

Fall 2003

## Ex Libris, Fall 2003

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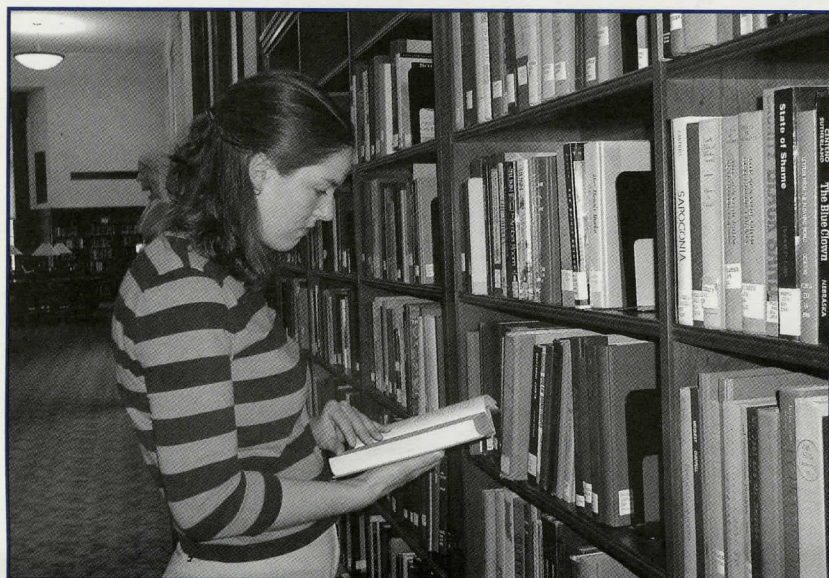
# Ex Libris

Newsletter of the West Virginia University Libraries

Fall 2003

www.libraries.wvu.edu

## Students and Faculty Find a Home in Wise



A student browses the shelves for a title in the Robinson Reading Room. The space houses part of the Libraries' literature collection.

An exam fast approaches, and a student quietly studies in the James V. and Ann Pozega Milano Reading Room. No computer is near, just a stack of books, notes, and a Craftsman-style table lamp illuminating the pages.

The light is new, but the table and chair where she's sitting are original to the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library. The addition is part of an extensive, one-year renovation project focused on preserving the traditional appearance of the 70-year-old library while making it functional for today's students.

Based on the crowds who began flocking to the space when the doors opened in January 2003, the results have been a success.

## Wise Rededication Celebrated October 4

The WVU Libraries celebrated the rededication of the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library on October 4.

The ceremony was held at 11:00 a.m. in the Milano Reading Room, followed by a reception in the Robinson Reading Room. Tours were given of the West Virginia & Regional History Collection, featuring the Davis Family Galleries and the Stealey Manuscripts Reading Room.

Provost Gerald E. Lang was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Also speaking were Professor Emeritus Armand Singer and WVU President David C. Hardesty, Jr.

Guests saw the new Wall of Honor in Wise Lobby, recognizing supporters of the Libraries. Book endowments and other gifts and pledges are listed on the Wall.

Wise Library, built in 1931, closed in January 2002 to undergo an extensive renovation project. It reopened for use in January 2003.

Elizabeth Lee, a doctoral student in history, rarely visited Wise Library before the facelift. Now, she can regularly be found camped out in the Milano Room.

"Since you renovated Wise, it's been great working here. There's so much light. The chairs are more comfortable," Lee said. "This is my favorite place in the library to study."

She finds the area more conducive to studying, and being a historian, she likes the more traditional look.

"I was at Cambridge before I came here. It definitely has that old English college feel to it," Lee said.

In agreement is Jane Rago, who's pursuing her Ph.D. in English. She appreciates having the soft chairs to relax in while reading her many assignments.

"It makes working here so much easier. The room is inspiring," Rago said.

Renovated Wise has two main reading rooms.

In its former life, the Milano Room served as the reference room. It was also the place where more than 60 years ago James V. Milano approached Ann Pozega and asked her to a movie at the Metropolitan Theater on High Street. Their romance story continues today. The Milano Room houses the 5,000-volume Appalachian Collection.

On the opposite side of the building is the Robinson Reading Room. Once the home of the government documents collection, the room now honors James Robinson, who served 14 years as president of the WVU Foundation. The Robinson Room contains a large portion of the literature collection.

