

From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

Finally, after the coldest winter since 1918 I am told, spring is beginning to come to New Hampshire albeit grudgingly, as if we haven't suffered enough cold, snow and ice. Our activity at the Library has managed to keep us warm this year as more and more students come to depend on our resources for their undergraduate research. This year our information literacy program has been particularly successful thanks again to the enthusiastic efforts our Reference Department led by Judy Romein. Now, all students in our freshmen English program receive basic library instruction in a program that not only introduces them to the physical setting of the library, but also imparts upon them the fundamental skills necessary to do college level library research. These skills are strengthened later on in advanced sessions in their junior and senior years as they declare majors and prepare to write their senior theses. In January of this year the Council of Independent Colleges recognized our work in this area by inviting us to a major conference on information literacy to be held this summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Along with the invitation, we were granted a stipend to help offset our travel expenses. The conference will provide an opportunity for us to compare notes with other colleges offering similar programs and help us develop tools to measure our progress in this area.

Our Technical Services Department has also been very busy this year implementing our wireless networking project with, I might add, excellent results. Now any student with a laptop computer equipped with the proper card can access our online catalog at any point in the library. The Library also acquired ten laptop computers of its own thanks to a generous bequest, all of which have been used extensively in our program of information literacy described above. Technical services has also been busy implementing a new release to ANSELM, our online catalog that continues to provide all our students with a sophisticated online window to thousands of sources in print and online.

On a sad note, this year the library lost one of its oldest and best friends in Professor Barbara Stahl, our senior faculty member and the College's most devoted library supporter. Barbara served numerous terms on the Library Advisory

(From the Librarian, continued on page 2)

Betsy's Book Shelf

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

Professor Barbara J. Stahl, Friend of Geisel Library

In January of this year, Geisel Library lost a great friend. So did I. Barbara Jaffe Stahl died at her home in Manchester on January 16, 2004. All in the Saint Anselm community feels her loss.



I met Barbara the day I interviewed for my position at Geisel Library; she was one of the faculty representatives on my search committee. She left a memorable impression from the first, inquiring as to my thoughts on new visual resources for the library. It was clear from the start that I had met a persistent, tenacious, and thoroughly committed member of the faculty. It was later that I learned that Barbara was the first female faculty member at the college, and was also the most senior in rank. Her passion for the college, the library, and especially the students never waned.

Barbara's interest in visual arts was not limited to library resources; we were always on the lookout for biological atlases and related items to enhance monographic acquisitions. Barbara and her husband David also had a passion for collecting art, and shared their print collection for an exhibit at the library. More than once she *strongly* suggested I organize a bus tour to museums in New York, so that student and faculty alike could gain a greater appreciation of the wonders that they held within their walls. Anywhere she could find an ally to bring culture to the Saint Anselm students, she would never hesitate to give both her time and effort.

Barbara and David were charter members of the Friends of the Geisel Library and often recognized others through the gift

(Betsy's Book Shelf, continued on page 4)

Internet Workshop Offered to the Friends of the Geisel Library

By Judy Romein, Head of Reference

Did you receive a new computer or even better a laptop for the holidays? Is it still in the box? Maybe you have a computer hooked up to the Internet but you only use it for online games such as solitaire. If this describes you, you might be interested in a program I'm starting that is directed at you, the Friends of the Library Group. You are cordially invited to attend a workshop designed to teach you effective Internet Web Searching Techniques. I have a two-tier approach to this instruction that I hope will reach all of you, both locally and not so locally.

1. On the Geisel Library Homepage will appear an Internet Searching tutorial that all of you can take advantage of at your convenience. Also on the homepage will be a Guide to the Best Internet Search Engines. Other guides and tutorials are already on the homepage with you in mind, such as *Searchpath* and the *Virtual Library Tour*.

Geisel Library Homepage - <http://www.anselm.edu/library/>

2. Friends that live close enough to the college can sign up for a group instruction session. I will survey the most important questions you have about internet searching and develop a program to meet your individual needs. This session will occur in early spring.

Another area that I hope you are all well informed about is the *Online Reference Tools Guide* that you can reach from the Geisel Library Homepage. I am sure you know that the book catalog is fully searchable from any location, but did you know that under *Online Reference Tools* are many sites that you may have been looking for? An example is the site for currency conversion, useful if you are going on a trip. Other helpful sites are the telephone directories (both yellow and white pages), an encyclopedia link and even a bible gateway. Look here often because we constantly update the homepage to stay current as new ideas and websites take shape.

I am anxious to hear from all of you with your ideas and suggestions that might serve the information needs of the Friends. You may contact me at (603) 641-7348 or email jromein@anselm.edu. ☞

Quotes....

"No possession can surpass, or even equal a good library, to the lovers of books. Here are treasured up for his daily use and delectation, riches which increase by being consumed, and pleasures which never cloy."

