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Emilia and Giuseppe Struppa on Mrs. Struppa's 70th birthday

University Libraries Receive New Research Materials Endowments

Two George Mason faculty/staff members start endowments to honor their parents

The George Mason University Libraries are pleased to announce the creation of two new endowments—the first to be created under the libraries' new endowment initiative, which aims to build a substantial library endowment in small increments. "Many university donors would never think they could afford to establish a named endowment," notes University Librarian John G. Zenelis. "This is a \$10,000 naming opportunity that we hope more donors will take advantage of."

Library "book" endowments can be established for a minimum of \$10,000 payable over five years, and can be directed toward any subject area. "We invite prospective donors to be as creative as they like with the idea; to establish subject endowments that perhaps reflect a personal interest and are not strictly confined to a traditional academic discipline," says Zenelis.

Two members of the George Mason community were the first to take advantage of this program, coincidentally to honor their parents. The Emilia and Giuseppe Struppa Library Mathematics Endowment is a gift from Daniele C. Struppa, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The endowment is intended to honor his parents, who Struppa credits with instilling in him a rich passion for learning. "It is important to me to do something which will make their gift to me really eternal. An endowment in their names allows me to do just that," says Struppa. The Struppa endowment will be used to purchase library materials in the field of mathematics.

The Franco and Ingeborg Ercolano European Studies Library Endowment is a gift from Adriana Ercolano, a library staff member, and her husband, James A. Helm. The endowment was established

to honor Ercolano's parents on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary. Franco and Inge Ercolano, who immigrated from Italy and Germany respectively, brought their rich cultural history and languages here to the United States. Funds from the Ercolano Endowment will be used to purchase library materials in the area of European studies, including history, government, art history, or languages.

Selection of research materials to be acquired will be a collaborative endeavor by the libraries' liaison librarians, with help from the chairpersons and faculty from relevant departments. Original and personalized bookplates will be created for the materials purchased through these two endowments.

The generous gifts of Daniele Struppa, Adriana Ercolano, and James A. Helm will truly leave a lasting impression on George Mason University and will support the research and scholarship of our academic community, now and well into the future. "We very much appreciate their generosity and leadership and hope that other friends and members of the Mason community will emulate their superb example," says Zenelis.

—The Editors

Message from John G. Zenelis

University Librarian and Associate Vice President for Information Technology



Autumn is always an exhilarating time of year at George Mason. The crispness of the fall air brings a snap to your step, and change bursts forth all around us—new students, sometimes new programs, and always new challenges. George Mason is a university that prides itself on its ability to adapt to such change and welcomes the opportunities it brings. The University Libraries embrace this attitude as well, always searching for innovative and inclusive ways to support our dynamic learning community.

In this issue of *Full Text*, you will read about some of the people and programs that contribute to this institutional ethos. The search for new resources and services to support the research efforts of our students and faculty is embodied by our participation in a number of cooperative projects. For example, the Virginia Heritage Project is an exceptional new database of archival finding aids sponsored by the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) which describes material housed in 11 Virginia repositories, including George Mason. The project recently received one of the prestigious Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) Outstanding Library Program Awards.

The libraries also look to encourage the creativity and originality of our students by cosponsoring events such as Innovations 2003. We annually award the Best Research Project prize at this springtime showcase of unique learning experiences that highlights the variety of student research on campus. Additionally, via the Fenwick Fellows program, the University Libraries share in the successes of selected faculty members through tangible support of their research projects. Ultimately, we are always on the lookout for innovative ways to use today's rapidly changing technology to improve our services and augment the multi-format resources that we provide.

Of course, just as the libraries are relied upon by the academic community we serve, we, in turn, rely on them. The mutually supportive relationships we enjoy with distinguished faculty members, such as George Mason professor, noted author, and NPR reviewer Alan Cheuse, are invaluable. Additions to our collections that have been garnered through the libraries' gifts program have greatly enhanced the depth and breadth of our holdings. This year, we were also delighted to recognize the research and scholarly activities of our faculty with the *Faculty Journal Editors Catalog* and reception. While state funding has lagged in recent years, the university's administration has continued to champion the libraries' purposes. And as we look to the future and anticipate the challenges it will bring, the support of our friends, both on-campus and off, will be vital in our efforts to succeed.

