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NEWS FROM THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Suzanne Thorin, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries

Suzanne Thorin: An Interview

On October 1, 2005, Suzanne Elizabeth Thorin became university librarian and dean of libraries at Syracuse University. She is also a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet and the Vice Chancellor's Cabinet, and she holds leadership positions in national and international professional associations, including the Association of Research Libraries.

Thorin came to Syracuse from Indiana University, where she was the Ruth Lilly University Dean of University Libraries and associate vice president for digital library development. The Indiana University-Bloomington Libraries—the 12th largest among North American research library systems—are among the finest research libraries in the nation. Previously, from 1980 to 1996, Thorin worked at the Library of Congress in various capacities, including associate librarian and administrator of digital programs.

Thorin received a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in music from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in music from North Park College in Chicago.

Q: What attracted you to this position?

A: The leadership of the new chancellor was what drew me initially. As a matter of fact, when I received the invitation to apply, I put it in my recycle box. Then I remembered that Nancy Cantor was chancellor. I had admired her for a long time, even though I hadn't met her. She had been the guiding force in the affirmative action lawsuits at Michigan. I also knew that she felt strongly that the library is an important component in the academic community. So I fished the invitation out of the box and said to myself, "What *could* you have been thinking? Most university librarians would die for the chance to work with this chancellor."

My second thought was that Syracuse, because it's private, would have more flexibility than a public institution. Though all academic libraries share a similar culture and most are still defined by the size of their collections, I saw an opportunity to move this library into a leadership position not based on its collection size, but based on building a dynamic electronic environment and providing cutting-edge services.

Q: Will you tell us a little about your background?

A: I began as a music librarian in a university. I supervised two support staff and many part-time students and participated hands-on in every library operation. The ten years I spent on the operational level helped me to understand what the staff in the library do every day. My time at the National Library Service for the Blind gave me an understanding of what people with disabilities face. At the Library of Congress I worked with independent scholars over long periods. I worked in special collec-

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tions. I worked with the Congress and also with the General Counsel's office and with Human Resources. Every part of my career has helped me understand libraries and their role in a particular community. There has been no high or low point in my career; rather, I have found all of it very interesting.

Q: You are our university librarian and also our dean of libraries. What is the significance of the second half of your title?

A: I have parity with other deans; I'm one of them. One might say that the "real deans" are the deans of the schools that have students. But the Library is integral to making their schools work effectively. I understand their problems and goals. I see the Library's needs vis-à-vis the needs of the schools and colleges. We're here for them: the Library is not an island.

Q: Why is it important for you to be on the Chancellor's Cabinet?

A: It gives me the opportunity to hear the Chancellor's thoughts, concerns, and frustrations from her own lips. This gives me special energy that I bring back to the Library. Of course, during Cabinet discussions, I learn about all aspects of the University and sometimes have the opportunity to bring the Library to the attention of the Cabinet.

Q: Where do academic libraries need to go?

A: I should tell you that there are fears in many a librarian's heart: we hear that someday no one is

Interim Library Leaders

Before the arrival of Suzanne Thorin, the Library was without permanent leadership for almost two years. During that time Denise Stephens, then William Garrison, ably led the Library, and they deserve the gratitude of the entire University. Stephens, previously associate university librarian for public services, moved the Library forward, especially in the digital arena, while presiding over a difficult transition marked by the illness of university librarian Peter Graham, who died on August 11, 2004.

Stephens left Syracuse in June 2005 to become vice provost for information services at the University of Kansas-Lawrence. Garrison, an internationally known expert on metadata standards who was at that time associate university librarian for information management and system services, succeeded Stephens. On November 16, 2005, Garrison was promoted to deputy university librarian and associate dean of libraries at Syracuse University Library.

going to read print books, that libraries are becoming passé. It's true that many of our scientists do not visit the library anymore because they work online. (Of course, we provide them with their online journal resources!) Sometimes I think we librarians are afraid to give up our process-driven life. What will we do in the future?

In a way Melville Dewey nearly killed the library profession: though he achieved a great deal, he also turned the profession into a servile production-centered environment. That may have

—Suzanne Thorin

been necessary when librarians lived in a world that was focused on processing—acquiring, cataloging, and shelving—books. But before that, librarians were scholars. A new form of librarianship will emerge once we give up our processing role. We need to get back into the scholarship and to understand what the various fields of knowledge mean to students and faculty who are producing research. We shouldn't merely be information brokers or navigators or way finders. We're being challenged to know what knowledge the fields are pursuing—not to duplicate a professor's teaching and research role, but to understand *and* participate in a discipline and also to organize information for scholars and help them find and use it.

