In 1762, Thomas Chapman, wine-cooper, published *Cyder-Maker's Instructor, Sweet-Maker's Assistant, and Victualler's and Housekeeper's Director -- In Three Parts*. Chapman's book provided brewing instructions for making wine and beer that compared favorably to foreign brews. He assured his readers that his knowledge did not come from books or old wives tales but from personal experience. Chapman's book was printed in London and reprinted in Philadelphia by Andrew Steuart, at the “Bible in Heart, Second Street, directly opposite the Black-Horse Alley.” Was this the beginning of Philadelphia’s microbrewing industry?

The text of Chapman’s book can be found in the online version of Early American Imprints, Series I, also known as the Evans Collection. Evans takes its name from Charles Evans, author of the *American Bibliography*, an indispensable research tool that lists all imprints published in early America. Evans’ renowned bibliography includes books, pamphlets, broadsides, catalogues, statutes and more.

Before the online Early American Imprints, library users had access to this unique collection only in microfiche. Researchers would consult the 14-volume print bibliography to find the correct fiche number, and then read the text on a microform reader. Readex, the publisher, digitized the entire set and made the collection available as an online resource.

Over 150 years of publishing history in the Colonies and the early Nation make for some very good reading on a wide variety of topics. Contemporary accounts of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* and Thomas Jefferson’s *Notes on the State of Virginia* are some prime examples.

The history department has embraced Falvey’s recent acquisitions of online primary sources. Dr. Catherine Kerrison, who teaches early American history, says she uses Early American Imprints as “a foundational research tool for classes in early America, for both introductory courses and advanced seminars.” Kerrison notes that “it allows easy access to a wide range of voices students have never heard, from ministers’ execution sermons to playbills, from obscure legislative statutes to the trendiest novels. The finding aids make browsing enjoyable. With Early American Imprints, students have early American history at their fingertips.”

Villanova researchers can access Early American Imprints from the library’s Databases by Title list or from the History Resources page under the Books and Primary Sources tabs.

Contributed by Jutta Seibert, Jacqueline Mirabile and Laura Hutelmyer
Director’s Watch: From open stacks to “open source”

The social and institutional implications of the networked digital information revolution are coming into sharper focus over time. For example, Yochai Benkler’s 2006 book "The Wealth of Networks" is a wide-ranging study of the economic and political ramifications of many new social practices enabled by networked digital culture. One paradigmatic example Benkler examines is the emergence of “free” or “open source” software and, more broadly, cooperative intellectual activity that exists outside of proprietary markets.

Benkler notes, “We are beginning to see the expansion of this model not only to our core software platforms, but beyond them into every domain of information and cultural production... from peer production of encyclopedias, to news and commentary, to immersive entertainment.”

Open source initiatives can be well understood in relation to the idea of the “commons.” A number of significant works in recent years have examined the centrality of the commons to a vital and creative cultural and intellectual life. At the heart of Benkler’s study is a vision of the commons as a key locus of exchange and collaboration.

Benkler provides a helpful definition:

“Commons” refers to a particular institutional form of structuring the rights to access, use, and control resources. It is the opposite of “property” in the following sense. With property, law determines one particular person who has the authority to decide how the resource will be used.... The salient characteristic of commons, as opposed to property, is that no single person has exclusive control over the use and disposition of any particular resource in the commons. Instead, resources governed by commons may be used or disposed of by anyone among some (more or less well-defined) number of persons, under rules that may range from “anything goes” to quite strictly articulated formal rules that are effectively enforced.

Public and academic libraries are conceptually situated within the domain of the commons, in the sense that their key role is to provide their communities with open access to their collections, just as the commons enables access to intellectual resources outside of proprietary systems.

Continued on page 6

The Spanish flu, Villanova College and Philadelphia

If you pass the Augustinian community cemetery on the University lawn overlooking Lancaster Avenue, you may notice the graves of three young seminarians buried next to each other. In October 1918, over the course of six days, these three seminary students died in Saint Mary’s Hall from Spanish influenza. Gilbert E. Klunk, 23, died on October 10, only four months after arriving at the seminary from McSherrystown, Pennsylvania. John F. Dorgan, from Massachusetts, succumbed on October 11, just six days before his 25th birthday. Albert J. Starr, a convert from Colorado, died on October 15 at the age of 30.

