Faculty Comments on Library Survey Prompt Focus Groups

“The Google generation uses free web resources for research assignments.”

Does this quotation surprise you? Probably not. Many students and faculty alike use the open web to find links to information like driving directions, travel guides and recipes. Social applications abound, keeping students tied to their computers and mobile devices, where they can find quick, easy answers. The problem is that students may not find the scholarly articles that faculty would prefer they use. The above quotation and others like it served as discussion points during a series of faculty focus groups held during the spring semester.

The focus groups, jointly planned by Falvey librarians and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research (OPIR) staff, were inspired by the results of a 2009 faculty survey, which revealed some significant opinions about the physical library space, collections, resources and services. Intrigued by volunteered comments, Falvey librarians decided to dig a little deeper.

While the librarians devised the questions, they did not attend the focus groups since they wanted the participants to be free to discuss both positive and negative perceptions of the library. Complete anonymity of the faculty participants was also maintained.

Mirroring the survey results, faculty reiterated their frustration with students’ reliance on “fast, electronic sources… They get weak information and uncritically embrace it.” According to the focus group results, “faculty preferred their students use the Falvey web site” to locate scholarly research.

One participant, responding to the prospect of remote storage of library materials, stated that it was symbolic of larger issues facing the library. He considers a library to be “the heart of a great university” and that “we really have to be extravagant in our library.”

When asked about the budgetary pressures on libraries, especially the steep rise in scholarly journal subscription prices, a professor stated that “this is not a line item, it is a vision.” Another professor expressed a desire to see Villanova as “the Harvard of the Catholic world” and consequently should have “a distinctive library.”

The focus group report offers concluding observations that students lack a proper understanding of research skills and are not “fully using the resources offered by Falvey Library.” In addition, faculty identified the need for a separate lecture or presentation space in the library.

Five librarians, Merrill Stein, Jacqueline Mirabile, Barbara Quintiliano, Jutta Seibert and Joe Lucia, worked with OPIR's Stephen Sheridan and John Kelley to invite faculty from all four University colleges to the focus groups. OPIR facilitators worked with librarians to develop an

Faculty preferred their students use the Falvey web site to locate scholarly research.

Continued on page 11
Directed Watch
Out of Touch:
The Body and the Text

by Joe Lucia

Immediately outside my office on the second floor of Falvey Library is the “B” classification section (Philosophy – General) of the book stacks. Often, entering or exiting, I find my eyes drawn to specific shelves, usually the B105 section that holds books with such evocative titles as The Absent Body, The Body as Text, Persons and Bodies, Living Across and Through Skins, Body and World, The Gift of Touch.

There are occasional days when I’ll pull one of those volumes off the shelf and sense while riffling its pages the complex world of the written word. Fingering the text, I feel the literal weight of a realm of discourse that I can touch and peruse. Its presence is three-dimensional: I can look in, through and around the book and gain a sense of its parts, its flow, its frame of reference through contact and manipulation.

The paper codex has become emblematic of the peculiar geography of sustained discourse that requires us to enter its space if we are going to comprehend it. The physical library is a vast galaxy of such spaces, but a galaxy that may be slipping from view as digital text on screens commands our mindshare.

This past March, I acquired an Apple iPad. Though I have used a number of e-book readers over the past several years, when the iPad was announced, I had a sense that it might bring something novel and compelling to the experience of screen-based reading. I thought it might make screen-delivered text consumption a little more tactile, a little more book-like. E-readers have impoverished the experience of book reading precisely by reducing the tactile interaction with pages to button pushing and screen scrolling.

There’s a small twist of irony to the fact that my most recent iPad reading has been Nicholas Carr’s The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains (Norton, 2010). Carr’s book draws on recent research on the human brain’s plasticity to explore the ways in which changes in the modalities of mental engagement over time affect brain capability and brain performance. He focuses his exploration upon the recent rapid cultural switch from immersive book-based reading to high-speed scanning of linked information snippets on screens. The book is by no means an anti-Internet screed, but it is full of sobering reminders of what we lose collectively at a cultural level.
Falvey Scholars Present Their Research: From Hookah Smoking to Economic Helping Hands

Six Villanova students presented their senior projects during the eighth annual Falvey Scholars awards ceremony in Falvey Memorial Library on April 23. This annual awards program, established by the library in 2002, recognizes outstanding undergraduate research. This year’s recipients represent all of the University’s undergraduate colleges, and each winner’s presentation highlighted the value of utilizing library resources and staff.

