

# LIBRARY LETTERS

January 2010 • Volume 6, Number 2 • [Library.wlu.edu](http://Library.wlu.edu)



## A New Term

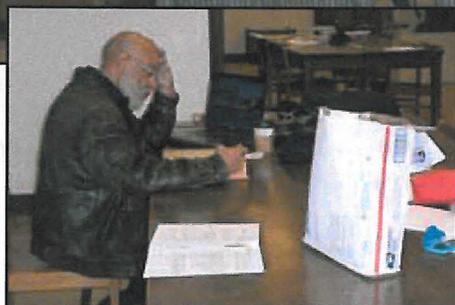
Welcome back for the winter term! As always, we expect the library to be a busy place this semester, and this newsletter offers some interesting accounts of the various ways in which the renovated Leyburn is being used. One of the things I find very gratifying as I walk around the main floor is seeing students and faculty making use of the space in informal ways. Clusters of students sitting together are often working on a project, but student organizations have meetings here, as well, setting up shop in the non-quiet side of the building. The Book Nook, our little self-service café, is a popular spot for students and/or faculty, collaborating on study or assignments. A regular knitting group gathers on the south side of the building, and the main floor has become a popular break spot for University colleagues who simply want to relax and read a book or magazine. It's clear that the new Leyburn has become the quintessential new learning space, that is, a place that facilitates learning, study and collaboration outside the classroom.

Early word from the administration indicates that the Library's operating budget may see another cut in fiscal year 2011, most likely in the neighborhood of 8.2 percent. While no librarian enjoys a reduced budget — the price of books, journals and online resources always goes up, not down — this projected reduction is less than some earlier scenarios and similar to what peer institutions are experiencing in this difficult economy. Things look better for fiscal year 2012, as we're encouraged to expect no further cuts, and may see some rebuilding of the budget (assuming the economy continues to improve!).

As always, we will strive to implement these budget reductions with as little impact on the work of faculty and students as possible, and in consultation with faculty and with the University Library Committee. We thank you for your understanding, patience, and willingness to work with us through a period that is trying for all concerned.

Have a good semester and as always, don't hesitate to contact us with your concerns and questions!

Merrily E. Taylor  
University Librarian



◀ ▲  
*... faculty and students making use of the space in informal ways.*

### *University Library Committee*

#### **Faculty Members**

Robert Ballenger, Robert DeMaria,  
Francoise Fregnac-Clave, Hongchu Fu,  
Dennis Garvis, Tim Gaylard,  
Harvey Markowitz,  
Maryanne Simurda (Chair), Kary Smout,  
Merrily Taylor (University Librarian)

#### **Student Members**

Chris Browning '11, John Henzel '10,  
Andrea Null '10

ARCH.  
378.755  
W317:1:61  
v. 6  
2009/110 no 2 (Jan.)

## Study Rooms Are A HIT!

Thanks to the renovation, Leyburn has three new group study rooms: M40, M41, and M42. These were designed for 6 – 8 people who need a quiet place to study or meet; each room has its own sliding glass door. There is a whiteboard with markers in each room. Some creative students have taken to using the glass walls when they ran out of room on the white boards, too.

Nobody paid much attention to the rooms until exams during the past Fall term...and then they were in constant use. From the time the rooms opened last February through Dec. 31, the rooms were RESERVED for a total of 609 hours. When not reserved, the rooms were in perpetual use, too. Because of the demand, a four-hour limit was placed on reservations to help make the rooms available to more users.

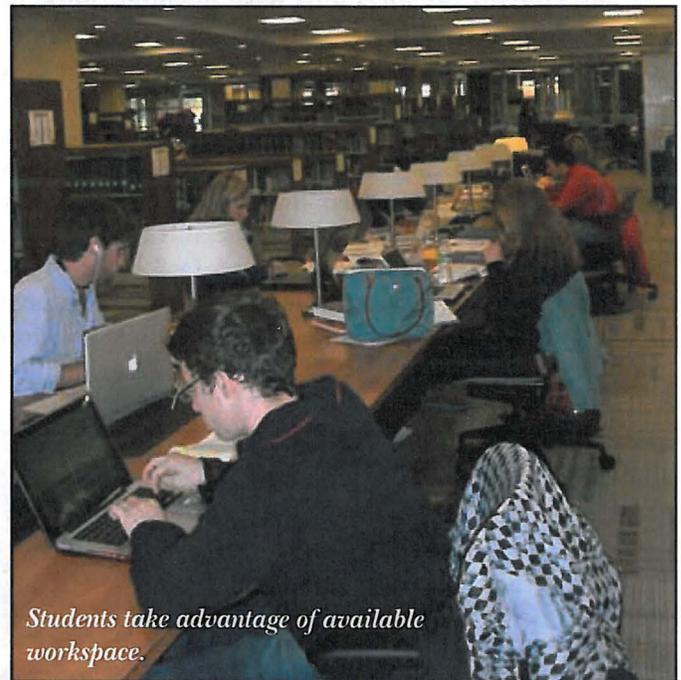


## Annual Book Sale

After a year's break, due to the renovation, the Library's annual book sale during Parents and Family Weekend came back with a vengeance. This year's sale brought in over \$3,000. With tight budgets, this money will be put to good use to purchase items that might not have made the list this year.

