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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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Southern[™]
Illinois University
Carbondale

Three Collection Development Librarians Join Morris Staff

July 2007 saw three Collection Development Librarians (CDLs) join the staff of Morris Library. Jeanne Cross, Roger Cross, and Jonathan Nabe will work to further bolster the collections of the

Library. Specifically, “Collection librarians participate in a wide array of activities, but they all center on the goal of providing to the university and surrounding communities access to the best and most useful collections possible,” said Nabe. A 1989 graduate in zoology from SIUC, Nabe has most recently worked as a life sciences librarian at Brandeis and the University of Connecticut. In defining the goals at Morris, Nabe continued, “We coordinate the library’s efforts in acquiring and providing access to these and other materials. . . . We utilize our knowledge of the publishing industry, university strategic goals, user behavior, and data analysis, to name a few factors. Of course, we work closely with faculty from the other library and academic



Jonathan Nabe, Jeanne Cross, and Roger Cross will work to provide “access to the best and most useful collections possible.”

departments, who provide us with essential information and insight in our efforts.”

Jeanne Cross, previously the Digital Learning Librarian at the University of Nebraska, and her husband, Roger, recently the Collection Development Librarian at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, bring diverse experience and optimism to their new roles at Morris. In assessing his role, Roger Cross stated, “It is the duty of the collection development librarian to be as objective as possible so that many academic viewpoints are available for the reader. I try to read a wide variety of reviews and not allow myself to rely too heavily on one particular source to avoid making the collection unbalanced.” In addition

continued on page 11 . . .

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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<http://www.lib.siu.edu/hp/>

SOUTHERN
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Message from the Dean

Morris as Verb: To Inspire



The concepts of active support for learning and the discovery of new ideas have been guiding elements in the design of the new Morris. From the initial stages of our discussion with architects, a key element of our vision was to design a structure that was not simply a storehouse of knowledge but that would be an active place of campus community which supports and encourages discovery and learning. We wanted to enhance the strategic mission of Morris from an emphasis on nouns (storehouse and warehouse) to an emphasis on verbs: *engages*, *prompts*, *invites*, and *inspires*.

Morris Library will continue to have an important role as storehouse with proper environmental principles and preservation values; these are vital. However, we also wanted the new Morris to be a place that engages students, faculty, and staff and prompts them to learn—and to learn more. This change is not an abandonment of our concern with the acquisition and preservation of materials, but we want to expand this vision to focus on the person: the researcher, faculty member, and student.

There are many design elements in the new Morris which will help achieve these goals. As progress in construction continues, it is energizing and exciting to experience these elements as they start to take physical shape and presence. Some of these outstanding features are:

- ✦ We can now stand in the new space on the first floor that is the open two stories of the north entrance. There is still work to be done in this space, but one can stand here and clearly understand how this space will *welcome*, *attract*, and *extend* an invitation to remain.
- ✦ On floors four and five the new group study rooms are taking shape (the original Morris had no group study rooms, the new Morris will have more than thirty). To walk in these new rooms is to envision small groups of students talking and working together in a space that *promotes* the interactions of collaboration and mutual learning.
- ✦ On every floor, we see evidence of the simple and easy-to-navigate directional sense and design which will *facilitate* the easy identification and discovery of resources. This was one of the most fundamental design goals of the new Morris, and it is heartening to see its physical expression.

For many years, Morris Library has offered faculty and students world-class collections of significant breadth and quality. In the very near future, the campus will have a facility where the physical features and quality of space will match the excellence and depth of its resources.

continued on page 5 . . .

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.



\$160 for *Encyclopedia of Media and Politics*, edited by TODD M. SCHAEFER and THOMAS A. BIRKLAND. While numerous other titles cover various aspects of the relationship between media and politics, *The Encyclopedia of Media and Politics* distinguishes itself as the only reference work focusing on the junction of the civic and the journalistic. A useful time line (1690–2006) highlighting major (primarily U.S.) media and political events starts the encyclopedia. A lengthy in-depth essay on the intersection of media and politics helps provide context for the work overall. Over 300 entries, varying in length from a half page to three pages, cover a wide range of topics including individual pundits, anchors and other players, influential court cases and legislation, media bias, new media forms, and numerous other subjects related to the role of the media and its influence on the U.S. political system.

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.

