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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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Morris Library Celebrates Completion of Three Floors with Open House

Floors three, four, and five of Morris Library quietly opened to the public March 17th. An open house the following day recognized this milestone in the \$56.5 million renovation with tours, refreshments, and remarks by SIUC officials including Library Affairs Dean David Carlson, who said, "We are very excited by this 'transitional' opening of the new Morris. It is an important

step in the renovation. We are not yet done—there is much yet to do—and I hope everyone joins us for the grand opening later this year when the lower three levels open."

Many of the services that were previously on the first floor have moved to the third floor, but the circulation desk and interlibrary loan remain on the first floor. The information desk and eighty public computers have been relocated from the first floor to the third floor, which is also the home to current periodicals and newspapers, newspaper

microfilm, reference books, DVDs, VHS tapes, and music CDs. The fourth floor is home to maps, geographic information systems, SIUC theses and dissertations, browsing room books, and the reserves desk, though it will move back to the first floor in the fall. The fifth floor houses those books purchased within the past six years as part of the Library of Congress collection as well as music scores. For a more complete listing of

the resources of Morris Library floor by floor, please visit www.lib.siu.edu.

Through the renovation Kevin Davie, Morris' geographic information systems specialist, has served as "building manager," acting as the liaison between construction and Library interests. It had been long decided that certain essential services of Morris would continue to function while a construction zone enveloped those working areas, but Davie has acknowledged that that's proven a considerable challenge. As old



SIUC President Glenn Poshard expressed delight with the continued progress of Morris Library.

continued on page 4 . . .

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

More Than a Love of Books

This issue of *Cornerstone* contains a profile of Mary Roe, one of our friends and special supporters. This has prompted me to think about the “characteristics” shared by those who support Morris Library. Because the Library does not have a natural constituency base through alumni, it’s interesting to think about what draws people to support Morris Library. It is admittedly incomplete but these are the characteristics that I think our supporters share:



- ◆ **A LOVE OF BOOKS AND LEARNING.** OK, this is no great insight: most supporters of Morris are people who love books. However, this affection is not so much about the book per se but rather a love of learning, exploration, and the imagination. These individuals know books as places where their learning is kindled and their imaginations soar. Whether this begins in childhood, adolescence, or college, the special friends and supporters of Morris associate their love of reading and learning with libraries. And of course, they’re right!
- ◆ **CREATIVITY.** Because of the unique place of the Library on campus, gifts to Morris present special opportunities for creativity and originality. Certainly, a gift to Morris can be applied in traditional ways, such as an endowment that purchases books in an area of interest or a named space—and these are wonderful gifts—but the Library also presents marvelous opportunities for unique and creative approaches as well. A good example is the Emma Smith Hough gift which will soon be providing scholarships for two or three students annually. The criteria for the award are unique as students are selected for the exceptional and creative use of resources in Morris Library in a class paper, as detailed in the Summer 2007 issue of *Cornerstone*.
- ◆ **MEMORIES OF MORRIS LIBRARY AS A SPECIAL PLACE.** Another commonality is a deep and abiding fondness for the physical space that is Morris Library. Memories may be focused on a particular corner or study carrel where much studying and writing was done; or it could be a particular floor where vital resources were explored and discovered. Many alumni recall fondly the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors as a unique place that speaks to them even now, years later, about the importance of scholarship and learning at SIUC.
- ◆ **PRIDE IN THE UNIVERSITY.** As someone with a degree from a particular department, the supporters of Morris often have an allegiance to a specific department or college or professor. But that fondness extends and broadens beyond the department to a special pride in the University. As a unit that serves the University community and campus, the Library is uniquely suited to empower gifts that benefit the entire campus.

continued on page 7 . . .

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.



\$275 for *NORD Compendium of Rare Diseases and Disorders*. This compendium provides a wealth of quick-reference information and data on more than 1,100 rare diseases and more than 1,100 organizations—from signs, symptoms, and etiology to support groups, researchers, and treatments. The book is an invaluable diagnostic tool for physicians in the early identification of rare diseases, for researchers on genetic disorders, for non-profit organizations, and for patients who can often go years with proper diagnosis. While rare or “orphan” diseases are defined as those affecting fewer than 200,000 people in the United States, more than 25 million Americans are actually suffering from one of them.

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.

