“Reference Radio” hit the Villanova University radio airwaves this fall on Thursday mornings from 11:30-1:00 p.m., as a weekly program on WXVU, the University station. The creators and hosts of “Reference Radio,” Dan Overfield, research librarian, and Chris Barr, design and interface specialist, include regular segments featuring interviews with authors, musicians, librarians and faculty, as well as reviews of new Falvey resources, descriptions of library services and trivia questions that highlight the use of library resources, interspersed with music.

Dan and Chris believe “Reference Radio” will reach new patrons via an exciting and vibrant media. In addition to playing listener requests, the musical component of the show will expose listeners to an eclectic collection of music.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to share our love for independent and underground music while helping students with their research needs. I couldn’t think of a better way to blend my personal and professional interests,” said Chris.

The show raises awareness of library instruction and promotes its value across the University community. Dan and Chris also offer light reference assistance, through on-air telephone calls and e-mail questions. The show, a supplement to dedicated classroom instruction, is designed as a fun way to integrate information retrieval and research into the daily lives of students.

Prior to taking the airwaves, Dan and Chris were trained, as required by WXVU and the Federal Communications Commission. Their learning experience, which included shadowing a disc jockey for several weeks, culminated with an exam before the duo was unleashed onto the public airwaves. Chris and Dan both have experience as college radio disc jockeys and are excited to be back on the air to reach a new audience and promote the Library.

The show can be heard online or on WXVU, 89.1 FM, The Spot.

Photographs by Laura Hutelmyer and Chris Barr
Director’s Watch: Fun and games in the library?

By repute and for the most part in historical practice, libraries have been quieter places devoted to learning and inquiry. But that aspect of the library experience, often represented by the pop culture image of a bun-wearing, shushing librarian who’s more interested in silence than in pleasure, diminishes the vibrancy and creativity evident in the current library environment. Over the past decade, academic libraries have embraced a range of activities that extend and enhance traditional scholarly functions.

Two of my previous columns have addressed “library as place” and “library as commons.” Innovative libraries tend to reflect those dimensions of their mission in some surprising ways. A key recent trend is the embrace of video games and interactive gaming, critical components of digital culture, as a way to engage the imaginations of young people growing up in an information ecosystem where the centrality of printed texts is significantly diminished.

One might say, “Gaming, libraries, huh?” But a quick look back at Johan Huizinga’s classic work, Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play-element in Culture, provides the following framing remark:

“Even those activities which aim at the immediate satisfaction of vital needs – hunting, for instance – tend, in archaic society, to take on the play-form. Social life is endued with supra-biological forms, in the shape of play, which enhance its value. It is through playing that society expresses its interpretation of life and the world. By this we do not mean that play turns into culture, rather that in its earliest phases culture has the play-character, that it proceeds in the shape and the mood of play. In the twin union of play and culture, play is primary.”

Libraries are cultural heritage institutions. If at some level culture is co-extensive with play, then gaming in the library “meme” in academic contexts. Sam Demas, College Librarian at Carleton College, in a superb article in CLEAR Reports on the contemporary level culture is co-extensive with play, then gaming in the library “meme” in academic contexts. Sam Demas, College Librarian at Carleton College, in a superb article in CLEAR Reports on the contemporary

A bridge to history for Falvey Memorial Library: The American Catholic Historical Society and the Digital Library

Villanova University’s Digital Library will have an important new project this year as it begins to chronicle and digitize countless historical items from the American Catholic Historical Society (ACHS), the nation’s oldest Catholic historical association.

On Oct. 17, a ceremony marking the agreement was held in Falvey Memorial Library. The Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., University archivist, offered the invocation, and as librarians Michael Foight and Darren Poley welcomed those in attendance, some honored guests, particularly members of the ACHS leadership, were acknowledged. ACHS members joined the library staff and other Villanova officials for photographs.

The groundbreaking agreement was signed by Joe Lucia, director of Falvey Memorial Library, Louis N. Ferrero, P.L., president of ACHS, and the Rev. Msgr. James P. McCoy, executive director of ACHS.

