

# FULL TEXT

A Newsletter from the University Libraries

Spring 2002

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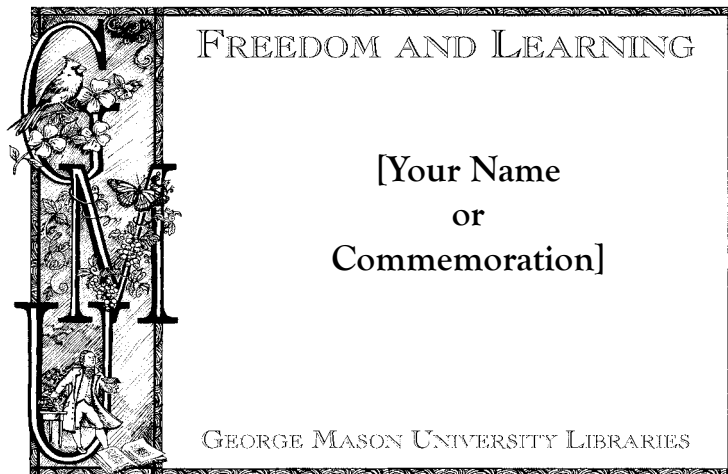
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## Special Points of Interest

- University Libraries' new bookplate
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- Ask-a-Librarian



## Write Your Name in a Library Book



The University Libraries' new bookplate is an original design that follows the tradition of antique copperplate engravings and depicts enduring symbols of the Old Dominion—the cardinal, the dogwood, and the patriot. The rendering of George Mason, with a book at his feet, is taken from the bronze statue that stands sentinel over the Fairfax campus.

Bookplates, which are placed in appropriate books, may be funded for \$50, and can be given in honor or memory of a loved one. They are exceptional ways to have a personal and lasting effect on the Libraries' collection.

For further information, contact the University Libraries' Director of Development, at 703-993-3389.

*Adriana Ercolano*

## Did You Know?

In 2001-2002, The Inter-Library Loan and Document Delivery Department,

- Delivered 2,232 items among the distributed campuses of GMU.
- Loaned 9,254 items to researchers in 48 of the 50 states, and to scholars in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, and Norway.
- Borrowed 9,812 items for GMU students and faculty from institutions in all 50 states, and from libraries in Puerto Rico, Australia, France, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom.

## Fall 2001 Fenwick Fellows Lecture

On November 29, 2001, Daniel Rothbart, Associate Professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, College of Arts and Sciences, presented a lecture entitled, "Putting Philosophical Instruments to Work." Dr. Rothbart was a 2000-2001 Charles Rogers Fenwick Fellow, during which time he worked on the final chapters of his upcoming book, *Philosophical Instruments: Minds and Tools at Work*.

Dr. Rothbart talked about how knowledge is acquired about the physical world; he explained how he focused his inquiry about the physical world on a study of instrumentology. He argued that the use of instruments gives unique information about the user, such as material skills, material capacities, and epistemologies. Dr. Rothbart discussed the philosophical instrumentality of various tools, from spears, microscopes, and artist's brushes, to cloud chambers and computer assisted design technology.

GMU faculty members interested in applying for a Fenwick Fellowship should get in touch with Anne Hamill (703-993-2491, University Librarian's Office). Further details are also available at <http://library.gmu.edu/fenwickfellow.html>.

Anne Hakes



digital photo/Bob Vay

**Dr. Daniel Rothbart**

## George Mason Becomes Independent: A History



GMU University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives supported the University's Capital Campaign and Thirtieth Anniversary with an exhibition in Mason Hall called *George Mason Becomes Independent: A History*. The exhibition focused on 1972, the year when George Mason gained its independence from the University of Virginia.

On April 7, 1972, then Governor Linwood Holton signed Bill H-210, enabling GMU to become the strong, independent institution it is today. The exhibit commemorated the event with photographs, including a picture of Gov. Holton signing the legislation with GMU officials and students looking on. Also included were pictures of the first Board of Visitors and first graduating class; a copy of the first diploma; GMU's Yearbook; the student newspaper, *The Broadside*; and campus life of the

1970s. The exhibit was located in the atrium of Mason Hall and was open to all students, faculty, staff, and the general public.

