From the University Librarian

by Bil Stahl

June 2007

I recently read the book, *Confronting Reality*, written by noted business consultant, Ram Charan, and retired CEO, Larry Bossidy. While the book is totally focused on the corporate sector, it should give anyone responsible for positioning an organization for the future much to contemplate. Two of the book’s main premises are: that the rate of change is accelerating (meaning organizations will have to reposition themselves much more often than in the past) and that organizations will have less and less time to correct their approach if they make a mistake in their repositioning. The authors imply that not only are the rules changing rapidly, but the games are too. You may be following the rules well, only to find out you are in a very different game.

The authors’ metric for being successful is very simple – is the corporation profitable and can it sustain profitability? How I wish that judging the success of an academic library were so simple! Defining the success metrics for libraries is, I believe, one of the most pressing and difficult tasks before us. We must do it quickly and we may not have much of a second chance to do it well. The so-called metrics of the past – number of books circulated, gate counts (number of people entering the library), and number of reference questions – are not very meaningful.

I have mentioned in previous columns that Hunter Library is aggressively moving to be as integrated into the overall function of the university as possible. We have many “information management” skills that we can use to provide

Continued on page 3
Library as Elysium: Art in Hunter Library

by Brandon A. Robinson

It was a clear late summer day in Bryson City, 2002, at one of those reflective moments that seem to unite the sum of human experience. Cathryn Griffin, Professor of Art at Western Carolina University, walked through one of the town’s cemeteries when she saw a headstone of a family, surnamed “Quiett.” “I can still remember what that day sounded like and smelled like,” she said. Cathryn photographed the scene, now depicted on Hunter Library’s ground floor as a part of our new “Arts in the Library” initiative.

Cathryn Griffin’s “Quiett” is a chromogenic print—made from a color negative—that was first displayed in an art exhibit by retired Hunter librarian, Nan Watkins. Bil Stahl saw the print and was interested in purchasing it for the library. Cathryn felt that the reflective perspective spoke to a library’s mission: “I think that a library should be the soul of a community, and one shouldn’t just take from it, but also give back to it. I think it is the perfect place for the piece because it works on so many levels—emotional, spiritual—and that means a lot to me as an artist.”

Cathryn has taught photography at Western since 1985. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale University. Her work has been featured at galleries in New York City, New York State, Massachusetts, and throughout the Southeast. She has published in several art and photography magazines and has previously received a Ford Foundation grant.

“Art raises your consciousness, and what better place is there to do this than in a library?” Cathryn asks. “People who go into libraries may not necessarily go to art galleries, so the artist is able to reach a far broader audience. As an art professor, practicing and doing art informs my teaching. If you’re not teaching by example, you shouldn’t be in higher education.”

One of Cathryn’s former students, who has followed her example, is Michael Campbell, whose work has also been featured in “Arts in the Library.” Michael graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in December 2006 and is presently living and working in Alabama. From January to July 2007, the library displayed several photographs from his trips to Angers and Caen, France; Asheville, North Carolina, and the state of Georgia. These works are mounted on canvas and present a unique depiction of different states of consciousness. “I like to do a lot of reflective work—art that captures reflection—with images that we see everyday, but don’t pay attention to all the time.” Michael finds inspiration in small details, such as a water puddle: “It holds a reflection, and there’s actually a lot of information stored in it. That’s also the case with mirrors and windows.” Michael is currently doing a reflection piece on an ocean view from Croatia.

Concurring with his professor, Michael stresses how “Arts in the Library” adds both a conceptual and human dimension to library as place: “Over the four years I went to Western, I often walked into the library, and didn’t see any art; I saw an opening and said, ‘This is something we can really get started. We should begin here, where the art really begins.’” Moreover, he believes that allowing students particularly the chance to contribute is “different than just a poster that sits there; there’s a real person on campus producing real work.”

Spearheading “Arts in the Library” is Alessia Zanin-Yost, Reference Librarian/Visual and Performing Arts Liaison, who is also an artist and art historian. Both contributing artists have commented on the productive collaboration between Hunter Library and the Department of Art and Design. Cathryn noted that “Alessia was really instrumental in making all this happen. She’s an exceptional member of both the art department and the faculty.”