Lucia noted that the agreement was emblematic for Falvey Memorial Library and Villanova University as a whole. “It’s a culmination of much work — and a continuation of it, as we take important resources and digitalize them, making them visible to the world,” he added.

The new partnership between the Library and ACHS will result in the scanning and documentation of several rare Catholic items to the library web site, where they will be available to readers everywhere. The digitalization will begin with early editions of American Catholic Studies, an academic journal published by ACHS since 1887.

Formerly known as Records, the journal is the oldest American Roman Catholic scholarly journal in continuous publication.

Coincidentally, the first president of ACHS was Rev. Thomas C. Middleton, O.S.A., who also served as Villanova University’s first University librarian from 1865-1923 and as Villanova University’s 15th president from 1876-1878. Middleton Hall on the University campus is named in his honor.

The Digital Library, under the leadership of Foight and Bente Polites, special collections librarian, assembles, presents and preserves digital collections that support the teaching and research of the University and global communities. Over 2200 documents have been digitalized since 2006. One of the oldest documents is a handwritten script of the Augustinian Regula or Rule of St. Augustine. The manuscript dates back to 1431, according to curatorial assistant Teri Incrona.

Link to the Digital Library from the Falvey Memorial Library home page.

Contributed by Anthony Maalouf GS; photographs by Chris Barr (top) and John Welsh (lower)
New & Notable Databases

British Periodicals

British Periodicals "traces the development and growth of the periodical press in Britain from its origins in the seventeenth century through to the Victorian age of periodicals and beyond," according to the publisher.

The rich content available through British Periodicals includes contemporary accounts of major events, reviews of just published books, such as Charles Darwin’s On the Origin of Species or Charlotte Bronte’s Jane Eyre, and the original printings of famous essays, such as Oscar Wilde’s "The Soul of Man under Socialism." And, of course, there are articles on fascinating subjects like sports and fashion. This database allows for full-text searching, or one can browse through the entire run of a magazine, issue by issue.

Professors Jill Rappaport and Deborah Thomas of the English department encouraged Falvey to subscribe to this important resource. According to Dr. Rappaport, "This digital archive is groundbreaking for nineteenth-century studies, finally making accessible for late Romanticists, Victorianists, modernists, and transatlantic scholars resources whose eighteenth-century equivalent has long been available through Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) and transatlantic scholars resources whose eighteenth-century equivalent has long been available through Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) and transatlantic scholars resources whose eighteenth-century equivalent has long been available through Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) and transatlantic scholars resources whose eighteenth-century equivalent has long been available through Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)."

With its wide range of topics, British Periodicals is an essential primary source for the study of the history and culture of Britain and the world at large during that entire era.

America’s Historical Newspapers, 1690-1922

Faculty requested it and students love it: Falvey recently acquired a digital collection of early American newspapers, adding to its steadily growing collection of digital news sources. History and political science faculty plan to use America’s Historical Newspapers for their own research as well as in the classroom. During the trial period last year students and faculty enthusiastically used the new resource to encourage Falvey to subscribe to this important collection and told us that we "must keep this!"

America’s Historical Newspapers has the complete content of each newspaper, including advertisements and images. It is easy to look for individual newspaper titles or to browse the entire collection for a list of newspaper titles that were published in a given state or city.

The Philadelphia Inquirer from 1860 to 1922 is included in the new collection. Some local historical newspapers also in the collection are the Federal Gazette (1788-1793), the Pennsylvania Gazette (1736-1775) and the Freeman’s Journal (1781-1792). Over two hundred years of events chronicled in American newspapers offer endless research possibilities for faculty and students alike.

Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated

Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated contains the full text and all the images of the 20,000 biographies and obituaries that have been published in Current Biography since 1940. Artists, politicians, business people, journalists, actors, writers, sports figures, scientists and other notables are included in this resource. Also, suggested reading sections point you to other recommended resources.

