

FOlios

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WINTER 2012

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Functions of an Academic Library

Terry Metz, *University Librarian*
metzt@wlu.edu

Occasionally I'm asked, "What's an academic library suppose to be doing these days?" I think I'm asked this question by persons who've heard alarming reports in the media that "libraries are doomed" to extinction because the Internet and Google will supplant them in the not too distant future.

My habit is to reply to the questioner's question with another question: "What do you think is the most important purpose of an academic library?" I've heard a range of responses. For example, "Isn't it basically a warehouse for unused books?" "A social study hall for students?" "A cathedral for learning?" (The latter comment might even carry with it the unspoken skepticism that the library is an "academic sacred cow".)

As the conversation continues, I'll go on to relate that an academic library, such as the W&L University Library, exists to provide its user community with convenient access to the information resources necessary to support the curricular and research needs of its academic community. Acting collectively on behalf of all library users, an effective library operates as an agent to acquire, maintain and make accessible these information resources by means that are as efficient and as effective as possible.

For those who prefer a less lofty sounding answer, or who prefer more concrete examples, I'll explain that nearly everything a library does today involves the activities and functions below:

- Identifying the information needs of the library's user community
- Selecting from available options the most usable, accurate and reliable



Terry Metz

sources of that desired information, including both for-fee and more freely available information such as that made available via open access (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access); also, conversely, withdrawing materials that no longer serve the community's needs

- Acquiring—through purchase, subscription or other means—the direct physical ownership of some of these materials while arranging for alternative access to other materials (on behalf of our users, the library employs interlibrary loan [ILL] arrangements to borrow physical items owned by other libraries; the library also provides virtual access to a wealth of online resources.).
- Organizing these materials in systematic ways (e.g., using classification schemes, creating and maintaining catalogs, indices and databases, etc.)
- Providing convenient access to library materials through furnishing locations that both house physical materials and encourage library patrons to use the materials (Supporting virtual access to library materials requires that the library embrace and offer state-of-the art

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of whom went on to fame if not fortune. This is a talk you do not want to miss.

Vaughan Stanley has written a very nice article about English professor emeritus George Ray. George was the instigator for starting the Friends back in 2005, and term limits require him to retire from the Board this year. We hope to persuade him to return soon.

If you have not seen the fantastic antique scientific instruments exhibit put together by Yolanda Merrill and Tom Williams, W&L emeritus professor of physics, there is still time. The exhibit can be viewed through the end of the academic year.

At this writing, 25 percent of our active members have renewed for the 2011/12 fiscal year. Please remember the books close on June 30 and your renewal would be greatly appreciated. If you are in doubt, please contact our coordinator at friendsofthelibrary@wlu.edu or (540) 458 8642 and she'll be happy to check your status.

And lastly, all of us on the Board of the Friends, the librarians and the library staff, want to thank you for sticking with us through these recent tough economic times. It has been hard on individuals and hard on the W&L University Library. Through your support the library has weathered the storm and been able to provide books, data bases, subscriptions, and other "goodies" that would not have been possible without you. We hope the economy is improving and that you will continue your invaluable support as we go forward.

See you in May!

(continued from pg. 1)

information technology, as well.)

- Managing multiple types of data in multiple formats (e.g., print, images, sound, data sets, etc.), especially for the acquiring, organizing and convenient access functions noted above
- Promoting availability of our services and resources to end users
- Providing expert guidance to assist users in getting the most value from the library's services and collections, including providing context for how these materials (and the work of the user) relate to the scholarly communication process (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarly_communication)
- Ensuring responsible stewardship and preservation of those items and content that we expect to be of value to future users of the W&L University Library
- Gathering and assessing feedback from library users that enables the library to continuously improve the services it makes available to its community; doing so has become increasingly important as traditional measures of assessment (e.g., physical volume count) become less meaningful as a reflection of a library's value to its community
- Cooperating and collaborating with units, organizations and agencies—both within and beyond the campus—to accomplish all of the above

I'd be interested to know from you Friends members if there are activities and functions that you would add or eliminate from this list.

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MAY 01 2012

the library reflect his long-time love of books, too. He was one of the Friends' first speakers back in 2005; since then he has donated his outstanding collection of 20th Century Southern American Writers to the Library, and his personal papers and tapes from his long journalism career to the University archives. They are available from Special Collections.