Brittany Parisi (Political Science), “Evolving the Third Sector: The Convergence of Local and International Civil Society in India.” (Satya Pattnayak, Ph.D., faculty mentor)

Christopher McKay (Economics), “Equity vs. Efficiency: When is Lending a Helping Hand Being Too Helpful?” (Mary Kelly, Ph.D., faculty mentor)

Susan Mischinski (Engineering), “The Effect of Bone Microstructure on Crack Initiation and Propagation In Human Cortical Bone.” (Ani Ural, Ph.D., faculty mentor)

Ashley Thompson and Kelly Moran (Nursing), “Social Ecological Model to Address Hookah Smoking of Villanova Students.” (Ruth McDermott-Levy, Ph.D., RN, faculty mentor)

Shreya Trivedi (Biology), “Analysis of the role of inflammatory pathways on estrogen-induced uterine tissue remodeling in the ovariectomized immature rat.” (Louise Russo, Ph.D., faculty mentor)

“This program is exciting and rewarding for the library; it allows us to experience the intellectual work of our outstanding students,” said Joe Lucia, University Librarian, who created the Falvey Scholars Awards shortly after joining the University.

This year’s winners were chosen from a group of candidates, either an individual Villanova University senior or a group of seniors, working together with the faculty adviser for their senior thesis or capstone project. The candidates were then selected by the Falvey Scholars Selection Committee, comprised of representatives from each of the collaborating departments.

The joint efforts of the library, the Honors Program and the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships make this program possible.

Digital copies of the winning papers are maintained in the Villanova Digital Library.

To our readers:

News From Falvey features events, exhibits, services, news, trends, innovations, resources and other activities at Falvey Memorial Library. We hope you enjoy the publication and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Read more Falvey news at blog.library.villanova.edu

Judith Olsen, editor
Featured Resources

The 17th-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers

is a new full-text resource that enables the reader to explore history through the eyes of its participants. One can learn about the English Civil War, the Restoration and 18th century political and cultural developments.

In addition to English literary and historical scholarship, this new database is invaluable to political scientists, philosophers and anyone interested in delving into life in the 17th and 18th centuries.

According to the publisher, “The newspapers, pamphlets, and books gathered by the Reverend Charles Burney (1757-1817) represent the largest and most comprehensive collection of early English news media. The present digital collection, that helps chart the development of the concept of ‘news’ and ‘newspapers’ and the ‘free press,’ totals almost 1 million pages and contains approximately 1,270 titles. Many of the Burney newspapers are well known, but many pamphlets and broadsides also included have remained largely hidden.”

Joseph Drury, assistant professor of English at Wesleyan University, says “The Burney Collection is an exceptionally rich database of periodicals and newspapers, invaluable to anybody interested in doing research on 18th century English culture. Most of the material from the early part of the century is not available anywhere else, and there is very little overlap with Eighteenth-Century Collections Online, because ECCO for the most part doesn’t include newspapers, journals and periodicals, only printed books. Because what it includes is so ephemeral, the Burney gets you much closer, I think, to everyday cultural life -- it gives you immediate responses to political events, theatre reviews, literary squabbles, fads, and fashions and so on.”

Burney, which also includes Acts of Parliament, features newspapers published in London, the British Isles and the British colonies.