\$250 for *Encyclopedia of Asian Theatre*, edited by SAMUEL L. LEITER. This sweeping, comprehensive guide to both traditional and contemporary Asian theater is an excellent resource, broadly expanding on any other previous reference work on the subject. Indeed, no such definitive and in-depth resource has been published on Asian theater. The entries are written by an impressive list of expert authors. Editor Leiter of Brooklyn College, a renowned researcher in the field and former editor of *Asian Theatre Journal*, is the author of nearly two dozen books, primarily on Asian theater. The set features an extensive bibliography. “Further Reading” citations accompany most important topics, and a “Topical Guide to Entries” is especially useful. Illustrations are scattered throughout both volumes. This reference work will obviously prove of great value to students of the performing arts, but also to those studying the history, literature, and culture of Eastern civilization.



\$170 for *A Companion to Greek Rhetoric* edited by IAN WORTHINGTON. Released in the “Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World Literature and Culture” series, this volume—which partners with *A Companion to Roman Rhetoric*, edited by William Dominik and Jon Hall (2007)—provides evidence of demonstrating endless opportunities for studying the ancient art and its contemporary application. Blackwell intends both these volumes to provide authoritative overviews accessible to the widest possible audience while still appealing to specialists. Exploring rhetoric from a variety of sociohistorical and thematic contexts from the Homeric to the Byzantine period, this companion sets a standard that should serve the discipline for some years to come.

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

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The Adopt-a-Book Program appreciates your support.

\$445 for fifty CDs of the MILKEN ARCHIVE, which comprises the largest collection of American Jewish music ever assembled, featuring such leading artists as the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields and Sir Neville Marriner, Yoel Levi, Gerald Schwarz, the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. The Archive’s primary goals are to reconstruct and preserve for current and future generations major musical manifestations of the American Jewish experience, and to reveal the intersection of Jewish composers and Jewish subject matter with some of the major genres in Western classical music. The collection has reached a major milestone with the release of the fiftieth CD in its pioneering recording series for Naxos American Classics.

Recalling the Legacy of Ralph McCoy (1915–2007)

When news of the death of the former director of the Southern Illinois University Libraries, Ralph E. McCoy, reached the present Dean of Library Affairs David Carlson, he notified Library employees stating, "What Delyte Morris was to the University, Ralph McCoy was to Morris Library." McCoy was a bibliophile, a bibliographer, and the builder of the collections for which Morris Library has become internationally known. He served the University from 1955 to 1976. McCoy died September 4th in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was 91.



Ralph McCoy earned his first academic degree at Illinois Wesleyan in 1937.

Though born in St Louis, McCoy grew up in Springfield, Illinois, where his father worked in the printing business for thirty-five years. He earned his first college degree in 1937 at Illinois Wesleyan and went on to complete three more academic degrees from the University of Illinois, receiving his doctorate in library science in 1956. His dissertation, "Banned in Boston: The Development of Literary Censorship in Massachusetts," launched his life-long interest in the freedom of the press.

After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, he worked for a year as the high school librarian in Marissa, Illinois, and in the ensuing year he was the assistant college librarian for the College of Agriculture at the University of Illinois. In 1940 he married Melba McKibben of

Wellsville, Missouri. She passed in 2005. From 1939 to 1943 he was editor of publications for the Illinois State Library and was involved with the early planning of regional public libraries in the state. Next he served as a captain in the U.S. Army until 1946 and worked for the Quartermaster Technical Library in Virginia before returning to Illinois.



Ralph McCoy's dutiful efforts have resulted in Morris Library being recognized as a world-class research facility.

In August 1948 he became the second librarian of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois. According to Margaret Chaplan, associate professor emerita of the University of Illinois Library, he was particularly active in organizing their resources by initiating a series of bibliographies, surveying holdings, compiling inventories, and even overseeing the move of the library to its second home on Sixth St. in Champaign.

She said, "He was one of the seminal creators of the labor collection here."

He became Director of University Libraries at SIU on February 1, 1955. The building that would become Morris Library was under construction. McCoy set about quietly and tirelessly to elevate the standards of the campus library, which at that time was still housed in Wheeler. McCoy had been selected by visionary University President Delyte Morris to build from within, the Library

"One of the secrets of his success was that he never sought fame or recognition, he always worked behind the scenes. He simply had a job to do, and he was determined to do it right."

that would eventually bear the Morris name.