We need to listen to students and faculty. And we need to find a way to work with the world as it is. For example, if most of our students use Google to do their research, then what is the relevance of the catalog? Students find a citation for a book on the web. Then they come back and they want to find that book in the library, not just another record of the same book. We need to move our services into a larger environment and eliminate unnecessary research steps for our users.

To bring about needed change in libraries we must transform our thinking. We need an organizational atmosphere that allows change to occur—that gets people asking, "What if we did it this way? How can we change our processes so that we can get the job done better?" "What are our users telling us they need?" This, instead of, "We've got to do it a certain way because we've always done it that way."

Q: What are your thoughts about community outreach?

A: I think Nancy Cantor's emphasis on community outreach is wonderful. We at Syracuse University need to be embedded in the community. We have the opportunity to help revitalize Central New York. One way that the Library is reaching out to the community is through Central New York Reads, led by our

Library Associates. There are other opportunities to explore and consider as well.

Q: What should we know about digital libraries?

A: Digital libraries are no longer just laboratories. It's time to integrate digital technologies into every facet of the library, though there should be a place for trying out new uses of technology. Librarians need to do more individual work with researchers as they create digital scholarship. We need to pull all of our services into the larger digital environment. The whole library should be responsible for digital initiatives; digital libraries shouldn't be off to the side.

Q: Are faculty members resisting any of these changes?

A: Yes, and with good reasons. They're focused on content, and they get frustrated when the apparatus demands more attention than the ideas. Until they can easily understand and use the apparatus, faculty are going to struggle with it or go along as they have for years. Also, tenure standards in many cases are rigid; tenure gatekeepers grew up in another era. Why should faculty members publish in web journals and take a chance that what they've published will be disparaged or not counted in tenure decisions? The disruptive changes going on in libraries are reflected in the academy at large. We are all struggling with rapid change resulting from technological innovations.

Q: What do you say to people who are suspicious of digital libraries?

A: The book won't go away. Thus far, even when a book is online, one doesn't want to exchange a beautiful invention—the book—for a pile of uncollated papers from a printer. I do see print journals going away. I see reasons to have books online for searching. But, overall, I see the online world cohabiting synergistically with print.

Q: What are your ideas about “the library as place”?

A: We must listen to the needs of students and the way they work today, whether they need to study till 4 a.m., sit in lounge chairs instead of carrels, or eat a sandwich in the library. In a library you can integrate materials with staff and information technologies to create a real commons for learning. Students usually don't want to sit alone in a dorm and study. They often want to study next to others in a quiet room. They want very high quality technology and lots of options. Even though students are already comfortable with technology, we have an opportunity to teach them how to find legitimate information on



Frontispiece of *The Reverend J. W. Loguen, as a Slave and as a Freeman: A Narrative of Real Life* (Syracuse: J. G. K. Truair and Co., 1859). Loguen was the chief agent of the Underground Railroad in Syracuse. This book was part of the exhibition titled “*That Laboratory of Abolitionism, Libel, and Treason*”: *Syracuse and the Underground Railroad*, which was held in the Library's Special Collections Research Center from October 1, 2005, through February 15, 2006. During that time SCRC staff conducted more than 60 tours for individuals on their own or affiliated with groups such as OASIS, the Portfolio Club, OCM BOCES, the Onondaga County Public Library, the Community-Wide Dialog to End Racism, and Syracuse University classes. The online exhibition remains on the SCRC web site: <http://scrc.syr.edu>.

the web. Once you provide the right learning environment, people pour into libraries. Meeting faculty needs is more difficult. They want private areas, and they also need spaces for working with each other.

Q: Is the shushing librarian a figure of the past?

A: At Indiana University, when we had a quiet student area, the students monitored it themselves. They'd shush me if I walked into that area and talked. We are trying to provide both quiet and collaborative spaces.

Q: How would you describe the ideal library?

A: It would have up-to-date technology, flexible workspaces, and good collections. Librarians and staff would have close relationships with students and faculty. Every librarian would be a “digital librarian.”

Library Associates Builds Community through CNY Reads

What do you get when you combine a large group of Central New York not-for-profit organizations, a regional author's book about local history, and a yearlong schedule of events centered on the themes and content of the book? A recipe for success for Central New York Reads, the largest "one book, one community" reads program in New York State!

