University Archives Documents NIU Response to February 14th shootings

As the February 14th shootings became a reality to the NIU community, the staff of the Regional History Center/University Archives located in Founders Memorial Library began the mission of documenting all aspects of this tragedy in the university’s history. People from around the world sent messages of support. Counselors came to campus to help the faculty, staff and students better understand and deal with their feelings. Colleagues discussed ways to remember those who died. Photographs and videos were shot for viewing at memorials on and off campus.

In order to coordinate the various efforts of documentation, the University Archives staff contacted Public Affairs, Media Services, Media Production Imaging, WNIU/WNIJ, and the student run television station. A special kudos goes out to those dedicated students who continued to cover the story in a professional manner even through they were scared, confused and horrified at the event. Finally, to make all offices and students aware of the University Archives’ mission, news releases went out in the Northern Star, Northern Today, and Official News Messages announcing that we were accepting donations no matter how small.

The archives received many items relating to the February 14th tragedy. People from all areas of the NIU community contributed photographs, e-mails, cards and letters, posters, PowerPoint presentations, and videos. English professors and students sent poetry, and art students produced a watercolor painting. It seemed as if every office on campus received messages of support from their counterparts at Virginia Tech. Students in the bilingual class at Littlejohn Elementary School in DeKalb sent letters of support, a Florida inmate sent a poem and drawing, and the staff from the Graduate School in Adams Hall shared the thank you notes they received from a fleeing student looking for safety and from her grateful mother. Eventually we will receive office files and official reports to complete the documentation.

On Saturday, March 29th the staff of the Archives along with NIU carpenters and the grounds crew worked to dismantle the five temporary memorials on campus. These memorials, extremely important to everyone in the NIU community, served as an expression of our grief. It was our way of consoling ourselves and others, and to show respect to the victims. Presently the items are being stored in the University Archives’ lab waiting for proper preservation treatment. Surprisingly, most items are in good condition considering...
they were out in the elements for six weeks. Some items are in the freezer to stop the growth of any active molds and mildew. Other items are being dried between blotter papers. Eventually they will be permanently preserved in archival bags, folders, and boxes. Carpenters removed from the Commons the panels where people expressed their sorrow and gave words of support. After being photographed for use on a future Website researchers will be able to zoom into the panels so they can read the messages easily, since the panels’ great size precludes them from easily being brought out for use.

Eventually the collection will be processed and made available to researchers. The staff of the University Archives would like to thank everyone from throughout the University for helping us preserve NIU’s history. We look to the Friends of the NIU Libraries for support during this time of adjustment to a changed and challenged campus.

The University Archives Staff

From the Interim Dean:

We were all stunned by the events of February 14th. It was a senseless act and a tragic loss of lives. The entire campus and community, while grieving, came together in an unprecedented way. I cannot adequately express the level of outpouring of support that the university received. For the library, there was the beautiful bouquet of flowers and the poster-sized sheet of messages and signatures from the employees of the University Libraries at Virginia Tech. There were letters from a local third grade ESL (English as a Second Language) class expressing their feelings, including one girl who decided that we needed to be cheered up during this sad time, so her letter had two jokes. I guess we each deal with tragedy in our own way. I could continue with many other examples, but they would fill the remainder of this newsletter. The library is playing a primary role in documenting the event and is being spearheaded by Cindy Ditzler, Acting Director, and Joan Metzger, Assistant University Archivist, in the Regional History/University Archives department. A campus-wide appeal went out asking for any item related to the tragedy—notes, cards, emails, symbolic items. For anyone with something to give, please forward these items to the Regional History office (Founders room 400). Cindy is also working with the university’s Office of Public Affairs and others to preserve some of the memorials established outside, including the eight large message boards, as well as a lot of the electronic media. It is vital that these items be preserved for future generations.

The Map Library, a branch of the University Libraries located in Davis Hall since about the 1950s, has been relocated to Founders Memorial Library. In the spring of 2007, the Geography Department asked the library to consider relocating the Map Library due to departmental growth and space needs. This was no simple request. The logistics were overwhelming. The Map Library consumed nearly 2,000 square feet of space entailing approximately 250,000 maps, atlases, world globes, travel files, reference books, and reserve materials. The combined weight of the maps and map cases was a major factor in the move. After examining several possible sites for the collection, it was decided to relocate the map collection in the Microforms/Media Services area on the second floor of Founders Memorial. The map collection is now located in room 268, the former Microforms Reading Room. Due to decreasing demand for microforms, the microforms reader/printer machines were relocated next door in room 269. The move does allow the collection to be available during the open hours of the library and we were able to expand hours the service desk hours. An open house is scheduled on April 16th at 3:00 p.m. for all to see the new arrangement.

The search for the new dean of University Libraries reached a successful conclusion when Mr. Patrick Dawson agreed to accept the position. Since 2006, Mr. Dawson has been the Associate University Librarian for Information and Research Services at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His starting date here is July 1, 2008.

Finally, after a prolonged wait, the coffee bar, called Founders Café, is open. It is a significant addition to the lower level student lounge and should prove to be popular. Stop by the next time you’re in Founders.

