

January 1 — March 31, 2013



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George Mason University Libraries

University Librarian's Letter

Colleagues,

I am pleased to share highlights of activities, projects, and events as well as faculty and staff accomplishments during January – March 2013.

The range of “happenings” reported in this edition of the University Librarian’s Letter reflect the richness and diversity of activities and the commitment and leadership of colleagues throughout the Mason library system.

I hope you find the information herein interesting and useful, and I thank each of you for your contributions in serving the students, faculty and staff of George Mason University and for making the Mason Libraries ever stronger.

Sincerely,

Welcome to the Libraries!

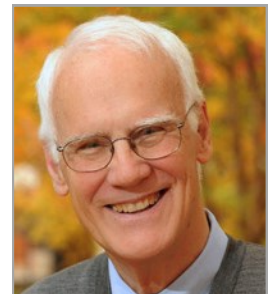
- Raquel Duron, Document Delivery Coordinator, Arlington Campus Library
- Christina Flores, Cataloger, RCMS
- Ben Harrison, Desktop Support, DPS
- Doug Hernandez, Reference & Instruction Specialist, Mercer Library
- Helen McManus, Public Policy & Management Studies Liaison Librarian, Arlington Campus Library
- Michelle Polchow, E-Resources Specialist, RCMS
- Laura Ramos, ILL & Document Delivery Assistant, RES

“In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours.”

~ Mark Twain, speech to the New England Society, December 22, 1876

Libraries Receive Paden Collection

Dr. John Paden, Robinson Professor of International Studies, donated approximately 4,000 books, photographs, maps and other printed and manuscript materials relating to Sub-Sahara Africa to the University Libraries. The Paden Collection focuses on the region’s history, economics, sociology, language, art, architecture, archeology and religion, and focuses significantly on Nigeria. The role of Islam in the greater region is also an important component. The collection also includes rare issues of African newspapers and other fragile materials. A professor at Mason for 25 years, Dr. Paden currently teaches courses in comparative government, international development and conflict resolution, and co-directs Mason’s Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.



Dr. John Paden

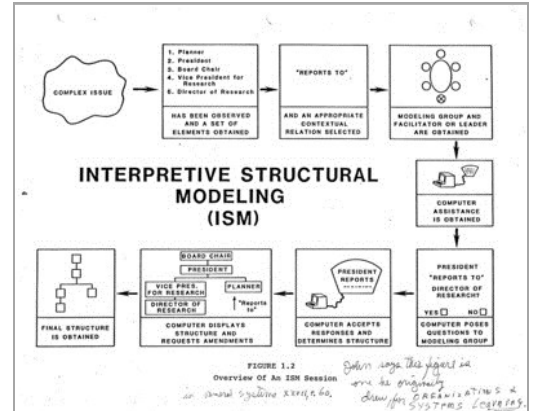
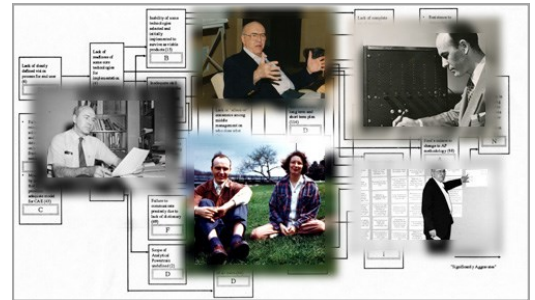
Exhibits

Attacking Complex Problems: The Life and Work of Dr. John Warfield, an extensive Special Collections & Archives exhibit, provides an inside look at Dr. John Nelson Warfield (1925 – 2009), a member of the George Mason University faculty from 1984 until his retirement in 2000. Hired as Director of Mason’s Institute for Information Technology, he retired as Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in the Integrative Sciences (IASIS), a part of George Mason’s Institute of Public Policy, now the School of Public Policy.

During his sixty-year career, Warfield was a World War II Army scientist, a pioneer in the field of computers, held multiple patents for electronic devices, and was a founder of Systems Science, an interdisciplinary field which studies complex systems in nature, human interaction, and science. Professor Warfield’s work greatly influenced the academic world as well as the defense, government, and private sectors.

