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Friends Forum

a newsletter for the Friends of the Geisel Library Society

May 2012

From the Librarian

A Fond Farewell

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr. PhD, Librarian

After many years, and many wonderful times at the Geisel Library and with all of you, I am writing to let you know of my retirement as College Librarian effective May 31. Every one of my twenty-two years here have been very special, with one of my special joys being the Friends of the Geisel Library Society and all those who have supported our annual programs and events. Your support of the Library over these many years has been truly gratifying and getting to know all of you, either in person or via correspondence from many miles away has been great. Nothing has given me more pleasure than our gatherings where I got to know so many of you and your families. These are some of the best memories I have of my time at Saint Anselm and I will miss all of you very much.

The good news, is that I am not going far. I will still be teaching courses here in Political Science and Humanities starting next fall. This is what I want to do the most at this point, as well as beginning several writing projects that I have postponed for years. My email will remain the same and I would love to hear from all of you whenever you get the chance. Regular mail will still find me at Saint Anselm as well. If anyone is interested in a course in the Politics of the Middle East you are always welcome to sit in on my class as well. (Anyone who falls asleep will be asked to leave the room.)

There have been many accomplishments at Geisel over the last two decades where a dedicated staff has worked to provide our community with the best collections and services possible. Our collections could not have been built without your help and I hope that you will stay engaged. It is my hope, too, that you will continue to support Saint Anselm in other ways as well. It is a place that is dedicated to the best traditions of American Catholic education, traditions that will continue to provide a foundation for many generations to come.

My best to all of you, and my sincerest thanks for your friendship and support over so many years.

Joe Constance

And Yet Another Fond Farewell

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr. PhD, Librarian

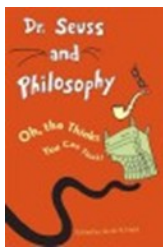
On April 19, Betsy Holmes, one of the most devoted library professionals ever to serve the Geisel Library, will be departing campus to take the position of Library Director at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester. In her thirteen years as Head of Collection and User Services Betsy brought a dynamic energy and enthusiasm to her work which went on to affect the whole campus. Whether she was giving a Library Instructional session, a faculty interview, or an art lecture Betsy always threw herself into a task with relish and for anyone involved the experience was always educational, interesting and thoroughly entertaining.

Whatever the time or subject, everyone was always welcome in Betsy's office, a place that reflected her many talents and interests and hectic schedule. Give her a minute to clear off a chair and she would listen intently to what you had to say and then immediately begin to take care of your request as if you were a close family member. Students got to know her as a teacher who loved art and made every effort to see that they grew to love it, too. To this end, she was instrumental in bringing ARTSTOR to the Library many years ago which is the premier databank of classical art that is now essential for any College or University Library. More importantly, Betsy took it upon herself to instruct everyone who ever wanted to use it at Saint Anselm, providing an insight that only a real artist can provide.

Many Friends will remember Betsy for her insightful comments on their various book collections. Always ready to visit donors for books to add to the Geisel Library shelves or for fodder for our annual Book Sale.

Betsy brought a grace, bearing and elegance to the Library that will stay within Geisel's walls for many years. She has made innumerable color choices, furniture selections, and décor choices that have made the Library look beautiful at virtually every turn. When such decisions were necessary, I have always turned to her for help and it always came out better than I could ever imagine. This is something the New Hampshire Institute of Art will soon learn to its fullest and all of us here wish her the very best in her new position.

We will miss her and yet as a lifetime member of the Friends will anticipate her return at future events. ♡



Book Review: Dr. Seuss and Philosophy: Oh, the Things You Can Think!

By Ishmael Johnson, '2013, Library student assistant

I did not learn to appreciate reading, and the stories it can tell, until my late childhood. Because of this, my earliest memories of books consist almost entirely of Dr. Seuss, his being among those few picture books with more than one word on each page. I remember Dr. Seuss using strange word orders and rhymes to create the amazing worlds my imagination, as a child, could barely keep pace with. The good doctor left me with fond memories of tongue twisters and bewildering animals.

Soon after arriving at college I was introduced to a new kind of reading: philosophy. And these authors, such as Nietzsche, Hegel, and Dewey used strange, large words which also made my imagination feel out of shape and unable to keep up. The concepts introduced by these great "thought thinkers" changed and shaped how I was viewing the world.