In April 2005 the Syracuse University Library Associates Board of Trustees voted to assume administrative leadership of the program, which was then called "If All of Central New York Read the Same Book." During four previous years representatives of community organizations had come together to plan this program, which promotes reading and sharing of perspectives among local citizens by encouraging them to read the same book and to participate in programs related to that book. Karen Goodman, president of Library Associates, commented, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our group to participate in what is perhaps the premiere region-wide reading initiative in Central New York. With the backing of Syracuse University Library, our group is well prepared to improve upon an already great program and to help raise the profile of Syracuse University Library in the process."

Gregory Griffin, senior director of Library Development and External Relations, and Mary Beth Hinton, associate director, are coordinating the renamed Central New York Reads. Library Associates board members Karen Goodman, Molly King, Sally McDonald, Dorothea Nelson, and Harvey Teres serve on the planning consortium.

Griffin, who served on the consortium in 2004-2005, said, "CNY Reads is not only a big book club, but it is a catalyst for community-wide discussion about important issues. It provides opportunities for participating organizations to share their resources and services with our community."

Under the leadership of Griffin and Hinton, the CNY Reads Consortium has doubled. It includes representatives from more than 40 organizations, including Syracuse University (the Library Associates, the Library, the Bookstore, the English Department, Pulse/Syracuse Symposium, and Hendricks Chapel); Syracuse Stage; the Onondaga County Public Library system and Friends of the Central Library; New York State Senator Valesky's office, the County Executive's office; the Onondaga Historical Association; the Central New York Library Resources Council; the Gifford Foundation; Onondaga Community College; the Syracuse City School District and Syracuse Teaching

Center; the Central New York Teaching Center; the Cayuga County Teachers Center; OCM BOCES; Cazenovia Library; WCNY-TV; the Post-Standard; OASIS; the Delavan Center; the Learning Place; the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation; the National Abolition Hall of Fame; and the Community-Wide Dialogue to End Racism of the Interreligious Council of Central New York.

This year's book, Miriam Grace Monfredo's *North Star Conspiracy* (1995, Berkeley Publishing), is a suspense-filled mystery in which a feminist librarian in Seneca Falls, New York, helps an enslaved young



Miriam Grace Monfredo, author of *North Star Conspiracy*, the Central New York Reads Selections for 2005-2006

woman escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad. The book has lent itself to the teaching of local history and literature in the schools and to community programs concerning issues of authority and justice, race relations, and women's rights. Ms. Monfredo's proximity to Syracuse (she lives in Pittsford, New York) has enabled her to participate in many programs. These advantages, combined with the enthusiasm of the Library Associates-led consortium, have made it possible to double the number of CNY Reads programs for 2005-2006.

The consortium has initiated, hosted, and spon-

sored 50 events around Central New York and counting! Here are some highlights of CNY Reads:

- The purchase and distribution of 2,000 copies of *North Star Conspiracy* to participating high schools, book clubs, and libraries throughout Central New York.
- Miriam Grace Monfredo's visit to Solvay High School to speak to some 150 students and their teachers, and her appearances at the Dewitt Community Library and Soule Branch Library, which drew 90 community members.
- Over 1,500 visitors to the SU Library Special Collections Research Center exhibition "*That Laboratory of Abolitionism, Libel, and Treason*": *Syracuse and the Underground Railroad*.
- Dozens of book club discussions hosted by OASIS, the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, Creekside Bookstore, Salina Free Library, Onondaga Community College, and others.
- 250 copies of *North Star Conspiracy* distributed for the "Read It and Pass It On" program, in which 5 to 20 free copies of the book were placed at 20 locations throughout Onondaga County. Lucky finders of these copies were encouraged to pick up the book, read it, and pass it on to another.
- High school art, essay, and poetry contests sponsored by Syracuse University Library, Friends of the Central Library, and the Post-Standard.
- CNY Reads day (April 22) in downtown Syracuse, which will feature events at the Onondaga Historical Association Museum, the Onondaga County Public Library, and the Erie Canal Museum. This special day will include a dramatic reenactment of *North Star Conspiracy* to jazz music by Vanessa Johnson and an appearance by Miriam Grace Monfredo. (For more event details, visit library.syr.edu/cnyreads and click on "Schedule of Events.")

CNY Reads *North Star Conspiracy* will culminate in the appearance of Nancy Pearl, originator of the one book, one community concept, which has become a national phenomenon. She will speak at the Syracuse University Library Associates Annual Spring Luncheon on May 12, 2006 at 1 p.m. During the luncheon itself, which begins at noon, the consortium will announce next year's CNY Reads selection.