In both reading rooms, wooden bookshelves now line the walls and portraits of past University presidents adorn the spaces above the shelves. The original tables and chairs have been refinished and have gained two additions: reading lamps and Internet drops that allow laptop users to connect to the Web. Great care was taken to hide the drops to preserve the ambiance of a traditional reading room.

Adding to the atmosphere, both rooms have two clusters of soft lounge chairs with each chair flanked by a floor lamp matching the style of the table lamps.

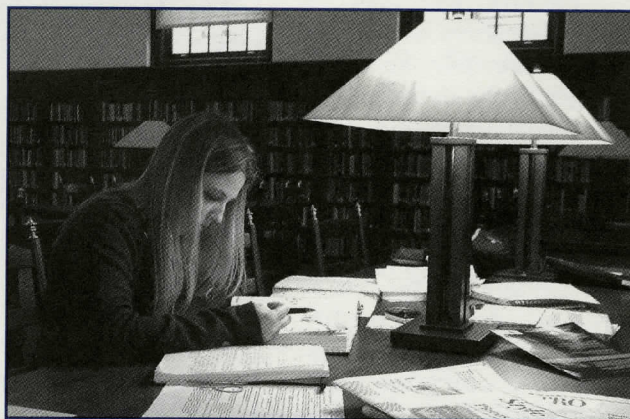
The two rooms are connected by the original Wise lobby, which also underwent a lengthy restoration process. Workers paid particular attention to the majestic green marble archways and the intricate multi-layered ceiling molding. Crews also cleaned and polished the grillwork on the back wall. New black and white floor tiles complete the lobby and contribute to its formal style.

The end result is a scholarly environment that preserves the building's history. It's an effort that makes Associate Dean Myra N. Lowe proud. She's been with the library for three decades and saw the potential in the wooden tables and chairs that had begun showing their age. So she finds it especially gratifying to hear others who recognize the craftsmanship and aesthetic beauty of the library. Visiting alumni often share with her how they dropped in to recapture some memories from their days on campus and were touched to see the reading rooms.

Lowe agrees completely.

"I'm so pleased with how it turned out," Lowe said. "Literally everyday, I take a few minutes to walk up to one of the reading rooms because I feel inspired when I look at them. They provide such a beautiful traditional library setting."

Renovations to Wise also allowed the West Virginia and Regional History Collection to return to its original home on the sixth floor. In 1980, space limitations forced the Collection to move across University Avenue to Colson Hall.



Both the Robinson Reading Room and the Milano Reading Room quickly became a second home to many students seeking a quiet place to study. Here a student spreads out her books, papers and notes to prepare for an exam.

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# Ex Libris

## WVU Libraries Add Benedum Series Lectures to Offerings

Still in high school when Henry Louis Gates visited campus to explain the complexities of politics and diversity in the new century?

A night class prevented you from hearing Terence Martin Keane talk about terrorism, war and trauma?

Live on the other side of the globe?

None is a hindrance any longer to watching a Benedum series lecture. WVU Libraries have made nearly 90 Benedum Lecture Series presentations available to the public over the Internet.

"We are pleased to make these important lectures more accessible," Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said. "Digital libraries mean new life for unique collections like this."

The Benedum Lecture Series was originated two decades ago by then Benedum Professors who had interest in fostering an enhanced intellectual dimension for the University.

C.B. Wilson, associate provost for academic personnel, is pleased a larger audience will now benefit from the lecture series. He has played a central role in the Benedum Lecture Series and the effort to make recordings of the lectures available online.

"The more convenient archival availability of the lectures will mean increased knowledge and understanding of the issues discussed for students, faculty, staff, and the general public," Wilson said.

"Although sometimes not as visible in the media as some of the speakers on the spring semester Festival of Ideas Series, the speakers of the

Benedum Series have been highly knowledgeable in their fields and are often world-class experts."

Their insight can be seconds away for the inquisitive, literally.

Regardless of location, anyone with a high-speed Internet connection can access the lectures via two paths.

The following website contains a list of the lectures: <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/digital>

Users can also retrieve a lecture through an online search of the MountainLynx Catalog on the WVU Libraries' website: [www.libraries.wvu.edu](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu). This route lets the user find a lecture the same way as finding a book - simply type the speaker's name in the search field. Clicking on the listing for the lecture activates the digital file.

