Take a glimpse at Falvey’s past, Imagine its future

The exhibition, “Villanova’s Library: Revisiting Its Past, Envisioning Its Future,” currently on view on the second floor of Falvey Memorial Library, takes a close look at the past, present and future of the University library. Starting with its early history following the destruction of many books in the 1844 anti-Catholic nativist riots in Philadelphia, through the changes that have emerged with the advent of the digital age, the exhibit provides snapshots of a colorful history.

Comprised of textual documents and ephemera, books, photographs, and three-dimensional objects, this exhibit features materials gathered from the University Archives, Special Collections and items generously lent by Falvey staff.

From the University Archives, three photographs of conceptual drawings (c. 1930s) depict what Villanova’s library might have looked like, complete with a rooftop reading terrace, if it had been built by the architectural firm of Alfred Panepinto. These designs were ultimately rejected in favor of plans by the Henry D. Dagit & Sons firm which built the Villanova College Library (1949) and the 1968 “addition” to the library, the building now known as Falvey Memorial Library.

Further on in the exhibit, one can stop to read three articles from The Villanovan, culled from the library’s vertical files, debating the issue raging in 1960 about whether the main book stacks should be closed to the student body to prevent “library thievery.”

In the same case, one can view the large SILENCE sign, donated by a member of the library staff. This sign, hung prominently on a first floor wall, reminded students that the Library was a place of silent study. This signage remained in place until the year 2000.

Some of the most recognizable changes in the Library today are basic but fundamental. In order to accommodate users’ needs, Falvey has transformed itself from a quiet, (Continued on page 4)
Attempting to make any broad or definitive statements about the “digital transformation’s” impact on the cultural and intellectual record is foolhardy at best. However, in the frenzy of the present moment, as Google works with five major research libraries to render their holdings accessible globally, as images from major museums around the world, including the Louvre, the Met and the National Gallery of Art, become viewable online, and as major historical archives convert their holdings for digital access, it is clear to all who reflect upon the situation that the digital era will reshape how we think, teach and understand culture and history.

We are entering an era of mass accessibility that will bring an uncountable number of books, artifacts, images, manuscripts and similar items into general view, unconstrained by locality. Though we will lose something through this process in terms of direct contact with tangible objects, we will gain much more in terms of our ability to make previously unforeseen connections and comparisons.

Students of all ages will be allowed into the archive – something that has in the past been largely the privilege of advanced researchers – to make their own readings and interpretations of primary materials. The potential of this new situation for scholarship, in both its formal and its informal guises, is described in Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig’s *Digital History* (U of Pennsylvania P., 2006).

We are entering an era of mass accessibility that will bring an uncountable number of books, artifacts, images, manuscripts and similar items into general view, unconstrained by locality. Though we will lose something through this process in terms of direct contact with tangible objects, we will gain much more in terms of our ability to make previously unforeseen connections and comparisons.

Students of all ages will be allowed into the archive – something that has in the past been largely the privilege of advanced researchers – to make their own readings and interpretations of primary materials. The potential of this new situation for scholarship, in both its formal and its informal guises, is described in Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig’s *Digital History* (U of Pennsylvania P., 2006).

Libraries of all types are stepping into the fray, making individual and cooperative commitments to furthering and deepening this digital transformation. In the past, libraries have been involved in what could be called speculative investment in physical collections, acquiring materials that may be of use in the future,
and not always concerned that these books and other items be used immediately by students or scholars.

In this era of mass digitization, some of that speculative investment is shifting to the development of online collections, both by the reformatting of locally-held physical materials and by collaboration and extension of local collections through new types of partnerships. The result can be, effectively, collections of items that exist in no single physical place but that are collocated in exciting ways online, what a few years back we breathlessly called “virtual libraries.”

Here at Villanova University, we took a small step in this collaborative direction a few years ago when we worked in partnership with Lehigh University to put illuminated manuscripts online. A larger scale example of such an initiative is the Million Book Project at Carnegie Mellon University.

In the coming year, we will begin more aggressively to build a digital library collection at Villanova, both from our local holdings and in collaboration with new partners. Soon we will have online a version of “Sing a Song,” our recent exhibit of Villanova Law School Professor Lew Becker’s personal collection of traditional music materials in print.