Note: The Central New York Reads Consortium is grateful for support from the Central New York Community Foundation, the Gifford Foundation, and, of course, Syracuse University Library Associates.



Nancy Pearl, librarian, author, and former executive director, Washington Center for the Book. In 1998 Pearl developed the program "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book," after which one-book, one-community programs spread across the country. She will give the keynote speech at the Library Associates Spring Luncheon at 1 p.m. on May 12 (after the luncheon, which begins at noon). For reservations, call 315-443-9763.

Dupont Leaves Post as Head of Special Collections Research Center

Christian Dupont, head of the Library's Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) since January 2003, left that position in January to assume, on February 1, 2006, a new position as director of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia.

Dupont made great strides in developing the SCRC staff, collections, and services. Under his direction, SCRC established an exhibitions program in E.S. Bird Library and at the Joseph I. Lubin House in New York City, launched the semiannual *Courant* news bulletin, acquired many important collections, improved SCRC's reference and instructional services, and developed a stronger digital presence. In addition, Dupont contributed significantly to the revitalization of Syracuse University Library Associates and various Library development efforts. He also participated in the Library's Administrative Committee, served as subject liaison for Italian Language and Literature, and was the Library's liaison to the Division of International Programs Abroad.

Library Welcomes New Staff



Melinda Dermody became head of Arts and Humanities Services (encompassing fine arts and humanities) on September 1, 2005. She manages the staff and services of Arts and Humanities, including the reference desk, and the limited access and slide collec-

tions. She also serves as collection development team leader for Arts and Humanities.

Dermody brings to the Library more than 11 years of experience as a librarian, having previously served as Access Services coordinator at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, head of Public Services at Lake Forest College in Illinois, and librarian at New Mexico State University-Alamogordo. Melinda holds an M.L.I.S. from the University of Texas at Austin, and a B.A. and M.A. in English from Ohio State University.

Dermody is happy to play a role in Syracuse University Library's future endeavors and undertakings, remarking, "I am very pleased to become a part of such a well-established library with excellent services, collections, and resources, and I look forward to the opportunities and challenges to come."

Gerri McCarthy joined the Library's Organization Services on September 16, 2005 as organizational and staff development specialist. Her work concerns organizational culture, change, communication, and assessment, as well as employee training and development.

Previously, McCarthy spent seven years as a training analyst in Computing and Media Services, primarily developing training and providing support for staff using Syracuse University's PeopleSoft and Hyperion/Brio computer systems. A native Vermonter and a graduate of the University of Vermont, McCarthy moved to the Syracuse area in 1986. She is currently completing her master's degree in Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation from the School of Education.

McCarthy is very happy with her decision to join the Library. She says, "I've had many wonderful opportunities to work with Library staff during my time in CMS, and I'm excited to now be a part of such a great organization."

Ozemedede Kadiri, technical specialist for electronic resources, has joined the smallest department in the Library, Digital and Electronic Resource Management Services. He began on November 16, 2005.

As a recent Syracuse University student, Kadiri brings a user perspective to the work of technical services. He has a B.A. from SU in Information Management and Technology and has recently completed his M.S.I.M. from SU's School of Information Studies. Kadiri has worked on campus in several departments, including the Office of Disability Studies and Computing and Media Services.

A native of Nigeria, Kadiri came to the United States in 1998 to pursue his education. His family remains in Nigeria, except for one brother who is studying at Lee University in Tennessee. Though Etsako is his native language, he grew up speaking English. Kadiri enjoys "doing anything having to do with technology, particularly computers, electronics, and the Internet."



Brandi Porter began her tenure as head of Professional Programs and General Reference Services (PPGRS) on November 16, 2005. Her responsibilities include management

and leadership of the Library's specialized reference, instruction, faculty liaison, and collection development services supporting professional programs, including communications, education, information studies, management, public administration, and social work. As head of PPGRS, she also provides leadership for the Library's general reference and information services.

Porter previously served as director of library services at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pennsylvania. There she was also assistant director and public services librarian. Before that she served as library specialist at Sowder Library, Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton, Virginia, and as circulation manager and information desk coordinator at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Porter holds an M.L.I.S. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a B.A. in Russian Studies and International Studies from George Mason University. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Information Science from Nova Southeastern University.

IN MEMORIAM

ARNOLD JOSEPH KIVELSON

Arnold Joseph Kivelson died on July 28, 2005. He was the former president of Dynamic Plastics Corporation of East Elmhurst, New York, and the retired chief executive officer of Friemanit Corporation, a New York City manufacturer of childrens' clothing. He was also secretary and treasurer of the Eva and Harvey Kivelson Foundation, a charitable organization named after his parents.