Still, I had never related the literary genius of Dr. Seuss with the reality-probing inquiries of some of the world's greatest philosophical minds. Never. However, when reading the introduction of this incredible book, Dr. Seuss and Philosophy, a few lines immediately stood out that bridged my gap between rhyme and reason. For example: "My mind would start racing as questions loomed large. / Why are we here? / What ought I do? / Is there a rhyme, or a reason, or two? / Can it be learned, can I learn it, from who?" (p. xix).

This book integrates and examines the rhymes and reasoning behind Dr. Seuss' works, from his most well known such as *Oh the Places You'll Go* to the lesser known such as *The Butter Battle Book*, with famous philosophical ideas. Jacob M. Held is the editor, compiling this series of essays written by philosophy professors from around the country on different philosophical concepts. These ideas are broken down and explained in easy to understand terms and then, incredibly, related to Dr. Seuss' work (my personal favorite takes a look at exactly why it is Sam doesn't like green eggs and ham). This work shows that Dr. Seuss himself was a kind of philosopher, taking these ideas and telling them in ways that children might understand. The connections are made from ethics, diversity, justice, aesthetics, capitalism, language, epistemology, and respect (just to name a few) straight to the world of Dr. Seuss.

If ever the stories of Dr. Seuss brought your imagination to a wondrous new place, I would recommend this book. The concepts in this book make it an exciting new read or a philosophical refresher with a new twist. Just remember, "You have brains in your head. / You have feet in your shoes. / You can steer yourself / any direction you choose. / You're on your own. And you know what you know. / And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go" (p. 1).☞

Held, Jacob M. *Dr. Seuss and Philosophy: Oh, the Things You Can Think!* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2011. Print

Getting Personal Online

By Jeffrey Waller, Head of Reference and Instructional Services

Have you noticed the Internet getting more personal lately? Many websites have started using tools such as "tracking cookies" to learn more about you, by monitoring what you click or purchase. Their goal is to tailor their information so that it better meets your needs.

Leaving aside the (entirely valid) concerns about personal privacy raised by these practices, a personalized Web experience seems like a win-win situation. We get information tailored to our circumstances or preferences that can help us make good decisions, while businesses see increased sales or online activity due to the "targeted marketing" that cookies make possible. For example, it's often very helpful when Amazon recommends a book based on similar books you've purchased in the past, or a travel website alerts you to airfare sales either from your hometown airport or to one of your favorite destinations.

But what happens when this sort of personalization is extended to Internet search engines? At the end of 2009, Google began customizing the search results that each person sees, based on information such as the searches they've conducted and search results they've clicked in the past. Because of this, two people who search for the same word or phrase will often get much different results. In other words, there is no "standard Google" any more. Rather, Google manipulates its own search results in the name of giving people what it thinks they want.

As with the personalization of websites, this seems like a positive development; for example, our results may include news stories from New Hampshire or articles that reflect our political viewpoint, and we may prefer these to a more generic set of Google results. But there's a dark side to this sort of personalization. As Eli Pariser warns in his book "The Filter Bubble,"¹ we may be narrowing our exposure to information that goes beyond our usual purview, and perhaps narrowing our minds in the process. The result? Each of us will only consume information that reinforces our views or matches our current preferences, leaving no room for confronting other opinions or discovering something new serendipitously.

Needless to say, this is problematic for a society that has already grown polarized and self-focused. But it also poses special problems on a college campus, where students are challenged to explore diverse viewpoints on the leading issues of the day. A student who is passionate about addressing climate change will likely have clicked on stories that support the environmentalist position. If asked by a professor to analyze the argument against the existence of human-caused global warming, the student may be unable to locate sources on the Web since Google will feed him a steady diet of websites about the perils of climate change.

I saw Google's personalization firsthand in the freshman English library sessions that I taught this fall. I used a search about the effects of casinos on crime rates to illustrate the importance of evaluating potential web sources for authority, bias, and general reliability. During the first few classes, I would get a mixture of scholarly studies, newspaper editorials, pro-casino advocacy sites, and anti-casino sites. I tended to

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The Franco-American Archival Collection at Geisel Library

By Keith Chevalier, College Archivist and Head of Special Collections

Earlier this year I helped pack up and move a collection of archival material housed at the Franco-American Centre in downtown Manchester to the college. This archival collection was originally managed by l'Association Canado-Américaine (ACA) at its Manchester headquarters. It consists of approximately 700 cubic feet of records in a variety of formats including newspapers, letters, photographs, and videotapes that document the Franco-American experience in Manchester, New England, and the United States. These materials also highlight the important social, political, and religious contributions Franco-Americans have given their new country. The collection itself represents the efforts of the ACA (a Franco-American fraternal benefit association) and the Franco-American Centre along with various donors interested in preserving Franco-American history and culture.