—Judith Olsen

Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology

now online

The 2010 online edition of the Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology recently acquired by Falvey covers articles from ABA and ABAB designs to Z-Score. This will be useful for background information on topics such as the brain, classroom behavior, coping behavior or positive psychology. The images may be enlarged by clicking on them, and the references at the end of an article for further reading include many timely sources.—Jacqueline Mirabile

Literature Criticism Online: Classical, Medieval, Drama, Poetry and Short Stories

With an extensive compilation of literary commentary, Literature Criticism Online provides a diverse insight into literature, history and culture. The Gale series that comprise Literature Criticism Online represent a range of modern and historical views on authors and their works across regions, eras and genres. Falvey subscribes to Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism, Drama Criticism, Poetry Criticism and Short Story Criticism.—Susan Ottignon

Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Villanova University now has online access to the Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics, the most extensive and comprehensive reference work in the field. Currently, the encyclopedia contains over 2,750 signed articles and frequently adds new articles and updates existing ones. Editorial and advisory boards consisting of prominent astronomers and astrophysicists assure the high quality of this definitive reference source.

Although the primary audience for this encyclopedia is people with an academic or professional interest in astronomy or astrophysics, most of the articles do not require scientific expertise. People with a casual interest in astronomy can browse broad subject categories and can also find articles on Mayan astronomy, the Star of Bethlehem and the Vatican Observatory.—Alfred Fry

Contemporary Japan: New Collection Supports Better Understanding

The library recently received a donation of the collection, 100 Books for Understanding Contemporary Japan, from the Nippon Foundation. Of the list of English language books, Falvey added about one-third of those titles not already part of our holdings. The Foundation donated these titles promoting a greater understanding of contemporary Japan to selected university, special and public libraries that have an interest in Japan. Subjects included range from religion, history, economics, commerce, education, political science, literature and robotics. A. Maria Toyoda, Ph.D., chair, political science department, recommended the program to Falvey.—Merrill Stein

Digital Karl Barth Library

Now available via the library web site: The writings of Karl Barth (1886-1968) had an enormous impact on the development of systematic theology in the 20th century. A theologian from the Reform tradition, Barth transcended Calvinism and was a significant contributor to the Protestant “neo-orthodoxy” and anti-Nazi confessing church movements. In more than 600 written works, he touches on many aspects of faith and life. The concept of revelation is also a major focus for Barth.—Darren Poley
"Jack B. Yeats: Drawings & Illustrations" Provides a Colorful Glimpse into Literary and Artistic Ireland

Jack Butler Yeats, the brother of poet W.B. Yeats, is famous in his own right. Visit the online Falvey Special Collections exhibition, "Jack Butler Yeats: Drawings & Illustrations," and learn about this member of the illustrious Irish family (exhibits.library.villanova.edu/yeats).

Initially, this exhibition consisted of two parts, the physical one on display until the fall and the online version. Both were curated by Róisín Corry Roche, fall '09 Digital Library intern. Bente Polites, Special Collections librarian, assembled the physical exhibit and Joanne Quinn designed the graphics.

Róisín, who has a bachelor's degree in history from the College of New Jersey, a master's in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a master of science in library and information science from Drexel University, said that she chose this exhibition topic because of her interest in Irish subjects and because Falvey's Special Collections owns an extensive broadside collection illustrated by Jack Yeats.

"This is a very didactic exhibit, in keeping with Róisín's goal, to present "a complete picture of the literary and artistic world of Ireland at the time when Yeats (1871-1957) was painting."

While a broadside by definition is a large sheet of paper printed on one side, broadsides have historically been used as an inexpensive way to distribute news and folk ballads to a general populace. At the end of the 19th century, small presses and publishers adopted the broadside as a way to feature the fine arts aspect of their work. While Jack Yeats worked in many media, the Cuala Press decided to publish a set of broadsides to highlight his work and that of some of the writers in his set who were active in the Irish revival movement.

Yeats' family activities were intertwined within the Cuala Press enterprise. Began in 1903 as the Dun Emer Press, it was renamed in 1908 when it came under the ownership of Jack B. Yeats' sisters, Lolly and Lily. Examples of their publications are shown, including two works illustrated by Jack, On the Boiler and A Little Book of Drawings.

In the exhibit, broadsides feature the poem "Theodore to His Grandson" (January 1909); a broadside opened to two illustrations, "Tramps," and, in color, "A Youthful Pirate"; and a third with an illustration for "Campeachy Picture" (June 1908). There were 84 issues in the first series of Broadsides, and Jack Butler Yeats illustrated all, a total of 252 drawings.