Kivelson was a friend and supporter of Syracuse University, where his wife, Clare Frieman Kivelson (d. 1989), graduated in 1947. The Library is grateful for his gift of 30 valuable Limited Editions Club books, published between 1981 and 1998, which in 2000 he presented to the Library in his wife's memory. Most recently, the Kivelson family, through the family foundation, purchased four display cases for Lubin House—three of them for exhibiting items from the Library's Special Collection Research Center—to honor Clare and Arnold Kivelson.



WALTER SUTTON

Walter Sutton died on February 23, 2006. He joined the University's English Department in 1948, and served the University for 38 years before retiring in 1986. He was named Distinguished Professor of Humanities in 1971 and was for a time chair of the department. Sutton is well known for his work in modern poetry and criticism. Among his numerous published books and editions are *Ezra Pound: A Collection of Critical Essays* (1963), *American Free Verse: The Modern Revolution in Poetry* (1973), and, most recently, *Pound, Thayer, Watson, and The Dial: A Story in Letters* (2004). The Walter Sutton Papers reside in the Library's Special Collections Research Center. The Library honors his memory as a Library Associates board member since the early 1980s.

Gifts to the Library in memory of Arnold Kivelson and Walter Sutton can be made online at giving@syr.edu; or call the Library's senior director of development, Gregory Griffin, at 315-443-2537.

Library Teaches Students Research Skills through New TRAILS Program

Syracuse University Library recently launched the Teaching Research and Information Literacy Skills (TRAILS) program to assist SU students in developing skills needed to find, use, and assess information (i.e., information literacy). TRAILS, operated through the Library's Instructional Services Program, builds upon the Library's traditional instruction program by offering a more robust and targeted set of services aimed at helping students acquire critical research skills.

In fall 2004 the Library participated in a national assessment project by testing the information literacy skills of about 300 undergraduate students. The results indicate that many students have difficulty performing skills considered necessary for conducting research at the college level.

TRAILS attempts to help faculty fill these gaps by offering instructional sessions and other services specifically addressing these areas. Services are framed according to a defined set of learning outcomes based on standards and guidelines provided by the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Instruction sessions aim to teach specific skills such as using online research databases, distinguishing between scholarly and popular periodicals, citing sources, and evaluating web sites. TRAILS also offers general orientation sessions and Library tours. Faculty and course instructors can choose from a list of sessions, or make a request of their own. All sessions are customized based on consultations between librarians and requesting instructors.

In addition to delivering course-related instructional sessions, the TRAILS Program can assist faculty in integrating information literacy into their teaching. Other areas of focus include development of online information literacy instruction and support for Library staff providing instruction.

As part of TRAILS, the Library also offers a three-credit course in collaboration with the School of Information Studies to assist undergraduates in developing strategies necessary to navigate the many types of information resources available to them. The course was offered as a pilot in fall 2005, listed as IST 200, E-Research: How to Survive and Thrive in College, and it will be offered again in fall 2006.

For more information on TRAILS or to schedule a session, see library.syr.edu/instruction/trails or contact Abby Kasowitz-Scheer, head of Instructional Services (443-1943 or askasowi@syr.edu).

- Abby Kasowitz-Scheer

George Abbott Retires after Four Decades

Inside the entrance to the Media Services Department in E.S. Bird Library is a display case of obsolete media formats. The cabinet reflects a time when big was better: there are 8" floppy disks, 2" videotapes, laser discs, and open reel audio tapes, among a dozen or so other items. Beyond the case, the Library Multimedia Center offers patrons some of the latest in multimedia technologies, from scanning and digitizing to audio and video capture. And behind the scenes, research is being conducted on the cutting edge of technology, such as video streaming and media indexing software.

This blending of old, new, and up-and-coming technologies is symbolic of the career of George Linnell Abbott, the man who mastered them all.

Abbott retired September 30, 2005, after a career of more than 40 years at Syracuse University Library, a career that paralleled the explosion of technology. Where George differs from those of us who have witnessed—and often struggled to keep up with—the onslaught of changes is that he has usually been at the forefront, responsible for ushering in many technological changes in the Library. A list of Media “firsts” under George’s leadership (see sidebar) confirms this.

George is animated when talking about the technologies. He recalls details from 30 or 40 years ago as easily as one might recall last night’s dinner—and not just general stories, but minute details such as long

George . . . has usually been at the forefront, responsible for ushering in many technological changes in the Library.

defunct company names and machine model numbers and who was doing what task back when the main library was in Carnegie.