Thank you for continuing to be a part of that dynamic mix.

Special Collections & Archives Shares SOLINET Award



Last May, the Virginia Heritage Project (VHP) won the Southeastern Library Network's (SOLINET) Outstanding Library Program Award for exceptional accomplishment in preservation of electronic information. Sponsored in part by the Virtual Library of Virginia, VHP is a union database of encoded archival description finding aids to collections in Virginia repositories. Through VHP, hundreds of reference guides to primary research materials, such as manuscripts, historic documents, photographs, and other materials, are now accessible through the Internet.

Working in collaboration with other repositories such as the University of Virginia and the Library of Virginia, University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives (SC&A) encoded 33 of its own research guides (more than 3,700 pages). By standardizing the format of the information, it is no longer necessary for a researcher to travel from institution to institution using hard-to-decipher, often eccentric, paper guides to find information about their research topics. Instead, any researcher who has access to the Internet anywhere in the world can easily discover which materials in a collection can be used for his or her research.

This searching capability has had a profound impact on SC&A. Students and scholars from George Mason and from as far away as Australia, Japan, and Great Britain have inquired about SC&A's collections. Frequently, it is possible to arrange to have specific materials ready and waiting as soon as the researcher arrives, thereby eliminating wasteful time trying to discover which items in a collection may be useful for detailed examination or study.

Electronic access has resulted in two rather dramatic changes in research projects. Because of electronic accessibility, a Ph.D. candidate from Great Britain was able to shorten her research time by a week, enabling her to visit U.S. repositories she did not think she had time to visit, not to mention having additional time to tour the states in her first visit. A second Ph.D. candidate found access to SC&A's theater collections so efficient and so thorough that she is using the collections as her main source of information rather than traveling to other research depositories. Electronic access also means that she can plan and prepare her research methodologies from her home research base in New York City, thereby making efficient use of SC&A's holdings during her rare, research-intense visits.

To access SC&A's electronic finding aids go to www.GeorgeMason.edu/library/specialcollections/eafndg aids.html

For more information about the VHP project go to www.lib.virginia.edu/vhp/about.html

—Paul Koda

Alan Cheuse Comments on Librarians' Summer Reading List

"My life is filled with books," pens George Mason University Writing Professor Alan Cheuse, "my mornings spent writing them, my afternoons spent reading them, and then with writing about what I'm reading." Cheuse also delivered these same words at a University Libraries' reception honoring faculty book authors last fall. Clearly, Cheuse's affection for books, and indeed libraries, runs deep.

Many people, both inside and outside the university community, may be familiar with Cheuse as the nationally recognized book reviewer for National Public Radio's (NPR) All Things Considered. The libraries are the regular beneficiaries of Cheuse's NPR work: Since 1998, Cheuse has donated to the George Mason Libraries nearly 5,000 volumes which were sent to him through NPR.

Because Cheuse is so familiar with the business of books—reading, writing, and reviewing them—and because he issues a summer reading list for NPR, we asked Cheuse to consider the University Libraries' own reference librarians' summer reading list. Following are Cheuse's thoughts on this unique and diverse group's pastime reading.

—Adriana Ercolano

What Do Librarians Read?

The reading lists of librarians—taking a look at these is like catching a glimpse of your doctor's medical bills. To whom does he owe how much for what procedures? And are those who treat him the best of the best? Or is it like following your favorite chef to see where he eats in his off-hours? Or like going to the movies with one of your favorite actors or directors?

Maybe all of these.

For someone like myself, who wiles his hours away, when he isn't writing or teaching, by reading books for a living, it was revelatory to sneak a look at these lists. Some stay mostly with novels—Tracy Chevalier, Annie Proulx, Melville, Cather, Henry James—but most dive deeply into nonfiction, reading biographies and histories and philosophy. And then there's the golf nut, who reads Miles Davis's "autobiography" that Miles wrote with the help of poet Quincy Troupe, and the autobiographies of Frederick Douglass and Ben Franklin. And the librarian who is unashamed to graze on the green (for money) grass of Errol Flynn's and David Niven's autobiographies along with *Rogue Warrior* (by former Navy Seal Richard Marcinko, with more than a little help from local writer John Weisman), and the former best-selling (admittedly many centuries ago) Boccaccio while getting ready for the Plath avalanche of movies and books by boning up with Ted Hughes.