First-time users must download a Cisco IPTV plug-in to enable them to view the lectures. No additional software is required after that initial download.

While bringing a lecture onto the screen takes only moments, the process up to this point took months. Last fall, Libraries staff began digitizing videotapes of the lectures. Staff then cataloged each lecture so it could be retrieved using MountainLynx.

Dennis Newborn, head of Systems for the Libraries, is excited to see the new technology at work.

"This is intellectual property of the University, which was essentially on VHS tapes in boxes and basically unavailable," Newborn said. "Now they are

available all over the world."

This project is part of a national trend of academic libraries to develop digital content and online services from their local collections.

People are changing the ways they find and use information. A recent national survey of 400 research universities shows students and faculty today feel comfortable with library electronic resources and use them substantially.

The same is evident here with the popularity of online journals and other digital resources the WVU Libraries provide.

"Library use is changing, not diminishing," O'Brien said. "The Internet has changed the way people use the library, but has not made the library obsolete."

Before placing the Benedum Lecture Series online, WVU Libraries successfully ventured into the electronic domain with the Electronic Reserve and Electronic Theses and Dissertations project. Future applications are already in the planning stages.

"We look forward to digitizing more of our unique library resources, both for broadening access and for preservation," O'Brien said. "We're interested not only in print, but audio and video collections, and especially in items from the West Virginia and Regional History Collection and other special collections."

For more information on the WVU Libraries' online exhibits: [www.libraries.wvu.edu/exhibits](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/exhibits)

## WVU Libraries Add Online Image Database to Offerings

Manual typewriters, record players, and 8 mm film projectors have all gone the way of the 8-track tape player. For some instructors in the WVU College of Creative Arts, slide projectors can now join the list.

A partnership between the WVU Libraries and the Division of Art has established an online database of images that can be used in and out of the classroom. The database will also be used for teaching Distance Learning courses.

"It's going to be most beneficial on the students' side because they will be able to study the images that are assigned from anywhere they have Internet access," said Beth Royall, creative arts librarian. "So no longer do they have to go to a room in the CAC to study physical slides."

The database, which uses software developed and given away by James Madison University, debuts during the fall semester with close to 2,500 images.

Royall explained that faculty and staff would be able to use the database to create and store slideshows of up to 50 images each. An instructor could show the images during class and then allow students to access them later via the Internet. Students would use a password just like they do when retrieving items from the Libraries' Electronic Reserves.

For the instructors, the database eliminates the hassle of dealing with physical slides. Division of Art Chair Sergio Soave welcomes the change.

"Currently we use 35 mm slides, which can vary and change in quality and are at risk for loss or damage," Soave said. "Slides can only be used by one faculty member at a time and with multiple sections of art history being offered, become impractical."

Another enhancement is organization. Rather than sifting through slides and holding them up to a light one by one to see the image, an instructor can find a particular slide with only a few clicks by using a keyword search.

A keyword search will find all works by a particular artist, in a particular style, or other parameters. For example, searching for Rembrandt would retrieve 17 images, while searching under 17th century Dutch would net 36 images.

The software also enables faculty to create interactive lectures. The instructor or student can zoom in on a part of a picture to focus on its details, and the person creating the slideshow can embed important information about the work on each image.

Faculty will also be able to archive slideshows for future use and add images to the database.

Soave expects the database to change the way art history and studio courses are taught at the University.

"Faculty will be able to present better quality images to the students, discuss work with more information on hand, and expect students to further study each work of art discussed via web based reviews," Soave said. "It is our hope that this resource

will improve student academic performance in these courses and transform the manner in which they study the visual arts."

Dennis Newborn, head of Systems for the Libraries, shares the enthusiasm. He believes other disciplines on campus will soon find uses for the software.

Closer to home, he knows that the Libraries can put it to good use. He envisions the software being used to preserve and enhance access to any collection acquired by the Libraries, such as the old photographs held by the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.



WVU Libraries played a part in welcoming incoming students during Freshman Orientation this summer. Librarian Susan Arnold answers questions from a new student about library services.





## WVU Libraries Remember Librarian Emeritus

WVU Libraries suffered a great loss earlier this year with the death of librarian emeritus Mildred I. Moyers on February 22.

Associate Dean of Libraries Myra N. Lowe, remembers Moyers as a mentor, role model, and friend who set an example of striving to be one's best in all segments of life.