Long-time colleague, friend, and director of the U. S. Grant Association, Dr. John Y. Simon, said, "One of the secrets of his success was that he never sought fame or recognition, he always worked behind the scenes. He simply had a job to do, and he was determined to do it right." McCoy not only ramped up the level of the general collection in all subjects, but he established relationships with noted collectors such as Charles Feinberg, Philip Sang, and Harley Croessmann. In doing so the Library's Special Collections unit was born, and collections in Walt Whitman, Americana, and James Joyce, respectively, were established.

Simon recalled the flush days of state funding in the 50s and 60s when it was

a challenge to spend the appropriations directed to Carbondale. “When Delyte Morris mounted his pirate raids on Springfield for more money for SIU,

“When Delyte Morris mounted his pirate raids on Springfield for more money for SIU, Ralph McCoy was always along as first mate.”

Ralph McCoy was always along as first mate,” Simon remarked.

In the fog and fracas that was the 1960s, President Morris succeeded in attracting a parade of celebrities to campus in what one journalism professor called “the greatest educational circus in America.” Notables Buckminster Fuller, Marjorie Lawrence, Katherine Dunham, Mordecai Gorelik, and others all made Carbondale their home, and Ralph McCoy saw to it that the documents of their creative juices and endeavors found a home in Special Collections.

Over his career McCoy contributed to or created a number of important bibliographies, but none more significant than the three volumes on the freedom of the press, published by Southern Illinois University Press between 1968 and 1993. First Amendment rights were of paramount importance and a life-long pursuit for McCoy, the subject having been suggested initially as a dissertation by Robert B. Downs, who was McCoy’s mentor at the University of Illinois. The McCoy’s established an endowed fund at Morris Library, the Ralph and Melba McCoy Library Fund that purchases library materials for the Freedom of the Press Collection.

As remarkable and distinguished as was McCoy’s career at SIU, he continued to contribute on a national level. After retiring from SIU in 1976, he served as interim librarian at the University of Georgia from 1978 to 1979. The following year he was interim executive director of the Association of Research Libraries, and he served as interim librarian at Rutgers University from 1985 to 1986. During his career he was a consultant to more than a dozen university and research libraries.

It is striking how fondly and in what high regard the people who served with McCoy hold him—to this day—and have been prompted to pay tribute

“Widely respected as a ‘Freedom of the Press’ scholar, an avid book collector, and as the architect of SIU’s emergence as a research library . . .”

upon his passing. Upon learning of McCoy’s passing Duane Webster, Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries said, “Ralph McCoy

was memorable for his distinctive way of making a difference. During the two years he served as interim ARL Executive Director, his calm and steady approach created a climate of trust and confidence that inspired and motivated those around him. Widely respected as a ‘Freedom of the Press’ scholar, an avid book collector, and as the architect of SIU’s emergence as a research library, he was not content with simply retiring after his 20 years at SIU. Instead, he brought this wide panoply of experiences and interests to lead the Association at a critical time of transition.”

“His passion for his work on First Amendment rights was inspiring. What I remember most were his warmth, humor, humanity and wisdom. It was a joy to work for him,” offered Carol Mandel, Dean of Libraries at New York University.

Henrietta Miller, served McCoy as an administrative assistant for eighteen years, coordinating his extensive traveling, assisting in the purchase of private libraries, even typing his manuscripts on a manual typewriter. “He was a very good person to work for—it was like one big family,” she remembered. **GP**

Message from the Dean *continued from page 2*

At the beginning of this column I wrote of the change from a library with a focus on nouns to verbs. I believe that the most important verb for the new Morris is to inspire. Our hope is that the new Morris inspires learning. We’re not done yet, but as I hope this column shows, the preliminary indications are very positive! We are also beginning to appreciate and understand the benefits the new Morris will inspire: the centrality of learning and research at SIU, the quality of education at this University, and the pride that every alum can take in being a Saluki.

The new Morris is coming and the excitement is building on campus.