Byron Anderson
**Donor Spotlight:** Through Donation, Rare Books and Special Collections Adds Scarce Nancy Drew Title

*The Secret of the Old Clock* is the debut of the Nancy Drew series books, one of the most successful series in the history of series publishing for juveniles, displacing Tom Swift on the best-seller list by 1931 (Farah 1:4). Mildred Wirt Benson wrote the first three books in the series (and another 20 after that) under the pen name “Carolyn Keene” for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, and the dust-jackets featured art by Russell Haviland Tandy.

Rare Books and Special Collections added the first edition, second printing of *The Secret of the Old Clock*, Nancy Drew Mystery Story #1, published in 1930, to the American Popular Literature Collection. This is one of the earliest versions of the story. According to David Farah, who published a 1999 guide to Nancy Drew stories, the first edition, first printing with dust jacket has “probably less than ten existing copies in any condition” (Farah 1:6). This particular issue, which is the second printing, is still rather scarce on the market. The book was purchased from a private collector, through a generous donation by Dr. Carla Montgomery.

Dr. Montgomery also has the distinction of being the first person to offer to purchase a specific book for the library listed in our “The Library Would Like to Purchase…” section. Although the Friends offered to split the cost with Dr. Montgomery, she chose to decline, and purchased the book outright. The Friends wishes to thank Dr. Montgomery for her generosity, and encourages other Friends (and soon-to-be Friends) to consider following her example.

**Can This Book Be Saved?**

This copy of the King James Bible is sometimes known as the “Judas Bible”. Published in 1613 by Robert Barker, it has a printing error in Matthew 26:36, with “Judas” printed where “Jesus” should be. Our copy has the error corrected in contemporary ink.

Unfortunately, our copy is in moderate disrepair, with the spine detached, the front boards having come loose from the leather binding, and several sheets being detached from the front of the book. Rare Books and Special Collections seeks donors to sponsor professional conservation services for this book. If you are interested in helping to conserve this book, please contact Lynne Thomas, Head of Rare Books and Special Collections.
Southeast Asia Digital Library Project Underway at NIU Libraries

Funded by the United States Department of Education grant of $780,000, Northern Illinois University Libraries have begun work on the Southeast Asia Digital Library project. The project is jointly managed by Drew E. VandeCreek, Director of the libraries’ Digitization Unit, and Hao Phan, Curator of its Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection. Its web site is available at http://sea.lib.niu.edu. In this project the university libraries work with a number of other institutions, including Yale University, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, Ohio University, the University of Hawaii, and Khon Kaen and Thammasat University in Thailand.

The Southeast Asia Digital Library uses the World Wide Web to provide a diverse audience with a wealth of primary source materials and data from the region as selected and organized by librarians and academic experts on the region. It will use established standards to preserve and disseminate this data, and work with librarians specializing in Southeast Asia and their professional organizations to develop new standards for unique materials not addressed by present standards.

The project coordinates the individual needs and interests of separate institutions into a plan, designed and accepted by librarians and scholars in the field of Southeast Asian Studies, to develop online materials in a systematic and directed method. It will alleviate gaps that have developed over time in the presentation of materials addressing individual nations in Southeast Asia and specific aspects of their histories and cultures, lead to more efficient use of resources, and provide a central online clearinghouse for access to digital materials while better informing the public of their existence. The digital library will also reach out to individuals and groups around the country who now lack the resources they need to research and teach about the region.

The cooperative design of this project combines the experience of each participating institution into a core consortium with the strength and energy necessary to ensure a successful future. Through cooperation with the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), a professional organization of librarians specializing in Southeast Asian studies and materials, and an advisory board the participating institutions will work together to discuss how the entire online collection should develop in the future. In essence, this cooperation will create a collection development policy for the digital library comparable to similar policies used by traditional physical libraries to guide the selection of materials so that resources are used in areas where they are most needed.

Participating institutions retain the flexibility to engage in projects that meet their own needs and interests while at the same time ensuring that funds are used as wisely and efficiently as possible. The Southeast Asia Digital Library does not dictate policy for the digitization of Southeast Asia materials at participating institutions, but it does direct project resources to address clear oversights and gaps in the provision of an integrated set of regional materials. While allowing for the best use of digitization funds, the digital library also allow for the best use of the experience and expertise at participating institutions. The current situation obliges each institution to build its own infrastructure and team of experts to solve the problems facing the digitization and indexing of materials from Southeast Asia. This project will eliminate much of that redundancy by establishing best practices for particular formats and encouraging communication between institutions undertaking similar projects.

The project will act as a place for continued digital preservation and access once digitization projects are complete at individual institutions. This feature of the Library will become progressively more important as increasing amounts of material are made available online. As it grows, the Library will become a secondary repository for digital information on Southeast Asia that is primarily located at other institutions. As such, it will alleviate the risk of content loss due to disaster, equipment failure, and human error at individual institutions. It will also ensure continued access to material that individual institutions no longer wish to support or maintain on their own servers.