"For everyone who worked with Mildred, what we most remember about her is how she did everything so well," Lowe said. "Whether in her personal life or professional life, she always sought excellence. She left us a legacy of excellence."

Moyers retired in 1997 with 41 years of services to the WVU Libraries. During her career, she served as assistant circulation librarian, cataloger, chief acquisitions librarian, chief bibliographer and interim head of cataloging. She also taught classes in cataloging and classification for the WVU Library Science Department.

Lowe shared an office with Moyers for about a decade and fondly recalls Moyers detail-oriented nature. Whether she was writing a report or wrapping a gift, everything was organized, accurate, and meticulous.

"She was an excellent role model for how she approached her work," Lowe said. "Everything Mildred did, you knew it was thorough and correct."

She glowed as an individual, too. Lowe found Moyers always to be a positive person who was easy to get along with and never complained. She



Mildred I. Moyers

was a kind and caring person who thought of others and remembered to do the little things, like sending cards on special occasions. And she was very willing to share her expertise.

"Colleagues always felt comfortable going to her to learn something or to have her help solving problems," Lowe said.

Moyers was a long time member of the West Virginia Library Association, which awarded her with the 20th Dora Ruth Parks Award in 1992 for long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.

She served as editor of West Virginia Libraries and the West Virginia Union List of Serials; wrote a chapter on West Virginia union lists published in *Implementing Online Union Lists of Serials: The Pennsylvania Experience*; and compiled *A Brief History of the WV Libraries From 1931*.

Prior to coming to WVU, she was an English teacher and school librarian at Kingwood High School. The Kingwood native graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College and earned a M.A. degree from WVU and a MSLS from Case Western Reserve University.

"She's made a lot of contributions to her profession, not just the one institution where she worked," Lowe said.

Moyers will continue to have an effect on the WVU Libraries. In her memory, friends and family established the Mildred Moyers Library Collection Endowment to benefit the WVU Libraries. Donations to this fund can be sent to the WVU Libraries, P.O. Box 6069, Morgantown, WV 26506-6069.

Checks should be made out to the WVU Foundation with Mildred Moyers Endowment written on the memo line.

### Students and Faculty Find continued from page 1...

The new facility allows a dramatic increase in storage space enabling the WVRHC to consolidate holdings that were formerly spread out among several buildings across campus. Today the public reading area for the WVRHC is on the sixth floor, the fifth floor provides storage for the College of Creative Arts' and the WVRHC's art collections, and floors seven through ten house the archives.

WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert ranks two exhibition galleries among the greatest assets of the new facility. The Davis Family Galleries allow the Libraries to put the treasures of its collection on public display for the first time.

"Unfortunately, until now, these things have been kept primarily in closed storage, available only to researchers on an individual basis," Cuthbert said. "The new Davis Family Galleries will change all that and provide an entirely new educational dimension to our program."

Sketches by David Hunter Strother were on display during the spring semester, and Cuthbert anticipates changing exhibits to focus on different parts of the collection on a bi-annual basis.

"We hope that these exhibits will appeal to a whole new clientele of students and other visitors who are interested in looking at the history of our state first hand," Cuthbert said.

The relocation also made security improve-

ments possible.

In Colson Hall, users of rare and non-rare materials shared the same reading room, which made it difficult to keep an eye on valuable collections in use. The new space in Wise, however, has the Stealey Manuscripts Reading Room, a distinct reading room that can be monitored from several vantage points whenever rare materials are in use.

Renovations to Wise were the second phase in the Downtown Library Complex. The first was the Downtown Campus Library built on the front lawn of Wise. An atrium connects the two buildings.

The Downtown Campus Library opened to students in January 2002. The five-floor state-of-the-art facility has 180 Dell computers with high-speed Internet access, Internet drops at every table and study carrel, 15 group study rooms, five media viewing rooms that enable students to meet in groups to work on projects, and a large group classroom capable of hosting teleconferences.

"It makes me happy that our institution was able to provide a beautiful modern library but also a wonderful renovated facility. It gives students a real choice," Lowe said. "We finally have a facility that is big enough to accommodate the students who want to use the library."

## Donors Make a Permanent Mark on Downtown Campus Library

Hey, that's my chair." It's a statement regularly heard around the Downtown Campus Library.

No need for apologies or to move to another table. Someone just found a chair he helped purchase for the new library.