We hope that you will be able to join us at 1:30 p.m. in Northen Auditorium of Leyburn Library to help present this special award.

Notes from the Chair

Hardin Marion '55, '58L

This *FOLios* is packed with important information. Please take a few minutes to read it. I suggest you start with Roger Mudd's remembrances of his long-time friendship with Eudora Welty.

Once again we approach our Annual Membership Meeting, which this year will be Saturday, May 12, at 1:30 p.m. in Northen Auditorium of Leyburn Library. At that time we will elect new board members. The slate presented by the nominating committee is included in this issue.

At the Annual Meeting we will also present the John Rogers award to Roger Mudd and Betty Kondayan, two wonderful people who have given so much of themselves to W&L and especially to the library. You may read more about the award and them in this issue of *FOLios*.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, at 2 p.m., Thorns Craven '62 will educate and entertain us with his reminiscences of the Jargon Press: "Poetry, Photography, White Trash Cooking: 40 years in The Jargon Society." The Jargon Press was founded in 1951 by Jonathan Williams to promote lesser known poets, writers, photographers and others...many

The John Rogers Award, 2012

Karin O'Callaghan, Friends of the Library Coordinator

In the spring of 2008, the Friends of the Library Board voted to establish the John Rogers Award to show appreciation to those individuals who, over time, have given extraordinary service and multi-faceted support to the University Library.

In 1800, John Rogers gave Washington Academy its first major gift of books. It seemed appropriate that our award be named in his honor. There are a variety of ways to support the library, and the John Rogers awardees are people who have made many contributions from financial

support, to donation of materials, to the very special gift of their time, intelligence and affection.

The last awards were given in 2009 to Dr. Fred Farrar, David Clinger and Bob Peniston. This year's John Rogers Awards will be presented at our Friends event on May 12, 2012, to Betty Ruth Kondayan and Roger Mudd. Betty has provided ten years of volunteer service to Leyburn Library and wrote two histories of the library itself. Her love of books is admired by all who know her. Roger Mudd's contributions to

Exhibit of 19th-century Scientific Instruments

Yolanda Merrill, Humanities Librarian
merrilly@wlu.edu

An exhibit of 19th-century scientific instruments on the main floor of Leyburn Library shows how students used to study physics, chemistry, mathematics, surveying and other scientific disciplines.

Yolanda Merrill, humanities librarian and associate professor, originated the idea for the exhibit after noticing similar instruments on display in the library's Boatwright Room. "I thought they were very pretty, but I never knew where they came from," she said.

Tom Williams, who retired last May after teaching physics at W&L for almost 40 years, told Merrill that many more such instruments lay unidentified and uncategorized in the attic of W&L's Science Center. "Every physics department has an attic filled with this stuff because physicists can't throw anything away," admitted Williams. "Some of the items, like those on display in this exhibit, are well worth keeping and chronicling."

Williams and Merrill collaborated in selecting items for the exhibit, concentrating on those that were most interesting, aesthetically pleasing and practical. "We had to move a lot of dusty items to get to other dusty items," said Williams.

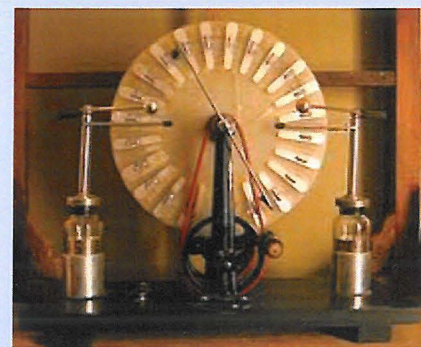
Merrill, who acknowledges she has no scientific background, cleaned the selected items for exhibit and prepared captions with the assistance of Williams and Tom Greenslade, professor emeritus of physics

at Kenyon College, who researches the history of science.

Williams said that one of his favorite instruments among those on display is the Wimshurst electrostatic generator. "This device has a crank handle that you turn and through an arrangement of pulleys it turns and rubs metal discs against a brush and generates electricity, the same way you might in scraping your feet against a rug in winter time and touching a doorknob," he explained.