John A. Langford, 1823 - 1903

Marie Harris, NH Poet Laureate

By Denise Labore, Friends of the Library Secretary

On Tuesday evening, March 23, 2004, the Friends welcomed Marie Harris, NH Poet Laureate from 1999 to 2004. Mrs. Harris is a writer, teacher, editor and businesswoman. As poet laureate, she produced the first ever gathering of state poets laureate in Manchester. She has served as writer-in-residence at elementary and secondary schools throughout



New Hampshire, written freelance articles for publications such as the *New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *New Hampshire Sunday News*, and *Corvette Fever*.

She is the author of four books of poetry, the most recent of which are *Weasel in the Turkey Pen* and *Your Sun, Manny: A Prose Poem Memoir*, and the editor of several poetry anthologies. Recently she has completed two books for children: *G is for Granite: A New Hampshire Alphabet*, and *Primary Numbers: A New Hampshire Counting Book*.

In 2003, she was named Library Trustee of the Year by the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association.

Mrs. Harris spoke of her experiences growing up, where her love of reading began at a young age. She read the poems she wrote for the inaugural celebrations of former Governor Jeanne Shaheen and current Governor Craig Benson. The Poet Laureate is appointed by the governor of the state and the term of office is five years. ☞

(From the Librarian, continued from page 1)

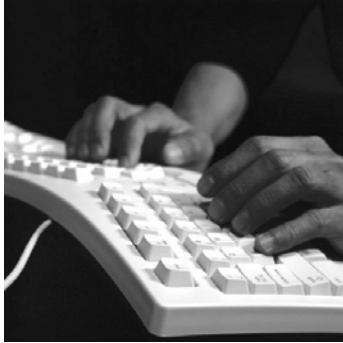
Committee and was particularly supportive of all my efforts since I arrived at Saint Anselm in 1990. She demanded the highest standards of her students and wanted to make certain that the library was able to support them in the very best way possible. Betsy Holmes, our Head of Collections and User Services has written a beautiful tribute in this issue in honor of Barbara.

Spring events are already in full swing here at the Library. On March 23, the Friends hosted an evening with Marie Harris, a past Poet Laureate of New Hampshire. On April 23, we will sponsor a reception for the scholars attending the Fourth Saint Anselm Conference. Finally, on April 15 we will again hold our annual St. Bede Day Dinner featuring Dr. Kevin Graffagnino, Director of the Vermont Historical Society. As some of you may recall, Dr. Graffagnino was the Friends inaugural speaker many years ago and has written many interesting works on New England history. As always, I look forward to seeing many of you there. ☞

Two Goals for Electronic Library Research Tools: *Simplify! Simplify!*

By John Dillon, Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator

A variety of assignments draw students to Geisel Library everyday to find books, articles, and a variety of sources online. If you haven't been to the Library in a while, you might be surprised how differently these modern information hunts are today. In my day, of course, there wasn't a library computer in sight and we all searched for what we needed in massive card catalogs and vast paper indexes. There were also no printers or scanners, just lots of scrap paper for jotting down call numbers and citations. If you were lucky you could photocopy index citations and then head to the stacks to also photocopy a document.




As we know, much has changed over the past several years when it comes to Library research tools. In fact, it has been revolutionized by technologies that continue to evolve rapidly. There is still work involved in research, but a different kind, using tools that are much more powerful and much more convenient. New tools, however, bring their own complications. More tools mean more interfaces to master, a task that can be particularly daunting if proper help is not available.

Many of the staff at the Library work a weekly shift on our Reference desk answering student and faculty questions regarding online research. During my hours, I am sometimes struck with how complicated it may all seem, especially to the novice user. In reality, however, it has never been easier to find so much good material so quickly at the Library. In fact, we labor constantly to present tools in a simplified and organized way and provide many kinds of in-person instruction.

The Library web page also helps to educate users about various electronic tools available to our users. Here is a summary of what can be found there:

- **Library Web Page:** <http://www.anselm.edu/library/index.html> The starting point for finding all services below and "What's New" at Geisel Library
- **Guides and Tutorials:** for getting started with courses, subjects, how to critically evaluate information, and asking for more help
- **Web Catalog:** the Library's own web database that details all resources (books, journals, CD's, websites, etc.) that Geisel "collects" and makes available
- **Indexes and Databases:** powerful tools used for finding articles and other documents in online versions, and more information about them
- **Periodicals Directory:** tracks the various places our users can access particular journal and newspaper titles, whether in paper, microform, or electronic


The Library presents scores of electronic tools in an organized fashion. Library users have a wide range of information tools at their disposal that allows them to bring many disparate pieces of information together quickly. The Library staff is always working to improve this process that will simplify the linking of disparate resources. Currently, the most promising solutions rely on a growing web standard called OpenURL. An OpenURL is a special kind of web link that can connect a citation in one database with related information in another. Instead of needing to know the six other places to look for more information, one can click a button and be presented with a dynamic menu to choose from. This enhancement will help students take advantage of other existing tools or services that are directly relevant to a particular topic of interest. This technology works by using a customizable "link resolver", a new kind of web application being marketed under trademarks such as WebBridge, LinkSource, and Article Linker. Hopefully, such tools will make information searching easier for all of us as the number of sources we are presented with continues to increase rapidly. 