Prior to opening the doors of the Downtown Campus Library in January 2002, the WVU Libraries and the WVU Foundation launched a campaign to raise funds to furnish the new facility. Depending on the gift, we attached a nameplate honoring the donor to a chair, table, or study carrel.

The effort exceeded expectations and generated \$166,000 to purchase furniture.

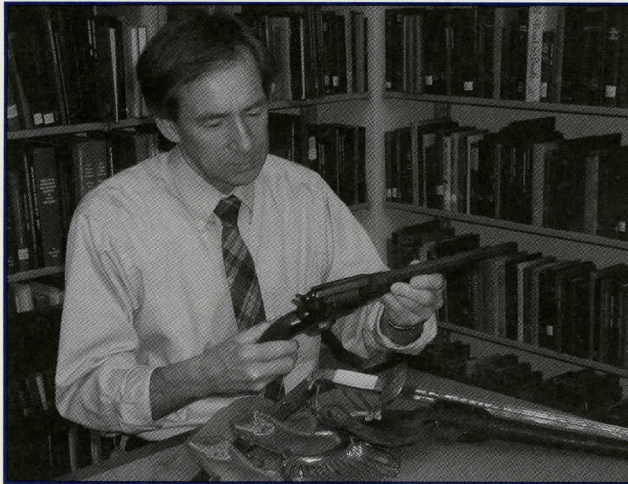
Lyn Dotson, Foundation vice president, attributes the tremendous response to WVU supporters who are generous and savvy.

"Today, people recognize the importance of libraries to the university and the fact that the funding of libraries can no longer rest solely with state-appropriated funds and tuition and fees," Dotson said. "Private dollars are essential to having a quality library, both in facilities as well as holdings."

For more information about existing needs of the Libraries, contact Monte Maxwell, development representative: (304) 293-4040, ext. 4004 or monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu



## Soldier's Sidearm and Sabre Join WVRHC



West Virginia and Regional History Collection Curator John Cuthbert examines a Remington 1858 Army percussion revolver used during the Civil War by Miles Jennings Dahmer, who served in the Virginia Militia and the Confederate Army.

This winter, millions of people across the nation watched the story of General Stonewall Jackson and other courageous soldiers unfold in the Civil War epic "Gods and Generals."

The memory of one of those men who fought on the Civil War battlefields under General Jackson now has a permanent place in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

The WVRHC recently acquired a sword, revolver, and other items belonging to Miles Jennings Dahmer, who was born in 1825 in Upper Tract, Pendleton County, and served in the Virginia

Militia and the Confederate Army.

Michael Ridderbusch, assistant curator of the WVRHC, considers the addition quite a prize because it connects a West Virginian to the Civil War.

"Our mission is to document West Virginians and West Virginia in all ways," Ridderbusch said. "These artifacts were the property of an officer serving the Confederacy during the Civil War."

When the Civil War erupted, Dahmer remained loyal to his state and enlisted as a major in the 46th Regiment of the Virginia Militia.

Serving under General Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, he continued in this capacity until all Pendleton County militiamen were ordered to report to General Edward Johnson's Army of the Northwest the following spring. He was then assigned to the 25th Virginia Infantry.

Among the most valuable artifacts in the collection is an eagle-head sword with a long, finely etched blade and checkered ivory grips. The guard has a chased floral motif and a langet with an eagle and shield. A gilded acorn sword knot is attached, and the scabbard is plain brass.

Paired with this item is a sword belt. The keeper with wreath is missing, but the sword hangers and clips are still attached and the leather is in good condition.

Also at Dahmer's side was a Remington 1858 Army percussion revolver that is in good condition.

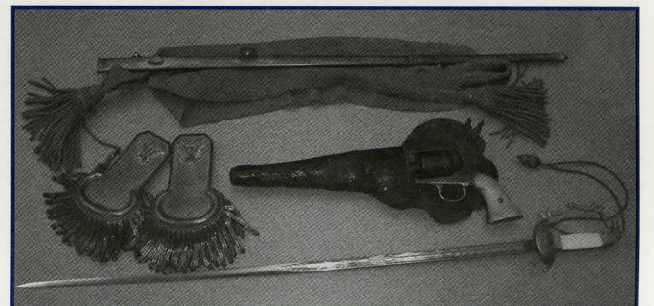
The remainder of the collection includes a red wool officer's sash, epaulettes with rank insignia, and many pieces of personal correspondence including a morning report of the officer of the day

from Dahmer to Major General Jackson, a pay voucher from the Confederate States of America to Dahmer, and a document about a medical furlough signed by a surgeon. Dahmer was wounded during the battle of McDowell in May 1862.