Williams added that Benjamin Franklin used an electrostatic generator to make public displays of electrical experiments to shock people. "He would have five or six people hold hands and one touch here and another touch there and they would all be shocked. It was also a popular entertainment to show sparks and how things moved because of electricity," he said. Williams went on to describe how in the 1970s he and Taylor Sanders, W&L emeritus professor of history, took this particular electrostatic generator on tour. "Taylor lectured on the college curriculum in the sciences in 18th-century America, and I did a series of electrical experiments. We would put this item in the trunk of our car and carry it around as part of our show and tell," he remembered.

Williams explained that although computer demonstrations have displaced much of what used to be the standard way



of teaching, many of the instruments on display could still be used in teaching today. Merrill added that she hopes the exhibit will make students curious as to how people 100 years ago used these instruments to try and achieve the same things students do now on high tech computers. "In a way it was a much more joyful way to understand science," she said.

Student feedback on the exhibit has been positive. The exhibit concludes at the end of the academic year. To see the online exhibit of the instruments, go to <http://physicsapparatus.omeka.net/>



Yolanda checking the exhibit.



Roanoke Channel 7 comes to campus to do a story on the exhibit.

My Friend Eudora Welty

Roger Mudd '50

If Eudora Welty was anything, she was a hometown girl. She could have gone anywhere to write, to be feted and fawned over but she chose to stay in her hometown of Jackson (Mississippi) because she felt wanted and needed.

I first met Eudora in 1984 at a Washington dinner party. She was, it turned out, an avid watcher of TV news and a sharp but highly opinionated judge of politicians. Our friendship was instantaneous.

What followed almost until her death in 2001 was a stream of letters, notes, clippings and cards, all of them signed "Love, Eudora" and all of them revealing a woman of such strength, generosity, modesty and humor that I found myself believing I had known her for years.

Whenever Eudora came to Washington, she would stay at our home in the Virginia suburbs. Within a week would come a thank you note, a literary gem of its own, written in her spidery hand.

My wife and I first visited Eudora in 1985 in Jackson at the home her father had built in 1925. Her home was truly lived in. The upholstery and slipcovers were

slightly frayed and nothing seemed brand-new or store-bought. And in every room were books, books in bookcases, books on chairs, books working their way up the stairs.

Eudora did almost all of her writing by the big window in her upstairs bedroom so that passers-by, if they knew to look up, could see one of the country's finest writers at work on her electric typewriter.

Early one morning a jogger, carrying one of her books to sign, "came by, bouncing up and down in his jogging suit," and never breaking stride as he rang the bell. Eudora smiled at the incongruity of the scene.

Eudora loved playing with words, particularly what are known in Brewer's Dictionary of Words and Phrases as "nouns of assembly": A murder of crows, a clutch



Roger Mudd and Eudora Welty

of eggs, a skulk of foxes. Eudora would challenge me to play the game by making up our own nouns. She won every time, hands-down, with "a plagiary of mockingbirds," "a plastering of politicians" and the best of all "a stack of librarians."

Award for Lisa McCown

Taken from the Library News blog by Dick Grefe

Washington and Lee University Library Senior Special Collections Assistant Lisa McCown received the Ruth Anderson McCulloch Award at the annual meeting of the Southern Shenandoah Valley Branch of Preservation Virginia on Sunday, March 4, at the Natural Bridge Conference Center.

Congrats to Lisa!

The following is taken from coverage in the *Rockbridge Weekly*:

In making the award, Branch Director Arthur Bartenstein made the following remarks:

"Few parts of America are as rich in history as the Southern Shenandoah Valley. Few parts of America are also as blessed with such a qualified keeper of its original historic documents and records. What good fortune to not only be the home of Washington and Lee but also Washington and Lee Leyburn Library's Department of Special Collections.

"Few libraries are as blessed to have a person as dedicated, courteous, patient, professional, knowledgeable and all-

around good historic research librarian as Lisa McCown. It doesn't matter who you are, how obscure or just plain absurd your research topic, Lisa will not only find what you're looking for, she'll also find all those things you should have been looking for had you known what to look for.