Some other items include a "Jack Butler Yeats Timeline," and a self-portrait of Jack Butler Yeats, c. 1920, included in Hilary Pyle's Jack B. Yeats: A Biography. Other cases were organized by themes: the Gaelic Revival, the Cuala Press, books, plays, scholars and critics.

After visiting "Jack B. Yeats: Drawings & Illustrations," observers will recognize not just William Butler Yeats, but his brother Jack, other family members and their rich contributions to 20th century culture.

By Alice Bampton
Michael Hollinger on Being a Playwright

The Scholarship@Villanova event on February 17 featured Michael Hollinger, who revealed the creative process for writers and emphasized the constant negotiation between design and discovery in his talk, “Killing Trees: Writing and Revising (and Revising, and Revising...).”

In describing the writing process, Professor Hollinger said, “Students tend to focus on the canonical works that are universally accepted and worthy of our attention. In doing so, they often forget to look at these works in their early formative stages. This poses a problem for students who are trying to generate their own work, such as plays, stories and poems, measuring their creative output by the standards of the classics.”

Professor Hollinger's plays, which include “Opus,” “Red Herring,” “Incorruptible” and “Tiny Island,” have premiered at Philadelphia’s Arden Theatre Company. In addition, his plays have been produced throughout the United States, including New York City, as well as in London, Paris, Athens and elsewhere in Europe. Professor Hollinger, an associate professor of theatre and associate artistic director of Villanova Theatre, has been teaching at Villanova University for 15 years.

Tibetan High Lama’s Memoir: Life under Chinese Rule

East Asian Studies and Falvey Memorial Library co-sponsored a lecture by Arjia Rinpoche, director of the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center, on March 15. He discussed his newly published memoir, Surviving the Dragon: a Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years Under Chinese Rule (Rodale, 2010). Arjia Rinpoche (Lobsang Tubten Jigme Gyatso) is one of Tibet’s high lamas who fled Tibet and China in 1998 rather than compromise his loyalty to the Dalai Lama.

Charles Taylor: “Asian Americans in Magazine Advertising”

The Outstanding Faculty Research Lecture took place on Feb. 9 featuring Charles R. Taylor, Ph.D., a Villanova School of Business professor and the John A. Murphy Endowed Chair in marketing and business law. Dr. Taylor discussed the societal and managerial implications of the portrayal of Asian Americans in advertising. He stated that the Asian American population is often depicted as the “model minority”; they are reflected in advertising as hard-working, technologically savvy, business-oriented, successful and well-assimilated. While many of these stereotypes may appear to be positive, in reality some unsettling results can ensue when they are reinforced in the public mind.

The purpose of this lecture was to show that even though Asian Americans are understudied, their presence in the media should not be limited to technology-based products, business and science magazines, and business settings and relationships.

Donato De Simone and Growing Up in War-torn Italy

On February 3, the Alfred F. Mannella and Rose T. Lauria-Mannella Distinguished Speakers Series showcased Donato De Simone, discussing his compelling memoir, Suffer the Children: Growing up in Italy during World War II (Xlibris, 2007). De Simone shared vivid stories about events that occurred while he was growing up during the war. He recollected his experiences as a child and evaluated them from an adult perspective. His memoir captures the disturbing events from that era; it helps readers realize that the one element never present in a war is justice because, in De Simone's opinion, “If justice were present, there would be no war.”

Earning a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from Villanova University by age 28, De Simone also received a master’s in Italian from Rutgers University. He is fluent in English and Italian, and has taught French and classical Greek. After learning English, De Simone taught the subject to American students in both high school and college.

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Celebrating Women’s History Month with Judith Giesberg

On March 24, Judith Giesberg, Ph.D., associate professor in history, discussed her book, *The Army at Home: Women and the Civil War on the Northern Home Front* (University of North Carolina, 2009). Her talk presented the story of women of color who bravely defied segregation by launching campaigns during the Civil War. Dr. Giesberg’s book highlights how the war, although it brought much disruption to the North, educated black women on the importance of civil rights and provided possibilities, opportunities and challenges for women and children on the home front.

