to incoming students and their parents, I participate on the Academic Expectations panel.



A native of Marion County, Illinois, Watson describes himself as a “high-energy instructor,” who enjoys the challenges of the classroom.

What are the challenges of your position?

I am a high-energy instructor. I believe that instruction is a performance, so I put a lot into it. When I have a busy week of classes, fifteen to twenty or more, it can be draining. I have to work very hard to look and sound fresh in order to keep the interest of the students, and I can get worn out at the end of a long day or week. In addition, I have to keep up with new resources and trends so as not to become stale.

If an anonymous donor gave \$10,000 for use in your area, what would you do with it?

I think that I would use it to hire an

intern or two from an MLS program to gain some hard-core practice in freshman-level instruction. Taking a class on providing information literacy instruction is one thing, but there's no substitute for getting out into the arena. I would also bring in someone from theatre to work on performance: voice, movement, etc.

What do you like best/least about your position?

I like teaching itself—it's as simple as that—when I see the light bulb go on over a student's head, when a senior tells me that he wishes he had taken the class as a freshman, when a high school student tells me that she didn't know whether or not she was capable of handling college work but then, doing research in Morris with her visiting high school class, learns that she is capable of it, that's a terrific reward.

What I like least is the constant and ongoing need to persuade instructors to let librarians have access to their class. Selling our services is as important as it ever was.

Can you elaborate on your research and publications?

My interests revolve around instruction and undergraduate librarianship. Though we no longer have an Undergraduate Library, I still work with that group at the ALA conferences, because they are the ones who talk about services and instruction to freshmen. I also like doing book reviews.

Why did you become a librarian?

Literally on a whim. A friend was going

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University Archives Is the Heart of SIUC's Institutional Memory

A recent *Cornerstone* feature focusing on Leah Broaddus and her role as University Archivist has prompted her to encourage the continued donation of campus organization and/or student activity records. Such items—photographs, minutes, handwritten notes, programs, posters, etc.—are primary source material for students, patrons, and researchers seeking information about campus life in the past. Materials relating to campus fraternities, sororities, societies, clubs, councils, committees, festivals, etc. are welcome.

For example, Mr. Robert O. French of Chicago was a founding member of the campus chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in 1950–1951, and he has kindly provided Archives with several photographs, identifying other founding members. He also included a memoir about the founding of the chapter, the first chapter advisor, and the Grand Polemarch.

Other recent donations include William C. Walker's audio tapes, photographs, and program of the 10th Anniversary Awards of the Society for the Advancement of Management, which includes a recording of Delyte Morris. And Laraine Wright provided the Library with photographs and oral history project materials from Ben Gelman, a regional author and noted

columnist/photographer for the *Southern Illinoisian* for decades.

Broaddus encourages alumni to send in their SIUC material but hastens to add, "If you were a member of a campus



Founding members of the SIUC chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi: seated, left to right, Raymond Bowers, Robert O. French, Emmanuel Duncan, Harold Attyberry; standing, Dahl Mason, Emerson Jackson, John Robinson, Henry Warfield, and Milton Grooms.

organization or student activity group, the SIU Archives would like to preserve your collection. For us to properly process the collection and add it to our online collection-description database, it is helpful to include a cover letter with a few paragraphs about the history of the organization and/or a short biography about yourself as the creator of the records."

If you have material appropriate for acceptance by the University Archives, please contact Leah Broaddus at lbroaddu@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-2225, and mail can reach her at University Archives, Mail Code 6632, Special Collections, Morris Library, SIUC, 1835 University Press Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901-4329. **GP**

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into the MLS program, and I was bored with what I was doing, so I thought I might give it a go. I quickly realized that it was a good decision. I've also explained it by pointing out that libraries are where the books are. How could you not want to work in such a place?

What's the future of libraries?

For a long time, I have particularly liked the idea of libraries as marketplaces of academic services to students. In classes, I sell reference assistance from librarians as research consultancy, and that's something that resonates with students. Adding the Writing Center to the building means that we can market the academic library as the research and writing center of the campus.

What books would you take with you to a desert isle?

How big is the island? This is a painful question. It's like asking me to rank order the importance of my children. And why a desert island? Couldn't it be a little more hospitable? *Robinson Crusoe* comes to mind as a useful book.

All right. In such a hostile environment, I'll want lighthearted stuff, so I'll eliminate histories and classic literature. I'll go with four British authors: Tom Sharpe, Dornford Yates, Evelyn Waugh, and P. G. Wodehouse. And one sentimental choice: *Memories of the Ford Administration* by John Updike. My autographed copy reads "For Mark. Only he and I like this book." ◀

Did You Know?

The total expenditure for the university's brick walks from October 1, 1878, to September 30, 1879, was \$10.00, but increased to \$1,423.22 the following year.

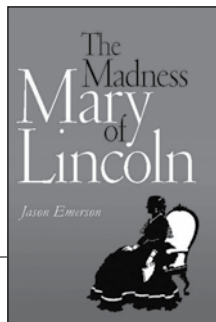


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YET ANOTHER REMINDER TO SAVE THE DATE
of Saturday, October 25, 2008, for the annual



Friends of Morris Library dinner. Jason Emerson, the author of the *Madness of Mary Lincoln*, will be the speaker for the event. For more information, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

Library Friends

Financial gifts from library friends empower Morris Library and ensure its position as one of the top research libraries in the country. We appreciate this tradition of private support, which is critical to the quality of the library's collections, programs, and services. In furtherance of the goals of SOUTHERN AT 150, SIUC and the SIU Foundation retain six percent of all gifts to strengthen the advancement program.

Please mail this coupon with your gift to:

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