“Arts in the Library” hopes to not only transform space and cognitive quality within the library, but also provide artists opportunities to feature their work in a place long known as an intellectual commons. At times, the art’s message may be immediate and concrete, but ultimately, as Goethe says, “Beauty can never be clear about itself.”

If you are interested in donating an art work in Hunter Library, please contact Alessia-Zanin Yost at 828-227-3398 or azaniny@email.wcu.edu for details.
Hunter Library Celebrates Encyclopedia of Appalachia for 2007 National Library Week

by Brandon A. Robinson

Hunter Library ended the 2006-2007 academic year with a unique library event. Celebrating the American Library Association’s National Library Week Theme, “Come Together @ Your Library,” the library sponsored “Encyclopedia of Appalachia: A Celebration” at Western’s University Center Theater.

The evening began on a festive note: Hal Herzog and Ian Moore regaled the audience with Appalachian humor and soothed receptive souls with folk music. Hunter’s Associate Director, Eloise Hitchcock, presided over the event and introduced the keynote speaker, Jean Haskell, who spent a decade co-editing the Encyclopedia of Appalachia, a 2006 publication from the University of Tennessee Press. Haskell’s address, “Editor as Mid-Wife: Birthing the Encyclopedia,” was a wide-ranging discourse, covering the planning sessions behind the publication, her role as co-editor, her relationships with section editors and contributors, and subsequent responses from scholarly and popular audiences. Encyclopedia themes from Haskell’s address included stereotypes of Appalachian natives; racial and ethnic diversity within the region; rich varieties of Appalachian humor; advances in geological research in Appalachia; literature and music; and the evolution of educational institutions, such as Booker T. Washington’s Tuskegee Institute.

A panel of section co-editors followed, comprising Western faculty members: Curtis Wood, Professor of History Emeritus; Ms. Anna Fariello, Hunter Library’s Visiting Associate Professor and Craft Revival Project Leader; and Dr. Mary Jean Herzog, Professor of Educational Leadership & Foundations, who also coordinates Western’s Master of Arts in Teaching program. Wood spoke about his experiences in editing the agriculture section, while Fariello and Herzog discussed their editor’s roles in the visual arts and education sections, respectively.

Guests enjoyed questions and answers with Dr. Haskell and the section editors, as well as a book-signing reception afterwards over refreshments. As Eloise Hitchcock remarked in her welcome, “There was no better way to ‘come together’ than to bring scholars, writers, thinkers and informed citizens to Western Carolina University to celebrate this seminal resource of Appalachian history, heritage, and culture.”

“Encyclopedia of Appalachia: A Celebration,” was co-sponsored by The Friends of Hunter Library and the Division of Academic Affairs Visiting Scholars Grant. Western history professor Dr. Tyler Blethen was also instrumental in hosting Dr. Haskell for guest lectures with the department’s Appalachian studies classes.
**Hunter Bids Farewell to Jackson County Patron, Friend of the Library**

In early June, 2007, Hunter Library lost a dedicated, long-time friend in the person of Herbert Marshall Schulman, a life-long resident of Jackson County. Because of his instinctive eye for the historic and the picturesque, Hunter’s Special Collections unit possesses a wonderful collection of regional images.

Herbert Schulman, with his wife Norma Schulman, owned Another World Collectibles for twenty-eight years. It was through this venue that he made available vintage postcards depicting Western North Carolina—some going back as far as 1900. “What was so great about Mr. Schulman’s work was not only his personal knowledge of the area, but also the kind of material he was handling,” Special Collections head George Frizzell said. “He knew how to date the cards, which were always high quality. He was very good at assessing the collectibility of items.” What makes these regional postcards so valuable is that they often depict landscapes in Western North Carolina that are otherwise difficult to obtain.

Jackson County residents may also recognize Herbert Schulman’s name from the book about his father, Sol Schulman: *The Man Who Lived on Main Street* (2003), compiled and edited by Jan Schochet and Sharon Fahner. The elder Schulman operated the famous Schulman’s Department Store on Sylva’s Main Street for over sixty years, beginning in the 1930s. The son also donated his family archive to the Special Collections unit.

Herbert Schulman, like his father before him, will be deeply missed by his native community, but he has left an enduring legacy in his contributions to local history and scholarship. “Over our many years working together, he helped build our collection of images, and I learned a lot from his depth of knowledge, and his conscientiousness,” commented George Frizzell, reflecting on a true friendship between Hunter Library and the local community.