In addition, we plan to begin working with other institutional partners in the greater Philadelphia region to put materials relating to Catholic social history online. And, we are seeking opportunities to identify unique materials and collections in the hands of potential partners within our University community.

This is truly an unprecedented moment, when the cultural and intellectual treasures sitting on private bookshelves or locked up in trunks in attics can be shared and investigated by a new generation of historians and cultural interpreters. At Falvey, we are optimistic about the prospects for new ways of extending the scope of the Library.

We hope that some of you will join us in this epochal endeavor.

**Paper wins national engineering award:**

Teaching research skills to undergraduates

“Information Literacy: Skills for Life,” a paper presented by Andrea Welker, Ph.D., associate professor, civil and environmental engineering, at the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) 2005 Annual Conference and Exhibition, was selected as the 2006 recipient of the Glen L. Martin Best Paper Award by the ASEE Civil Engineering Division Awards Committee.

The paper was co-authored by Barbara Quintiliano, instructional design librarian, and Louise Green, associate director, Public Services, and an engineering librarian liaison at Falvey Memorial Library.

The Glen L. Martin Award is one of only two civil engineering division awards presented each year at the annual conference and is presented to the authors of the best paper from the previous year’s annual conference.

According to the Awards Committee chairperson, “This year, 39 papers were considered for the award. The Awards Committee found your paper to be very scholarly in character—well written, with excellent citations to the literature and a well-conceived, objective assessment mechanism. In addition, your paper addressed a unique subject that is nonetheless highly relevant to engineering educators.”

The Glen L. Martin Award, consisting of a plaque and certificate, was presented to Dr. Welker at the 2006 ASEE Annual Conference in Chicago in June.

**WELCOME!** *News From Falvey* features what’s happening at Falvey Memorial Library: trends, exhibits, events, innovations and activities. We appreciate your comments and suggestions and we hope you enjoy the publication.

The online newsletter, *Compass: New Directions at Falvey* can be found at [http://newsletter.library.villanova.edu](http://newsletter.library.villanova.edu)

Best wishes,
Judith Olsen, editor
Take a glimpse at Falvey’s past, Imagine its future (continued from cover)
austere house for books, with strict rules and regulations, to an inviting and busy space. From its earliest inception, Villanova’s library

Dual event draws crowd
Digital Library open house and Library history exhibit grand opening

On June 28 Falvey Memorial Library hosted a dual purpose event highlighting the opening of Villanova University’s Digital Library production facility while providing a kickoff to the latest Special Collections exhibit, “Villanova’s Library: Revisiting Its Past, Envisioning Its Future” (see related article).

Members of the Villanova University community and the Tri-state College Library Cooperative, a Delaware Valley organization, were invited to attend the joint open house/exhibit opening event. The event placed the new Digital Library production facility, located on the second floor with Falvey’s Special Collections, clearly in the spotlight. Attendees brought old family photos, letters and documents to be scanned by the full-color book scanner; the resultant digital images were either e-mailed or burned to a CD.

Meanwhile, Andrew Nagy, the Digital Library’s chief computer programmer, demonstrated his prototype Digital Library browser, which will enable both the Villanova University community and the broader community of scholars around the world to view content from Villanova’s Special Collections, Villanova’s institutional publications, theses and dissertations and from joint cultural heritage projects.

“In this time of changing perceptions about research and about the purpose of higher education, it is vitally important to preserve and provide access to a shared cultural heritage in a format that students and researchers will use.”

The large SILENCE sign reminded students that the Library was a place of silent study.

The exhibition can be viewed during regular library hours through September 15, 2006, and is slated to be digitized for an online exhibit later this fall. Bente Polites, Special Collections librarian, and Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., University archivist, assisted with the exhibit.

This receipt, made out to Rev. Thomas C. Middleton, O.S.A, Villanova’s first librarian, itemizes some of the earliest book purchases by Villanova College.

Contributed by Teri Ann Incrovato, who mounted the exhibit.
ARTstor:
Tapping into the art of the ages

Seeing the art and architecture of a culture can bring that culture to life. Now, with a web connection and a subscription to ARTstor, a rich treasury of images is at one’s fingertips.