Dr. Giesberg has taught at Villanova University for eight years. She teaches courses in Civil War and Reconstruction and the history of childhood in the U.S. Women’s History Month (March) celebrates the ongoing contributions women have made in shaping America.

Open Mic Event Highlights National Poetry Month

On April 8, the annual Open Mic Poetry Reading took place in the library to celebrate April as National Poetry Month. Event participants included the Senior Class Poet contestants, other students and members of the Villanova University community who shared creative work and poems, ranging from humorous to thought-provoking to sublime. The event, sponsored by the library and the English department, featured the release of *Arthology*, Villanova University’s student art and literary magazine.

Poet Ange Mlinko Reads at Falvey

Ange Mlinko, the author of *Matinées* (Zoland Books, 1999), *Starred Wire* (Coffee House, 2005) and *Shoulder Season* (Coffee House, 2010), read in the library on April 13. Mlinko, who was born in Philadelphia, has taught at Brown University, Naropa University and Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco. Her poems are about urban life, about language and its failings, about the things we see and do not see. Her appearance, part of the semester-long Literary Festival, was co-sponsored by Falvey and the English department.

Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People

The Pope John Paul II Legacy Lecture on April 19 featured Rabbi David Dalin, Ph.D., speaking on “Pope John Paul II and the Jews.” A professor at Ave Maria University, Rabbi Dalin has written extensively on the history of papal-Jewish relations and is the co-editor of *John Paul II and the Jewish People: A Jewish-Christian Dialogue* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008). According to Rabbi Dalin, more than any other recent pontiff, John Paul II was the 20th century’s greatest papal friend and supporter of the Jewish people. For Rabbi Dalin, John Paul II’s extraordinary relationship with the Jews was an important chapter in the historic legacy of his pontificate, which has had profound implications for Catholic-Jewish relations in our time.

Falvey Hosts Online Grad Student Journal

From the miseries of early public prisons to the mysteries of Native American medicine to *The Scarlet Letter* as marketplace, articles published in *Concept, an Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, range across the disciplines their graduate student writers represent. Published by Villanova University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the 13th volume of the journal is the first edition offered in electronic form through Falvey Memorial Library’s nascent online journal hosting service.

On April 22, Falvey Library hosted a celebration of the publication of the 2010 *Concept*, and the event also commemorated the new partnership between this established outlet of campus scholarship and the library’s latest expression of its commitment to open access publishing and digital scholarship.

By Akua K. Adoo, Alice Bampton, Gerald Dierkes, Anne Ford, Judith Olsen and Stephen Spatz; posters by Joanne Quinn
Life as the Sister of the Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell’s Sister by Rev. Louis A. Rongione, O.S.A., recently digitized and added to the Villanova Digital Collection, provides a history and overview of the companion to the Liberty Bell. The Sister Bell once rested in Falvey Memorial Library and now resides in the Augustinian Heritage Room of the Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery on the Villanova University campus.

How did this smaller version of the Liberty Bell come to be? On October 16, 1751, the Pennsylvania Assembly voted that a bell weighing 2000 pounds and costing £100 should be purchased from Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London for use in the new State House, later called Independence Hall.

That historic bell cracked upon its first testing. The Pennsylvania Assembly felt that, because it had been recast twice and had a poor tonal quality, a replacement should be purchased. A bell of the same weight and cost was then ordered, and, in the summer of 1754, the Liberty Bell’s sister arrived in Philadelphia.

On August 13, 1754, however, the Pennsylvania Assembly voted to keep both bells, as the populace who once found the Liberty Bell’s tone annoying had grown accustomed to it. The original bell was hung in Independence Hall and the Sister Bell was hung on a special cupola in front of her, attached to the State House Clock, to toll the hours. She performed this task from 1754 to 1830, except for a brief period during the Revolutionary War.

Both bells rang for special occasions. One such occasion was the reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776.

The Sister Bell is no stranger to political intrigue. On September 14, 1777, British forces were threatening to occupy Philadelphia. To prevent the enemy from melting down the bells to use them for ammunition, they were smuggled to a secret location in Allentown. When the British left Philadelphia in 1778, the bells were returned to their home.