Today, the flu is common, with thousands becoming mildly ill before making a complete recovery. For only a small percentage of the population is the flu life-threatening.

In 1918, the flu season was very different. The “Spanish flu,” so called since one of the first towns afflicted was San Sebastian on the northern coast of Spain, turned into a deadly pandemic infecting millions on every continent. It hit hard and it hit fast. The terrible difference was that vital, healthy people between 20 and 40 died in record numbers. Many people who died succumbed from fluid in the lungs within days or even hours of becoming ill. Others suffered complications from pneumonia.

The outbreak of deaths worldwide attributed to the Spanish flu and its complications is 21 million, but many feel this number could be much higher. An exact count of lives lost can never be precisely calculated due to the lack of accurate recordkeeping throughout the world during that period. Gina Kolata, in her book Flu, says, “Humanity had been struck by a disease that killed more people in a few months’ time than any other illness in the history of the world.”

In the United States, approximately 500,000 died. The Spanish flu hit Philadelphia the hardest of any city in the United States, probably because of its Naval Yard and its proximity to two large army bases, Fort Dix in New Jersey and Fort Meade in Maryland. These installations were overflowing with thousands of World War I forces.

Also, on September 28 that year, 200,000 patriotic Americans were drawn to the Philadelphia streets to attend a Liberty Loan Drive, to watch the parade and help finance World War I. The flu spread throughout the population, and the city lost over 12,000 of its citizens during the peak weeks of September 20 through November 8. On October 10 alone, 759 deaths were reported.

Since the city’s health and medical facilities were so overwhelmed, many area nuns volunteered to assist with medical care, housekeeping and other tasks. At Villanova College, out of an enrollment of 308,173 students were infected. The Army quarantined the campus, and seven nurses from Bryn Mawr Hospital, aided by six Saint Joseph nuns, handled the students’ care.

Rev. Frances E. Tourcher, College librarian from 1923 to 1939, wrote Work of the Sisters During the Epidemic of Influenza October 1918, describing how the various religious orders and parishes of the diocese helped people in need during this unprecedented crisis. Father Tourcher recounts many personal experiences of the nuns and concludes with a list of the religious from the area who became victims of the deadly flu. Falvey Memorial Library has a copy of this book in its print collection and in its digital library.

To our readers:

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 the following web site:

mailto:newsletter.library.villanova.edu/156

Article and photography by Natalie Tomasco, with assistance from Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., University archivist.
Fifth annual Falvey Scholars program

On May 3, six senior Honors Program students presented their thesis research to the Villanova University community in Falvey Memorial Library's first floor lounge. These outstanding undergraduates were selected from seniors who presented their papers at Honors colloquia earlier in the semester.

Their research topics were varied, covering theology, sociology, literature, history, political science and original poetry. Jennifer Ellis, advised by Dr. David Schindler, presented “Class and Political Engagement in America.” Lauren Linkowski’s “A Chapbook of Original Poetry” is the first senior thesis written as poetry; her advisor was Dr. Lisa Sewell, herself a poet. Jenna Cucco, advised by Dr. Anthony Godzieba, presented “Revelation as the In-Breaking of God in History.”

Advised by Dr. Bryan Crable, Erin Artizzi spoke about “Kenneth Burke and Middlemarch: A Perspective by Incongruity.” Sean L. Wright, directed by Dr. Christine Kelleher, presented his research on “The Impact of Disindustrialization on Community Organizing in Philadelphia.” Matthew Fallon's topic was “Repubblica in Renaissance”: his advisor, Dr. Emmet McLaughlin.

Each Falvey Scholar’s thesis is digitized in the Villanova University Digital Library collection.

Justice Education: Addressing the origins of social problems or treating the symptoms?

In the face of global and local poverty and social injustice, how should Roman Catholic colleges and universities position themselves? Is educating about injustice and promoting charity and service enough?