Art Index Retrospective

Art Index Retrospective, an online cumulative index which includes 1293-1984, contains references to articles published in over 600 journals. This index covers both Western art, fine art, commercial art, archaeology, folk art, photography, interior design and much more. Book reviews and over 100,000 reproductions of works of art are included.

To tap into these resources, go to the Falvey home page and find the resources listed under Databases by Title.

VuFind launch sparks enthusiastic response

"There’s much to like about the [VuFind] software, including a very clean design, faceted browsing of search results, and snappy response times," Roy Tennant of OCLC, the worldwide library cooperative, posted this favorable review on Library Journal.com just hours after the July release of the next-generation library catalog browser known as VuFind.

Smart Libraries' Marshall Breeding notes that "VuFind enters the scene at a critical moment in the evolution of library technologies."

According to Andrew Nagy, Falvey’s technology development specialist, “The release of VuFind comes at a perfect time: libraries currently recognize the need to offer their patrons a better tool to search and browse through all of their resources. Many resources—journals, e-books, digital library records—are changing to online-only access."

In today's library environment, patrons encounter multiple interfaces to search, and they often need to learn each system and determine its content. By offering a one-stop resource that allows the patron access to all of the library’s materials from one place, the library can truly begin to leverage its resources and deliver them to patrons more effectively. VuFind’s goal is to enable a library to offer access to all of its resources in one single search-and-browse system.

VuFind is an open-source OPAC (online public access catalog) replacement, currently the only OPAC replacement in the open-source market. Big name library software vendors, such as Ex Libris and SirsiDynix, as well as search platform Endeca, all have OPAC replacements in the commercial market. However, with these products comes a high price tag that many libraries are unable to afford. Two open-source library catalogs are available, but these require replacing more than just the OPAC; they are an integrated library system (ILS).

This situation illustrates the reason why VuFind can be a great fit. A library looking to offer its patrons better service can replace its OPAC with VuFind for little upfront cost and can still continue to use its existing library catalog system.

Andrew, the software developer, and Chris Barr, the user interface designer, are excited about releasing the software into the open-source community to allow other universities and public libraries to adopt the application, providing them with the opportunity to contribute to its development. The open-source community, enthusiastic about an institution taking the leap by investing its time in such a product, immediately responded with an outpouring of positive comments and reviews after the release was announced last summer.

VuFind is currently being tested at a variety of academic institutions, including Drexel and Lehigh Universities, who participated at the outset. The software is being tested or deployed at other major universities, such as George Mason University, Princeton University, The College of William and Mary, The College of New Jersey, Georgia Tech, the University of Illinois, Miami University and others. One expects that with success will come further development of the software by other collaborators from universities around the world.

“...this completely rules, as you kids say,” says Peter Ivanick, Drexel University’s systems librarian.

Contributed by Andrew Nagy, Gerald Dierkes and Judy Olsen
Featured Authors

Dr. Mercedes Juliá on the postmodern historical novel

Dr. Mercedes Juliá, professor and chair of the department of modern languages and literatures, discussed her recent book on the postmodern historical novel, Las Raíces del Pasado: Aproximaciones a la Novela Histórica Posmoderna (The Roots of the Past: Approaches to the Historical Novel in Postmodern Times) on Sept. 25 in Falvey Memorial Library. – Gerald Dierkes

Dr. Leonard Styles: How technology is changing communication

In his Oct. 23 Scholarship @ Villanova talk, Dr. Leonard Styles emphasized how technology has brought about decentralization and democratization of media as a result of the transition from analog to digital platforms. Dr. Styles, an associate professor in communication, recently published The Art of Video Production (Sage, 2007).

