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Library Newsletter, Spring 2014

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The Valpo Library Newsletter

Message from the Dean

Christopher Center Library Services (CCLS)



by *Bradford Lee Eden, Ph.D.*
Dean of Library Services

This academic year has seen many changes in the spaces within the library, in order to accommodate the large student body increases of the past three semesters. As the university continues to reach towards its strategic goal of 6,000 students, the challenge for the library will be where to find the study space and room for an additional 1,500 students. Even now, library faculty are considering options for opening up more study spaces, using our automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS) to the full advantage that was meant to be when this building opened only ten years ago. The Library and its faculty continue to partner with the University Writing Director to enhance life-long learning and critical thinking skills into the VU curriculum, even as the Library explores new ways of visualizing and researching information

with its new 3D Visbox installation (see below). Some of the major accomplishments and news items from this semester:

- ValpoScholar, the university's institutional repository, will be hitting its 1 millionth download sometime this summer. This is a tremendous achievement, given that many institutional repositories have never hit this milestone, even though they have been in existence for a much longer period of time. The Library will be celebrating this milestone with a celebration probably during Open Access Week in October 2014. More information will be forthcoming closer to the date.
- There will also be another celebration in Fall 2014, that is, the ten-year anniversary of the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Dean.....	1-2
Virtual Reality Night.....	2-3
Valpo's Authors' Reception Showcases Valpo Scholarship..	4
Library Enters in to Therapy Dog Partnership.....	5-6
Library Display invites Students to be Kids Again	7
Library gives new Award in the Arts.....	8
Profile: Cardigan Crusader.....	9
Faculty Profile.....	10-11
Faculty Publications.....	11

photo by William Liu, Valparaiso University



Valparaiso
University

Library Services

opening of the Christopher Center Library. More information on this celebration will be forthcoming as well.

- The Christopher Center Library has installed a 3D Visbox on the 1st floor, which was originally housed in the College of Engineering. The Visbox will allow the library to explore programming and instruction in a number of areas, including digital humanities, gaming, information visualization, and partnerships with the K-12 community in learning objectives and new learning explorations. The Library held a Virtual Reality Night on April 9, where students and faculty got to play Skyrim on the Visbox and observe a 3D software demo on the Oculus Rift glasses. I hope to offer a digital humanities workshop for interested faculty sometime in the coming academic year, in order to showcase the many opportunities that use of the 3D Visbox offers in teaching and research.
- The Christopher Center Library has instituted a student laptop lending program, which has taken off with great success. This was implemented as a result of requests from students for computers to use on the 3rd and 4th floors of the library, after all

desktop computers on those floors were moved to lower floors in order to install more semi-private furniture which students have been requesting for some time. The Library has also done a Reference Realignment of its print collection, and opened up more space for student study on the second floor. If you have not yet had a chance to see all of the new spaces and furniture available in the Library, please come over and take a look.

- The Library has launched its first open access, peer-reviewed journal through ValpoScholar, *The Journal of Tolkien Research*, edited by yours truly. The editorial board will be able to publish content immediately after acceptance of final copy, and those interested in the journal will automatically receive notice when new content is published. Journal articles will be bundled yearly into an issue for digital preservation and documentation purposes.
- Finally, I invite you to read about other events and activities that occurred in the Library. As always, if you have any questions or would like to consider donating to the Christopher Center Library, you can contact me directly at (219) 464-5099 or brad.eden@valpo.edu.

Library Hosts Virtual Reality Night



by Detra Becker, Administrative Assistant

They are super awesome and realistic.” “I am speechless.” “They got my inner nerd excited...” These are a few of the many student comments made during the April 9 Virtual Reality Night hosted by the Christopher Center to introduce students to the recent purchase of a 3-D Visbox and Oculus Rift goggles, now housed on the



first floor of the library.

Between 40-50 students participated in the event that ran from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Two programs were demonstrated: the popular video game Skyrim was featured on the Visbox and a Blue Marble program was available on the Oculus Rift goggles. With the Blue Marble program, the user gets a visual experience of being an astronaut shot out of a space station where he or she can look around to see the earth, moon, sun, asteroids and satellites.

Student participants were asked to fill out surveys which included the following three questions:

1) What do you think of the Visbox and Oculus Rift

goggles? 2) Can you envision any use of this equipment in student projects and/or research? If so, how? 3) What other activities would you like to see with this equipment? While most reported they love the gaming aspect and want to see other cool applications from the equipment, they also noted they would like to see the equipment used in an academic-program setting, especially in the health science fields.