Archival material ready to move from the Franco-American Centre auditorium, Manchester, April 2011

In 2010, an agreement was reached between the college and the Franco-American Centre to form the New Hampshire Institute for Franco-American Studies. As a result of the agreement (formally announced at a May 2011 reception), the Geisel Library will manage, preserve, and make accessible this historically important material to researchers. The transfer of the archival material to the library reunites the former ACA book and archival collections. When the ACA Library Preservation Consortium purchased and donated the ACA/Lambert Franco-American Collection to the college in 2009, the donation only included books. While this special collection also contained some rare books of historical importance, it did not contain archival material (unique and unpublished items). Since both the book and archival collections are together again, researchers interested in Franco-American culture in New England can conveniently research both primary and secondary source materials at one location.

By now I anticipate that you may have questions, for example who are the Franco-Americans and why would this material end up at Saint Anselm College?

A clear definition of the term Franco-American can be found at the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress' authority records (tools with which librarians manage names, titles, and subjects for bibliographic materials) define Franco-Americans as people of French-Canadian birth or ancestry who are living in the United States. By contrast, those people who are of French birth or ancestry living in the United States are called French Americans. This is a nuanced and important distinction that was only recently added to catalog records by the Library of Congress. Prior to this update, there were inconsistent cataloging practices applied to books created by, or about, Franco-Americans. These inconsistencies made locating all relevant books about Franco-American subjects a hit or miss endeavor. Through its new authority record, the Library of Congress has tried to ensure that researchers locating materials about Franco-American subjects will not be confused with search results on French American subjects.



The ACA/Lambert Franco-American Collection room in the Geisel Library as a staging area for the new archival material before placement onto secure shelving units elsewhere in the library, April 2011

Saint Anselm College's relationship with the Franco-Americans is rather interesting. From the beginning, the college's aim was to attract students of all ethnic backgrounds. Choosing to name the new college after Saint Anselm was a calculated move. Born in what is now Italy, he moved to France and finally to England. As such, Saint Anselm did not necessarily represent one single ethnic or cultural group. With many ethnic groups employed in the Manchester mills, the decision to name the new college after Saint Anselm would ensure that no one ethnic group would be alienated.

From its first year of instruction in the fall of 1893, Saint Anselm College has offered courses in French. In fact, the study of French was mandatory in the early years of the college. The first course catalogues state that studying French is obligatory in order to "meet the demands of the New England States." Of course this decision was practical. The young men who

were to be educated at Saint Anselm College would need some command of the French language, especially if they were to manage businesses or become priests in areas where French was spoken.

Much of the Franco-American archival collection now housed in secure shelving units at the Geisel Library was collected by Monsignor Adrien Verrette (1897–1993). Born in Manchester, Adrien Verrette was ordained to the priesthood in 1921. Throughout his lifetime, he served many parishes in the Diocese of Manchester. As an author and historian, Monsignor Verrette was active in promoting Franco-American history and culture. A member of many organizations, he also served as president in La Société Historique Franco-Américaine and oversaw the establishment of the ACA's la Commission des Archives in 1944. The new Franco-American archival collection also contains material of his family, including his father, Moïse Verrette (1857–1924), who was a businessman and the first Franco-American mayor of Manchester serving from 1918 to 1921.

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The new, secure compact shelving units for the Franco-American Archival Collection, Fall 2011

Now that the Franco-American archival collection is at the college, there are many steps to make it accessible to researchers. Currently we are conducting a full collection-level inventory. After this has been completed, we will then process the collection according to archival standards (re-boxing and re-folding materials in acid-free enclosures, removing staples and paper clips, etc.). Concurrent to processing, we will create bilingual catalog records that will be accessible through the library's online catalog. Our current challenge is accommodating researchers using the collection in this interim period.

The shared goal of Saint Anselm College and the Franco-American Centre is the establishment of the New Hampshire Institute for Franco-American Studies that will be housed in the library. The intent will be for this institute to become a center for

Franco-American culture on a local, regional, national, and international level. The two Franco-American collections (the books and archival materials) will be the foundation for the institute. The acquisition of this important historical material reflects an opportunity for the college to foster a research institute that can utilize our newly acquired primary and secondary sources of an immigrant population that is not fully represented by another institution in New Hampshire.