Taking a broader view of contemporary media, especially television, Dr. Styles pointed out how fact can be separated from lies and “the plausible from the preposterous” by using one’s own knowledge base, determining the credibility of the source and relying on corroboration from more than one source. – Jacqueline Mirabile

Dr. Robert Caverly notes recent improvements in wireless communication

If it weren’t for Dick Tracy comic strips, “Star Trek” and a National Science Foundation combined research and curriculum design grant, Dr. Robert Caverly would not have known what to do on his sabbatical. Dick Tracy’s once-futuristic-wristwatch-communication device and the communicators used in “Star Trek” sparked Dr. Caverly’s early interest in two-way radio communication.

A diverse group of budding writers and engineers gathered for the Scholarship @ Villanova lecture series on Nov. 6 to learn how and why Dr. Caverly spent his sabbatical writing CMOS RFIC Design Principles (Artech, 2007), a “how to” book for professionals and graduate students. – Linda Hauck

Frank Henninger’s personal journey

Frank L. Henninger, University Shop director, described some of his close calls while climbing Mount Rainier, at the inaugural Community Author program Nov. 1 in Falvey Memorial Library. At one point, he recalled his decision to turn back from reaching Rainier’s summit, which led to his narrow escape from several avalanches.

Henninger’s book, Compass Points: Finding a Mid-life Bearing on Mount Rainier (Borders, 2005), a biographical account of his first two experiences climbing the mountains, illuminates lessons he learned from his difficult, yet rewarding journeys. – Gina McFadden

Philadelphia’s “Little Italy” topic of Scholarship lecture

Italian Catholics have long lived in Philadelphia. The study of their mass emigration from Italy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries provides an important chapter in their history, Dr. Richard Juliani, sociology and criminal justice department, examined aspects of this period in his new book, Priest, Parish, and People: Saving the Faith in Philadelphia’s “Little Italy,” at the Oct 4 Scholarship @ Villanova lecture. He wrote the book because of the response to his prize-winning Building Little Italy: Philadelphia’s Italians before Mass Migration, but also because simplistic views found in mass media portrayals of Italian Americans still exist. – David Burke

Featured Events

HIV/AIDS: No Longer a Death Sentence

Robert Makunú, deputy HIV unit manager of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Kenya, kicked off AIDS Awareness Week on November 26 with a poignant discussion about impoverished areas of Africa. A packed crowd gathered in Falvey Memorial Library to hear Makunú’s lecture, “Restoring Hope in Africa: Community-Based Care for HIV/AIDS,” during which he detailed some of the causes and devastating effects of the disease.

As a former medical student, Robert Makunú witnessed firsthand the social stigma and emotional impact attached to HIV/AIDS. His discussion pinpointed some of the likely causes for the rapid spread in Africa, such as the locals’ practice of traditions, the deep-seeded fear of the disease and the lack of communication, proper treatments, and money.

Makunú’s work with CRS focuses on the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program. By providing “the children left behind” with the proper aid now, Makunú argues they will have the tools to live healthy, safe and disease-free lives in the future.

Joyce Zavarich, theology professor and associate director of Campus Ministry and the Center for Peace and Justice Education, also spoke, as did Candice Harris, a staffer from the CRS Northeast Regional office. – Gina McFadden

Rabbi Lazar is World Religions Day guest speaker

The call of a shofar filled Falvey’s first-floor lounge on Sept. 18 as Rabbi Eric J. Lazar of Temple Beth Achim concluded his talk on the High Holy Days of the Jewish faith. The audience learned that the shofar, a ram’s horn, is traditionally used to announce the beginning of Rosh Ha-Shanah or the New Year and birth of the world.

Beginnings and endings, ancient scriptural commandments for living and contemporary Jews’ efforts to translate the essence of these traditions into modern life were recurrent themes in Rabbi Lazar’s talk, given in celebration of World Religions Day.

Rabbi Lazar explained that Judaism embraces a spectrum of theological practice, from Orthodox to Conservative and Reform. Varying degrees of individual responsibility are recognized for deciding how to observe God’s commandments. For Sandy Koufax, this meant not pitching in a World Series game played on Yom Kippur.