More information and further showcasing of the equipment will be available in the fall.



Valpo Authors' Reception Showcases Valpo Scholarship



by Jonathan Bull, Scholarly Communication Services Librarian

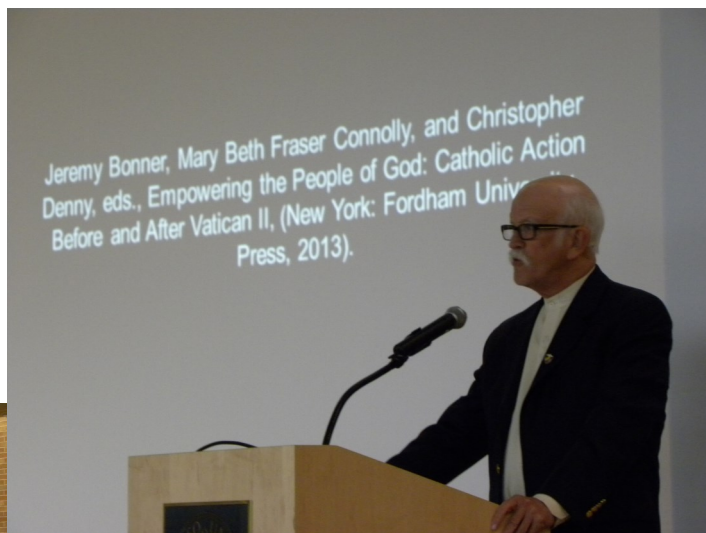


On May 1, 2014, Christopher Center Library Services hosted the 14th Annual Valpo Authors' Reception. CCLS collected 108 pieces of scholarship for the January - December 2013 period, including books, book chapters, articles, creative works, and a few conference proceedings. This scholarship was authored by 76 Valpo authors, editors, co-authors, and co-editors.

The event was emceed by Brad Eden, Dean of Library Services, with remarks by Mark Schwehn, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Each of the academic deans (or his or her representative) also attended, reading citations of their unit's work. More than 50 Valpo authors attended the reception. Among them was Marci Johnson (English), who published 13 poems and a book of poetry this past year. Two scholars, Walt Wangerin (English/Theology) and Mary Beth Fraser Connolly

(Christ College/Lilly Fellow), had two books either authored or edited, while Peter Venturelli (Sociology) had the 12th edition of his textbook *Drugs & Society* honored.

The winner of the \$1,000 Library Award for Undergraduate Research was also announced. Among the 10 diverse entries, Lucas Phillips won for his work "Congress Shall Make No Law: The Sedition Act of 1798 and the Contentious Struggle for Free Speech in Early America."



Library Enters into Therapy Dog Partnership



*by Ruth Connell,
Electronic Services Librarian*



organization and went through the process to have him certified. This certification involved both medical tests and several visits to a nursing home for observation. Buck passed with flying colors.

*Some regulars started
calling Tuesdays “Dog
Days.”*

Kholamian provides her pet therapy service on a volunteer basis and her interest in pet therapy predates Buck.

“Hello, my name is Jessica Kholamian and I am currently enrolled in Valparaiso University's College of Nursing. I am contacting you with a proposition for the Christopher Center. I think it would be beneficial to the university if the Christopher Center had a pet therapy program for the students.” So began an email the library received in December 2013 and the library’s new pet therapy program.

Kholamian, a rising senior, is the owner of a three-year-old German Shepherd named Buck whom she adopted as a puppy. She conducted all his training and when Buck was two, contacted a therapy dog

“This is actually something I've always wanted to do, especially with a ‘bully breed’ to show that any dog can be a therapy dog with proper socialization and training. I come from a family who has always had animals, which has had an impact on my decision to get involved with pet therapy work. Also, I became certified as a nurse's aide in high school and was able to see, during my clinicals at a nursing home for that certification, how therapeutic an animal could be in healthcare. I remember seeing that and thinking to myself ‘There it is! That is the perfect way to combine my two passions in life, animals and caring for others. So once I found Buck, I put two and two

together and the rest is history.”

The pair set up regular office hours in the library during the spring semester. Every Tuesday evening for two hours, they sat in the 2nd floor fireplace lounge and took visitors. Initially, they saw between 10-15 students and faculty during their visits, but after word got out about the program, attendance doubled. Some regulars started calling Tuesdays “Dog days.”