\$315 for *The New Science of Dreaming*, a three-volume series edited by DEIRDRE BARRETT and PATRICK McNAMARA in which experts explore the psychology and biology of dreaming. “Barrett and McNamara, leading experts in the field of sleep and dreams, have joined forces in editing what could become a seminal work on the science of dreaming. . . [T]his joint venture is a compendium of well-researched, articulate, and expert knowledge that will surely advance the study of sleep and dreams. The bibliographies alone are worth the price. Highly recommended for libraries supporting upper-level undergraduate and faculty researchers.”—*Library Journal*



\$120 for *The Worldwide History of Dress* by PATRICIA R. ANAWALT. All aspects of dress and accessories are discussed: basic men’s and women’s clothing, footwear, outerwear, hairstyles, headgear, jewelry, armor, special costumes, garment decoration, and face and body modification. More than one thousand illustrations include both vintage and modern-day photographs of local people in local clothing; color plates of museum-quality artifacts on display or posed on mannequins; historical paintings, miniatures, woodblock prints, and other artworks showing traditional clothing; line drawings illustrating traditional motifs and designs; and more than fifty specially commissioned maps.



\$150 for *Women, Gender and Radical Religion in Early Modern Europe* by SYLVIA BROWN. Twelve new essays examine the role of women and gender in a broad range of radical beliefs and practices in post-Reformation Europe. Included are German Anabaptists, English Quakers, prophetesses, and unorthodox Catholic nuns.

Library Affairs thanks donors who have purchased items from the previous list—

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The Adopt-a-Book Program appreciates your support.

\$960 for sound reproduction equipment for use in the multimedia room of SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER. SCRC holds more than 300 tape recordings of WSIU radio, which include recordings of campus events, musical performances, homecoming pageants, radio interviews, and other general programming between the 1950s and 1985. SCRC holds a number of tapes of SIU concerts and music programs of the 1960s as well. But, without compatible equipment SCRC is currently unable to transcribe performance titles for accurate content-listings or provide patrons with access to the recordings. The University Archives, a division of SCRC, collects the institutional records that provide the legacy of SIUC.

Three Floors *continued from page 1*

walls and ceilings fell, and rain and rodents invaded, the resolve of the Library staff was tested. But Davie is quick to point out that the Library has never delayed the renovation, "We've never held up the project. We've always met all their [contractors'] needs."

Too, Davie has been instrumental in resolving unforeseen problems with the renovation. For example, he has keenly identified discrepancies between different, ensuing floor plans, and he has made sure the intended design was implemented.



"If you build it, they will come." More than eighty public computers are in constant demand.

The recently opened areas of Morris will continue to receive furnishings and materials. Davie believes the fifth floor to be about 95 percent complete with public furniture and some books yet to come. "The map library is 100 percent in on the fourth floor," he pointed out, but some indexes and abstracts have yet to be moved from the McLafferty Annex. Davie estimates the third floor to be about 60 percent occupied with government documents and microfilm cabinets still at McLafferty. Davie said, "I realize things are very much in transition, but we are riding the crest of the wave toward completion." **GP**



Morris Library's Phil Howze assists Ayumi Suzuki, a Japanese graduate student in media arts.



The reserves desk has temporarily relocated to the fourth floor, but its permanent home will eventually be on the first floor.



The reading area of the third floor rotunda will provide a comfortable space for relaxing with a book.



Students from the Hospitality and Tourism Administration Department provided refreshments on this rain-soaked day.

SAVE THE DATE...

Save the date of Saturday, October 25, 2008, for the annual Friends of Morris Library dinner. The decision to move the dinner from spring to fall was made to host the event in Morris Library rather than an off-site location as in recent years. "We see our annual dinner as an opportunity to showcase the renovation of our new home on campus," said Dean David Carlson. As the renovation is still progressing, plans are tentative, but the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors is a likely site for the dinner. Jason Emerson has agreed to be the speaker for the event; he is the author of the *Madness of Mary Lincoln*, published by SIU Press in October 2007. For more information about this event, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

Julie Mosbo Assumes Duties as Preservation Librarian

A recent graduate of the Kilgarlin Center for Preservation of the Cultural Record in Austin, Texas, Julie Mosbo brings a multifaceted background and diverse training to her new position as Preservation Librarian for Morris Library. With an emphasis on printmaking/drawing she completed her BFA in fine art in 2001 at the University of Central Arkansas, and she earned her MA in library and information science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2005. She has served as a consultant in a number of dissimilar situations—from an assessor of the proper handling, housing, cleaning, and identification of Argentinean gaucho films to the developer of a disaster plan for Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library in Biloxi, Mississippi, which sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Katrina.