Falvey Memorial Library recently subscribed to ARTstor, an on-line digital collection of 500,000 images which include an Image Gallery of amazing scope depicting the traditional arts of painting, sculpture and architecture, and also a number of special collections.

Among these special collections are the First Fleet Collection from prisoners and sailors who sailed to Australia in 1787, images of works found in the Natural History Museum, London; the Farber Gravestone Collection of early American tombstones; the Schlesinger History of Women in America, works by amateur and professional photographers about and by women; and the Mellon International Dunhuang Archive featuring digital reconstructions of arts and texts from Buddhist cave shrines.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation founded ARTstor, a nonprofit organization, to provide digital images for educational and scholarly use, which began accepting subscriptions in 2004. Today 600 institutions, including some local colleges and universities, subscribe.

Users can search for images by keyword or through an advanced search by creator, culture, subject, title or other feature. The results are shown as thumbnails which can be enlarged for closer examination. One can also zoom in to see the painting image in great detail, such as Andrew Wyeth’s brush strokes in “April Wind.”

Each image is cataloged and that information can be displayed or not, as the viewer chooses. Although anyone with a Villanova University user name and password can search ARTstor, registered users with valid University e-mail addresses are given additional privileges. They can save image groups, create shared folders, add notes to images and download the offline viewer which saves images at a higher resolution. Those who register for instructor privileges can add up to 500 MB of favorite personal images to supplement their ARTstor collection.

ARTstor may be used for classroom instruction and for student presentations. Faculty and students may download ARTstor materials to password protected web sites. Images can be printed for use in papers, theses and dissertations only if one follows ARTstor’s guidelines for permitted uses.

Link to ARTstor through the Falvey home page under Databases by Title.

Contributed by Michael Foight.

Over 50 people attended this event, including faculty, alumni, staff and students, many of whom took the opportunity to have a cherished family photo preserved in digital format. With visitors driving to campus from as far away as Lancaster, the draw was apparent. In this time of changing perceptions about research and about the purpose of higher education, it is vitally important to preserve and provide access to a shared cultural heritage in a format that students and researchers will use.

One of the most telling comments came from a faculty member who remarked that “Villanova was finally making these old books sing.” Please join our collective ‘song’ and stay tuned as upcoming articles will provide news on new Digital Library developments and highlight a newly digitalized title each issue under the ongoing feature, “The Blue Electrode”!

Contributed by Alice Bampton.
Familiar face in a new position

Teri Ann Incrovato, a 2002 graduate of Villanova University, assumed the duties of Digital Library and Special Collections curatorial assistant, a newly-created position, on July 1.

Teri Ann has concurrent masters’ degrees in museum studies and art history from Syracuse University. She is excited to be setting the baseline for this position in working with digital projects and mounting exhibits.

At the recent Special Collections open house, she proudly pointed out the digitization by Michael Foight of the 1431 Augustine Regula or Rule. The current exhibit on the history of the Villanova library, on Falvey’s second floor, demonstrates Teri Ann’s expertise in the selection, labeling and arrangement of the photos and other artifacts.

Teri Ann has had a life-long association with libraries starting in grade school helping her aunt, the school librarian, volunteering in her high school library, and working so ably in the reference department in Falvey during her four years here. Her time at Syracuse included a semester of working in their library!

Her interests include keeping current with area museum exhibits, baking, reading and a special fascination with French Revolution history and Napoleon Bonaparte. Teri Ann spent nine months in Nantes, France, during her junior year at Villanova.

We welcome Teri Ann back into the Falvey family.

Contributed by Jacqueline Mirabile.

Summer intern works on digital projects

This summer the Falvey Library digital projects team is sponsoring intern Terry Nykanen. Terry is helping the team develop policies and procedures for troubleshooting software, scanning documents and adding metadata by digitally manipulating and enhancing scanned images. She is currently working on her master of library and information science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and plans to graduate in April 2007. Terry’s specialty is medical research, and she hopes to work in the future as an academic librarian.

Contributed by Laura Hutelmyer.