George began his employment at Syracuse University Library in 1964 as a typist in the Cataloging Department. By 1966 he was both a cataloger at SUL and a part-time reference librarian at Upstate Medical Center Library. He became acting acquisitions librarian at SUL in 1968.

In 1969 the seeds of the department that would become synonymous with George Abbott’s name were sown. George was appointed as media librarian that year, overseeing a small unit that consisted of three staff, a tiny collection of vinyl spoken-word recordings and open-reel audiotapes, and a copy center with two photocopiers. The unit grew until, in 1980, it became a major department with George at the helm. He presided over as many as 15 staff; collections in 27 different media formats totaling more than 50,000 items (excluding microforms); a copy



George Abbott, former head of Media Services at Syracuse University Library

center with more than 40 copiers; and a public multimedia lab with 36 workstations, specialized resources for users with disabilities, and support for creating digital video on DVD and for digitizing audio resources. The lab also offered training in the use of digital software and hardware.

In spring 1972 George took on an additional job as building manager for the new E.S. Bird Library—and soon faced his biggest challenge in that position. About three months before the move into Bird, it was discovered that the contractors were installing three more shelves than needed in each section. Workers had already completed the work from the basement through half of the third floor before the error was discovered. George, with a crew of students (including Bill Lee, now working in the Special Collections Research Center), had to remove the extra shelving and reposition each remaining shelf. They completed the project in August, just in time for the move from Carnegie.

George remained Bird building manager until 1987, when the position of head of Library Security and Facilities was created.

George was the Library’s primary source of answers to copyright questions, and he delivered several University-wide presentations on copyright issues.

Throughout his career, George has been active on numerous Library committees, as well as many local, national, and international organizations and associations. He remains a member of the Standing Committee of the International Federation of Library Association’s (IFLA) Institutions Section on Audio-visual and Multimedia, and served as a conference

volunteer for the 2001 IFLA67 conference in Boston. He has been a member of the Special Libraries Association, the Society of Motion Pictures and Television Engineers, and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, and he has held numerous positions in the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T).

In 1987 George received the Watson David award from ASIS for continuing and dedicated service.

George has secured several grants for the Library. He has represented the Library on the Central New York Library Resources Council Continuing Education Committee, chaired the University's Senate Committee on Computing for two years, and served on the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs.

He was a volunteer at the first White House Conference on Libraries in 1979 and has volunteered for the Syracuse International Film and Video Festival,

the Redhouse, and Syracuse Stage. Over the years, George has run the projector at nearly every movie theater in Onondaga County, and continues to do so at IMAX and The Palace.

George's experience in both library and audio/visual tasks goes back to his high school days in Vermont, and continued during his undergraduate years at St. Michael's College, where in his senior year he was station manager of the campus radio station and ran the campus films. He received his bachelor's degree from St. Michael's, and his master of library science degree from Syracuse University.

Don't expect George to slow down during retirement. He hopes to consult and publish in his field, to stay on ALA and IFLA committees, and to spend more time behind the projector.

- Charles Russo

George Abbott List of Firsts

During his 40-plus years at Syracuse University Library, George Abbott has been at the vanguard of the technological revolution, introducing to the Library many of the services now taken for granted. Under Abbott's leadership, the Media Services Department has been first in the Library to provide:

- Public photocopying services (1969)
- Services to users with disabilities, with a Visualtek reader and LOC reader (1972)
- First cable video transmission to and from the Library in collaboration with Synapse (1973)
- Coordination and first offering of online searching using SUNY-BCN access (1975)
- One of only two Xerox color copiers located in the Syracuse metro area (1977)
- First full-time staff online searcher (1979)
- Copy control with the installation and beta test of XCP debit copy card system (1982)
- First Kurzweil reading machine for persons with visual impairments (1982)
- First access to non-OPAC public terminals connecting to campus mainframe (1983)
- One of the first two IBM PCs in the Library (the other was in Information Systems) (1984)
- Input, on behalf of SU Library, into Kellogg Project grant and overseeing of project start-up in Library (1985)
- First stand-alone electronic database—InfoTrac—in Library (1986)
- First G3 fax machine in Library (1989) (Coordinated operation of an earlier telefacimile unit in 1970)
- Coordination of first e-mail system (ALANET) in the Library (c. 1984)

- First public remote access to on-demand online numeric database (1993)
- Full-time display of SCOLA TV news (1995)
- Public CD burners on campus (transferred from CMS to the Library) (1995)
- Digital camera loans (24 hours) to public (1996)
- Satellite teleconferences (downlinks) (1998)
- First online database containing images: AP Photo Archive (1998)
- Credit card acceptance in the Library (2000)
- Research on and implementation of DVD authoring system (grant funded) (2001)
- First online database containing audio: AP Multimedia Archive (2003)
- First online database containing video: Vanderbilt TV News Archive (2004).