In 1830, the City of Philadelphia kept the original bell and sold the Sister Bell and State House Clock to Rev. Michael Hurley, O.S.A., pastor of Saint Augustine’s Church, 4th and Vine Streets, Philadelphia.

On May 8, 1844, members of the “Nativist” Party burned St. Augustine’s Church to the ground. The clock, along with the library and paintings, was totally destroyed, and the bell cracked into pieces in the fire. Her fragments were gathered and saved for recasting. When, in 1847 the Sister Bell was recast, she was greatly reduced in size. She was sent to Villanova College, founded in 1842 by the same Augustinian Fathers who served St. Augustine’s Church.

From 1847 to 1917 the Sister Bell hung in a tree on campus and called the students to class, chapel and meals. In 1917 she was installed in the steeple of St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church, Jamaica (N.Y.), but in 1942 returned to Villanova University for the centennial celebration.

Currently the Sister Bell is on display in the Augustinian Heritage Room, and she may be seen by appointment by calling Rev. Marty Smith, O.S.A. (610-864-1590).

(From a “Blue Electrode” blog, Dec. 10, 2009)

By Phylis Wright
The Griffin Room, located on the first floor of Falvey and equipped with the latest in classroom technology, is home base to the library’s teaching mission. During the 2009-2010 academic year, 12 Falvey librarians conducted a total of 233 sessions (more than 230 hours of instruction). They imparted vital information-seeking, evaluation and retrieval skills to more than 5,000 students in support of their coursework.

However, these statistics do not even hint at the program’s diverse content or the librarians’ innovative pedagogical methods. What used to be called “bibliographic” or “library instruction,” conducted on-site, in the very midst of the library’s rich collection of printed materials, has been continuously and dramatically transformed since the 1990s. Its practitioners now often call it “information literacy” or “information fluency” instruction. The updated terminology represents more than a cosmetic makeover, as the ever evolving content, methodology and even the location of instruction activities will attest. One thing, however, will never be jettisoned by librarians: the program’s student-centered core.

Librarians now teach research skills involving a wide spectrum of information resources. Indispensable print sources are presented along with bibliographic and statistical databases, as well as judiciously selected web sites, such as those featured in sessions on Japanese anime and cultural studies. Librarians also offer workshops in the use of EndNote and RefWorks, software packages that enable users to store and organize scholarly references and then generate in-text citations and bibliographic entries according to the documentation style of their choice. The librarians’ repertoire of pedagogical methods has also expanded to include synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (recorded) online presentations, downloadable instructional materials and streaming videos. Nor does instruction always require a physical classroom. It can now take place in online “classrooms,” such as Wimba and Eluminate.

Our students have ever more varied profiles as well. They may be “traditional” four-year undergraduates, master’s-level and doctoral students (such as those in the College of Nursing’s teacher-scholar program) or continuing education students of all ages. While many instruction sessions are still scheduled at the request of course instructors who bring students to the Griffin Room during a normal class period, information skills workshops have also been organized outside of class time for first year Wildcat football players and new fraternity members. In the coming academic year, librarians will pilot a new program of instruction services to our growing international student population.

Though methodologies evolve and content expands, the goal of the Falvey instructional program remains the same: teach students the crucial skills they need to access information effectively, efficiently and critically.

By Barbara Quintiliano
Noteworthy

Kristyna Carroll, a 2007 Villanova graduate with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and honors, has joined Falvey Memorial Library as a social sciences and business librarian. She received her master’s degree in library and information science from Drexel University in 2009.

She provides liaison support to students and faculty in the social sciences and the Villanova School of Business. She will teach research strategy classes, meet with individuals for research consultation and provide online guides to scholarship in these areas.

Kristyna said she is “glad to be back at Villanova University.” Her hobby is playing ice hockey for the Philadelphia Freeze. The team is part of the United Women’s Hockey League which includes the greater Philadelphia area, from Bethlehem to Delaware.