The exhibit contains items illustrating Warfield’s life and long career, and date from 1931 to about 1990. A variety of objects, such as correspondence, photographs, drawings, and audiovisual materials were selected for the display from the John N. Warfield Papers, 1931-2009, which are held in Special Collections & Archives (SC&A). The Warfield Papers can be accessed online from these scholarly portals:

- [Attacking Complex Problems: The Life and Work of Dr. John N. Warfield](#)
- [The John N. Warfield Digital Collection](#)



Voices from the FTP

In 1935, the Federal Theatre Project (FTP) was launched as a division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Through federal sponsorship and subsidies until it ended in 1939, the FTP was directed by Hallie Flanagan. FTP provided many American artists, writers, and performers with much needed work during the Great Depression. During early Spring Semester 2013, the **Voices from the FTP** exhibit focused on several FTP artists, whose personal papers are held in SC&A:



Hallie Flanagan

- Kate Lawson - actress, costume & set designer, technical director
- Molka Reich - puppeteer, writer, actress
- Ralph Chessé - puppeteer
- Eda Edson - writer, director, conductor, and
- Arnold Sundgaard, writer





**An occasional feature
spotlighting
library staff avocations**

Did you know the Libraries have more of a hand in [George Mason University's Debate Team](#) than research sources and tools?

Jake Weiner is Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Borrowing Supervisor (Access Services Department, Research & Educational Services). After hours, Jake is a Debate Coach for George Mason's award winning Debate Team.



Jake Weiner

Who. What. When. Where. Why. How.

What does a Debate Coach do?

"I coach the Policy Debate Team members on resolution-type debating skills: taking affirmative or negative positions on the specific topic being debated. I instruct and assist the students with research prior to a tournament, and hone their debate skills and techniques. I also travel to the various venues with the Policy Debate Team, where I prep the students before the meet(s) and anticipate potential counterarguments. I've been a debate coach for the Mason team since 1998."

When did you become interested in debate?

"I've been a debater since my freshman year in high school. I continued debating while I was an undergrad here at Mason."

Why did you decide to become a Debate Coach?

"Mason's current Director of Debate is a role model, and I want

to follow in those steps. I love the research, teaching and tactics involved in debating. I've never considered coaching for another school - I guess you could call it team loyalty to my alma mater. I love debate, and always loved debate research, and the time spent in a library. In high school, I used to come to Fenwick for my debate research, so I've seen a lot of changes in library resources, research tools and techniques. My job in ILL dovetails so well with what I love to do, and I enjoy it so much, I've started a Master's in Library Science at Clarion University."

How often do you work with the Policy Debate Team?

"I meet with the team twice a week for 3-4 hours, then, as the semester winds down, it's one hour twice a week. I travel with the Team once or twice a month during debate season. I love working with all levels of debaters - [and being Number 1!](#)"

Archivists' Course Co-sponsored & Hosted by Mason Libraries

The Society of American Archivists' (SAA) course "Digital Curation: Creating an Environment for Success" was held in the Johnson Center Library Instruction Room on March 29, 2013. The daylong event was co-sponsored and hosted by Mason Libraries; Bob Vay served as local coordinator. The course instructor was Jackie Esposito, University Archivist & Records Manager, Penn State University.

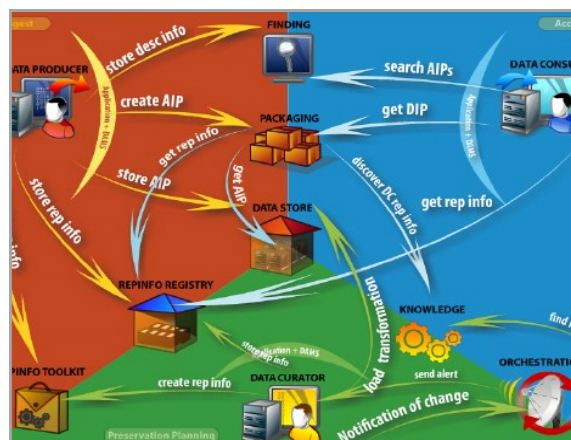
Twenty-six people attended the class; the majority were from the DC area, with participants

from Montana, Atlanta, and Northern Illinois as well.

"Digital Curation" is one of the Foundational Courses in the SAAs'

Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum and Certificate Program. "This is a very prestigious and important event for the Libraries," said Vay. "We would love to become a site for these SAA classes, as they are usually held everywhere but in the DC area."

The course content covered the differences and similarities between curating paper and electronic records; a system of best practices for digital curation, and a review of what any institution needs to ensure the success of its own digital curation.