“A preservation librarian’s primary focus is to ensure the retention, accessibility, and condition of information.”

“A preservation librarian’s primary focus is to ensure the retention, accessibility, and condition of information. As the preservation librarian, I oversee the marking and labeling of books and media, the bindery which prepares and sends books for new bindings, and the conservation lab where collection materials are physically repaired, rehousing, and exposed to a variety of other treatments,” stated Mosbo. In this position she recognizes elements of the past, yet looks to potential challenges

of the future, “I also make sure that the library is prepared for any disaster that could affect the collections. I am a key responder to any disaster. Another

“Morris Library has had a very strong history for preservation.”

part of my position is to conduct condition assessments, treatment recommendations, and development of treatment procedures.”



With a diverse background and active enthusiasm for her position, Julie Mosbo seeks to advance Morris as a leader in the preservation of library materials.

With the advent of the digital age, the future of books is often debated and is a frequent topic of discussion in libraries and library school. But Mosbo does not see the demise of the book on the horizon, “I believe that the public is under the impression that scanning a book is the easiest way to preserve

or keep it. It seems so simple—scan a book, put the book back on the shelf, and put the file on a website. I agree that scanning books allows much greater access. But it is not a simple solution for preservation. The original physical item needs to be properly cared for and housed in the best environment. Beyond the preservation standpoint to this question, it is clear from the number of books sold online and at major book retailers that the physical book is still very relevant and preferred. One of the most popular book-related sayings is still

“It is clear from the number of books sold online and at major book retailers that the physical book is still very relevant and preferred.”

‘I want to curl up with a good book;’ I have never heard anyone say that ‘I want to curl up with a good laptop.’”

Mosbo sees Morris Library and herself as a perfect pairing, “When I interviewed for this position, it was very clear that the librarians here are forward thinking and looking toward the future of the library. I feel that I have a great deal of experience, knowledge, and most importantly, understanding of the direction that the preservation field is heading. Morris Library has had a very strong history for preservation. The preservation department was one of the premiere models for many of today’s top university preservation departments and conservation labs during the 1980s. My hope is to continue to strengthen the preservation department and build it up as a model department again.” **GP**

A Friend of Morris Library: Mary Roe

Her roots within the region and with the University run deep as she first enrolled at SIUC more than forty years ago. Over the past thirty years Mary Roe has graciously devoted her time and talents to a variety of organizations including the SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Morris Library Campaign Committee, and the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Her altruism begins at home as she has been giving of her time to the Pinckneyville High School Board of Education, St. Bruno's church, the Shagbark Girl Scout Council, Man-Tra-Con (an employment facilitator), and a myriad of other community organizations. In 2005 she and her husband, Bill, were named "Outstanding Persons of the Year" by the Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce. After sixteen years of service she recently retired as vice-president of student services at Rend Lake College in Ina, Illinois.

Morris Library has been the focus of her protective gaze, and she sees the Library as the intellectual crossroads of campus, "Morris Library is the very heart and soul of the University. Students, faculty, researchers, graduate fellows, and the communities in the region all need a great research library as a source of

"Then in the spring of my freshmen year, I spent a weekend on SIU's campus and, I was hooked."

information—their window to the world of knowledge."

A high school mathematics competition first brought Roe to campus as a freshman from Pinckneyville. "My first impressions of the University were positive and have remained so since I first attended," recalls Roe. Her college career actually began at St. Louis



Mary Roe proudly admits that Morris Library was her "second home" during her college days.

University, but, "Then in the spring of my freshmen year, I spent a weekend on SIU's campus and, I was hooked."

Attending SIU at the height of Delyte Morris' vision for growth and expansion in the early 1960s was an experience in itself. Roe recalls, "Delyte Morris was president, the campus was growing, and the energy could be felt. Classes were varied and interesting. The faculty had open doors and, they were available to students. The world was in front of us."