For the character Joël Fleishman in the 1970s television series “Northern Lights,” it meant employing military tactics to find 10 Jewish men to say Kaddish, prayers for the dead, for his uncle. There is a wonderful diversity of means for honoring the essence of Judaism. – Linda Hauck

The meaning of “Hispanic”: A student forum

What comes to mind when you see or hear the term “Hispanic”? Are you Hispanic? Questions such as these defined the discussion on Sept. 27 as Falvey Memorial Library hosted a student forum on the meaning of the term “Hispanic.” Dr. María Gladys Valiérès and Dr. Carlos Trujillo, both associate professors of Spanish in the classical & modern languages and literatures department, led the discussion.

Dr. Vallières stated that, among Spanish-speaking people, no consensus exists on the meaning of Hispanic and that the term is used most often in the United States. The etymology of Hispanic begins with the word “Hispania,” the name given by the Romans to the entire Iberian Peninsula—modern-day Spain, Portugal, Andorra, and Gibraltar.” Hispanic eventually came to be applied only “to Spain and things related to it.” – Gerald Dierkes

Images from the Catholic Relief Services’ “Children Left Behind” traveling exhibit, on display in Falvey during November.
The search for Lincoln’s assassin: History comes alive through a family’s recently discovered personal papers

While rummaging through some of her late husband’s belongings, Falvey Memorial Library’s Marie Humbert discovered some remarkable items related to the American Civil War. One of Harold ‘Bud’ Humbert’s ancestors, Augustus Humbert, was a lieutenant in the Union Army and participated in the hunt for President Abraham Lincoln’s assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and his co-conspirators. Marie found papers relating to Lt. Humbert’s service and graciously enabled Falvey to add them to the Digital Library, now available online as the Humbert Collection.

Two items are formal documents pertaining to Humbert’s military service. One announces his commission as a lieutenant in the Pennsylvania militia in 1863. Interestingly, the certificate shows his commission was granted by the governor of Pennsylvania rather than the federal government. The other confirms his 1889 membership in the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans’ organization for former soldiers of the Union Army.

With these documents Marie uncovered a Confederate twenty-dollar bill (front and final series, February 17, 1864), complete with pictures of the Tennessee state capitol building in Nashville and Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens. Although worn, these items are interesting souvenirs of the Civil War era.

Even more fascinating are the other items from this small collection. Included are actual orders delivered during the hectic aftermath of Lincoln’s assassination on April 14, 1865. The first, a letter by Noah Jeffries, assistant provost marshal for the Union Army, orders him to prevent a ship from landing in the Arch Street wharf until he was satisfied John Wilkes Booth was not on board. Soldiers later killed Booth in a burning barn on April 26. Although those involved in Booth’s conspiracy were captured or killed in Maryland, these documents reveal how widespread the hunt for the assassin actually was.

Many attics and cellars hold important historical artifacts and records, even if not connected to so dramatic an event as Lincoln’s assassination. Fascinating research projects often begin by exploring how such newly-discovered items fit into the overall historical record.

The Digital Library at Villanova University welcomes contributions of other such heirlooms from viewers’ family histories, thereby allowing researchers from all over the world to incorporate these items into their scholarship. Connect to the Digital Library through the Falvey home page.

Falvey partners with Office of Health Promotion to build teaching aids catalog

How do you catalog a piece of plastic pizza or the goggles that simulate what people see when they’ve had too much to drink?

Both plastic pizza and goggles fall into the realm of realia, objects from everyday life which are currently used as teaching aids for the Office of Health Promotion programs.

Taras Ortnysky, descriptive services librarian, cataloged almost 300 items for the Health Promotion resource center, which also includes books, DVDs, videotapes and CDs. Taras notes that cataloging realia requires following a format; for example, the goggles are cataloged under their product name, “Fatal Vision.”

The project, which took place last summer, involved Stacy Andes, director of the Office of Health Promotion and the primary contact from that office. In addition to Taras, project coordinator, other participating Falvey Memorial Library staff members were Luisa Cwowski, co-team leader, Access & User Assistance, and Kathy O’Connor, co-leader, Technology team.