## New Large Screen Monitor

Just outside the Book Nook (coffee area) of Leyburn Library is a new large-screen monitor. It has a rotating display of important library, campus, and community news. Check it out for the latest, most up-to-date information. Another service of the Library's Access Services department in collaboration with ITS.



## New Technology Coordinator

If you haven't met Kwangsoo Han, stop in and introduce yourself. Kwangsoo is a native of South Korea and comes to us from the University of North Dakota. Obviously the recent weather is not an issue for him! Kwangsoo's first day was Nov. 16, 2009, and he immediately started work on projects that had been waiting for his expertise.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY  
LEXINGTON, VA 24450

JAN 23 2010

## Making Room Reservations at Leyburn

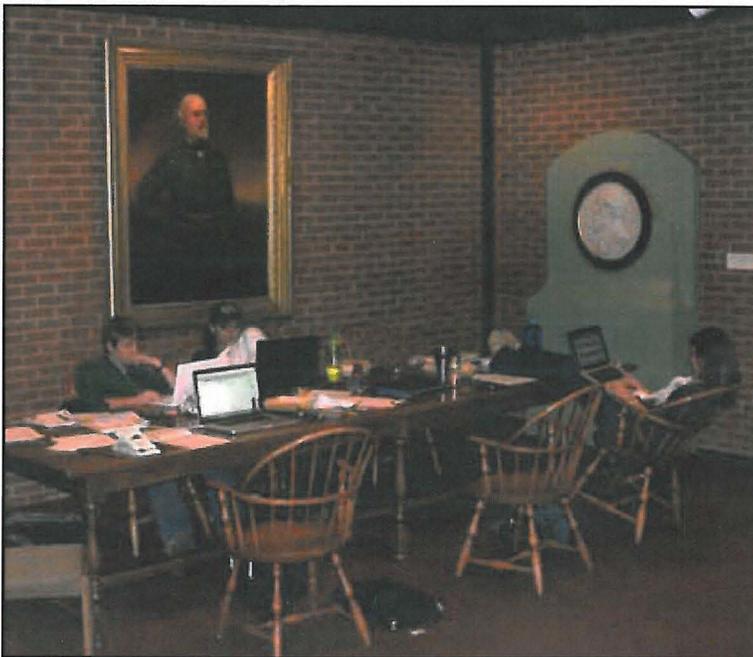
We discovered that there is a LOT of confusion about making room reservations at Leyburn, especially now that we have so many more rooms that are reservable. Reservations for most rooms may be made online from the Library's home page ([library.wlu.edu](http://library.wlu.edu)). Reservations for Boatwright, M47, and the three elevator rooms may be made by calling or e-mailing Karin O'Callaghan (x8642, [ocallaghank@wlu.edu](mailto:ocallaghank@wlu.edu)). Confirmed room reservations are posted on the door of each reserved room.

All public rooms are available on a first-come basis. Anyone may use a room before/after a posted reservation. If a room is in use and a reservation holder shows up, the prior user is expected to vacate the room immediately.

During exams, study rooms have a four-hour reservation limit.

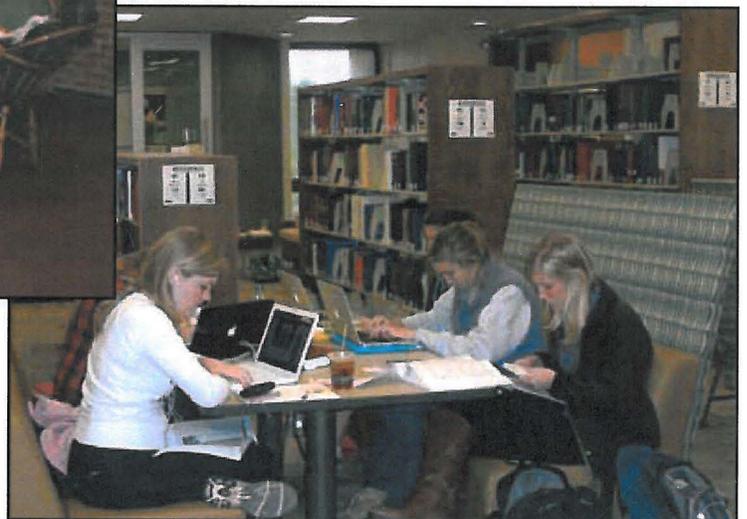
Boatwright and M47 are available on a limited basis for meetings and occasional classes. M47 is a smart room, with full technology and holds about 25. Boatwright is the Library's parlor, with comfortable seating and holds 10 – 15. NO classes are scheduled in either room on a regular basis, unless there is a compelling need.

Elevator rooms are behind the main elevators on levels two (220), three (324), and four (425). Each room holds 6 – 10 people and has a black-board and chalk. These rooms are frequently used for meetings and other outside activities. They are very popular during exams because they are very quiet.