The collection is a gift of Dahmer's granddaughter, Maryan Dahmer, who served as caretaker for the late major's possessions. Surveying her options for handing down the heirlooms, she selected her alma mater, WVU.

A major factor in her decision was the new WVRHC facilities. Dahmer is confident the gifts will be well preserved and available for public viewing. Her greatest fear was they would be stuffed in a box of a large museum.

"I wanted a place where I thought my things would be appreciated and cared for," Dahmer said. "I felt the University was the best place for these family treasures."



Maryan Dahmer, granddaughter of the Civil War veteran, donated several items used by the soldier during battle to the WVRHC.

## Librarian Creating Course on Women in the Information Environment

It's back to the classroom for Carroll W. Wilkinson, head of Access Services at the Downtown Campus Library.

She plans to take a six-month break from her duties to use libraries here and around the country to research material for a course she's creating titled "Women in the Information Environment of the 21st Century."

"It feels like I'm going on an expedition to benefit women's studies and information literacy at the same time," said Wilkinson, the first librarian to take advantage of the University's professional development leave.

This summer, she'll travel to libraries and centers for women's studies at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, the University of Maryland at Baltimore, and the Schlesinger Library for the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College.

The course will be an introduction to the information environment of the 21st century and how to use the available resources to find information of all kinds about women.

From her role as a librarian, Wilkinson knows first hand that gathering information continues to change rapidly. While doing research for her book in the late 1980s, she relied on flipping through card catalogs, traveling to other libraries, and interviewing people in information repositories.

"Now, I am able to stay home and look at the catalogs online," Wilkinson said. "It's really remarkable the way the Internet has changed the

way we go out to retrieve information. I can now look at the card catalogs of 22,000 libraries worldwide simultaneously if I wish."

However, convenience comes with a price. With the whole world only a click away, one must remember to be a little savvy while surfing. Wilkinson worries that students, often times, lack the level of judgment they need in order to objectively evaluate sources of information.

Those concerns aren't new. Well before the digital world took over, Wilkinson advised library users to maintain a skeptical attitude and to challenge acceptance of anything found when reading through journal articles on the printed page. Now, she tells students to do the same when they go online to find sources.

That notion will have a prominent place in the course. To teach about effective library research methods, Wilkinson plans to incorporate the theories of a book that has been on her desk since graduate school.

*The Monteith College Library Experiment* by Patricia Knapp contains 12 assignments to teach college students about using library resources intelligently. The assignments, each of increasing difficulty, were designed to start in the freshman year and run through the senior year. Each is integrated into the curriculum at strategic times.

During her leave, Wilkinson will concentrate on updating the assignments for the digital age. She expects to pick three or four of the assignments for the course, however all 12 revised

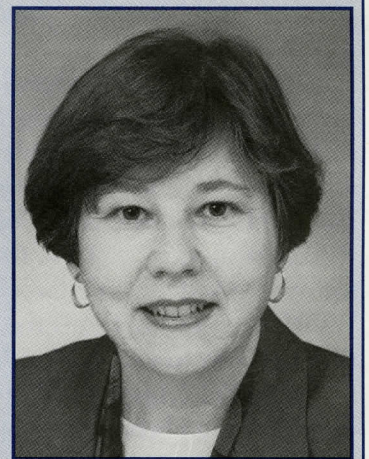
assignments would be available to be used by any instructor on campus.

"This is all about me dreaming about instructional effectiveness and about teaching students to assemble sources from all over the world. I also want to cultivate the judgment they need when they select films, journal articles, and books for their papers," Wilkinson said.

The role of instructor is a familiar one for her. About a decade ago, she taught a course at the University based on research about women in non-traditional fields, the content of which resulted in a book. She has also often served as a guest lecturer for courses in women's studies and other disciplines.

Wilkinson received her Bachelors in music from Wells College and her M.L.S. from Rutgers University and completed additional graduate study at the University of Illinois and WVU.

She came to WVU in 1979 to serve as a reference librarian and Appalachian bibliographer. She is currently head of Downtown Campus Library Access Services and the Depository for the WVU Libraries and is the women's studies bibliographer.