Laura Bang, who recently earned her master’s degree in library science from the University of Maryland, has joined Falvey Memorial Library as a curatorial assistant in Special and Digital Collections.

Laura will hire, train and supervise students and staff in the Digital Library. She will also help develop and mount the Special Collections’ online and physical exhibits and she will catalog Special Collections’ acquisitions. Laura also serves on the Humanities/Social Sciences liaison team.

Originally from Santa Barbara (Ca.), Laura received her bachelor’s degree in comparative literature from Bryn Mawr College. Last summer, while in graduate school, Laura worked at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany. Laura noted that the IYL is located in a 15th-century castle and that her work there was her “favorite experience in library school.”

David Uspal recently joined Falvey as Web Specialist for Library and Scholarly Applications. Joe Lucia, University Librarian, commented, “Dave brings many exciting skills to the library, and he will be working to advance our open source applications on all fronts in the months ahead.”

Dave works with the Technology Development team to update library web sites and to add new resources.

A native of Reading (Pa.), Dave has a bachelor’s degree in computer science with a minor in management information systems from The Pennsylvania State University and two masters’ degrees from Penn State Great Valley in software engineering and systems engineering.

His hobbies are board games and his two house rabbits. Dave noted that he tried doing home repairs over the summer but decided this wasn’t a hobby he is likely to pursue.

Falvey Memorial Library staff members were recently honored at the University’s service recognition dinner on April 28: William (Bill) Greene, Access Services, 35 years; Luisa Cywinski, Access Services team leader, 25 years; Natalie Tomasco, Resource Management specialist, 25 years; Mary Heyman, Business and Administrative Services specialist, 20 years; and Marie Roman, Resource Management specialist, 15 years.

In addition, three librarians celebrated service anniversaries: Susan Markley, Resource Management team leader, 30 years; Merrill Stein, Assessment, 20 years; and Barbara Quintiliano, Instructional Design and Research librarian, 10 years.

These committed staff members and librarians have provided 180 years of dedicated service to Falvey Memorial Library and Villanova University, a truly impressive number.

--Alice Bampton

Jim Fox, part-time stacks coordinator with Access Services, retired on April 30 after more than 13 years of service. Jim began his time at Falvey working as a microfilm supervisor, overseeing the use of the microfilm machines and supervising the students who work in the Bound Periodicals stacks. When the library underwent renovations, Jim was reassigned to Access Services and assumed the position of stacks coordinator. Jim’s new duties expanded to include interlibrary loan.

After earning his bachelor’s degree from Villanova University in 1958, Jim taught history at Upper Merion High School until his retirement in 1996 when he returned to the University to work in the library. He also taught history at La Salle University, Penn State Brandywine and Neumann College.

Jim’s loyalty to the students, the library and the University was unmatched. He had a knack for connecting with students, and they were Jim’s first priority. He loved hearing their stories and would frequently quiz them on University history or engage them in conversations about Villanova basketball or football.

His retirement will allow him to spend more time with his wife Teresa, his children and grandchildren.

--Alice Bampton
Falvey Memorial Library

Natalie Tomasco retired on June 18 after 26 years of service to Falvey and the University. Natalie began her career working in the library’s periodical department. Originally, her main responsibility was to check-in the daily mail which consisted of hundreds of current print issues. This was done manually in an antiquated Kardex.

As Falvey moved to a new integrated library system, Natalie successfully converted the manual check-in process to an automated one. When the electronic revolution hit journals in the 1990s, Natalie helped to convert the large print collection to online access.

Natalie also worked for several years on the library’s Publications and Communication team. Her attention to detail made her an excellent editor, and she also wrote feature articles and took photographs. One of her photographs of the Augustinian Cemetery on the University campus, which was featured in her Compass Newsletter article, “The Spanish Flu, Villanova College and Philadelphia,” also appeared in the book, A Cruel Wind: Pandemic Flu in America, 1918-1920, by Dorothy A. Pettit and Janice Bailie (Timberlane, 2008).