Those who have worked with her say, 'Lisa is indispensable for any research on the area of Rockbridge County history. I could not have written my book, *Remarkable Rockbridge*, without her,' — historian Charles Bodie.

'Lisa McGown is the best thing that ever happened to Special Collections,' — Special Collections Director Vaughan Stanley.

'No one knows Leyburn's Special Collections better,' — Vaughan Stanley, Charles Bodie, Mary Coulling, Kurt Russ, and Robert E. Lee (no doubt were he alive.)

Lisa has labored tirelessly, selflessly, graciously in the bowels of Washington and Lee University Library day after day, dealing not only with academicians,



Lisa McCown

but also riff raff of the likes of you and me, for over 30 years. I could not imagine a more appropriate final deed in my humble capacity as Southern Shenandoah Valley Preservation Virginia Branch Director. On behalf of the Historic Preservation Community I would like to say thank you Washington and Lee University, thank you Lisa McCown!"

George Ray, a True Friend of Libraries

Vaughan Stanley, Special Collections Librarian

George Ray is one of the greatest donors of playbills to Special Collections. Going to visit George at his home on Sellers Avenue in Lexington is always a pleasure. George has a great study with signed editions of novels by John Updike and Tom Wolfe. He has an original letter to one of his ancestors signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. In short, George Ray, a retired English professor and founding member of the Board of the Friends of the Library, is a very interesting man. An hour spent talking to him in his study goes by very quickly.

George earned a B.A. at Wesleyan in 1954 and followed this with three years in the Marine Corps. He earned an M.A. from Colgate in 1959 and a Ph.D. from Rochester in 1966. George came to Washington and Lee in 1964 after two years teaching at the University of Virginia. His

period of expertise is the Early Modern – English Renaissance, Elizabethan and Jacobean drama. He has edited volumes by Classical translator, George Chapman. George married Pree in 1956 and they have four children: George, Virginia, Melissa and Sid.

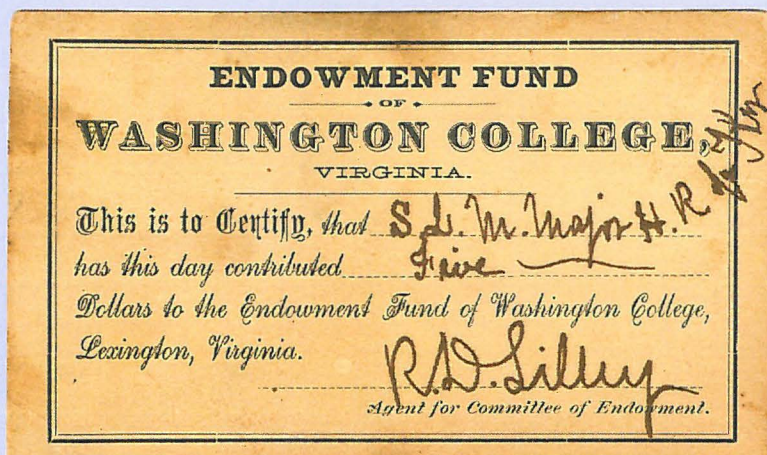
George had a conversation with Merrily Taylor in 2005 which resulted in the formation of the Friends of the Library of Washington and Lee University. Merrily had just the right experience at Brown where she re-started a Friends group that eventually grew to over 1,000 members. Though George has finished his term of service on our Board, he shows few signs of slowing down. Soon to turn 80, George looks ten years younger. He leads an active life with much walking and swimming at his cottage on the St. Lawrence River in upstate New York. George and Pree love



Vaughan Stanley and George Ray

to travel and they love the theatre. They have attended the Shaw Festival in eastern Ontario for the last twenty-five years.

In this recent interview George gave us this thought, “there should always be a place for the physical object of the book as well as its contents.”