DAVID CARLSON

Tips from the Conservation Lab

by Barb Summers, Head of Preservation

Preserving Newspapers

Newspapers bring us the daily news and are intended to be read and recycled. The information they contain is what is valuable, not the item itself. However, occasionally whole issues are saved when major events are in the headlines, and articles get clipped when there is personal interest in the subject. Historical societies, genealogy groups, and collectors treasure old newspapers because they provide a source of birth, marriage, and death announcements, and they provide a unique glimpse of the day-to-day life of a community in years gone by.

Newspapers that were published prior to the mid-1800s were printed on paper made from cotton rag fiber and many of them survive today in good condition. Although this type of paper preserves well, it is expensive to produce. As the number of newspapers increased there was the need for an inexpensive source of newsprint. It was discovered that wood pulp paper had the properties to withstand high speed printing presses and was cheaper to produce. This is the same type of paper used for newspapers today. The poor quality of wood pulp paper comes from wood impurities that remain after processing. When these impurities are exposed to light, moisture, and atmospheric pollutants an acidic reaction occurs that causes the fibers to break down and eventually deteriorate.



It is possible to preserve newspapers for years in relatively good condition by keeping them out of direct light and away from moisture. Lay the newspaper flat, so the front page is completely visible. A fold that crosses a printed page will deteriorate faster than an unfolded page. Wrap each paper in acid-free tissue paper and store them flat in an archival box. Do not seal the packaging completely as that will cause faster deterioration. Sources for acid-free materials are listed at the end of this article.

If you have crumbling newspaper clippings with valuable content, make a photocopy on alkaline buffered paper (archival paper). Most photocopy shops such as Kinko's, Staples, and Office Depot have copiers that will make a quality copy. Remember that when you clip an article from a paper to also clip the name of the paper, the date, and where it was printed, and keep this information with the article. If a newspaper is a particularly valuable artifact, it can be de-acidified and encapsulated in a sealed Mylar sleeve, but this can be costly and is best handled by a professional conservator.

Framing a newspaper article safely is possible by following a few guidelines. Frame it using acid-free backing board

and matt; do not let the paper touch the glass and only use glass that has ultraviolet ray protection. Hang it in a hallway or in an area away from direct sunlight.

Historical societies and genealogical groups may own newspapers that can be a valuable resource for researchers, but if they are not in good condition the papers are difficult to use and store. In the 1980s the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities began the United States Newspaper Program to locate and preserve newspapers published in the United States. Within that program is the Illinois Newspaper Project that has been inventorying and cataloging newspaper collections owned by libraries, individuals, repositories, and organizations. Visit their website at www.library.uiuc.edu/inp/. There you can learn more about the project and access the searchable database to see if a paper you are interested in has been preserved on microfilm and where copies are located. Check out their "wish list" and should you own a newspaper that has not been preserved, it can be microfilmed and added to this great collection.

Sources for archival materials:

LIGHT IMPRESSIONS, 800-828-6216,
www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

UNIVERSITY PRODUCTS, 800-762-1165, www.universityproducts.com

GAYLORD ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES,
800-448-6160, www.gaylord.com/archival_supplies.htm

The IRA Charitable Rollover and Other Effective Options

by Yvonne M. Spencer, Director of Planned Giving

When describing an important military victory Julius Caesar exhibited no trace of uncertainty about how the events unfolded: "I came, I saw, I conquered."

When managing our retirement plan assets many of us lack the certitude of a Julius Caesar. We might best describe our retirement planning this way: "I saved, it grew . . . now what do I do? How do I manage these assets to best achieve both my financial and charitable goals?"

There are several important considerations when determining how to effectively manage your retirement plan assets. For example, did you know that retirement plan assets left to heirs are subject to federal income tax, as well as other potential taxes? Smart planning can help you retain more of your assets for heirs, and give you the opportunity to support the important work of Morris Library as well.


"Smart planning can help you retain more of your assets for heirs, and give you the opportunity to support the important work of Morris Library as well."

And there's another consideration. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 made it possible for donors who are age 70 ½ and older to transfer IRA assets directly to charity. This simplified approach to giving has been an especially satisfying way for many individuals to manage their required minimum distribution without paying income tax on the distribution.

This is how a gift from your IRA would work. If you are at least 70 ½ you can instruct that a distribution be made from your IRA directly to the Southern Illinois University Foundation or another qualified charity. This amount would count toward your required minimum distribution from tax-deferred IRAs. It does not count toward your charitable gift limitations in a given year.