Maybe the correct analogy is seeing what the fashion designers are wearing when they aren't wearing their own designs?

Taken together these lists offer a wonderful cross section of new and old, high and low, pop and swanky and boutiquey, and just plain old greatness (sorry, I'm thinking here of Melville, not Al Franken). It is what we expect from serious readers, highly sophisticated readers, and readers, who like most of the educated population of the United States, just don't find enough time to read, but when they do they make terrific choices.

In that respect, without world enough and time, readers are exactly like writers. Of all the whirling images and plots in my head, I have to narrow them down to the one or two I'm working on at the moment. Just as readers who will in a lifetime never be able to read all that they want, writers will never finish all that they hope to complete. Though, if you think about it, readers are more fortunate than writers. Unlike Melville, readers can go back to *Moby Dick* time and again, or read Cather in college, then in middle age, and then as octogenarians. Despite the fussy (and debilitating, I think) changes Henry James made late in life to the books he had written in his youth, most writers can't go back to their old work and revise. There's too much to do ahead of them—if they're lucky.

But as a reader I can go back, and even when reviewing next month's fiction for "All Things Considered," I try now and then to look at a classic work or a book that has become an American standard, like, say, Tolstoy's short novel *Hadji Murad* or the now 50-year-old classic *Fahrenheit 451* by the nearly 80-year-old Ray Bradbury.

"We live forward but understand backward," Kierkegaard says. Maybe we do the same when we read and write, moving ahead on the page, even as the past becomes more coherent because of the way we read and what we read.

I'd say more about all of this, but I've got the new Mario Vargas Llosa novel open in front of me, and I'm only halfway through it.

—Alan Cheuse

Alan Cheuse: Selected Works



The Bohemians, John Reed & His Friends Who Shook the World: A Novel. Cambridge, Mass.: Applewood Books, 1982.

Candace & Other Stories. Cambridge, Mass.: Applewood Books, 1980.

Fall out of Heaven: An Autobiographical Journey. 1st ed. Salt Lake City: G.M. Smith, 1987.

The Grandmothers' Club. 1st ed. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1986.

The Light Possessed. 1st ed. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1990.

Listening to Ourselves: More Stories from "the Sound of Writing." 1st Anchor Books ed. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

Listening to the Page: Adventures in Reading and Writing. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.

Lost and Old Rivers: Stories. 1st ed. Dallas, Tex.: Southern Methodist University Press, 1998.

The Tennessee Waltz and Other Stories. 1st ed. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1990.

Innovations 2003: A Showcase of Learning Experience



When you were chosen for that task force at work because of your subject area expertise, it made you feel like a valued employee, didn't it? More so than if you had been chosen because management was trying to balance the number of women and men on the task force and you just happened to be the right gender. George Mason senior Anna Schneider, the winner of this year's award for Best Research Project at the Innovations 2003 showcase, examined circumstances such as these in "The Effects of Gender-Based Preferential Selection on Self-Efficacy." This study examined how hiring procedures affect a person's perception of their ability to succeed at necessary tasks, and how these perceptions affect their job-related behaviors.

Schneider's work was a shining example of the many excellent student projects on display at Innovations 2003, an exhibition of unique and creative learning experiences held last spring. This annual event highlights exceptional and innovative student projects or student/faculty collaborations at George Mason. Event submissions span a wide range of formats, including student writing, art work, videos, web pages, science projects, experiential learning, community projects, technology innovations, and other demonstrations of student intellectual and artistic achievements. Now in its fifth year, Innovations is jointly sponsored by a number of university offices and organizations, including the University Libraries and the Division of Instructional and Technology Support Services (DoIT).

This year's showcase drew 41 submissions. The University Libraries annually sponsor the cash award for Best Research Project, which is chosen by a panel of volunteer judges. Kevin Simons (Fenwick Library) led this year's group of judges, and was joined by Amy Hirvonen (Johnson Center Library) and Andrew Lee (Arlington Campus Library) in evaluating the 12 projects that were under consideration for the award. In addition to considering the creativity, originality, and innovative nature of each project, the judges also examined whether or not the research was grounded in previous work and/or filled a gap in existing knowledge. The enthusiasm that each student showed for their project also had a major impact on the judges' decisions. Congratulations go out to Schneider for her interesting and thought-provoking research!