In addition, over the years, Media Services acquired resources from several other units on campus. The following operations were merged into the department:

- Self service copiers in campus libraries from an outsourced vendor (c. 1969)
- Continuing education collections (audiotape) from the ERIC/AE Clearinghouse (1973)
- CIC Language Lab audiotape collection and service (1975)
- Film Study Center collections from Film Forum (1984)
- Film Rental Center collections and booking system (1994)
- Library Multimedia Center from Computing and Media Services (1995)
- Center for Study of Popular Television collections from Newhouse (1997)



Watercolor sketch by Eileen Whitaker, whose papers reside in the Library's Special Collections Research Center

Whitaker Papers

In January of this year, staff of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) learned of the sad passing of La Jolla artist Eileen Whitaker (1911-2006) through her nephew Thomas G. Bush, executor of the Eileen Monaghan Whitaker Trust. The wife of watercolorist Frederic Whitaker (1891-1980) and a much-celebrated painter in her own right had left explicit instructions concerning the disposition of more than 350 books, 420 periodical issues, and more than 60 linear feet of manuscript material earmarked for addition to the existing 29 linear feet of the Frederic Whitaker Papers, which was established at Syracuse in 1964. Weighing just over 2,000 pounds, the additions to the collection included family material, correspondence, essay and book manuscripts, sketchbooks, original drawings and watercolors, exhibition catalogs and gallery brochures, and hundreds of personal and artwork photographs and slides. The extent of the documentation is surpassed only by its richness, which illuminates the personal and professional lives of the first married couple to be elected academicians of the National Academy of Design.

Moving from Norwalk, Connecticut, to La Jolla in 1964, Frederic and Eileen Whitaker were quickly assimilated into the West Coast art scene and devoted much of their work to the celebration of the western landscape and its people. Members of the American Watercolor Society, the couple participated in national and international exhibitions and played active roles in numerous art organizations. In 1943 Frederic Whitaker organized the regional Audubon Artists Group, so-named because its first meeting was held in a building that had once been the farm

of ornithologist and painter John James Audubon in New York City. Within months Frederic Whitaker, together with a small contingent of business and professional leaders, transformed that regional art society into the national organization that he renamed Audubon Artists, Inc., and which he served as its first president. Whitaker also held official positions in Allied Artists of America, the Municipal Art Society, the Fine Arts Federation of New York, and Artists for Victory, a group that mobilized artists in support of the United States entry into World War II. Their combined participation in many art organizations, together with their very active social life, brings to the Frederic and Eileen Monaghan Whitaker Papers the correspondence and biographical information of a wide range of their contemporaries, including Thomas Hart Benton, Rex Brandt, Chen Chi, Walt Disney, Stevan Dohanos, Hardie Gramatky, Joan Irving, Ted Kautzky, Everett Raymond Kinstler, Heinrich Kley, Roy M. Mason, Gerhard C. F. Miller, John Pellew, Ross Stefan, Warren Baumgartner, and Olaf Weighorst.

Moreover, the Whitakers were friends with other individuals whose papers are held in SCRC, such as watercolorist and editor-in-chief of the *American Artist* Norman Kent (1903-70); philanthropist Archer Milton Huntington (1870-1955) and his wife, sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973); and watercolorist and fellow National Academy of Design academician Donald Holden.

A retrospective exhibition of the work of Frederic and Eileen Monaghan Whitaker is scheduled to open in January 2007 at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. By that time, SCRC plans to produce

an updated inventory for the Frederic Whitaker Papers to include the work of Eileen Monaghan Whitaker. In the meantime, SCRC has already cataloged more than 100 art history monographs and scores of exhibition catalogs from the couple's library.

- Kathleen Manwaring

Web of Science

One of the Library's most important recent acquisitions is the ISI Web of Science database, which is a citation index to 8,700 of the finest research journals in the world, including 200 open-access journals, covered by Science Citation Index Expanded™, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index. Backfiles are available from 1995.

Web of Science uses a unique search method, cited reference searching, which allows users to navigate forward, backward, and through the literature, searching all disciplines and time spans to uncover information relevant to their research. Through SULinks, users on this campus can also navigate to electronic full-text journal articles.