Example: Mary (age 74) has given to Morris Library at Southern Illinois University for many years. After learning about the IRA Charitable Rollover in the newspaper she discusses the idea with her financial advisor. They agree this is a perfect opportunity for Mary to provide her regular contribution but in a way that is financially and tax advantageous. Mary directs her plan administrator to distribute \$45,000 to the Southern Illinois University Foundation for the benefit of Morris Library. Because it is a qualified charitable distribution from her IRA Mary has:

- Immediately supported the educational mission of Morris Library.
- Completed her full required minimum distribution for the year.
- Avoided including the money in her personal income for federal income tax purposes. This can have a variety of advantages where yearly income affects deductions.

But there is a catch: Under the current law, this one-step method of donating IRA assets ends this year on December 31. For more information on making a gift to support Morris Library through your IRA, please contact Kristine McGuire at 618-453-1633. 

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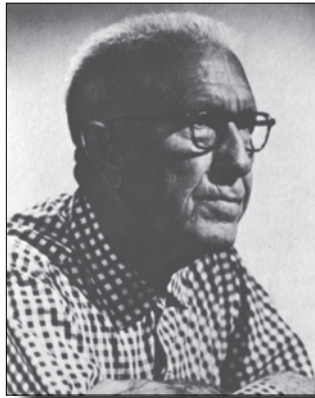
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The Bat Colony of Old Main

by John W. Allen

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Willis Allen (1887–1969) served SIUC in a variety of capacities, most notably as curator of the University Museum in the 1940s. His papers are held by Special Collections and will be the focus of a future *Cornerstone* article. His interests were local history, folklore, and pioneer crafts and culture, and, accordingly, he served as president of the Illinois State Historical Society in 1955–56. He is perhaps best known as the editor of seminal books on local folklore, *Legends and Lore of Southern Illinois* (1963) and *It Happened in Southern Illinois* (1968). This article appeared April 1947 in *Our Museum*, “a special publication dedicated to a more complete understanding of southern Illinois.”



Born in a log cabin in Hamilton County, John W. Allen made major contributions to the history and folklore of the region.



Old Main stood in the center of SIU's campus until consumed by fire in 1969.

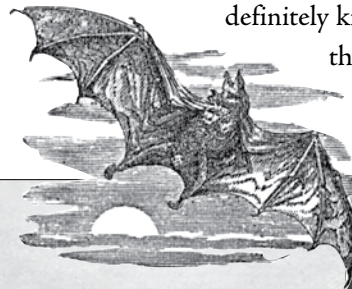
A summer colony of little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) has occupied the attic of Old Main Building, located on the Southern Illinois Normal University campus, for the last half-century. This colony makes its home in cracks between the roof-supporting timbers in all sections of the attic and is not found to any extent in the bell tower. Very few frequent the lower floors of the building, although a few may be seen on the third

floor during the hotter period of summer. During the period of parturition the colony is concentrated in two small rooms directly above the stairways. Later the bats desert these rooms because of the heat, and move into the main section of the attic.

The bats arrive on campus about the first of April every year.

increase in size until after the period of parturition, which extends from about the middle of May until the middle of July. During July the colony is at its peak, which is estimated at between 30,000 and 50,000 bats. The bats begin to evacuate the attic in September and by November all but a few have left their summer home.

The winter home of our colony is not definitely known. It is probable that they migrate to



caves in the Missouri Ozarks, since two banded specimens were returned from that area. The caves of southern Illinois were checked but did not yield any banded specimens; however it is possible that they remain in southern Illinois, hibernating in crevices and under the barks of trees. . . .

In considering the bat colony in Carbondale, two

points are of particular significance. They have an economic importance, and they are of value in research projects. Under economic importance the feeding habits of the bat should be noted. Their diet is chiefly of mosquitoes and gnats. The enormous amount of mosquitoes they consume might otherwise create a problem on Southern's campus. Moreover they provide readily available research and study material for our students of biology. . . .

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

\$535 for four volumes in the WILEY SERIES IN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS ENGINEERING. With global warming, energy independence, and the high cost of fuel facing everyone, green engineering and design can only increase in importance in the future. SIUC's strong engineering programs will be involved in innovative solutions, and this series will serve as an important resource in their efforts. Subjects of individual volumes include mechanical design, manufacturing, power generation, and transportation.