Receipt

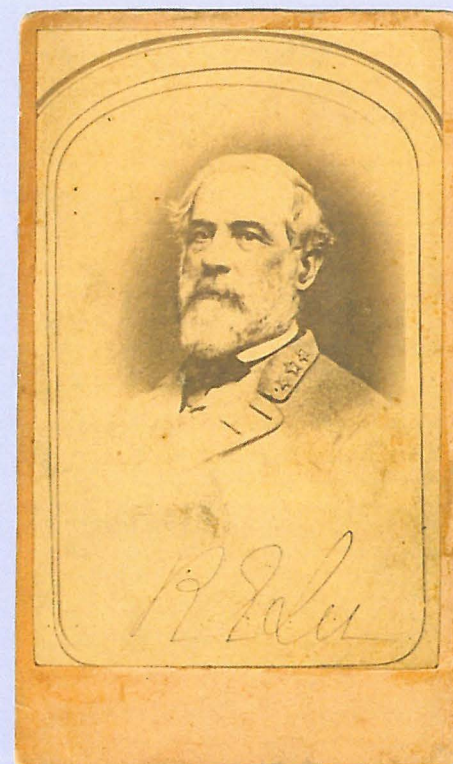
A New Acquisition for Special Collections

Seth McCormick-Goodhart, Special Collections Assistant

At right is a copy of a wartime carte de visite (CDV) of General Lee. It was copied from within an album. The original signed photo was housed within an album, the album was taken to a photographer's studio (likely Michael Miley's studio in Lexington) where a wet plate negative was rendered of the album page. It was not unusual for copies of images to be made in this fashion, as it was the only way (without the original glass negative) to make a copy. We assume that the photographer didn't remove the CDV from the album for fear of the potential collateral damage. The removal of CDVs from their album sleeves is no less than tricky. Without patience and a gentle hand, the photo, the album or both

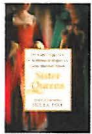
suffer. It also was not uncommon to use an adhesive to seal the album's sleeves. Finally, an albumen print was made from the glass negative, and the print was mounted on photo-grade card stock common to the period.

The reverse of the photo is a pre-printed receipt (above) for gifts given to the Endowment Fund of Washington College. It is signed by Augusta County native and former Confederate General Robert Doak Lilley, who was appointed by the college trustees on Sept. 24, 1869, as “agent” for fundraising. This particular receipt was given to Samuel I. M. Major of Frankfort, Ky., a lawyer, newspaper editor, and politician, for his \$5.00 donation.



CDV

Lilley was hired in September of 1869. You may read more about him at <http://dspace.nitl.org/handle/10090/23666>. Notice Lilley is missing an arm - lost in battle in 1864. The receipt reads “Washington College” not “Washington and Lee University”, the University's name change occurred in February of 1871. Thus we can surmise that the \$5.00 was given sometime during the span between the two listed dates.



Author Fox, Julia
 Title Sister queens : the noble, tragic lives of Katherine of Aragon and Juana, Queen of Castile / Julia Fox
 Publisher New York : Ballantine Books, 2012

LOCATION	CALL NO.	STATUS
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Descript xv, 454 p., [16] p. of plates : geneal. tables, ill., map, ports. : 25 cm
 Note Originally published in Great Britain by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2011
 Bibliog. Includes bibliographical references and index
 Subject Catharine, of Aragon, Queen, consort of Henry VIII, King of England, 1485-1536
 Juana, la Loca, Queen of Castile, 1479-1555
 Queens -- England -- Biography
 Queens -- Spain -- Biography
 Great Britain -- History -- Henry VIII, 1509-1547
 Spain -- History -- House of Austria, 1516-1700
 ISBN 9780345516046 (hardcover : acid-free paper)
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Need Help?



Recreational Reading supported by the FOL

The Friends of the Library generously supports our recreational reading program. These books are rented through a program called McNaughton.

You will find these books on our “New Book Shelf” (near the Information Desk in Leyburn). Look for the books with the green straps. These popular books are shelved in alphabetical order by the author’s last name.

Due to the popularity of these books, they each have a two week circulation period.

What types of materials are included in this program: popular fiction and hot authors, biographies and autobiographies of current newsmakers.

To see a list of McNaughton titles that have been purchased with FOL money go to: <http://annie.wlu.edu/search~S0?/>

ftlist^bib21%2C1%2C0%2C161/mode=2.