Carroll Wilkinson



## Author Shares Her Story with Friends and Group



Author Marcia Talley (center) with WVU Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien and Marshall University Libraries Dean Barbara Winters.

There was no suspenseful plot or surprise ending, but the first joint luncheon for the Friends of the WVU Libraries and the Marshall University Library Associates received stellar reviews from those who attended.

Dozens of library supporters from both schools came together in April to enjoy lunch at the Embassy Suites in Charleston and to talk about their

interest in libraries and books.

Feeding the audience's intellectual appetite, mystery writer Marcia Talley shared her love for libraries and her dependence on them in crafting her work.

"I think libraries can use all the friends they can get," said Talley. "Libraries are a critical part of the educational fabric of our country."

The author of *Sing it to Her Bones*, *Occasion for Revenge*, and *Unbreathed Memories* credits libraries for helping her pen most of her books. Libraries provide ideas for her plots and allow her to research broad subjects or minute details before putting them on the printed page.

She recalled how a librarian saved her from rewriting an entire section of a novel about a murder that occurred following an Army/Navy game. She had set a scene in a Philadelphia hotel bar with an atrium, but later learned the game was played in the Meadowlands that year. She turned to a librarian to find a similar spot in that city to become

home for the action. All that was required to fix the story was changing the name of the hotel and city.

Talley regularly relies on help from librarians to check details she uses in her stories, such as the weather in Baltimore on a certain date or the description of poisons found at a crime scene.

For that reason, she views WVU Libraries as an invaluable resource for writers in the area. In particular, the West Virginia and Regional History Collection offers endless possibilities for anyone desiring to write about the state or take a stab at a historical novel.

Fiction aside, Talley is a staunch advocate for libraries. A 32-year career as a librarian has taught her about a world of needs people have for a library with adequate resources and knowledgeable staff.

"I know how important it is that libraries be adequately funded so they'll be there for people who need them," Talley said. "Everyone needs a place to go where there are knowledgeable people who can point you in the right direction."

A second joint luncheon is being planned for April 2004. For more information about the Friends of the WVU Libraries: [www.libraries.wvu.edu/friends](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/friends)

## Book Lovers' Road Show Parks at WVU Libraries

Pick up an old book at a yard sale for 25 cents and think you found a treasure? Have a cherished volume your grandfather passed on to you? Curious what they're worth?

If it's a signed first-edition of Ernest Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*, it could net up to \$1,000. Other signed volumes by Papa Hemingway could fetch between \$2,000-\$3,000.

Such a find is rare, hence the lofty price tag. But similar jewels can be found on bookshelves and in boxes everywhere. Just ask Jack Walsdorf, a book appraiser and collector who brought his Book Lovers' Road Show to the Robinson Reading Room of the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library.

English Professor Cheryl Torsney was among 65 people who stood in line to discover if that book handed down from a grandparent or picked up at a yard sale is a treasure.

Torsney has long appreciated the works of Henry James, reading everything James has written and turning students on to his writing. So purchasing an antique set of his works involved a little sentiment.

She knew she found something special and received confirmation from Walsdorf who, with help from WVU Libraries staff, offered appraisals on more than 120 books in a three-hour stretch.

"I was surprised to learn that my set of James's New York Edition has tripled in value since I bought it about 10 years ago," Torsney said. "That makes it a pretty good investment."

Walsdorf is the author/editor of 15 books relating to the history of printing and bibliography. He earned his Masters of Library Science from the University of Wisconsin and has more than 30 years of bookselling experience.

The bibliophile credits a teacher for igniting his

love for reading back in high school. By the end of college, he was an ardent collector and the fever never receded.

Today, he lives in a Portland, Ore., house filled with books. He figures there are at least 7,000 books and 1,000 of them are signed first editions. However, he admits, none are Hemingway, who is among the top five most sought after authors.

"I'm still a real book hunter," said Walsdorf, who estimates his collection grows by 500 books a year. "I only read 100 books a year so I'm running a 400 book-a-year deficit."

That galloping pace is not for everyone, still Walsdorf is quick to stress that book collecting is for everyone and that finances should not be an issue. He believes someone could build a great library with a couple hundred dollars.