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

\$1,650 for *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*. This science plays an integral part in such important issues for modern society as ground-water resources and contamination, sea level change, geologic hazards (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis), and soil erosion. Written by a team of leading experts and under the guidance of an international editorial board, the articles are at a level that allows undergraduate students to understand the material, while providing active researchers with the latest information in the field.

In acknowledging two donors to the Adopt-a-Book Program in the previous issue the Library's development office supplied incorrect information. Louis Freitag should have been listed as a donor, and David Christensen's name was misspelled. We apologize for these oversights.

\$300 for *Micro Credit for Women: The Story of the Grameen Bank*, a two-part video series, 47-55 minutes each. For more than a decade, the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh has provided small business loans to struggling women helping lift many out of poverty, while creating friction among some conservative Muslims. This two-part series describes how 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus launched the bank and demonstrates its profound effects on the lives of loan recipients. Beginning in the mid-1990s and following up a decade later, *Micro Credit for Women* visits entrepreneurs who have prospered and others who have fallen further into despair as well as men who have changed their minds after first condemning the bank. The result is a rare, unflinching story of success mixed with uncertainty. Portions are in Bangla with English subtitles.

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.

\$230 for the *Encyclopedia of American Race Riots*, two-volume set, edited by WALTER RUCKER and JAMES NATHANIEL UPTON. Race riots are the most glaring and contemporary displays of the racial strife running through America's history. Mostly urban, mostly outside the South, and mostly white-instigated, the number and violence of race riots increased as blacks migrated out of the rural South and into the North and West's industrialized cities during the early part of the twentieth-century. Though white/black violence has been the most common form of racial violence, riots involving Asians and Hispanics are also included and examined.



\$155 for *Homelessness Handbook* edited by DAVID LEVINSON and MARCY ROSS. More than merely society's have-nots, the homeless have become society's are-nots.

The problem of homelessness can be solved if we, as a society, have the determination. Around the globe people have formed government, private-sector, nonprofit, and faith-based partnerships to solve the problem of homelessness in all of its dramatically different manifestations from Dallas to Zimbabwe. Between 2000 and 2006 more than two hundred cities and counties across the United States launched ambitious initiatives to end homelessness within ten years.

It's not just official efforts that count. Citizen involvement through donations, marches, volunteerism, and pressure on government officials is also crucial to solving a social problem that blights rich nations as well as the poorest of the poor.

Focus on Library Faculty *Julie Arendt*

To better acquaint readers with Morris Library faculty, in each issue one member is chosen at random and asked to respond to a standard list of questions. We hope to provide readers with information on the background, talent, and vision of this core group of individuals who are essential to the workings of Morris Library.

Prior to coming to SIUC Julie Arendt received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a double major in chemistry and psychology, and she earned a graduate degree in library and information services from the University of Michigan in 2005. While in Ann Arbor, she worked in reference for the Shapiro Science Library, and she also worked in monograph cataloging for the library system.

Her position as reference librarian for the sciences is her first position as a professional librarian, and her time with Morris Library has nearly coincided with its major renovation. She was present in May 2006 when a brick façade of the upper

Learning Librarian, Mary Taylor, parlayed this disturbing experience into an article helpful to other libraries undergoing renovation, *When the Walls Crash Down: Offer Services Where the Students Are in College & Research Libraries News*.

Tell us about the requirements of your position.

JULIE ARENDT: My title within the Library is Reference Librarian, Sciences.



An avid runner and bicyclist, Arendt is a familiar face on the Carbondale campus.

My work involves public service. I work at the information desk and on the library's instant messaging service. I give guest lectures for classes. I develop Web pages. As liaison to several academic departments, I respond to faculty and student questions and concerns about the Library.

What are the challenges of your position?

JA: One challenge for me is to set the right tone. When I'm working at

the information desk or in instant messaging, I feel the need to overcome the stereotype of the shushing, bun-

“Suck it up. You're in college, and you should expect to be intellectually challenged at least once in a while.”

wearing dragon-lady librarian. I want people who approach me to know that I'm eager to help and that I will try to save them time. Another goal of mine is to encourage learning, especially when I'm working with students. Sometimes it's hard to accomplish these things.