If you are interested in learning more about Franco-Americans, especially in Manchester, please read the book *Franco-American Life and Culture in Manchester, New Hampshire: Vivre La Difference* (History Press, 2010) by Robert B. Perreault, an alumnus and current instructor in the college's Native Speaker program. Monsieur Perreault is a former librarian/archivist for the ACA and has made extensive use of the collections throughout his career writing and speaking about the history of Franco-Americans.

In addition to the new collection on campus, our friends at the Franco-American Centre now have offices on the lower level of Davison Hall. They also host their monthly film series and evening French classes at the college. For more information, please visit www.facnh.com. ☺

Sneak Peek of the Learning Commons



Something's Gotta Give

By Elizabeth Holmes (departing Collection and User Services Librarian)

A few days after our October blizzard I was fortunate enough to attend a conference in Charlestown SC. This was the annual meeting of librarians and vendors involved in collection development (selecting, negotiating, acquiring, and also removing items from the library collection). It was inspiring and provided lots of good ideas, but also validated the great work the team at Geisel Library is already doing. We are often ahead of the pack when it comes to integrating the latest technologies, providing superior service and just plain saving money.

The theme of the conference was "Something's Gotta Give" be it acquisitions due to budget cuts; print because patrons are demanding digital; or shelf space because libraries are running out of room – every element of what we need 'let go of' was covered. Key-note speakers were the usual heavy-hitters: University Librarian at Stanford University, Research Director at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Chief of the Rare Book Division at the Library of Congress. But the best programs were presented by librarians 'on the ground', who could speak directly to challenges we face on the job.

One of my largest concerns has been to balance print and electronic formats in this quickly changing digital environment. So far we have been fortunate at Geisel to have enough shelf space to adequately house our print collection (although we actively weed older materials to make room for the new). There has been lots of buzz associated with portable electronic readers like the Kindle and Nook, but I had not seen an appropriate application for our library. It was therefore with great interest that I headed to the program entitled "Champagne Wishes, Caviar Dreams: Incorporating e-Readers into Leisure Reading While on a Beer Budget". Geisel Library had recently started a very small leisure reading collection with no added budget (primarily acquiring books through donations). This collection has been a huge hit, so I was curious to see how we could enhance that service further... and integrate e-readers as well.

The presenting library, Western Carolina University (WCU), discussed the emphasis their University President has placed on *reading* as a life-long pursuit, and as a result they have a significant leisure reading collection. They launched a program with a small amount of year-end funds to integrate Kindles into their collection. Through their experiences I am now confident that e-readers can be appropriate for patrons at Geisel Library, and can also add to our leisure reading collection with a small amount of funding.

Six is the magic number with Kindles – most electronic books that are purchased for a Kindle can be downloaded up to six times. From an acquisitions standpoint this is certainly cost effective, particularly when the cost of an e-book for a Kindle is less than a print volume (currently there are over 800,000 titles available at \$9.99 or less). WCU purchased six Kindles, and regularly downloads as many copies as allowable for each book they purchase. Their Kindles and e-books are listed in the library catalog and are checked out by patrons for the same amount of time as a print book (3 weeks). They have experienced some damage issues, but so far Amazon has replaced all readers for free. Draconian threats of major fines have discouraged any theft. All their Kindles are constantly checked out – many people are curious to try them out when considering purchasing one

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click only on the scholarly studies and anti-casino sites, and sure enough, by the sixth class, my first page of results was a curious blend of scholarly studies and anti-casino propaganda. And as surveys repeatedly suggest, few people go beyond the first page of a search results list.

Fortunately Google does provide an escape route from this personalized universe. You can opt out by clicking on the gear icon in the upper right of the Google search screen, then choosing Web History and clicking "Disable customizations based on search activity." If you're in Geisel Library, you're also safe, since our public computers essentially wipe themselves clean every night after the library closes. ☺

¹Pariser, Eli. *The Filter Bubble*. New York: Penguin Press, 2011.

Library of Congress

Visiting Washington, DC this summer? Then a must stop is the Library of Congress. The Library is open for tours most days except Sundays and holidays. Prior to your visit check out their website at <http://www.loc.gov/visit/> for interesting news on events and exhibits. Not visiting in the near future? Then take an online tour of the library at <http://www.loc.gov/visit/tours/>, Quick Links – Online Tours.