The larger investment would be in the form of time poring through stacks of hardbacks at used bookstores, Goodwill, library book sales, and yard sales. And then there are the online sites. But before setting out, do some research.

"There's an interesting phrase in book collecting. It's not the early bird that gets the

worm; it's the bird that knows the worm that gets it," Walsdorf said. "It doesn't matter if you and I are both looking at the same time. What matters is what we know and our interests."

Persistence also plays a part. One must be willing to pick up literally hundreds of books before finding that sought after one.

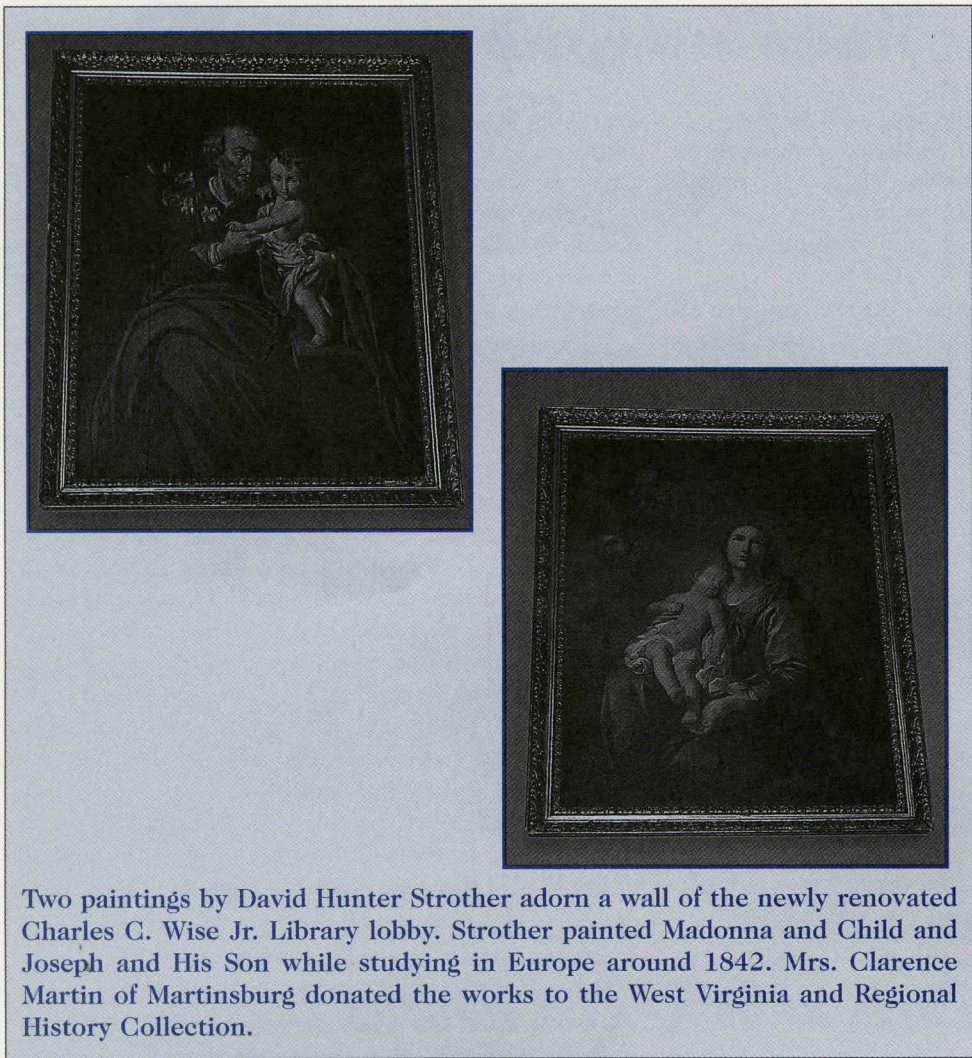
"There's always something buried, but you have to look," Walsdorf advises.

This event was his first stop in North Central West Virginia. Dean Frances O'Brien said the Book Lovers' Road Show will become an annual event for the WVU Libraries.



Book Appraiser Jack Walsdorf talks with Traude Martin about the book she brought to the event.





Two paintings by David Hunter Strother adorn a wall of the newly renovated Charles C. Wise Jr. Library lobby. Strother painted Madonna and Child and Joseph and His Son while studying in Europe around 1842. Mrs. Clarence Martin of Martinsburg donated the works to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

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