---

**Survey of Graduate Student Satisfaction With Hunter Library**

*By Eloise Hitchcock*

WCU graduate students were recently surveyed in order to learn their level of satisfaction with library services. Ultimate Survey was used to create an online assessment instrument. Invitations were sent to take the survey (via e-mail using a list provided by the Graduate School) of all students enrolled in graduate studies during spring semester 2007. The list contained 1507 addresses, 194 e-mail invitations were returned as undeliverable, making the total successfully sent 1313. The survey was open for six weeks, beginning February 13 and ending on March 27. Several reminders were sent over the six week period, and the survey received 179 responses (13.6%).

The assessment collected a variety of data to determine the general demographics of the graduate students and their library use patterns. Those seeking degrees in education comprise the highest number of respondents, followed by business and health related fields. Most of the respondents are enrolled on a full-time basis, are female, and are working toward a master’s degree. Although 32.1% indicated that they are required to complete a thesis, there were other requirements noted, such as research projects and portfolios. Most respondents indicated that they use WCU’s Hunter Library (76.7%) or UNCA’s Ramsey Library (17%). ABTech, UNC Pembroke, and NCSU were also mentioned. There were no responses from students indicating that they used the MAHEC library. The amount of time spent in the respective library varied with 40% responding that they spend one to two hours per week in the library, and 25.1% responding that they never spend any time in the library. A large majority (98.9%) have access to the Internet and most conduct a significant percentage of their research via a computer outside of the library.

Respondents were asked to rate library collections and services in several categories including access to materials, staff assistance, webpage use, and usefulness of instruction sessions. On a scale from one to five, with one indicating poor and five indicating excellent, the ratings were consistently high with the lowest 3.5 (number of books you have access to in your discipline) and the highest 4.6 (courteousness of the Reference librarians . . .). Respondents also rated Circulation services high from 4.1 (speed of obtaining materials from ASU and UNCA) to 4.4 (courteousness of the Circulation staff). Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery services ranged from 3.6 (ease of locating articles in Ingenta) to 4.1 (courteous of the ILL/DD staff, and convenience of using ILL/DD services).

The survey included two sections seeking comments: “What library resources or services would you most want to change or add and why?” and “We welcome any additional comments you may have to help us improve our services.” A total of 127 comments were recorded. Responses include requests for more books, journals and online resources, as well as information on students’ experiences accessing and navigating library websites and databases. Concerns about study space issues and noise levels were also expressed. There were several complimentary comments about Hunter Library as well as individual staff members.
In Memory of Our Friend, Priscilla Proctor

By Brandon A. Robinson

A long tenure of service and friendship sadly ended as Priscilla Proctor, Library Assistant in Special Collections, passed away on Wednesday, July 11, 2007. Priscilla's departure is most keenly felt among her family and library colleagues, but indeed affects the entire university community.

Priscilla possessed an elegant and commanding deportment, yet she embraced the most democratic of manners. As she once said in a meeting, "I believe in treating everyone the same, regardless of who they are." She was fond of friends; devoted to her son, Kawan Proctor, and infant grandson, Akila Kenyon Proctor; and a loyal friend and companion to her partner, Roger Tate.

Priscilla was also a lifelong student of African-American history, particularly as it related to Jackson County. Shortly before her death, she had discovered the essays of historian John Hope Franklin and the short stories of Charles W. Chesnutt. Her library displays on Cherokee language, the Civil War, Jackson County and WCU history, and her participation in numerous library events, enhanced the library's attractiveness for thousands of patrons. For nineteen years, her research and background preparation for such exhibitions was always meticulous.

Just a week after her peaceful, nocturnal exodus, a large contingent of family, friends, fellow parishioners and colleagues accompanied her on her last trip to Asheville, and laid her to rest; Hunter Library will never be quite the same. Her memory, however, is a perennial conflagration in the hearts of those who loved her, and knew her best.

Just His Words

By Serenity Richards and Kitty Taylor

Author Kurt Vonnegut passed into the undiscovered country of science-fiction in April. Noted for his dark wit and fantastic worlds, Vonnegut is considered one of America's greatest novelists. In approaching a note of remembrance, it seems standard to trace Vonnegut's development and biography, however, similar material can be found in any such article published within the days following his death. We choose to honor Vonnegut with his own words which reflect his distinct sense of humor and morality.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kurt Vonnegut…

"Those who believe in telekinetics, raise my hand."