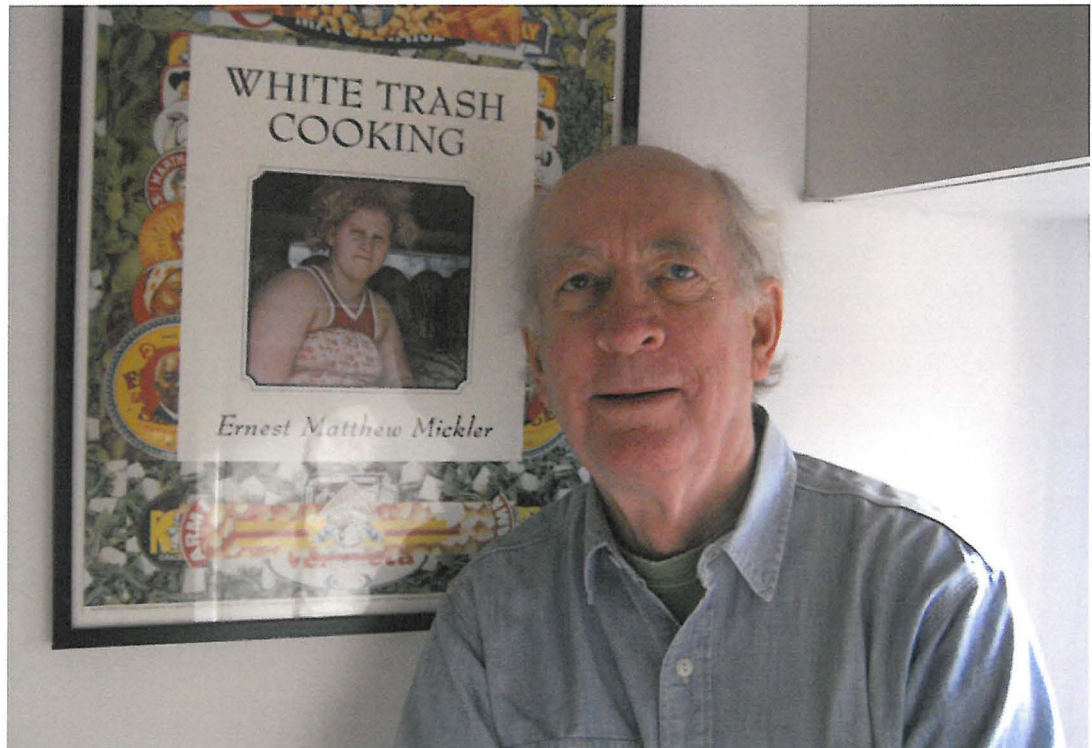
You will notice that each title has a digital bookplate assigned to it (see purple arrow above), designating it as provided by the Friends of the Library. You will find FOL bookplates throughout the catalog, on data bases and books purchased with Friends funds.

White Trash Cooking

On Saturday, May 12, Thorns Craven '62 will present “Poetry, Photography, White Trash Cooking: 40 years in The Jargon Society”.

For the past 40 years or so Thorns has been the treasurer of The Jargon Society, “the small press founded and directed by Jonathan Williams, the poet, photographer and scold. My wife and I constantly remark on how our lives have been influenced by this association—the people we have met, the places we have been and the adventures we have been part of.”

Thorns plans to fill about half an hour with “a description of the origin and lifespan of Jargon, a short history of the publications by authors and photographers that people would recognize; some words about Jonathan and his life; anecdotes about the publishing of a variety of books, with most of those being about the publication of our very distinctive and only bestseller, *White Trash Cooking*, including a description of the lawsuits filed and the



settlements reached with the lady in the cover photograph and the Junior League of a southern city.”

Come hear all about it. Copies of *White Trash Cooking* may be available for purchase as well.

American Shakespeare Center

Vaughan Stanley, Special Collections Librarian

The American Shakespeare Center in Staunton has become one of the nation's leading interpreters of the plays of the Great Bard. Special Collections is privileged to be the repository for the its archives. ASC was founded in 1988 by Ralph Cohen and Jim Warren (no relation to the Washington and Lee English professor) and was originally known as Shenandoah Shakespeare Express. Originally a touring company, it found a home in Staunton by 1998. By 2000 Shenandoah Shakespeare had performed in 46 states and Washington, D.C. as well as 5 other countries. A milestone was reached in 2001 when Shenandoah Shakespeare opened the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton. The Blackfriars is the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theatre. In 2005, Shenandoah Shakespeare became the American Shakespeare Center and its reputation is enhanced each year by numerous high quality productions.