One of Falvey’s Library’s goals is to catalog University off-site collections that have value and could be more effectively discovered through library search tools. Previously cataloged collections which also appear in VUCat, the Falvey catalog, are from the Augustinian Historical Institute, the Nursing Learning Resource Center and the School of Business.

Director’s Watch Continued from page 2

evolution of libraries in liberal arts institutions, opines:

Liberal arts college libraries in particular have developed a wealth of fun traditions to leverage the intense scholarly atmosphere. Amherst College throws a dance party in the library for first-year students—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to let loose in the library. St. Olaf College hosts an annual benefit miniature-golf game that has participants play through the library’s far reaches. The Holyoke’s library hosts a student theater production in its lobby each year. These are but a few examples of the fun side of library life. Each library finds its own ways of celebrating community and its role in community building.

With such library antics becoming commonplace, how can people raise their eyebrows at a little video gaming? Important recent research findings in education studies indicate video gaming is replete with engaging learning experiences that can be better than what happens in many classrooms. Recent books by James Gee, Clark Aldrich and Steve Johnson provide good overviews of these findings.

Beyond an intellectual rationale, there’s the urgent recognition among many librarians that we need to capture the younger audience for libraries in ways that they find rewarding. Using gaming experiences as an entrée to the larger library environment, the thought goes, we achieve an “affectionate orientation” that may draw these new constituencies deeper into our range of resources and services over time.

Early leaders in library gaming were largely in the public library arena. But academics have not been on the sidelines very long. In the past couple of years, Georgia Institute of Technology and Wake Forest University have blasted the trail of full-scale gaming events in their libraries. A description of their programs was presented at the July 2007 American Library Association Symposium on Gaming in Chicago. In fact, we dispatched one of our Villanova librarians to this event because we felt it required our close attention.

Beyond conference presentations, several recent publications provide more systematic critical views of the library gaming phenomenon. The first of these is “shifted librarian” Jenny Levine’s Library Technology Report entitled “Gaming & Libraries: Intersection of Services.” There’s also Scott Nicholson’s white paper on “The Role of Gaming in Libraries: Taking the Pulse.”

Such a spate of publications indicates that we are in the growth cycle of an activity that may soon be part of the mainstream library mission. In absolute terms, libraries that sponsor formal gaming activities are still early adopters, but the adoption cycle moves fast these days. By next year libraries that haven’t figured out where gaming fits into their environments may be laggards.

Yes, we will be kicking off a video gaming series in Falvey later this academic year. All will be welcome. And it will be fun!


Contributed by David Burke

Villanova University

Falvey Memorial Library
Alfred Fry
Falvey Library recently welcomed Alfred Fry as its new science librarian. Alfred will coordinate the Science and Engineering Librarian Liaison team which serves the College of Engineering and the departments of astronomy and astrophysics, chemistry, computing sciences, mathematical sciences and physics. In addition to being the physical sciences' primary contact person, Alfred will also help provide research support to students and the University community.

Alfred earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and English from Hampden-Sydney College (Va.) and a master of science in library and information science from Drexel University. During his 12 years as reference and instruction librarian at Camden County College in Blackwood (N.J.), Alfred taught a wide variety of classes and developed a strong working relationship with their biology department.

Alfred is also interested in copyright law and, in 2005, was selected to be a charter member of the American Library Association’s Copyright Advisory Network. A native of Virginia, Alfred has lived in center city Philadelphia for over 15 years.

Gina McFadden
Joining the Library’s Access and User Assistance team is Regina “Gina” McFadden. Gina’s personal philosophy is to “make someone’s day easier”, exemplified by her solid background in customer service. In addition to her circulation and information desk duties, Gina is responsible for processing E-ZBorrow requests and electronic reserves. The library staff had the opportunity to get acquainted with Gina earlier this year when she worked on an important stacks shifting project as a temporary employee.