—Bill Fleming

Gifts and Donations

- Special Collections & Archives (SC&A) recently received a gift from the estate of Charles Baptie of an original 5 1/4" by 8 1/4" camera lens owned and used by Matthew Brady (1832–96), the foremost photographer of the American Civil War.
- SC&A is happy to announce an important addition of transportation materials, economic studies, and other archival materials to the William Mertz Transportation Collection. The materials were recently discovered by the Virginia Transportation Research Council and offered to the libraries after VTRC discovered the libraries' Mertz collection on the Internet. See www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/mertz



Lens used by Civil War photographer, Matthew Brady.



Libraries' Wish List

You can help the Libraries. A gift in any amount can have a real direct impact on the Libraries' services. For example:

- \$ 35 Encapsulates and de-acidifies a single leaf document
- \$ 50 Defrays the cost of a DVD or VCR
- \$100 Purchases a 19th Century print of Northern Virginia or a reel-to-reel audiotape player
- \$200 Buys a book published in Northern Virginia in the early 1800's
- \$500 Can restore a bound rare book or purchase a U-Matic 3/4" videotape recorder
- \$1,500 Restores a rare atlas

Checks may be made payable to the **Library Fund** and mailed to:

Director of Development
University Libraries
George Mason University, MS 2FL
4400 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Editor's Note: SC&A recently put up an exhibition of literary and historical books that parody other books, for example, *Bored of the Rings by the Harvard Lampoon*. The books were loaned by Roger Lathbury, Department of English, who wrote the descriptions as well. The following is from the online exhibit.

A Dozen Parodies: An Exhibit of Books That Parody Other Books

The word “parody” derives from the Greek meaning “to sing beside.” In ancient Greek theater the main points of a play were reiterated, or re-sung, for dramatic and theatrical emphases. After a point was presented, it would be repeated by a chorus in the play. This repetition was called *parados*. Today parody has a different meaning: An imitation that criticizes the original.

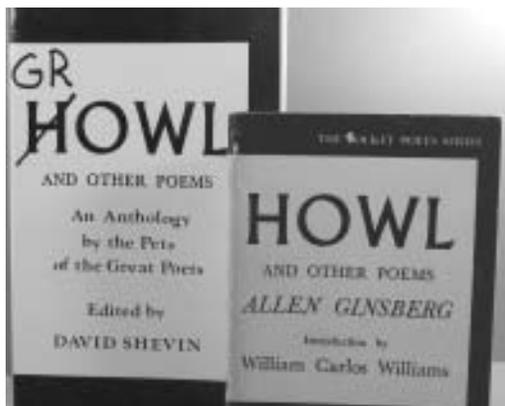
Parody is an act of homage as well as intuitive literary criticism. As the poet W. H. Auden (1907-1973) wrote, one can parody only a work one likes; otherwise, the work will seem like a better parody than anything one could oneself hope to devise.



Below are selected images and captions from the exhibition mounted in Fenwick Library on the second floor, Wing A.

Many authors use parodies in their works. William Shakespeare (1564-1616) parodied John Lily's (1554?-1606) *Euphues* as well as the work of Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593). Henry Fielding's (1707-1754) early novel *Shamela* is an imitation-parody of Samuel Richardson's (1689-1761) *Pamela*, and, as far as I know, is the first book to parody a whole other book.

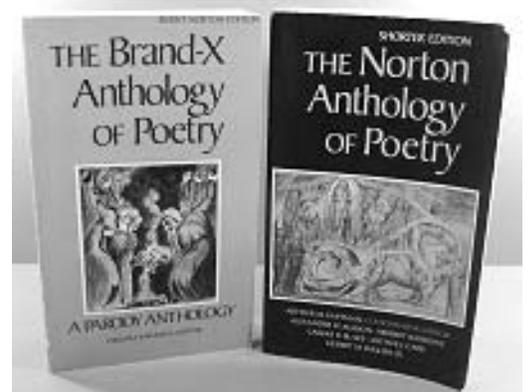
To justify publication of an entire volume making fun of another volume, the original has to be a great success. One of the first modern examples is Sinclair Lewis' (1885-1951) best-selling *Main Street* pilloried here by Carolyn Wells' (1862-1942) *Ptomaine Street*. As in other examples, the publishers of the parody have imitated the binding and appearance of the original.