Roe recalls fondly a particular instructor that left his mark, "One of my favorite

instructors was Mr. Cassidy who taught English literature. In his lilting Irish accent, he would make the poems, verses and literature come alive. Mr. Cassidy had the ability to transport us back to the time and place of the characters on



As Mary Middleton she earned her first degree from SIUC in mathematics in 1965.

the page and make us feel a part of that imagery. While my classes in literature were such a departure from the rigors of math classes like analytical geometry and linear algebra, my major instructors were of exceptional quality and had credentials as practicing mathematicians, space program veterans, and visiting professors from Princeton."

A friendship with another Pinckneyville native and SIU donor, Virginia Marmaduke, prompted Roe's activism

"The faculty had open doors and, they were available to students. The world was in front of us."

for Morris Library. "Morris Library has always been a special place for me from the first time I entered the Hall of Presidents, to the endless hours of studying there, to the Friends' galas held on the roof terrace, to annual dinners with treasures from special collections, and now to the present day renovation and addition. Morris Library is for everyone." **GP**

Dean's Message *continued from page 2*

- ◆ **ACTIVE GENEROSITY.** These are generous people who give of their time, their dedication, and their resources. They do not want to just "write a check" but are interested in what their gifts will permit and a level of active involvement.

Not every supporter of Morris shares every one of these characteristics, but these qualities give a good overall picture of these special individuals. They are people with whom I have the pleasure of working and for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration.



DAVID CARLSON

Vintage Image Corner



Woody Hall is a building familiar to almost all within the SIUC community, but many are unfamiliar with the woman for whom the building is named. Miss Woody joined the University in 1911 and served as a professor of home economics. She became Southern's first Dean of Women in the 1920s before retiring in 1949. Carbondale native Dorothy Ittner remembers her as "an extremely well-organized little lady." The 1935 *Obelisk* said, "Dean Woody is always ready to help in any student venture, particularly the Homecoming productions, when she plans and executes the costuming in her clothing classes. Dean Woody, perhaps more than any other member of the faculty, is constantly awake to the interest of students."

Her portrait is from the 1935 *Obelisk*, while she seems to be holding court with a number of coeds in this awkwardly posed photograph from the 1965 *Obelisk*.



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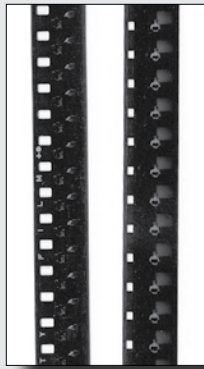
Tips from the Conservation Lab

by Julie Mosbo, Preservation Librarian

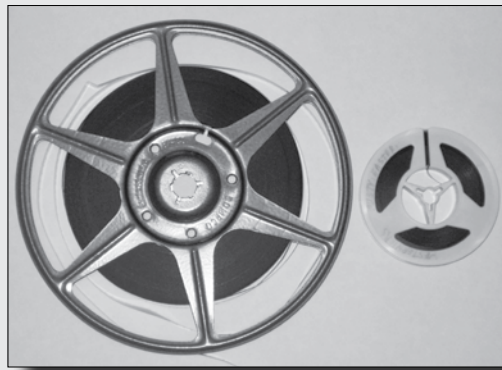
Home Movie Tips

Home movies can be found in almost every family's home. The following are some helpful tips for identifying your films and taking care of them.

Many different types of gauged film were developed during the twentieth century. Of those, two became the standard for home movie films: 8mm film (developed in 1932) and Super 8mm film (developed in 1963). The easiest way to differentiate 8mm from Super 8mm is by looking at the sprocket holes along the edge. Each has rectangular sprocket holes, but with the 8mm film the long edge of the holes runs parallel to the film frames, while the Super 8mm film holes are smaller (allowing for a bigger image than the 8mm film) and the length of the sprocket hole runs perpendicular to the frame.



The smaller sprocket holes on the right help identify that film as Super 8.



Reels of shorter films edited together (left) should be closely inspected to ensure that the splices are in good order.

All films are made up of two main components: a film base and an emulsion layer. Home movies are acetate (typically 8mm) or polyester film (typically Super 8mm). Acetate or safety film originated in 1909 and is moderately used today. Polyester based film was developed in 1950 and is the predominant film base still used today because of its stability. One way to identify the film base is to hold the entire reel up to light; acetate film is transparent and polyester film is opaque.