"Here is a lesson in creative writing. First rule: Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college."

A Man without a Country

"And on the subject of burning books: I want to congratulate librarians, not famous for their physical strength or their powerful political connections or their great wealth, who, all over this country, have staunchly resisted anti-democratic bullies who have tried to remove certain books from their shelves, and have refused to reveal to thought police the names of persons who have checked out those titles."

"I Love You, Madame Librarian"

Following Vonnegut’s death, Hunter Library displayed a collection of Vonnegut's works alongside images from his life. To explore more of Vonnegut’s words, visit the library which has an extensive collection of material ranging from his own titles to leisurely conversations.
Susan Metcalf

Susan Metcalf is Hunter Library’s new Reference Librarian/Social Sciences Liaison. Having held a similar position at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Susan expressed her excitement that Hunter’s post will offer, “opportunities to provide quality data resources” to the university’s social science departments.

Susan was born in Ashtabula, Ohio (on Lake Erie), and spent most of her childhood on the Ohio-West Virginia border—foothill country, so much so that to her, Appalachia “feels like home.” One of her most formative influences was her grandfather, a local politician who served a consecutive twenty-one years on the Ashtabula Board of Trustees: “I think it was just his character that embodied how the world should run—basic honesty, doing what you say you’re going to do, and trust,” Susan explained. Coming to Western North Carolina reminded her of these ideals, for it was, as she said, a place where “the genteel and polite is a part of daily life.”

After a tragic incident ended the lives of several of her high school peers, Susan deeply explored the writings of C.S. Lewis; her thesis on the authors E.M. Forster and Salman Rushdie; among his other favorite world authors are Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Henry David Thoreau being one of his favorites from that time onward. He branched out into world literature, declaring it his major at New College of Florida. Commenting on his love of reading, Kevin noted that “there’s something in books that you don’t get from other parts of our culture—the higher, more civilized parts of who we are as human beings.” Kevin wrote his undergraduate thesis on the authors E.M. Forster and Salman Rushdie; among his other favorite world authors are Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Marcel Proust.

Although she comes from a background that stresses empirical facts, Susan is interested in theory as well as data. “Numerical literacy is something I’d like to pursue,” Susan said. “I’m interested in providing textual support of numbers, instead of numbers for the sake of numbers. It’s really important to teach students the value of what those numbers mean.” Susan plans to draw on her assessment experience to create surveys on statistics use, as well as working with WCU faculty to improve the library’s inventory of statistical sources for the social sciences: “We can do things here in the library, but if what we’re doing does not inform what the social science departments are doing, it does not amount to much.”

Kevin explained. Coming to Western North Carolina reminded her of these ideals, for it was, as she summer/fall 2007
Beth McDonough

Beth McDonough, long-time educator, librarian and leader in the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems, joined Hunter Library as Reference Librarian/Education Liaison. With keen interests in Western Carolina University’s distance education program and Hunter’s curriculum materials collection, Beth wants to continue what she has enjoyed during her entire career in education: “building resources for effective teaching and learning.”

Beth is the daughter of a retired naval captain and traveled widely throughout childhood. As a young adult she spent much time in Florida; recalling those days, Beth said, “I’ve always been an avid reader, and as a child I wanted to be a writer.” Her reading interests include the regional literature of Florida and North Carolina and books set in foreign lands. “Through books, you can travel anywhere through time and space,” Beth said.

Having decided on a school with a top journalism program, Beth attended the University of Florida, where she was the editor of a weekly student paper. Following graduation she worked in advertising, design and layout for several newspapers owned by the New York Times Company; she also served as an account representative. Beth augmented this experience with ten years in public relations—as public relations director at a 55-bed hospital, then as a partner in an advertising agency. In the latter capacity she marketed for small-town events and published for business and individual professionals.

Working briefly for the Hendersonville Times-News, Transylvania County Schools, and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Beth felt the calling of librarianship. She earned her Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro’s program at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. While pursuing her course work she developed strong interests in collection development and children’s and young adult literature. Her thesis proposal focused on content analysis of North Carolina historical fiction as it relates to the eighth grade social studies and language arts curriculum.