Student Views on the Library

By Jeffrey Waller, Head of Reference and Instructional Services

In March, the Reference Department administered an online survey to the entire student body, to find out what students think about the library. About 37% of all students completed the survey, and their responses were generally gratifying and highly illuminating. Overall, students have a very positive view of library collections and services, with over 95% of respondents rating them as excellent or good. The recent renovations also received high praise, with 24% of respondents pointing to the Learning Commons as what they like best about the library, even though the redesigned space did not open until March 5. Students also expressed their appreciation of the helpful staff and the quality of the library's collections and online resources.

Not all was rosy, of course. By a large margin, the greatest dissatisfaction was with the library's operating hours, with 48% of respondents saying that the library is not open long enough to meet their needs. Other complaints included noise levels and a perceived lack of sufficient computers and printers. Our librarians have already begun formulating plans to address these and other issues identified by students. But we were encouraged by the many compliments received about our Learning Commons and the helpfulness of our reference and instructional services. And in a world where many research needs can be met from the comfort of one's dorm room, it was a pleasant surprise that over 75% of students pointed to the library's atmosphere and facilities as factors that keep them coming through our doors in ever-increasing numbers. ☺

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themselves.

I think this is a terrific initiative to put into place at Geisel Library. So, 'what's gotta give'??? A thousand dollars, and while we can't provide an e-reader to every patron, having six Kindles with many 'fun' books will help us meet our leisure reading demand; give access to those curious to experience reading on an electronic device; and keep our leisure reading collection budget low. For \$1,000 we will be able to give our patrons access to six Kindles and roughly 240 books.

I'm looking forward to trying one out myself. *If anyone would like to contribute to this project, please call Gwen Verkuilen Chevalier at gverkuilen@anselm.edu or 603-641-7166.* ☞

On the Web

<http://www.catholicresearch.net/>

The CRRA is a collaborative effort initiated by eight Catholic colleges and universities to share their resources electronically with librarians, archivists, researchers, scholars, and the general public, all who are interested in the Catholic experience. The mission of the CRRA is to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources.

<https://www smalldemons.com/>

Suppose someone took every meaningful detail from all the books you love; every song, person, food or place or movie title mentioned. And what if they did that for all the books everyone else loves, too. Suddenly you've got a whole world of seemingly random people, places and things, all gathered in one place.

Quick Notes:

(Geisel Library News, volume 12, January 2012)

Introducing the Learning Commons

We're excited to report that Geisel Library is undergoing its first major renovation since the expansion of 1992. Several years of planning are now coming to fruition in the form of our new "Learning Commons", a transformation of the major public spaces on the library's main level. This redesign has two main objectives: (1) to create collaborative workspaces that will better accommodate group projects and group study, and (2) to better support the increasingly technology-based nature of modern research and class assignments. While we have great facilities, they were designed for a 1992 world of card catalogs, desktop computers, CD-ROM databases, and individual study. The new Learning Commons has been planned with the needs and preferences of modern students in mind.

A few highlights are: most computer workstations will now comfortably accommodate two students; two new four-person worktables will enable users to plug in their laptops and feed their screens onto a large monitor mounted on the wall; power outlets in nearly all new tables, for laptops and other electronic devices; a color printer and two new scanners; chairs and tables in the Reading Room that can easily be moved into informal clusters for small group discussion or study; new armchairs in the Atrium with tablet arms on which users can rest their laptop computers or study materials and net seating capacity of the library will increase by over 100 seats .

To better support user's technological needs, the Information Technology department will be transferring its Help Desk operation into the library. The Reference Desk will be shifting to the Atrium, creating a triangle of service points on the main level.

Geisel Book Discussion Group

We have successfully inaugurated the Geisel Book Group. We were pleased to have a mix of faculty and staff – we hope to get greater student participation as we continue; alternating sessions between Fridays at noon and Tuesdays at 4:30 in an effort to include as many interested readers as possible. If any Friends would like to participate in this group, please feel free to contact or Gwen Verkuilen (641-7166 or gverkuilen@anselm.edu) if you have questions.

Humanities After School

For the second year, the Geisel Library is participating in a grant project called "Humanities After School: Exploring a World of Human Greatness." Funded in part by the New Hampshire Humanities Council, the project's goal is to invite approximately fifty Manchester area immigrant and refugee high school students to our campus in order to research, explore and present 'Portraits of Greatness' identified from seventeen birth countries. Librarian Sam Urtz has been offering research guidance and library classroom space to them on many Monday afternoons. Several other faculty members, administrators and Service Learner students are also involved in the program.