Special Collections & Archives has also created a corresponding website. The site has a chronological narrative of the University's history until 1972, digitized images of important documents supporting the independence of GMU from UVa, biographies of the major players, and audio excerpts from oral histories of persons - from a student to a Board of Visitor member - who were there at the time. The site's URL is: <http://www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/30th.html>.

SC&A

## GMU Library Employees Help Organize Conference



Mary Buckley, Circulation Supervisor at the Prince William Campus Library, is Co-Chair of this year's Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum (VLAPF) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. With her Co-Chair, Mari-Jana Phelps, of the Prince William County Library System, Mary has spent the past year facilitating and planning the nationally recognized conference, which was held at the University of Richmond May 19 to May 21. Cynthia Bentley, Coordinator of Circulation and Reserves for the Johnson Center Library, serves on the twenty member VLAPF Board and is also active in planning for the conference.

This year's conference, *"Tomorrow's Libraries: Are We Ready?"* focuses on the increasingly important role electronic resources play in today's library. Rosemary Chase, George Mason University Copyright Officer, is slated to present *"Sex, Lies, and Copyright,"* and Page Brannon, Acting Head, Arlington Campus Library, will conduct a session entitled *"Distance Education"*. In addition to participating in planning for the conference, Cynthia Bentley is lead-

ing a session on customer service practices to resolve problems that library users may have with library circulation services.

The VLAPF raises money to support the Virginia Library Association's Library School Scholarship, which supports library paraprofessional staff entering or continuing in a graduate program in Library Science. Each year two Virginia paraprofessional staff members are awarded scholarships of \$2,000 to further their graduate education. Two George Mason University library paraprofessionals have been awardees: Louise Taylor (2000 Award and 2001 graduate of the University of Maryland Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences); and George Oberle (2002 Award and current graduate student in the University of Maryland).

University Libraries' paraprofessionals active in the Virginia Library Association have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about their chosen profession, to network with colleagues from across the state, and to support individuals who are pursuing graduate degrees in Library Science.

*Ruth Kifer*

## Spring 2002 Fenwick Fellows Lecture



*Courtesy Dept. of Computer Science*

**Dr. Dana Richards**

Fenwick Fellowship, Dr. Richards encouraged peer faculty to participate in the Fellows program.

Much of the lecture was devoted to an exegesis of

Dr. Dana Richards, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science, School of Information Technology and Engineering, delivered the Spring 2002 Fenwick Fellows Lecture on February 28, 2002.

His topic was "Parallel Computation and the Problem of Sorting." As the first computer science professor to be a recipient of a

parallel sorting, including parallel programming models, parallel algorithmic modes, parallelism, computation models, and general schemes for sorting.

Although parallel sorting has been the subject of a multitude of scholarly papers, Dr. Richards found that there is little consensus regarding even such basics as the number of extant sorting models and algorithms. Economic realities, logistical necessities, and the primacy of distributed computing, are all reasons why parallel sorting has recently become less prevalent than sequential sorting.

*Anne Hakes*



## Robert Frost and His Books

*Robert Frost and His Books*, an exhibition prepared by the University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives, was on display on the second floor of Fenwick Library. The exhibition focused on the presentation of Frost's poetry, where elements such as type, book binding, book illustrations, and anthologized poems all contributed to create the image and legacy of Frost as "America's Poet."

The exhibition began with a survey of important early edition books. On display were first editions of *Mountain Interval* and *West Running Brook*, as well as early editions of *Steeple Brush*, *A Witness Tree*, and *New Hampshire*.

Frost's limited edition books showcase superior printing techniques and memorable woodcut illustrations. Frost's specialty-printed Christmas cards show a similar regard for physical beauty and printing

quality. These hand-sewed booklets of single Frost poems, all privately printed for the author by the Spiral Press, were sent to family and friends from 1929 to 1962.

The exhibition was conceived by MA English student Jennifer Pillen and MFA student Matt Smythe for Professor Eric Pankey's English 660 course on Robert Frost and Wallace Stevens. Their interpretative essays added depth to the final display, Frost Anthologies.

Special thanks go to Professor Roger Lathbury, who loaned books from his private collection for the exhibition. An SC&A website accompanied the exhibition at <http://www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/frost.html>.

*Paulina Vaca*

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### *Full Text*

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