David Burke promoted

David Burke, Falvey’s serials cataloger, has been promoted to the rank of Library Professional III. Library professionals’ ranking and promotion is based upon a process of review by a committee of peers, with approval by the University librarian and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dave catalogs serial publications in print and electronic format. He has been instrumental as an electronic serials and database troubleshooter and also trains technical services staff to use new online systems. Not only does he work with the library’s online catalog to ensure the accuracy of its contents, Dave has created many of these records for the periodicals, annuals, government documents and ongoing online resources to which the Library subscribes.

Dave began his Villanova University career in 1997 as serials cataloger for Falvey. Years before working for Villanova, Dave studied here, majoring in Honors English. After earning his bachelor’s degree, he garnered his
master’s in library science degree at Drexel University. Additionally, Dave has worked for the State Library of Pennsylvania, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and has performed cataloging for the Smithsonian’s Inventory of American Sculpture.

Last year, Dave earned his second master’s degree, from Villanova in English. He also chaired the Electronic Communications Committee of the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG), an organization for library professionals. In the upcoming year, he will serve as chair for that organization’s Nominations and Elections Committee. As chair, Dave will run the elections for NASIG’s executive board and president.

How important is Dave’s work to the University? For the academic year 2005–2006 alone, library users viewed almost 900,000 electronic journal articles. Many of those e-journal hits, no doubt, were based on searches of Falvey’s online records—records created by David Burke.

To be promoted, library professional candidates demonstrate that they meet specified criteria, which include job performance, professional development, library/university/community service and academic/creative activity. The criteria, uniquely appropriate to librarianship, measure the library professional’s contribution to Villanova University and to the profession.

Contributed by Gerald Dierkes.

Falvey Scholars 2006 present their outstanding research

Seniors who accomplished exceptional undergraduate research presented papers at the Falvey Scholars 2006 event on May 5.

The 2006 Scholars include Nicholas O’Donoughue, electrical and computer engineering; Lauren Ciancia, sociology; Diane Coffey, education & human services and communication; Charles Girard, Humanities & Augustinian Traditions with theology & religious studies, and Scott Niglio, biology.

For the fourth year, Falvey recognized outstanding student scholars who were selected based on the merit of their intellectual work on a senior thesis or a major project that involved the use of library research to establish the background and context for their area of inquiry.

Serving on the selection committee were Edwin L. Goff, Ph.D., director of the Honors Program, Karima Bouchenafa, associate director, Honors, and Jane Morris, director of the Office of Undergraduate Grants and Awards.

Contributed by Joe Lucia.

Amazing Falvey Facts

June 2005 to May 2006

- 1,219,000 library web site pages viewed
- 900,000 library web database searches (vendor-supplied statistics)
- 896,960 e-journal articles viewed online (vendor-supplied statistics)
- 428,206 user visits to the Library
- 104,378 books circulated
- 12,303 basic help questions handled
- 10,918 items borrowed by Villanova users from other libraries
- 8,574 laptop loans from circulation desk
- 5,835 research assistance questions handled by research librarians
- 4,748 students served in 230 information literacy instruction sessions

Contributed by Gerald Dierkes.
Father Middleton was born into a Quaker family in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, on March 30, 1842. He was baptized into the Roman Catholic faith at the age of 12 with his family, including his mother and five sisters. Ordained in 1864, he came to Villanova College in 1865 where he lived and served until his death in 1923.

Father Middleton’s love of books and his general interest in collection and preservation qualified him at that time for college librarianship, a position he held from 1865 to 1923.

The “Belle Air” mansion, which stood in the present location of St. Rita’s Hall, was the site of Villanova College’s first library. Belle Air was home to the Rudolph family, original owners of the estate property purchased by the Augustinians in 1841. When the mansion was destroyed by fire in 1912, St. Rita’s was erected in its place.

In addition to College president and librarian, Father Middleton was a teacher, prefect of studies, Province archivist and secretary. In 1884, Father Middleton helped found the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia; he was elected its first president that same year.

He was 81 when he died at Villanova on November 19, 1923. He is buried in the Augustinian cemetery on campus. Middleton Hall, on the southwestern corner of the campus, is named in his honor.

*Contributed by Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., and Laura Hutelmyer.*