This interaction extended outside of the Tuesday evening sessions. When Kholamian and Buck walked around town, people would roll down their car windows and yell, “Hi Buck!”

Kholamian said there have been many memorable interactions between Buck and Valpo students. She described one such visit in which a student approached the session looking stressed, fatigued, and maybe even a little depressed. The student did not speak at all and just started petting Buck, who returned the attention with kisses. After a few minutes, the student left, “but you could tell from the student's face that a huge weight had been lifted.”

In addition to their visits to the Christopher Center, Buck and Kholamian regularly volunteer at St. Anthony's Hospital of the Franciscan Alliance where they visit with patients, family members, and employees.

Whether the impact is large or small, Kholamian's goal is to benefit those in need of comfort from a pet. When she transferred to Valparaiso University last year and was living on campus, “the hardest thing was not having something that felt like home. It's something I would have loved when I was in the dorms last year, and it would have been an outlet that would've provided me with that little piece of home that I desperately needed.” Through this program, Kholamian is fulfilling that need for others.

*Buck and Jessica will be back
fall semester!*



Need a therapy dog?

Tuesdays, 5 - 7pm
Christopher Center,
2nd Floor Fireplace Lounge

Fill your prescription for snuggles





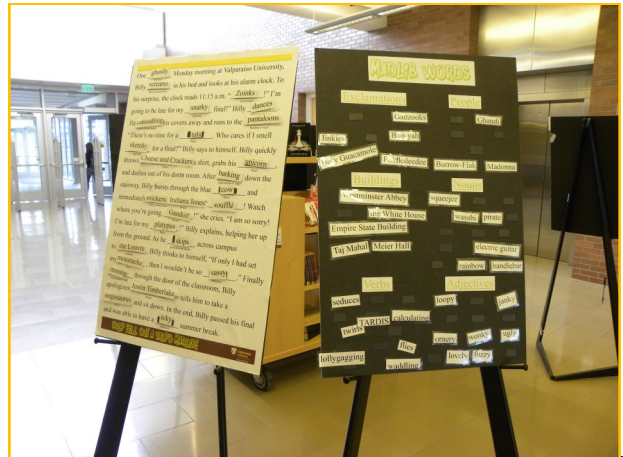
Library Display invites Students to be Kids Again

by Rachael Muszkiewicz, Research Services Librarian

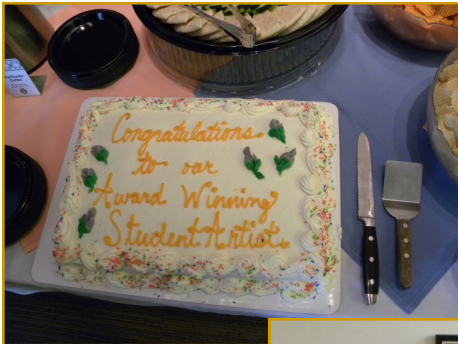
During spring finals week, the library hosted an entertaining display for Valpo students to take a break and be a kid again. In this display, students had the opportunity to enter coloring and caption contests, play a Valpo-centric MadLib, share what they'll be doing on summer break, identify a 1990's problem, pop some bubble wrap to relieve stress, as well as check out fun DVDs and books. This display proved so popular that its organizers needed to provide additional writing space and bubble wrap posters

throughout finals week. Numerous pops could be heard at any time of the day.

In addition, the library premiered a story hour program consistent with the childlike nature of the display. Librarian Rachael Muszkiewicz read a number of children's stories to students during the evening, right before finals began, while students listened and enjoyed milk and cookies.



Library gives new Award in the Arts



by Rachael Muszkiewicz, Research Services Librarian

This year the Christopher Center Library, in collaboration with the Valpo Art Department, and specifically Art Department chair Aimee Tomasek, created the Library Student Art Purchase Award. This is an annual award offered to art majors or minors who professionally present their work to the award committee. The committee has \$1000 to spend on the purchase of original student art, which students will finish (mat and frame) once the choices are made. The selected student art becomes part of the Christopher Center's permanent collection. Within the Art Department, there had not been an opportunity to learn about the process of finishing a piece and having a professional presentation as an artist to a

client within a course; this award helps to complete the Art Department's pedagogy in this respect. Student art will be located in the second floor fireplace lounge for the first year of exhibition and then will be moved to appropriate places within the building for permanent placement. Over the summer, a permanent online gallery will be created, which will allow those not in the building to appreciate the art. On April 28th, the library hosted a reception for the award which was attended by students, faculty and families of the artists, about 40 in all. With many walls in the library lacking art, the library is looking forward to the fruits of this continuing award.