A graduate of Cardinal O’Hara High School in Springfield (Pa.), she recently completed her bachelor’s degree in English at Penn State Brandywine, where she was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Gina resides in Glenolden (Pa.) with her family and two golden retrievers.

Trisha Kemp
Falvey’s Access and User Assistance team welcomes Patricia “Trisha” Kemp. Trisha comes to Villanova University from the libraries of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul (Minn.), where she had ten years of experience in circulation, reserves and interlibrary loan. She is a valuable asset to Falvey, where she serves at both the circulation and information desks and provides support for interlibrary loan services.

Trisha grew up in nearby Willow Grove (Pa.), and is returning to the area after 37 years. She obtained her bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University with a major in Arabic and a minor in linguistics. In her spare time, Trisha enjoys music and the theatre.

Stephen Spatz
Stephen Spatz joined the staff at Falvey in October, 2007 as a part-time temporary librarian. He reports to three library teams: Research Support, Programming and Outreach, and the Digital Library. His multifaceted position presents Stephen with the opportunity to assist patrons with their research, use his cataloging skills to enhance subject access to digitized Villanova undergraduates’ theses and organize metadata for Falvey’s new Community Bibliography.

Stephen earned his bachelor’s degree in music from University of California-Santa Cruz. Stephen has engaged in pursuits as diverse as professional audio work, commercial baking and playing multiple instruments in numerous bands. While his doctorate, Dr. Chaon Mallory, assistant professor of philosophy at Villanova, pursued her doctorate, he worked as a stay-at-home parent for their two children, daughter Rehanah, 7, and son Zephyr, 2. When his daughter reached preschool age, Stephen decided to cultivate the connections between his longtime interest in library materials and service, his personal commitment to lifelong learning and his growing fascination with computer technology. He earned his master of library and information science degree from the University of Washington’s Information School in 2007.

When he’s not at Falvey, Stephen spends his time recording demos, cooking for the family and hanging out at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Phylis Wright
Phylis Wright recently returned to Falvey, assuming a senior access and information specialist position. In her new role, Phylis will be responsible for the management of physical and electronic readings that faculty place on course reserves or in WebCT Vista.

She will also be in charge of scheduling and payrol for 30 student employees who work at the main service desk and in various processing areas. Phylis’ vibrant personality will make her a welcome addition to the team of specialists who staff the Falvey Information Desk.

Phylis originally joined the library staff in 1996, working in reserves and interlibrary loan. Many faculty will remember her tireless dedication to supporting their research needs, and she received the 2006 Facultas award for her years of service in interlibrary loan.

In memoriam
James N. McAleer, a Falvey employee for 16 years, passed away on October 2. He is survived by his wife, Joan, his children, James, Joan Graves (William) and Jacelyn Smith (Timothy), his grandchildren, his twin brother, his sisters, and his nieces and nephews. Jim served Falvey as the third floor book shelfer; he came to Villanova after a long career as a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

Jim will be remembered for his lively sense of humor and his commitment to Falvey. Proud of his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Jim liked to share the fascinating stories of his experiences in the Pacific. He and his twin brother enlisted when they were just 17.
The online version of “Wildcats Past & Present: Moments from the History of Sports at Villanova” is now available. The exhibit, which had been on display in Falvey from January to May in 2007, displays a rich collection of materials from the University Archives and Special Collections. The online exhibit was created by Teri Ann Incrovato, curatorial assistant.

Now former student athletes can reminisce about their college years and relive their glory days. They can share these good memories with their children and grandchildren, any time, any place, with the click of a mouse.

The online exhibit combines photographs of the exhibit cases and high quality scans for easy viewing. Although not all items were digitized for inclusion in the online exhibit, entries were kept for all items included in the physical exhibit. Bente Polites, Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., and Teri Ann Incrovato collaborated to assemble the exhibit.

Tour the exhibit at library.villanova.edu/services/exhibits/SportsExhibit/

Contributed by Teri Ann Incrovato