She will be spending her free time volunteering at her local library, doing yoga on her back deck and making yearly trips to Disney World to visit Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Phylis Wright was recently promoted to Manager of Access Desk Services. Luisa Cywinski, team leader of Access Services and Phylis’s supervisor, said “Our large group of student employees, who work in multiple areas of the department, reflect Phylis’s commitment to the goal of making cross-training a reality.” Luisa also said that Phylis will be the “front end manager” at Access Services, where her dedication to service will benefit library patrons most.

Phylis began her library career working in reserves. Other library assignments have included a stint in interlibrary loan. In addition to her current work in reserves, she began hiring, training and scheduling students who work at the circulation desk, a number that ultimately grew to sixty student employees.

Commenting on her promotion, University Librarian Joe Lucia said, “Phylis has a long history of dedicated service to the library and has been recognized for that by the faculty through the Facultas Award (spring 2006). She has an unwavering commitment to making the library a welcoming and responsive environment for our users. She also does an amazing job hiring and coordinating the schedules of the students who work on the Access team.”

Focus Groups Continued from page 1

open-ended format of questions and discussion points, many of which were tied to the 2009 survey results. The librarians sought to discover more about the “opinions, perspectives and experiences” of faculty who use the library and how they perceive the role of librarians in the educational process.

While the focus groups’ results cannot be said to represent the faculty at large since the number participating was small, these findings can be viewed as a starting point for future discussions and decisions about the library’s place in the University’s academic life and how the library can better communicate its offerings and contributions to scholarly research.

More information about the focus group process and results is available online at http://library.villanova.edu/about/departments/academicintegration/.

By Luisa Cywinski; graphics by Joanne Quinn

Director’s Watch Continued from page 2

when sustained, immersive book reading gives way to grazing and browsing.

What I have experienced with the iPad is different from what I expected. I like it for many things. It’s a really good news-reading device and it’s a fabulously portable high resolution web browser. It’s got lots of smart applications, and the way the various e-book readers available for it emulate physical page turning (by a quick swipe of the finger across the screen) is really slick. But the tactile dimensions of reading a book on it are limited indeed by the two-dimensional screen surface.

Being able to move around in a text by touching a screen is nice. But it’s nothing like touching a book.

The heft and malleability of paper between covers contribute mightily to the phenomenology of immersive reading in ways I didn’t fully appreciate until they were gone. The feel of a book’s interiority – that literal entry into its subject that is like being absorbed for a moment in another world – is greatly diminished when the text floats across a beautifully designed shiny surface. Being able to move around in a text by touching a screen is nice. But it’s nothing like touching a book.

Joe Lucia
University Librarian
Photograph by John Welsh

By Luisa Cywinski; graphics by Joanne Quinn

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open-ended format of questions and discussion points, many of which were tied to the 2009 survey results. The librarians sought to discover more about the “opinions, perspectives and experiences” of faculty who use the library and how they perceive the role of librarians in the educational process.

While the focus groups’ results cannot be said to represent the faculty at large since the number participating was small, these findings can be viewed as a starting point for future discussions and decisions about the library’s place in the University’s academic life and how the library can better communicate its offerings and contributions to scholarly research.

More information about the focus group process and results is available online at http://library.villanova.edu/about/departments/academicintegration/.

By Luisa Cywinski; graphics by Joanne Quinn

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Older Journals Move to Garey Hall
Careful, strategic planning preceded the project

Library materials, mainly bound volumes containing historical runs of print journals and periodicals housed in the Old Falvey stacks, were moved to a new storage location in Garey Hall, formerly the Law School library. Approximately 100,000 volumes are now stored in Garey Hall. According to Joe Lucia, University Librarian, “A large percentage of this material is available online.”

This shift of materials to a storage location will allow further revitalization of Falvey’s physical environment.

The library, working closely with campus mail services, assures daily delivery of materials from Garey Hall to Falvey. In addition, the library will scan and deliver in digital format items requested from this facility to the University community.

Luisa Cywinski, Domenick Liberato, with Jeannine Ahern, Dave Burke, Margaret Duffy, Linda Hauck, Jacqueline Mirabile and Kathleen O’Connor, planned and oversaw the August move. Many others on the Falvey staff contributed to the project as well.