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## Friends of the Library Newsletter Spring 2011

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## Friends of the Library

SPRING 2011

### Friends of the Library Endowment Luncheon

The Friends of the Library luncheon is on Tuesday, April 12, noon to 1:30 p.m., in [Upper Gwinn Commons](#) on the campus of Seattle Pacific University. This fundraising luncheon to support the Library endowment is complimentary and open to the general public.

The keynote speaker is Jeffrey Overstreet, a gifted speaker on the topic of faith, culture, and the arts. He will share a presentation called "We Are Also Five: How to Play Without Ceasing." In this talk, he considers the ways in which play, imagination, fairy tales, poetry, and -- yes -- librarians can contribute to a lifetime of faith and hope. He is a contributing editor for SPU's [Response magazine](#), an award-winning film critic, and author of *Through a Screen Darkly* and a four-volume fantasy series called *The Auralia Thread*.

Funded by donors who give \$250 or more each year, Friends of the Library support the SPU Library collection. RSVP by April 4 by calling 206-281-2413 or emailing [maassr@spu.edu](mailto:maassr@spu.edu).

### Archives



The SPU library has restarted the Seattle Pacific University Archives. Archivist and librarian Adrienne Meier is laying the groundwork for what will be a notable paper and digital archive.

Elizabeth Knight, a "visiting archivist," is working with Meier on establishing nationally accepted procedures and software, and giving advice on how best to approach the backlog of material. Knight is working with several Pacific Northwest colleges

and universities, helping each to develop good working practices for their "emerging archives."

This "visiting archivist" program is grant-funded, and managed by the Northwest Digital Archives, a division of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. The result is that SPU is well on its way toward taking care of its institutional history. A new archives office and research room will be built this summer in the library's Lower Level. The intent is not only that the SPU Archives will keep and organize paper and digital documents, but also that some of this collection will be used by some students as part of undergraduate research.

### Online vs. Print Costs

Liaison librarians buy the content and the format used by their disciplines. In the sciences, faculty and students prefer to read online journals rather than paper journals or books.

Online journals are often more expensive than paper, which makes it hard to shift the format to online. A subscription to the journal *Science* costs \$910/year in paper -- and \$5,645/year online.

That is why we have started the Friends of the Library endowment.

### Library Numbers

In academic year 2009-10:

**253,294**  
people entered the library.

**53,272**  
books were checked out.

**185**  
information literacy classes were taught by librarians.

**8,343**  
reference questions were answered.

### Orbis Cascade Alliance

There are **36** colleges and universities in the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

## News From the Lower Level



The SPU library is doing what so many other academic libraries are also doing, and that is discarding unused paper journals, and turning former storage space into a different kind of student learning space.

Often these reclaimed spaces have lots of computers, places for group study, and available assistance. Two local universities have opened such spaces this year: the University of Washington

opened its "Research Commons," and Seattle University opened its "Learning Commons."

The north end of the SPU Library Lower Level is becoming a similar place. Journal titles, which the library now owns in electronic format, are being removed from the shelves. This summer some more shelving will be removed. By Autumn Quarter the tables will be rearranged, some new equipment introduced, and student workers trained to give assistance.

Students who want to edit video, collaborate to make PowerPoints, or do research, and need table space and big screens, will find this part of the library to be a great place. It is also visually pleasant, surrounded with windows. Ryan Ingersoll is the coordinator of this area, and has lots of ideas for how to make a studio where students can learn with technology.

## Student Art Sculptures Hit the Books



At the end of Winter Quarter, the Library turned into an art gallery for several days, displaying the student art projects from Professor Roger Feldman's 3-D sculpture class. Such displays have occurred at the end of many quarters.

Early in the quarter the students look at spaces in the library where they would like to display their creations; then they make something for that space. There are always witty, clever, and

whimsical projects, and the whole effect is to liven up the Library at the end of each quarter.

Some quarters Professor Daniela Geleva's nutrition class displays its poster projects in the Library, coordinated by librarian Liz Gruchala-Gilbert. This too is a good use of the library as a place to display student work.

## Connect

- The Library hosts a lunchtime series, [Thursday Food for Thought](#), in which faculty and staff read from their recently published or about-to-be published books and writings. The series, which runs during the school year, is open to the public.
- The [Friends of the Library](#) group consists of individuals who have contributed to the Library's endowed fund. If you are not already a member of the Friends of the Library, or have not yet renewed your annual membership, you can join by going to the SPU [online giving](#) page (under step 1, click on "other" and key in "Friends of the Library") and pay your

Combined, there are **28 million** books.

SPU patrons checked out **6,523** books from other Alliance libraries.

The SPU library shipped **6,503** books to other Alliance libraries.

\$250 by credit card.



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