As a centralized library connecting people to online collections created by participating institutions, the Southeast Asia Digital Library will act as a hub for information on Southeast Asia. Southeast Asian Studies continues to grow as an academic field in the United States as students react to a job market that places an increasingly high value upon people with a grasp of international affairs and multicultural issues. At the institutions represented in this project alone, thousands of students enroll in courses related to Southeast Asia.
each year. Around the country, many more individuals unaffiliated with these institutions, but still interested in Southeast Asia, pursue their studies in relative isolation. This second group will find the digital library that much more important as they incorporate its rich and variegated materials into their studies and work.

The Southeast Asia Digital Library will also benefit individuals and corporations doing business in Southeast Asia, as well as government policymakers and staff members concerned with the region, by providing them with materials pertaining to its history, culture, and public life.

Drew VandeCreek

Digitization Unit Welcomes Stacey Erdman as Technical Coordinator

On January 16, 2007 Stacey Erdman began work as Technical Coordinator for Northern Illinois University Libraries' Digitization Unit. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and holds a Masters of Library Science degree from the University of Wisconsin. She is presently completing work on a M.A. in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University. Stacey brings a wealth of experience to the position. She has played significant roles in digitization projects at the Wisconsin State Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin’s Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, and the University of Illinois Libraries. At NIU she will set all technical standards for work in the libraries' Digitization Lab, manage student workers, and explore new technologies’ suitability for future projects.

Drew VandeCreek

Announcements:

Arcadia Books located at Locust and Second in DeKalb is offering a 15% discount to Friends members

Save These Dates:

April 23, 2008 - Emersonian Borrowings: Sufi poetry in 19th-Century America by Dr. Jeffrey Einboden, 7:30 pm, Founders Memorial Library staff lounge

May 4, 2008 - Second annual Book Appraisal Fair located in the Holmes Student Center’s Heritage Room from 12:00 to 4:00 pm

The Library would like to purchase:

**Water Encyclopedia.**
"The Water Encyclopedia offers a comprehensive depository of all information relating to the scientific and technological aspects of the world’s most important natural resource -- water.”
Requested by: Dr. Carpenter, Dept. of Geology & EG and Nestor Osorio, subject specialist for Geology.

http://www.aspbs.com/nanobiomaterials.html
..."cover all aspects of the nanostructured biomaterials including all types of nanoscale biomaterials, biocompatible surfaces, functional bioengineered materials, polypeptides, bioceramics, biopolymers, organic-inorganic hybrid biomaterials, nanocomposites, biological macromolecules such as proteins, peptides, nucleic acids, DNA-based self-assemblies, biomolecules, cells, and glycans, biochips, biocompatibility aspects of materials, interactions between biomaterials, cells, tissue and organs, cellular matrix interaction, drug delivery, biomaterials for orthopedic and cardiovascular applications, applications in drug and protein delivery, BioMEMS, dentistry, bone, bioanalysis, biosensors, biomedical implantation, biomechanics, bioinstrumentation, nanoscale physiology and pathology, nanoscale proteomics, instrumentation techniques for nanobioscience, nanoscale cellular and tissue engineering, etc.”
Requested by: Dr. Otieno, Technology Dept. and Nestor Osorio, subject specialist for Technology.

..."covers current knowledge on all aspects of polyester synthesis, structure, properties (chemical, physical and application relevant) and recycling. The most important technical polyesters are presented in detailed chapters, homogeneous polymers as well as copolymers, blends and high-performance reinforced polyester materials are discussed.”
Requested by: Dr. Otieno, Technology Dept. and Nestor Osorio, subject specialist for Technology.

Requested by Library Reference Staff

**Novels and Selected Plays of Thomas Holcroft.** The Pickering Masters. Pickering & Chatto, 2007. 5 volume set. 9781851966015. $795.00
Requested by William Baker, subject specialist for English.

**The Works of Charlotte Smith.** Vols. 6-10, 11-14. Pickering & Chatto, 2006-2007. 9781851967902; 9781851967957. Vol. 6-10, $750.00; Vol. 11-14, $640.00
Requested by William Baker, subject specialist for English.

Requested by Lynne Thomas, Rare Books and Special Collection

*Items on this list have been requested by teaching faculty and subject specialist librarians, but are too expensive to purchase out of the Library’s regular budget.*

*The Friends have committed to paying half of the cost on any book purchased by individual donors from this list. Friends who purchase books from this list will have a bookplate placed in the book, as well as a leaf placed on our “Ensuring the Future” endowment tree, celebrating their gift to the library.*
2007-2008 Friends of NIU Libraries
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Member Benefits:

- Receive a 10% discount on merchandise at the following stores:
  - Ed Ripp Fine Art Books, Chicago
- Receive a 15% discount on merchandise at the following stores:
  - Arcadia, Dekalb (Second & Locust)
Yes! I/We wish to join the Friends of NIU Libraries at the following level:

- $1,000 or more Life Member
- $500 Benefactor/Corporate
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Enclosed is a gift of $______________

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NIU also offers Payroll Deduction for faculty and staff

If a gift is in memory or in honor of someone, please include the purpose and the name and address to which acknowledgement should be sent.

Would you like any of the following brochures?

- Friends of NIU Library
- Ensuring the Future Tress
- Library Book Fund

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Thank you for your support!