For example, occasionally students ask for help finding a peer-reviewed journal article on a particular topic. After I help them find articles, the students will say that they want the article to be less than five pages long and be easy to read. I politely explain the differences between scholarly sources and popular sources that they

probably already heard from a professor in class. Then I elaborate on why it is hard to find a peer-reviewed article that is less than five pages long and easy to read. I sometimes am tempted to just say, “Suck it up. You're in college, and you should expect to be intellectually challenged at least once in a while.”

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

“I feel the need to overcome the stereotype of the shushing, bun-wearing dragon-lady librarian.”

portion of the Library's seven floors unexpectedly collapsed and penetrated through the roof of the third floor. She, along with Medical and Distance

JA: In the sciences, \$10,000 wouldn't go far. According to *Library Journal's* Periodicals Price Survey 2007, the average price for a subscription to just one physics journal for just one year is \$2,865. A handful of commercial publishers dominate the market for scientific, technical, and medical journals. They have sustained healthy profits by steadily increasing prices above the general inflation rate.

I would use \$10,000 to support some form of open access. The basic concept of open access is to provide free online access to peer-reviewed journal articles. Open access journals and author self-archiving are the two main types of open access. Open access journals distribute their content for free of charge and use something other than subscriptions to get their funding. In author self-archiving, articles are published in traditional journals, and authors retain the right to post their articles on the Web. Authors then distribute their articles for free by posting a copy on a department Web page, in an institutional repository, or in a disciplinary repository such as arXiv.org. A donation of \$10,000 could be used to support open access journals, develop an institutional

repository here, or just get the word out to faculty that self-archiving makes it easier for others to find and read their work.

What do you like best/least about your position?

JA: One of my favorite parts of my position is being able to help people save time or money.

The thing I like the least about my position is the thing that a lot of people like the least about their jobs, meetings that seem to go on and on without anything being accomplished.

Can you elaborate on your research and publications?

JA: Because I'm still a relatively new librarian, I don't have many publications yet. Mary Taylor and I wrote a short article about offering reference services at the Student Center when the Library had an emergency closure in spring 2006. So far, that article has gotten the most interest of any of my publications. It was exciting the first time I got an email from another librarian enquiring about our article.

Why did you become a librarian?

JA: The complete explanation of why I became a librarian is too long to fit in a newsletter. The short version is that I admitted to myself that I am an intellectual dilettante, and librarianship is one of the few careers where that is encouraged.

What's the future of libraries?

JA: Electronic resources will continue to grow. When libraries implement electronic resources well, the library disappears into the background, and people just get the materials they need. It will be important for libraries to get better at communicating their role in delivering resources to people.

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

JA: For my physical survival, I'd take something like *SAS Survival Handbook: How to Survive in the Wild, in Any Climate, on Land or at Sea* by John Lofty Wiseman. I'd also want something such as *Feeling Good* by David Burns for my emotional survival. 🗡️

to the "the scramble of keeping up," the everyday challenge of librarianship, Roger Cross cited the "digital blitzkrieg" as a new struggle.

The attraction of Morris Library was multi-faceted for the CDLs—the national reputation of the Library, the soon-to-be completed renovation, and the opportunity to work with a spouse (in the case of the Crosses). Nabe stated, "Morris Library has had an excellent reputation nationally for a lot of years, and though there were some lean years for a while, we're headed in the right direction again. As not just an employee, but also an alumnus, I'm proud to be a part of that." **GP**



Steady progress continues with the renovation. With the north addition close to finished, the exterior is nearly complete. Finishing work continues on floors three, four, and five. Lighting and plumbing have been installed—only ceilings and carpeting remain. Installation of the shelving on these floors begins in October.

The SIU Board of Trustees approved an additional \$14.8 million at their July meeting for the completion of floors six and seven. Office furniture is in the process of being selected, and a vendor for the Internet Café will soon be chosen. Too, the University Honors Program and the Writing Center will make the new Morris their home.



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JOIN US IN CELEBRATING the 75th anniversary of the Library as a government documents depository when Charles Seavey, a government information librarian, speaks at McLafferty Annex on Friday, November 9, 2007, at 1:30 PM. This event is free and open to the public. For details contact Anna Xiong at axiong@lib.siu.edu or 618-536-2163.



THE RALPH AND MELBA MCCOY LIBRARY FUND purchases library materials for the Freedom of the Press Collection. To contribute to this renowned fund, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.

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