Based on her own experience and drawing on that of the University of Central America in El Salvador, Dr. Suzanne C. Toton addresses these questions in her new book, Justice Education: From Service to Solidarity (Marquette U.P. 2006), the subject of her recent Scholarship@Villanova talk in Falvey on February 21.

Dr. Toton states that both individuals and Catholic institutions are called by the Gospels to adopt a preferential option for the poor. She argues that this is, by and large, inadequately integrated into Catholic higher educational institutions, including our own.

A faculty member in the theology & religious studies department and the Center for Peace & Justice Education, Dr. Toton has taught service learning courses at Villanova University. For a dozen years she was an active member of Philadelphia Interfaith Action (PIA), a powerful community organization that addressed the issues of plight, crime, job creation and the lack of affordable housing in Philadelphia.

Dr. Toton concluded her talk quoting theologian Ronald Martinis: “Companionship with the poor is not a rampart we are called to storm; it is a grace to which we are invited to open ourselves.”

From sickle cell anemia to Huntington’s disease:

Six years and 1200 Gen Bio students later

Biology faculty concurred that their students needed to be proficient in information research skills well before their senior seminar. Throughout the summer and fall of 2000, a group of librarians, biology faculty members and General Biology lab coordinators met to find ways to solve this mutually recognized problem.

This resulting Gen Bio pilot project, conducted in November 2000, required students to answer a series of questions about the genetic disease, sickle cell anemia. Each Gen Bio section spent one half of a lab period in the Library learning techniques for searching literature databases, such as Expanded Academic Index and PubMed, from the National Library of Medicine.

The students also completed group exercises designed to promote awareness of various types of literature, such as popular press vs. scholarly and primary vs. secondary sources. During the other half of the lab period, they were instructed by biology professors in searching scientific databases, such as Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM). Two weeks after this lab session the student groups presented their findings, in oral and written form.

By all measures, the pilot project was deemed a success, and the information research lab has been taught to hundreds of biology and general science students each fall semester since. There have been a few modifications, such as moving the lab earlier in the semester to allow students more time before they present. Also, topics have been expanded from one genetic disease to seven, including cystic fibrosis, Huntington’s disease and achondroplasia, a cause of dwarfism.

The program has had a positive impact on everyone involved. The librarians and biology instructors, including faculty and graduate assistants, have developed stronger collegial ties through their involvement in this endeavor.

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Reaching an underserved population: Dr. Suzanne Smeltzer and the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project

Although almost 60 million Americans live with disabilities, they have been largely excluded from most health research studies.

Further, when health conditions specific to women with disabilities become the focus, the number of such studies drops even further.

Dr. Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Ed.D., R.N., FAAN, a nursing professor and Villanova University’s director of the Center for Nursing Research, has dedicated herself to correcting this disparity.

Professor Smeltzer presented a lecture at Falvey on March 13 that highlighted her investigations regarding the health issues of disabled women and the ongoing Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project at Villanova University. So significant are Dr. Smeltzer’s research findings that they have been incorporated into innovative coursework, helping health care workers become better trained in meeting the needs of disabled persons.

Other health-related topics investigated as part of the project include “There is Something I Want to Tell: The Lived Experience of Partner Abuse in Physically Disabled Women,” “Mediating Stress for Women with Autoimmune Disease” and “Cardiovascular Disease Risk among Women with Disabilities.” The Health Promotion Project established by Dr. Smeltzer serves as an example of compassionate outreach to an underserved population.

Two new exhibits now online!

> Celebrating the 750th Anniversary of the Grand Union of the Augustinian Order
> Commemorating 500 Years of the Complete Works of St. Augustine

Contributed by Barbara Quintiliano and Gerald Dierkes; photograph by Natalie Tomasco
What does a poem look like?

“Signing the Body Poetic”

Dr. Heidi M. Rose, associate professor in the communication department, demonstrated the poetry of American Sign Language at her Scholarship@Villanova talk on April 25. Dr. Rose showed videos of ASL poem performances, including “Missing Children,” a narrative poem. She showed clips of the poem as interpreted by two different individuals, and Dr. Rose explained the unique meanings each person brought to the poem.