Profile: The Cardigan Crusader



Height: 24 inches, including plume

Identifying Characteristics: Shield of Character, cardigan, fierce devotion to the Christopher Center Library

Likes: Research, information, fun

Dislikes: Illiteracy

What's your role at the library?

I'm kind of the unofficial mascot of the Christopher Center Library; I do a lot of PR. I'm the current star of the library's [Instagram account](#).. If you haven't seen it, you should!

Do you ever hang out with the big Crusader?

Not as much as I'd like! But yes, we're close (see picture).

What's an item from your bucket list?

It probably isn't possible, but I'd love to skydive from the 4th floor terrace of the Christopher Center.

You work in a library, what's your favorite book?

I honestly don't think that I can choose just one. There is a special place in my heart for Dr. Seuss' Hop on Pop, however!



Our faculty and staff showing their "Proud to be Valpo" spirit!



Faculty Profile: Ruth Connell



implement a new feature on our website, something I haven't done before. I enjoy trying to make things work the way we want them to work. I love that stuff."

"At VU, there is a sense of community. I like the fact that I can walk across campus and know people by name."

Professor Connell joined the Valpo faculty in 2000. She began as the Reference Services Coordinator, but in 2006 switched to Electronic Services, where she currently leads the library's web site team, coordinates digitization projects, conducts database maintenance and negotiations, manages the integrated library system's public interface, and oversees the Interlibrary Loan Department.

This shift in position focus is one of the things she loves about working at the Christopher Center. Her personal interest in information architecture and website work was cultivated and she was able to rewrite her job description to fit her interest as well as to fill a need in the library.

"If you are passionate about something here, you can do it. I like that freedom. There aren't a lot of bureaucratic levels that you have to go through to get things done, things that you want to do," she said.

A prolific writer and scholar, Prof. Connell's research interests include interlibrary loan and delivery methods, web design, google analytics, and social networking. One of her most recent research projects influenced her work with the university-wide Faculty Concerns Committee. As a member of



by *Nora Belzowski*,
Research Services Librarian

Between the years 2000 and 2009, Professor Ruth Connell ran 14 marathons, some on trails and some on roads. She ran a half marathon four months after the birth of her son.

Prof. Connell is energized and inspired by these sorts of challenges, tests that require commitment, attention to detail, and problem solving. She applies this energy to her work as a member of the library faculty and to the larger VU community.

"I really like programming or when I'm trying to

the committee, she spearheaded a project that was a natural extension of her scholarship, researching maternity and paternity policies for academic librarians. She became interested in the subject after the birth of her two children, Ryan (3 years) and Nathan (15 months).

“After I started this research, we had some faculty at VU express concern about how parental policies are applied here. Having my children influenced my research and, in turn, my involvement on the committee. I took a lead on this.”

Guided by Prof. Connell, the Faculty Concerns Committee created a task force that has been investigating family friendly policies, including parental leave and tenure-clock stoppage, to try to develop equitable and more generous policies at VU.

Prof. Connell considers this important and potentially impactful work her cause.

“It has been a major undertaking. I’m hoping good comes out of it.”

The work is ongoing, but if anyone can get to the finish line, it will be Prof. Connell.

Recent Faculty Publications

Kimberly Whalen, Research Services Librarian

Patricia J. Mileham, Director of Research Services

Is Their Foundation Solid Enough to Build On: An Investigation into the Information Seeking Skills and Self-Efficacy Levels of New Nursing Students presented at the Medical Library Association Annual Conference, 5/14.

Brad Eden, Dean of Library Services

Visualizing library space for constituents: a 3D representation of space changes in the Christopher Center Library at Valparaiso University. In M.K. Aho & E. Bennet (Eds.), *The Machiavellian librarian: winning allies, combating budget cuts, and influencing stakeholders*, p. 117-24 (Chandos Publishing, 2013).

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Mission Statement

The Christopher Center Library Services (CCLS) provides active learning environments in which students, faculty, and staff use innovative tools and resources to create and access information intelligently, efficiently, and with integrity.