Allen Ginsberg's (1926-1997) *Howl*, the major poem of the beat generation, inspired this collection of parodies called *Growl*. Like Donald Ogden Stewart's *Parody Outline of History*, *Growl* is an anthology of parodies of contemporary writing, this time of the beats such as Gregory Corso (1930-2001) and Lawrence Ferlinghetti (b. 1919).

The academy has been a rich source of parody material. Here is a *Norton Anthology of Poetry* together with a volume of parodies presented in mock-similar form, with a sidelong glance at T. S. Eliot's poem “Burnt Norton.” The editor, William Zaranka (b. 1944), also contributed many of the parodies in the book.

— Roger Lathbury





Fenwick Fellow Lecture Explores Commonality, Conflict Between Blacks and Asians

On November 20, Hazel McFerson, one of two Fenwick Fellows for 2002-03, presented the results of her research on relations between blacks and Asians in the United States. McFerson is an associate professor of international studies in the Department of Public and International Affairs and an associate professor at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

In her talk, "Crossings: Historical and Contemporary Relations Between African Americans, Asians, and Asian Americans," McFerson reported on the historical and contemporary "crossings" that have characterized relations among two major minority groups in the United States. She speaks from the context of two different perspectives: commonality, about which much of the significant history of relations between these groups has been hidden or distorted; and secondly, a view that conflict and hostility have characterized the interactions between blacks and Asians.

In her study, McFerson examined black and Asian interactions in the United States during different historical periods, and as a result, advances the notion that relations have been far more nuanced than either view cited above would suggest. Aside from the reality that Asians, Asian Americans, and African Americans are not monolithic groups, there have been significant instances of crossings, cooperation, and commonality, along with conflicting and competing sociopolitical and economic interests during particular historical periods and in certain geographic locales.

McFerson holds a Ph.D. in politics from Brandeis University, and an M.A. from the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy. Her main interests and expertise are gender, conflict, and development in nonwestern societies, and comparative government. In addition to more than 25 years in university teaching and administration both in the United States and abroad, McFerson has consulted for several international organizations, and received a Fulbright teaching and research award at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Manila.

McFerson has also published widely on American overseas territories, social and gender issues, ethnic identities and race relations, African politics, and cultures of conflict. Her most recent books are *Mixed Blessing: The Impact of American Colonial Policy on Society and Politics in the Philippines* and *The Racial Dimension of American Overseas Colonial Policy*.

—Fran Rensbarger

The Fenwick Fellowship

The Fenwick Fellowship is awarded annually to instructional faculty members for the pursuit of a research project that utilizes the libraries' resources and advances knowledge in the faculty member's field. The award includes, for each fellow, a research office in Fenwick Library and a financial award to support research.

Lont, Ray Named Fenwick Fellows for 2003-2004

Cindy Lont, Communication Department, and Marcella Ridlen Ray, School of Public Policy, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Women's Studies, have been named the 2003-2004 Fenwick Fellows.

"We are delighted to support the research projects of Lont and Ray and look forward to their library residency this academic year," says University Librarian John Zenelis.

Lont will study media stereotypes about women and minorities. Current books, articles, and videos on women, minorities, and media, she notes in her research proposal, generally focus on one specific media form with little research on the effect these repetitive, stereotyped images may have on an audience.

"In fact, the stereotypes of women and minorities are quite similar across most media forms, and it is the culmination of these consistent stereotypes and perspectives which has the most impact on the audience," Lont's proposal explains. "My intention is to review and critique the various books and videos in this area and then write, produce, and distribute a video on the stereotypes of women and minorities that demonstrates these similarities and the impact on the audience."

The immediate result of the project would be a videotape for classroom use, and also residual work including video reviews, book reviews, articles, and a new book Lont expects to write within the next five years.