Did you know...

The Geisel Library contains more than 230,000 volumes and 172,000 unique titles, and subscribes to 1,800 print and more than 13,000 online journals.

It was the first building on campus to feature wireless networking. Any student with a laptop computer and wireless

capability can access the network from any point in the library.

The Library is also home of the Institute for Saint Anselm Studies, a center of learning dedicated to the study of the life, times and work of Anselm of Canterbury. The institute and the library sponsor a biennial conference celebrating Anselm's life, drawing scholars from the across the United States. 

Book Review

Reviewed by Beth Bloomquist, Head Cataloger, Technical Services

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. Published by Harcourt, 2001 319 pp. (PR9199.3.M3855 L59 2001)




Yann Martel, the author of this wild and wonderful book, was born in Spain in 1963 and grew up traveling all over the world, spending time as a adult in Iran, Turkey and India. He studied philosophy in college and has written several books: *Facts behind the Helsinki Roccamatios* (1993), *Self* (1996), and *Life of Pi* (2002), winning literary prizes for all three. All of these facts are very evident in the *Life of Pi*.

Life of Pi is a beautifully written book, filled with philosophical thoughts and breath-taking adventure. I read it because the town I live in, Hopkinton, New Hampshire, chose it for the community-read program. I approached it reluctantly, having heard a brief synopsis of the plot. From the first page, however, I was captivated by it, caught by the cadence of the sentences and the colorful imagery.

This is a story of a young Indian boy named Piscine Molitor Patel (“Pi”). In the first part of the book, Pi tells stories of his life in India. His father was a zookeeper, and he grew up observing animals and their behavior. He explored the three major religions and fell in love with the beauty and richness of the stories of the Hindu, Christian, and Muslim faiths.

Because of hard times in India, the family decided to migrate to Canada, taking the zoo animals with them. Their ship sinks somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. At this point, the book becomes a thrilling adventure of survival, as Pi drifts across the ocean on a lifeboat, with only a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker for company. Pi’s journey is filled with pain, terror, betrayal, and fear. There are tremendous storms, blinding heat, starvation, flying fish, and a mysterious island, and the ever-threatening presence of Richard Parker. Both Pi and the tiger survive, washing up on the coast of Mexico. In the final section, Pi is interviewed about the shipwreck and his trip.

But this book is more than the sum of its parts. Most of all it is a spiritual journey, filled with references to love and faith. Pi’s story is “a story that will make you believe in God.” At the very least, it will charm and entertain you. 

(Betsy's Book Shelf, continued from page 1)

of books and periodicals to our collections. Many gifts given to

the library in Barbara’s memory have already been received, and it is a testament to her broad interests that most donors have requested titles be acquired in romance languages and the arts rather than the sciences. In her will Barbara also provided monies for the Library Endowment so that we might continue to build the collections that brought her so much joy during her lifetime.

Barbara became a role model for me, demonstrating how passion and determination can enhance the pursuit of life and work. Her illness did not slow her from meeting with me regularly to review books she was donating to the library, as well as discussing new purchases, art, and cooking recipes. Recently, and to my embarrassment, one of her favorite books, given to the library early in her illness, accidentally ended up in our book sale last fall. Fortunately one of her colleagues in the Biology Department found it before it was sold. When I told Barbara she had a chuckle, but then asked to have the book back as she wanted to use it in her course later that semester. My last conversation with Barbara was in late December. She was delighted that the venue for her Darwin lecture had been changed to the Upper Church at the

College rather than the Dana Center. Unfortunately, Barbara died within days of her lecture date and Professor James Mahoney gave the lecture from her notes. A tape of that lecture is now available at the Library.

The Humanities Department also has a variety of audio and videotapes of Barbara’s lectures that will be housed in the library, allowing future generations of Saint Anselm students the opportunity to experience Barbara’s talks. This bit of

Friends Notes

  **Contact Us ...**

To notify us of a change in address or for information on making a donation to the Geisel Library Book Fund, please contact the Geisel Library, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, P.O. Box 1746, Manchester, New Hampshire, 03102. Or telephone Denise Labore, Geisel Library Secretary at (603) 641-7301 or e-mail dlabore@anselm.edu.