Many institutions and families have

acetate film collections that are in bad condition. Acetate decays over time and leaves a very powerful odor referred to as "vinegar syndrome." With this decay, the film shrinks, curls, and a white powder can appear on the edge of the film. Not all acetate films are in this condition, as it depends on the environment in which they have been housed; many families store their films in attics or basements where the fluctuation of cold and hot air causes condition problems for the films.

Both acetate and polyester films should be housed in an area of the home where the air temperature is consistent and on the cool side.

The emulsion of films can also be damaged over time. Home movies, black and white and color, can exhibit fading due to light, environment, and the physical make-up of the emulsion. Emulsion is very sensitive to scratches. Take care in winding the films tightly and evenly on the reel; this will prevent excess dust and scratches on the emulsion and damage along the edges.

Once the family finished filming a reel, the film would be processed by a company and sent back in a cardboard box on a plastic reel; each reel could last from three to ten minutes. Some families then spliced or attached their reels together to make a longer movie. These movies were then placed on a metal reel. Splices were typically applied using a piece of equipment called a splicer and glue or tape specifically created for editing films; however, it is not unusual to find amateur films that have been cut unevenly with scissors and held together with Scotch tape. Tape

residue and Scotch tape should be removed, as they can affect the film emulsion—this should be done by a professional.

Today, many families can no longer view their home movies because they do not own a projector or they do not know how to operate one. There are a number of companies that offer digitization

services to transfer these films to DVDs. If you decide to use one of these companies, make sure that you closely examine your collection before sending it off, so that you know the condition in which it was sent. Even if you digitize your movies, always keep the originals and house them in the correct environment.

Home movie films were made to be watched—so pop some popcorn, gather the family, and enjoy! 🍿

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

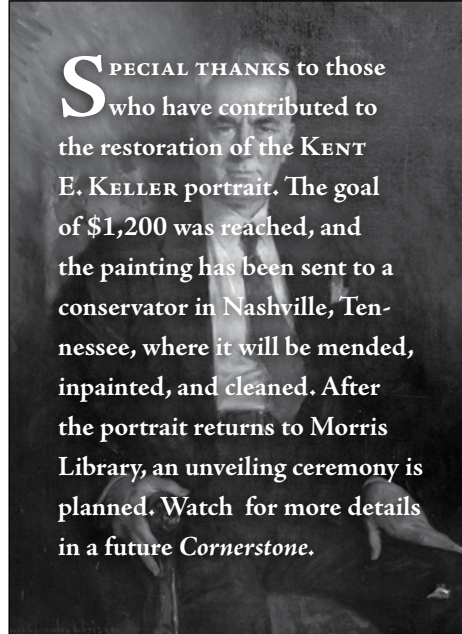
\$455 for *Postwar America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History*, a four volume set, edited by JAMES CIMENT. "In his preface, editor CIMENT credits journalist Walter Lippman with coining the phrase the American Century to describe the period between the end of the second World War and the beginning of the twenty-first century. This four-volume encyclopedia considers the individuals, events, entities, movements, legislation, and cultural phenomena that figured in the development of postwar America into a world power. The signed, multipage articles, written by a team of more than 200 subject-area specialists, are arranged alphabetically. Each of these 550 main articles is followed by a brief bibliography. Entries address topics both general (Beauty, fashion, and cosmetics; Pornography) and specific (Beirut, Port Huron Statement). Every election between 1946 and 2004 receives separate coverage. Articles reflect events pulled from headlines (Central Park jogger, Scarsdale Diet murder) as well as social and political issues that evolved over years (Foreign aid, Medicine, Poverty, etc.). Sidebars of up to a full page in length address 137 topics that relate to major entries." —*Booklist*

\$170 for *The Oxford Handbook of Early American Literature* edited by KEVIN J. HAYES. Comprised of twenty-seven chapters written by experts in their fields, this work presents an authoritative, in-depth, and up-to-date assessment of a crucial area within

Did You Know?

Since the inception of *Cornerstone* in 2005 the Library Is Seeking feature has raised more than \$34,000 in private underwriting. **Thank You!**

literary studies. Organized primarily in terms of genre, the chapters include original research on key concepts, as well as analysis of interesting texts from throughout colonial America.