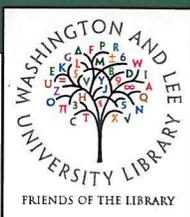


*"Omigod, it looks completely different . . .  
I would have used the library if it had  
looked like this."*

Overheard from an alumna as  
she entered the main level during  
Homecoming Weekend '09



## Friends of the Library



The Friends of the Library now has 310 members. The Friends "supports the academic mission of Washington and Lee University through activities which strengthen the Library's collections and services, promote greater awareness of the Library's needs and resources,

encourage monetary or in-kind contributions to the Library, foster closer community and Library relations, and stimulate the intellectual life of the community." If you haven't joined, it's just \$25 a year for faculty and staff. Membership applications are available at the Information Desk of Leyburn.

## No Camping!



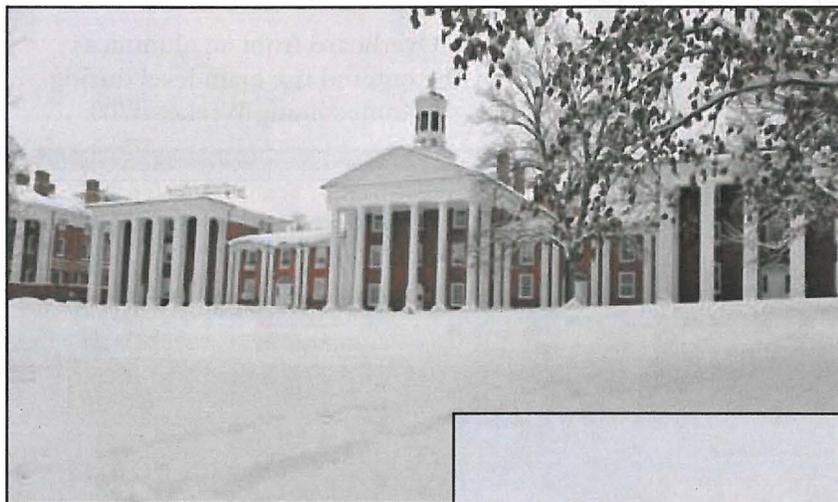
The biggest problem we have had with the renovation is that it is SOOOO popular there aren't enough seats for everybody who wants to study in the new area. Consequently, some students run in, drop their books and computers to save a spot, and then run off to class or elsewhere, possibly not returning for hours. This action effectively precludes others from using that space AND allows the potential for their electronics and other belongings to go missing. To protect any property left unattended for an extended period of time, library staff makes a concerted effort to retrieve the materials and take them to the Lost and Found at the Leyburn Information Desk.

*"I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you again for creating such a wonderful place for me when I was a student. Leyburn Library has always been a comfortable, inspiring, and productive place for me, and one of the first things I think of when I remember my time at Washington and Lee."*

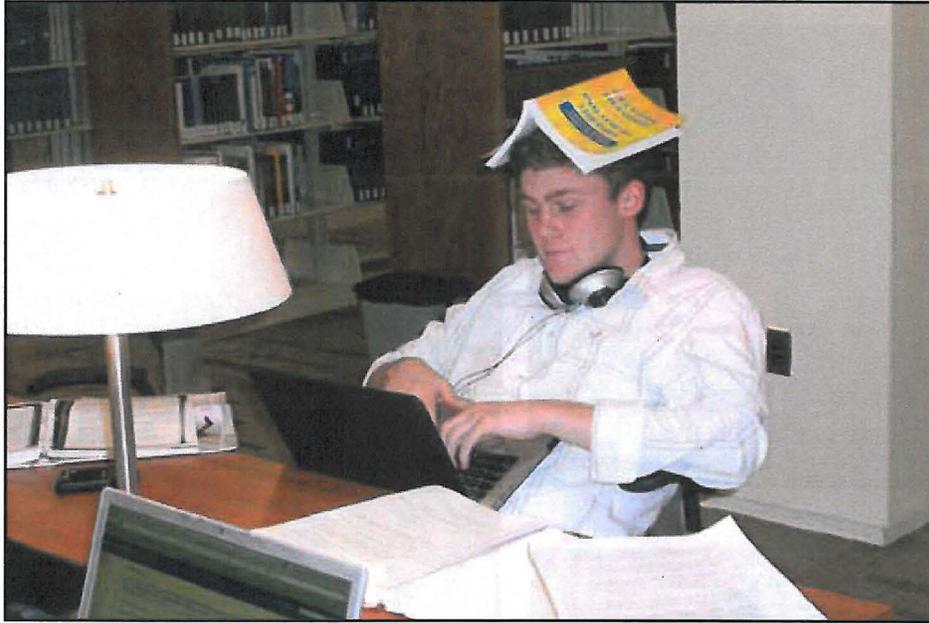
In a letter to Leyburn Staff and Administrators from Lucas Williams '04

## Washington and Lee Campus in Winter

Who doesn't love to see the beauty of our campus covered with snow?



Currently on display in Leyburn's exhibit area are postcards, photographs, a Christmas letter by Robert E. Lee written to his son Custis, and the poem "Lee in Winter" by R.T. Smith, poet and editor of W&L's *Shenandoah*.



**2009**  
**What a Year!**