Web of Science is available through SUMMIT, the online catalog, as well as through the Databases Main Menu.

Dana Foundation Teaching Assistantship in 10th Year

Joseph McCaffrey, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religion, was appointed as the 2005-2006 Dana Foundation Teaching Assistant in the Special Collections Research Center. Now in its 10th year, the assistantship is funded by an annual grant from the Charles A. Dana Foundation with support from foundation chair William Safire ('51, Hon. '78).

As a Dana assistant McCaffrey has been conducting instructional presentations for classes and community groups, drawing on the diverse rare book and manuscript holdings of the Special Collections Research Center. In the fall he led numerous tours of the Library's exhibition on Syracuse and the Underground Railroad.

McCaffrey has also been processing the papers of American painter and printmaker Grace Hartigan and helping to prepare an exhibition on her work and career for the fall of 2006. "One of the highlights of my work thus far," he remarked, "was the opportunity to offer the first public presentation of the Hartigan collection to members of the Social Art Club during a visit to the Library in November." Founded in 1875, the Social Art Club is a community-based women's group that meets every other month to explore topics in the visual arts.

New Fiction and Poetry in Bird Library

On the new books shelves near the entrance gate in E.S. Bird Library, one can find Charles Bukowski's *Come On In: New Poems*; Stephen King's *The Cell*; Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* novels; Jane Kenyon's *Collected Poems*; Nadine Gordimer's *Get a Life*; and Dean Koontz's *Forever Odd*.

For years, students and faculty have asked the Library to purchase leisure reading and small press poetry and fiction. In fall 2005 the Library devoted a special fund to novels and poetry with substantial reviews in the *New York Times*, *Times Literary Supplement*, and the *Voice Literary Supplement*. They may be checked out and are listed in the SUMMIT Library catalog as "Temporarily shelved at Bird-New Book Shelf, 1st Floor." Unlike titles in the Library's general collection, books on the new book shelf retain their jackets.

Library users have responded favorably. A grateful student sent the following e-mail: "This is totally cool. As a creative writing major I'm seeing all sorts of poetry books here for the first time."

- Peter McDonald and Wendy Bousfield

Stimulated by his experience as a Dana assistant, McCaffrey plans to incorporate archival sources into his future career in teaching. Since his ordination in 1977, McCaffrey has served as a priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, but he now looks forward to taking on new academic responsibilities. His dissertation, "The Priest and the Infidel: An Intersection of Faith and Unbelief in Late Nineteenth-Century America," probes the debate between Robert Green Ingersoll, an atheist, and clergyman and newspaper editor Louis Aloysius Lambert.



Joseph McCaffrey, Dana Foundation Teaching Assistant

The Dana assistantship is offered each year to a currently enrolled graduate student through a competitive application process. McCaffrey was selected from among 28 applicants.

- Christian Dupont

SU Launches New Copyright Service

In September 2005 the University launched a new copyright service in response to a campus-wide need for centralized, authoritative guidance in the use of copyrighted material. The service is the product of 18 months of planning on the part of the following staff members, who now serve as members of the Syracuse University Copyright Advisory Committee:

Ronald Denby, College of Law

Lisa Dolak, College of Law

Laura Lape, College of Law

Peter McDonald, University Library (chair)

Pamela McLaughlin, University Library

David Pajak, Risk Management

Andy Robinson, Orange Television Network

David Tiedemann, Faculty Computing and Media Services

The centerpiece of the new service is a copyright web site, managed by the Library, which provides:

- links to the text of Congressional Copyright Acts and Amendments
- a form for sending questions about specific situations to the Copyright Advisory Committee, which can, if needed, refer questions to the University's legal counsel
- guidelines for typical academic uses of copyrighted material, such as fair use, classroom handouts, course management systems, library course reserves, and distance education.

According to Peter McDonald, chair of the committee, "Questions have had to do with scanning articles for classroom distribution, student manipulation of copyrighted images, and everything in between." To access the copyright web site, go to library.syr.edu/copyright.

The *Library Connection* provides the University community with information about collections, services, and activities of the Syracuse University Library.

Suzanne Thorin, Executive Director, University Librarian, and Dean of Libraries

Mary Beth Hinton, Editor and Designer

Past issues of the *Library Connection* and an accompanying index (1994–2004) can be viewed online at library.syr.edu/information/libassoc.

Send comments or requests related to the *Library Connection* to Mary Beth Hinton at:

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