SPECIAL THANKS to those who have contributed to the restoration of the KENT E. KELLER portrait. The goal of \$1,200 was reached, and the painting has been sent to a conservator in Nashville, Tennessee, where it will be mended, inpainted, and cleaned. After the portrait returns to Morris Library, an unveiling ceremony is planned. Watch for more details in a future *Cornerstone*.

\$150 for *Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling: Women and Congressional Elections, Second Revised Edition* by BARBARA PALMER and DENNIS SIMON. At the dawn of the new millennium, only twenty-five percent of elected state legislators were female, only five states had female governors, and a mere fourteen percent of the members of Congress were women. Extrapolating from data on women candidates in Congressional races from 1956 to 2002, Palmer and Simon explore how incumbency, social attitudes, and electoral strategy affect women's decisions to run for office. They dispel myths distorting our understanding of women candidates and challenge the reigning theories accounting for the low number of female Congress members. *Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling* is the most comprehensive analysis of women in Congressional elections available.

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.

\$490 for *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, edited by JOHN HANNAVY. "This monumental encyclopedia is a treasure trove of information covering all aspects of 19th-century photography. The scholarly essays, ranging from 200 words for minor topics to 5,000 words for main entries, are highly informative and often contain a bibliography for further reading. Readers may access information via a detailed index, an alphabetical arrangement of topics, or a more useful thematic listing. This arrangement includes such headings as "Formats" (lantern slides, postcards), "Societies, Groups, Institutions, and Exhibits," "Equipment," and "Themes" (aerial photography, fraud and fakes, a historical survey by decade, examination of major figures, and advances in technology). Also included in this section are national and regional surveys, making this encyclopedia international in scope; there are essays on Africa, Brazil, Cuba, Japan, and the Russian empire, to name just a few." —*Choice*

Focus on Library Faculty

Leah Broaddus

Working within Special Collections, Leah Broaddus is the University Archivist, having joined SIUC in 2006. A child of the Midwest, growing up in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, Broaddus followed her older brother to the University of Chicago, graduating with honors in 1999. Part of her undergraduate education included a year of study in English literature at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, where her first job in a library came as a library janitor. She earned her library science degree from Indiana University in 2003.

Her earliest jobs included detasseling seed corn and working at The Chicken Coop, a road side diner in Michigan. In Chicago, a close friend's Brazilian background prompted Broaddus to seek employment there, and she taught English in São Paulo for a year. After completing library school, Broaddus worked at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, where she encountered a number of SIUC personnel, "At Dean Carlson's invitation, I came to visit Morris Library at SIUC, which opened the door to my first chance at an archival position."

"Working with a backlog of unprocessed materials is the bulk of the job. That is the standard state of affairs in the archiving field, because creators of records greatly outnumber archivists."

Could you tell us about the requirements of your position?

SIUC has been collecting boxes of archival materials for years and storing them diligently. My job is to open the boxes, figure out what is in them, where it comes from, and how it can be saved. Then I organize it, describe it, put it in



Aware of the unique nature of the archival materials with which she works, Leah Broaddus understands that proper public relations is an essential component of her position.

folders or protective enclosures of some kind, index it in a publicly accessible manner, write a brief biographical note about the person who created it, label it and then put it away in a retrievable manner. Working with a backlog of unprocessed materials is the bulk of the job. That is the standard state of affairs in the archiving field, because creators of records greatly outnumber archivists. In the mornings I mainly do email reference work with distant researchers and donors.

What are the challenges of your position?

The work consumes a great deal of energy, but it is extremely compelling, so it is like running a marathon. If I

could process fifteen to twenty boxes per month, and if the whole archive were put in a stasis chamber exactly as it is, I might be able to finish broadly-identifying the material that exists in my unit by the year 2033. One of the fun things is that I get to play all of the roles: I am the reference archivist for

the university archives, as well as the indexer, the collection development archivist, the outreach archivist, the exhibit curator, and the digital services archivist. The challenge is playing those roles one at a time, and whichever one I choose is at the expense of the others. If I spend one day helping researchers look through a processed collection, or if I spend one day with a collection donor, then that's one more day that no researcher has access to all the partially-identified boxes sitting in the back room. The bulk of the work, as I see it, is collections maintenance, but it is hard to allocate adequate time to do it. Archivists at SIUC are also expected to publish articles, and I have one day each week set aside to work on that alone. I

also need to be a motivator and make sure that the people in my area know that what they are doing makes a huge difference. Archives deal with a lot of very personal, one-of-a-kind materials that are near and dear to the hearts of researchers, donors, and campus history fans. So there is a great deal of communicating, as well as a lot of general public relations to help visitors understand our mission. Somewhere within the bounds of aspirations and limitations, we seek to assist them in whatever way we can.