Research & Professional Activities

- **Theresa Calcagno**, Volgenau School of Engineering Liaison Librarian, is now author & editor of the “Engineering and Technology” section of *Magazines for Libraries*.
- **Anne Driscoll**, Education Liaison Librarian, is serving as a faculty advisor on a Mason Education Master’s candidate’s capstone project.
- **Margaret Lam**, Physical Sciences Liaison Librarian, was accepted to the ACRL Immersion Program, Seattle, WA, Summer 2013.
- **Andrew Lee**, Reference/Liaison Librarian, Johnson Center Library. [It's Time to Teach Citation Basics](#). *The Reference Librarian*, 54(1), 55-60, 2013.
- **Tricia Mackenzie**, Metadata Librarian, received the 2012 Online Audio-Visual Catalogers Scholarship to attend the 2012 OLAC Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 2012.
- **Jordan Patty**, Processing Archivist, was awarded a scholarship to attend “Encoded Archival Coding: Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families,” National Archives & Records Administration, Washington, DC, March 2013.
- **Mike Perini**, Research & Instruction Specialist, Reference Department, Fenwick Library. For-profit Open Admissions and the Public and Civic Good. *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Civic and Political Studies*, 7(1), 33-44, 2013.
- **Mark Schwartz**, Marketing & Communications Officer (with George K. Combs). [Alexandria Library Celebrates Sit-In Anniversary](#). *Public Libraries*, 52(2), 6-7, 2013.
- **John Zenelis**, University Librarian. Panelist. “9th Annual Librarian Focus Group: A Forum for Publishers and Librarians.” Society for Scholarly Publishing, The American Geophysical Union, Washington, DC, February 5, 2013.

Research Leave

Recommended by the Librarians’ Council Professional Development Committee, the following librarians were awarded research leave by the University Librarian for Spring 2013.

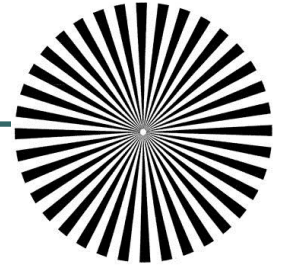
- **Tricia Mackenzie**, to prepare a presentation on authority control and Resource Description and Access (RDA) for the Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Conference, May 2013.
- **Ian Fairclough**, to prepare
 - a workshop “RDA and the Local Library,” with one instance of the planned workshop already scheduled for March 2013 at the Northwest Library System (Norweld) in Bowling Green, Ohio.
 - a document for publication with the working title, “Member Participation in WorldCat Quality Improvement” – based on his previously presented OCLC webinar (with Cynthia M. Whitacre of OCLC) in January 2013.



Around Campus

- **Mark Schwartz**, Marketing & Communications Officer, was appointed to represent the University Libraries on a recently formed University Communications Group. President Ángel Cabrera’s charge to the group “is to work strategically and collaboratively to embrace our vision and move it forward.”
- **Dot Lockaby**, Director, Johnson Center Library, was appointed to the Student Space and Services Advisory Committee.
- **Diane Smith**, AUL/RES, was appointed to the Provost’s Task Force on Textbook Affordability, and serves as the Chair of this group.

Focus on: Days of Future Passed



In anticipation of the start of construction for the Fenwick Library addition and its impact on existing space, most notably Wings B & C, a number of physical changes were completed to:

- provide sufficient space in the Fenwick stacks for at least two years of collection growth,
- move the Reference service point and associated physical collection, to Wing A to better serve users during construction, and,
- merge microform collections and equipment in one location to optimize access and services.

Library collections were shifted within Fenwick Library, from Fenwick to the Arlington Campus Library, from Fenwick to the WRLC shared collections facility in Upper Marlboro, MD, and from the Johnson Center Library to Fenwick. By March 2013, much planning, coordination and work was accomplished involving teams of staff from many library departments. Project team members included: David Gibbs, Chair; Diane Smith, David Alexander, Jamie Coniglio, Susan Stockwell, Joe Becker, Nathan Putnam, Beth Roszkowski, Cynthia Bentley, Taneisha Mazzyck, Dot Lockaby, Lara Bushallow, Wendy Mann and erstwhile ad hoc team members Della Patrick and Kevin Sanders.

(All images courtesy of Nathan Putnam, Head, Resource Description & Metadata Services.)



Fenwick First Floor, Wing A during and after. Complete rearrangement of floor, including: removal of Periodicals/Microforms wall; moved current & bound periodicals, all microforms & equipment; moved Reference Desk, Reference collection and Theses; moved public access computers; improved study spaces; liberated north window area; recycled glass walls from 1B; relocated assistive technology equipment.



Fenwick First Floor, Wing B: during and after. Reference collection and service desk, theses and public computers moved to 1A; new tile flooring, new carpeting, new shelving. New stacks and location for Fenwick circulating Call numbers A-D; copiers.



Fenwick First Floor, Wing C before, during and after. Most print government documents moved to Arlington Campus Library; government documents microforms moved to First Floor, Wing A; new location for classification "L" stacks (moved from Johnson Center Library); new location for the Atlas collection; staff offices moved.