The archives, which arrived in August, 2011, after two years of planning, is governed by the rules of the Actors' Equity Association. W&L dean, Hank Dobin, is on the Board of Directors of ASC and did much toward making the acquisition of the archives possible. Vaughan Stanley worked



closely with ASC Director of Education, Sarah Enloe, to implement the move. The archives include DVDs of the plays which now number about 15-20 per year. Some non-Shakespeare plays are included in the repertoire. There are programs, brochures, press releases, media articles, newspaper ads, internal documents and even fan letters included in the archives. It is a rich treasure trove for the production of Shakespeare. Many departments at Washington and Lee including drama and English will find it of great value. The collection has already been intensely used, i.e., in January by a student anxious to complete her Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh. She combed through dozens of play files gleaning information to compare ASC's productions with those of two other Shakespeare companies.

As Shakespeare once noted, "the play's the thing."

Membership News

At this writing, 371 individuals and couples have joined the Friends since we started in March 2005. Of those, 273 are still active, meaning they have continued to renew their memberships. If you don't remember whether you have renewed for this fiscal year, ending June 30, give the office a call (540) 458-8642 or email friendsofthelibrary@wlu.edu and Karin will be happy to let you know.

Do you know anyone who also would like to make a difference by supporting the library through the Friends? Please send the name(s) and address(es) to Karin and she'll contact them. Let's try to make it to 500 by our tenth anniversary (2015)!

In Memoriam

PROFESSOR SEVERN DUVALL

Upcoming Events

May 11, 2012

3:30 p.m.

Leyburn Library

Meeting of the FOL Board of Directors

May 12, 2012

1:30 p.m.

Northern Auditorium

Annual Meeting of the Membership

Presentation of The John Rogers Awards

Election of new Board members

2 p.m.

Northern Auditorium

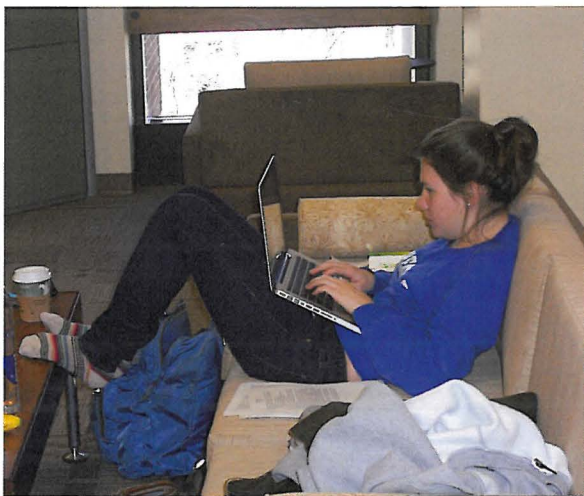
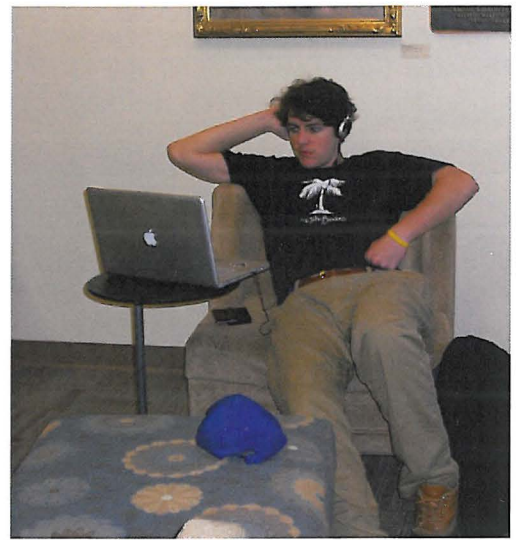
Presentation by Thorns Craven '62, "Poetry, Photography,

White Trash Cooking: 40 years in The Jargon Society"

June 30, 2012

Final day for membership renewal for fiscal year 2011-12

2012 Already Sees Heavy Usage by Students and Others



Mission Statement

The Friends of the Library 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.

WASHINGTON AND LEE
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