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

What we really need most are more working hands and brains. If I could manage to attract one with a temp job, I would hire a degree-bearing archivist with processing experience and a self-sufficient bent to work undisturbed in a back room either organizing and describing faculty papers, or scanning and describing photo negatives.

As far as equipment and facilities go, a tidy little dorm room rental for guest researchers and archives volunteers to board at cheaply would be great, as well as a DVD burner, an analog-to-digital microfilm reader/scanner, a reel-to-reel player, audio and video recording equipment and accessories, and transcription software and pedals. The Library administration has been very supportive of our equipment needs and the ongoing expense of thousands of boxes and folders.

What do you like best/least about your position?

I have always liked shining a light on unsung heroes, and I think SIUC has an unusual number of those. I recently talked with Seymour Bryson, associate chancellor for diversity and equity, about how many influential Black figures and Black “firsts” went to school here, and I am excited to be in a position to try to do some catch-up work in gathering documentation for some of those stories. It will really put us on the national map if we ever get it documented. I also like that I have a lot of work to do, so that I don’t have to ever worry about “looking busy,” or feeling I have to find creative ways to justify myself to myself. There is an honesty to the processing work that I enjoy. Because of a progressive, technological mindset in Special Collections and the Library as a whole, I have a lot of freedom to improve our collection administration and access systems.

Can you elaborate on your research and publications?

My first article draft is about Encoded Archival Description and why there is an issue in the descriptions of box contents shared between institutions. I argue for more standardization at the container-level, where researchers and archivists alike recognize that each historical document/item is unique. I advocate that we could avail ourselves of a few more basic commonalities at the front end, instead of having to customize our software for each repository or collection, which slows down cooperative software development.

“Archives deal with a lot of very personal, one-of-a-kind materials that are near and dear to the hearts of researchers, donors, and campus history fans. So there is a great deal of communicating, as well as a lot of general public relations to help visitors understand our mission.”

Why did you become an archivist?

I was interested in film archiving initially. But since most archival degree programs are tucked within library science programs, during my studies I was exposed to the full gamut of archival material. There were three books that I loved in graduate school in particular—all of them placing the history of the book and publishing in the larger context of world history. I also recognized that it was the presentation of and access to history that was the key to my liking it. I learned to love history because someone was able to construct a

compelling, contextual path of readings that appealed to me personally. I see archiving as supporting the creation and preservation of as many contextual paths through history as possible, given a collecting area. Researchers inquire about our newly processed collections just about as fast as I get those finding aids posted to the Internet. It is very gratifying.

What’s the future of archives?

The future for the institutional archives at SIUC is going to be an increasing public exposure to a lot of exciting, small faculty and alumni collections, while we continue to plug away at organizing the bulk administrative records.

In terms of the larger picture, the tendency with U.S. institutions is generally to understaff the Archives, especially when times are tight. The best way to prepare for an archives job is to get a master’s degree, and then do a (typically unpaid) internship, where you have a chance to work on identifying, arranging and describing backlogged materials. That is the universally appreciated experience set. It is also a good idea to go as far as you can in terms of information technology training, to the point of taking an intro-level programming course, since the organization and presentation of archival information is largely done via Internet and structured databases, and there may or may not be the systems support of a larger library like Morris available at every institution.

In terms of collecting and collection donors, there still seem to be a critical body of individual contributors who find their way to us—particularly those who have been connected to the University as students, community members, former employees, and faculty, who offer us wonderful personal collections, beyond those we have the resources to pursue. 📖

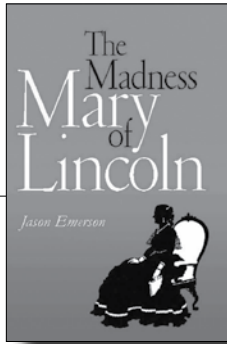


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SAVE THE DATE of Saturday, October 25, 2008, for the annual Friends of Morris Library dinner. Jason Emerson, the author of the *Madness of Mary Lincoln*, will be the speaker for the event. For more information, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu 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.

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