Ray expects her project, "Social Institutions: Messages from American Bestsellers for Educators, Civic Leaders, and Policy Makers," to bring about a fresh source of information about public awareness and attitudes towards our social institutions. Ray will address general knowledge about institutions, culturally embedded and indirectly shared, that is part of the social and public discourse. She aims to make this discourse more explicit, as it relates to social institutions in the U.S., by an analysis of the content of a sample of popular reading material.

story continued on page 7

Campus Library Focus: The Arlington Campus Library

The Arlington Campus Library is located on the first floor of the Arlington Original Building. Students of the history of George Mason may be interested to know that the Arlington Campus Library occupies space that formerly served as the home of the Law Library, and that the Arlington Original Building began its existence in the mid-1900s as a Kann's Department Store.

According to Page Brannon, head of the Arlington Campus Library, the library's core mission is to serve the students, faculty, and staff in the Arlington Campus' academic programs. Programs located at the campus include several in the School of Public Policy, and the College of Arts and Sciences' nonprofit management, and new master's degree program in social work. Also offered at the Arlington Campus are some School of Management, Institute of Educational Transformation (Graduate School of Education), and general education courses. Members of the Arlington community also utilize the library.

The Arlington Campus Library has a unique collection of publications from the European Union, and the library is one of only 56 depository libraries in the United States receiving official publications from the EU. The publications contain information ranging from EU policy developments to statistics on trade, demographics, and economic indicators. The collection is available to the public during the library's regular hours of operation.

Despite its compact quarters, the Arlington Campus Library is a full-service library offering personalized services to its clientele. According to the development plans for the burgeoning Arlington Campus, the Arlington Library is scheduled to relocate to one of the soon-to-be-built phase II building facilities at the campus. Stay tuned for future developments!

—Anne Hakes



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Lont, Ray Named Fenwick Fellows for 2003-2004

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"It is important that students learn how institutions are formed, what controls and influences them, how they influence individuals and culture, and how they are maintained or changed," Ray says in her proposal. "We build and perpetuate societal institutions daily, despite low institutional awareness. If we are to build effective, accountable social institutions, then we must first illuminate our current perceptions and requirements of these institutions."

Fenwick fellows present their research findings through a public lecture to the university community in the following academic year, and share their studies with the broader academic community through presentations at scholarly conferences and publications.

—Fran Rensbarger

George Mason
University

<http://library.gmu.edu/libinfo/fulltext.html>

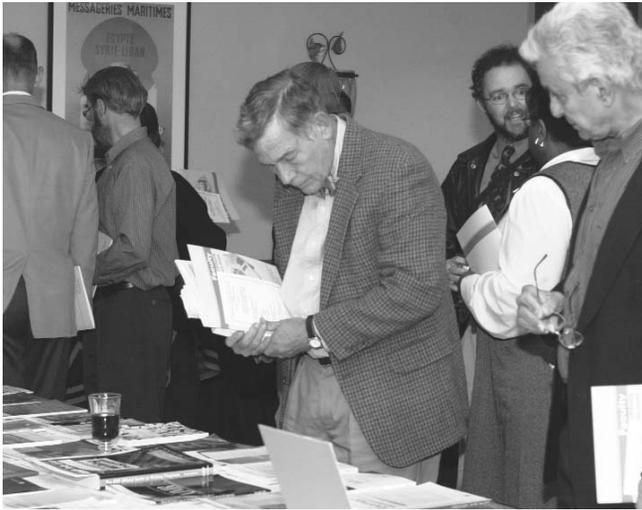


Reception Held for Faculty Journal Editors

George Mason faculty members had their journal work displayed during a reception co-hosted by the Office of the Provost and University Libraries on November 13.

Typically, the focus on faculty achievements is reserved for those who publish books, says Adriana Ercolano, director of development for University Libraries and Information Technology. But this reception honored those who have been involved with the editorial work of various academic journals. When initial invitations were sent out, Ercolano said there were 140 faculty members who responded with work on approximately 160 journals. “We wanted to showcase as many of the works as possible,” she says. The diversity of the journals is a “very, very eclectic mix, as varied as the faculty,” she adds.

—Erick Soricelli



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