At a special feature, ASL specialist Brandi Mazick, from the Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre in Swarthmore (Pa.), simultaneously signed the text of Dr. Rose’s talk.

Dr. Rose has published extensively in the areas of deaf culture, American Sign Language literature and solo performance. Her ground-breaking essay, “The Poet in the Poem in the Performance: The Relation of Body, Self, and Text in ASL Literature,” is featured in one of the first major scholarly works to theorize the American Sign Language aesthetic, from poetry to theater and film. This collection, which she helped edit, is entitled Signing the Body Poetic: Essays on American Sign Language Literature (Univ. California Pr, 2006).

Dr. Rose’s talk, which took place during National Poetry Month, was sponsored by Falvey Memorial Library.

Continued from page 3

Contributed by Darren Foley and Judy Olmen

Director’s Watch (Continued from page 1)

to intellectual and cultural resources. No single individual controls or “uses up” the resources of a library. In the context of print collections, the idea of accessibility to all translates into an “open stacks” framework, in which all materials are available to all who use a particular facility. By trolling around in the stacks, many library users have experienced moments of serendipitous discovery and accidental insight. Libraries exist to encourage exploration and discovery by members of their communities. Their core mission is to facilitate the creation of new ideas by preserving and extending the intellectual commons.

The emergence of open source software – software that is collectively developed by a community of technologists with an interest in a particular application or tool and then distributed at no cost to the broader community of individuals who can find a use for it – has amplified my sense of the potential for envisioning the library as a center for participatory culture and collaborative enterprise. Libraries are profoundly social in their origin and intent, and their communities. Their core mission is to facilitate the creation of new ideas by preserving and extending the intellectual commons.

Beyond software development, the open source framework – exemplifying a broadly participative, communicative, self-refining community project with the goal of serving the common good – provides an engaging perspective for understanding and refining the core institutional values of libraries. This framework can be inflected back into library’s physical avatars in collections and facilities. Over time, it may be essential for universities to reimagine and re-instantiate their physical libraries as collaborative settings for and manifestations of local intellectual activity.

Hence, the imperative is to make the library a site where the community explores and revises its values, where complex controversies are embraced and engaged, where, in effect, the intellectual commons is modeled and enacted through events, programs and chance encounters in a space that is hospitable, comfortable and accessible to all. Moreover, this requires that the library engage the members of its community in thinking about its purposes and possibilities.

And it is precisely that collective investigation and recreation of the library’s role at Villanova and other institutions that I look forward to engaging in with all of you during the next several years.

Contributed by Jose Lucia

2. Two books I have found especially useful in this regard are Eric Raymond’s The Cathedral and the Bazaar; Mises on Lines and Open Source by an Accidental Revolutionary (Klib, 1994, rev. ed., 2001) and Lawrence Lessig’s The Future of Ideas: The End of the Commons in a Connected World (Yale, 2002).
3. Wealth of Networks, pp 60-61; elipses mine.

People

Graphic/web designer Chris Barr joins staff

Falvey Memorial Library welcomed graphic/web designer Chris Barr in May. He will be involved in developing the Falvey web environment. Chris comes with five years experience as a professional graphic and web designer working in advertising at Blaine Turner Advertising in Morgantown (W.Va.) and in education at the University at Buffalo’s Educational Technology Center, a division of the University Libraries. He will also be serving on the publications/communication and outreach teams, and on the communication, education and psychology liaison group as well.

Chris is a recent graduate of the University at Buffalo’s master of fine arts program in media study. His artwork, recognized in The Chronicle of Higher Education, The New York Times and other publications, has been shown nationally and internationally. Chris’ artwork will be featured in the upcoming Beyond/In Western New York biennial exhibition at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo.

Chris attended West Virginia University where he received a bachelor of fine arts degree.

Dan Overfield promoted

Dan Overfield, coordinator of the business liaison team, was recently promoted to the rank of Librarian II. Originally hired as assistant business librarian in 2005, Dan became business liaison in 2006 when his predecessor, Michael Foight, moved to Falvey’s Digital Library.