The transition from a journalistic to pedagogical career was a lot easier for Beth than most would imagine. For her, it was natural because of the high premium she places on communication: “the ability to clearly communicate an idea is wonderful, because it truly empowers people to become self-motivated, life-long learners.” This is why she has long championed the idea of integrating literature into the public school curriculum, as opposed to exclusive textbook use.

Before coming to Hunter Library, Beth’s educational positions encompassed a wide array of contributions. Beginning as a media specialist at North Canton Elementary School, Beth has also served in similar capacities at Erwin High School, A.C. Reynolds High School, and Asheville Middle School. She has extensive web editing experience and has served as a professional development leader in educational technology integration. In 2004, she earned her National Board for Professional Teaching Certification.

At Hunter Library, Beth is focused on enhancing its role in “integrating information literacy in a distance education environment,” and expanding its Curriculum Materials Center to include virtual curriculum materials in addition to the print collection. Thinking about her role as liaison to Western’s education departments, Beth noted that, in a way, she has been preparing for this very role for much of her career: “the collaborative relationships promoted in the public school system are in fact very similar to those at the University level between reference librarians and the departments they serve under the liaison model.”

Beth lives in Waynesville and is the proud mother of two young sons, Corey and Matthew McDonough. She enjoys cooking, camping, going to the beach, and spending time with family. She remains an articulate voice for educational and cultural activities in Western North Carolina. She is active with the Lake Eden Arts Festival’s LEAF in the Schools and Streets program, and was recently named “Teacher of the Year” by the Asheville Area Arts Council. She is a member of the Shambhala Meditation Group of Asheville and the Blue Ridge Gator Club.

Upon graduation from New College, Kevin had considered a Ph.D. in literature, but began to think of librarianship when his stepmother, also trained as a librarian, suggested a library science graduate program. This was not unduly difficult to decide: he had “always been enamored with books. I’ve always enjoyed being in libraries, and even though I was an active child, I frequented libraries by choice.” After serving as a library assistant at a Sarasota public library, Kevin attended graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. One of his more memorable experiences was an overnight trip to six different libraries; the students exchanged ideas with library directors and project managers, and the trip was informative, Kevin said, on “what to do and what not to do in modern libraries.” He also found his courses in cataloging and library administration as central to his library education.

After obtaining the M.S.L.S. degree, Kevin first worked as Information Services Librarian at a public library in Morganton, North Carolina. The experience taught him that he preferred an academic environment: “The intense focus on learning is a priceless asset of a university setting,” he said. Kevin spent six years as Head of Reference and Instruction and User-Services Librarian. “Because the school was small, I got to learn and do a lot of different things—such as circulation, reference, instruction, inter-library loan, and periodicals,” he recalled. In addition to these, he has been active on American Library Association committees, and has published material on information literacy. On the institutional level, Kevin focused on building productive relationships between teaching faculty and library liaisons at Hollins.

As Head of Access Services at Hunter Library, Kevin believes that the key to his efforts is consistent, high-quality service to library patrons: “The library should help all users, both occasional and habitual. While we definitely appreciate those who come in often to study, I think it is just as important to serve that patron who may only come in two or three times a semester.” In his new role Kevin will also tackle long-term challenges in space planning and the possible relocation of some library service operations. “This is already a great library,” he said. “The staff and the users make it a great library, and when I first visited here I was impressed at how the staff and librarians were focused on making the library better for the patron…I’m glad that I will get the chance to pursue that.”

Kevin is an amateur photographer, and enjoys hiking and gardening, particularly Japanese maples. He is married to Shirl Sazynski, who studied art at the Savannah College of Art and at Hollins University; she specializes in illustration and storytelling through the arts.
"Reading all the great books is like a conversation with the finest people of the past centuries.” Rene Descartes

HUNTER LIBRARY HOURS
Fall Semester 2007

Mon. - Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 1:00 a.m.

Consult the library website for holiday and individual department's hours.

Java City at Hunter Library
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Hunter's Clarion
http://www.wcu.edu/1704.asp

Hunter Library
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

Editor . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . eloise Hitchcock
Technical Editor . . . . . . Brandon A. Robinson

Hunter Library would like to thank Brandon Robinson for his many contributions in his role as Public Relations Assistant for Hunter Library. Brandon is now attending law school at North Carolina Central University. We wish him the best in his endeavors!