In addition to his Villanova School of Business responsibilities, where he oversees the Business Information website, offers research consultations to faculty and students, conducts information literacy instruction sessions, manages the team materials budget and contributes to collection development decisions, Dan also works on the Falvey web development committee and the intranet development team.

In April, Dan joined the political science and geography liaison team, where he maintains the Africana, East Asian, Latin American, Arab and Islamic and political science subject pages and also assists with pertinent materials collection decisions.

Dan also helps at the main research consultation desk and provides on-call reference support for library patrons.

Contributed by Darren Foley and Judy Olmen

Replacements

Elizabeth “Lee” Murphy

After seventeen years of dedicated service to several Falvey departments, Lee Murphy retired in July. Lee started her library career in 1990 with course reserves but then moved to the circulation department to be an evening supervisor. Preferring daytime hours, Lee returned to the course reserves department, and added information desk duties and digital scanning to her repertoire. She was also a valuable and active member of the Falvey VQI team, working to support University mission and service initiatives. Her unfailing willingness to help staff, patrons and other offices on campus was the hallmark of her commitment to Falvey Library and Villanova University.

Lee and husband Mike have four children and one granddaughter.

Lois Dickinson

After eight years as a circulating books shelfer for Falvey Library and a helpful presence on the second floor, Lois Dickinson retired in June. With her new free time Lois plans to garden, sew and redecorate her house. Lois and her husband have two sons and one daughter; she anticipates an imminent visit to Seattle when her second grandchild arrives. A long term plan is a trip across the country.

Elizabeth “Liz” Bell

Liz Bell retired in June from her position as a door checker with Falvey Library. She joined the library staff in 2001. Over the years Liz has seen many students, staff and visitors enter the library, and, according to Liz, Villanova’s students are the most cooperative in showing their Wildcard ID. She became acquainted with many students, notably one who started calling her “Mom.”

Looking back on her time at Falvey, Liz enjoyed the opportunity to meet a variety of people, including well-known writers and guest speakers. Before joining Falvey, Liz was a college receptionist and telephone operator for Rosemont College.

Contributed by Darren Foley and Judy Olmen

Villanova University

Falvey Memorial Library
The wonder of everyday objects from the past: Ephemera in the digital stacks

The nature of ephemera is that because it is seen as transitory or replaceable it is often not preserved. Ephemera include a wide variety of material types, for example, telegrams, receipts, tickets, calling cards, programs, advertisements, menus, broadsheets, postcards and invitations. These items, when found in libraries and archives, are usually rare or unique items, often personalized with marginalia from the collector. Individually and collectively, they can provide great value to biographers, sociologists, economists and social historians.

The Sherman-Thackara collection in Villanova’s Digital Library, featuring artifacts from the family of Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman, provides access to some illuminating examples of ephemera. Digital libraries have not generally embraced the digitization of these format types and have concentrated instead on photograph, book, journal and newspaper formats as more privileged and traditionally collected in academic and public information institutions.

Yet ephemera can provide an intimate glimpse into everyday life, as a look at two telegrams show.

“Happy birthday”: A telegram to General Sherman

“We all congratulate you on your sixty first birthday and wish you many returns. Ellie sat up today for the first time. All are well. [from] A.W. Thackera”

This telegram to General Sherman on the occasion of his 61st birthday shows that the cultural practice of sending a brief message of celebration on a birthday when friends or relations were apart was already a well established practice in the America of the 1880’s.

“The boy is lost to us”

“Minnie doing very well and holds up bravely though the boy is lost to us. The body will go to Bellefontaine by Express tonight.”

The above telegram, also to General Sherman, gives a health update on his ill daughter, Maria (Minnie), and announces the death of the child and the transportation of his remains, a grim counterpoint to the joyous birthday greeting, demonstrating that the telegraph brought both news of good and ill fortune.

What a short step it now seems to a post-9/11 world, where watching events as they happen has become commonplace.

Telegraph service, called the Victorian-era Internet, served to provide individuals nearly instantaneous contact with even small and rural population centers. Truly a communication media of another age, the last telegram was delivered by Western Union in 2006.

Contributed by Michael Foight