

## From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

Once again, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to another year of the Friends of the Geisel Library and to thank all of you for renewing your ties to Saint Anselm College. We have enjoyed a wonderful summer and an equally beautiful fall in New Hampshire, and I can only hope that your own has been as pleasant.

We have also had a very productive summer at the Library with several new innovations serving to make us a much better place. The Library is now wireless, a term that refers to our ever-expanding computer networking capacity. In days of yore, when one entered Geisel with a laptop computer, one had to make use of a "drop" or plug in the wall to connect to our system. There were a number of these in the Library but they were limited to a few areas, which were not all that recognizable. In recent years, of course, laptop or notebook computers have become increasingly popular, especially with students. These machines are now powerful, easy to transport and can be opened virtually anywhere for work or recreation. As such computers became more common, a way was found to provide for access to local networks without wires, via radio waves emitted by in-building transponders. The notebook itself is equipped with a small card that enables it to receive radio signals and thus connect to the College network virtually anywhere in the building. Our famous Assistant Librarian, John Dillon, has just completed installing the network and describes it in some detail for you in a separate article.

In addition, our Library Instruction Initiative began its second year with an especially effective Orientation Weekend program over the Labor Day weekend. On that Saturday over five hundred freshmen came to the Library, in groups of roughly one hundred, for a brief explanation of our services. Each group was welcomed by a member of our professional staff, including myself, a time where we let it be known that the Library was a place that held untold treasures and one where they were always welcome. The students themselves were great fun and judging from attendance in the Library the first week of school, serious students as well. Special thanks go to Judy Romein, Miriam Johnson and Sam Urtz for making this effort such a startling success.

*(From the Librarian, continued on page 4)*

## The Secret Life of the Geisel Computers

By Judy Romein, Head of Reference

Have you been to the Geisel Library lately? The computers on the floor of the atrium look very strange. All public computers have bright colors, moving graphs and a title that suggest looking for extraterrestrial intelligence. Very strange, indeed. They display the SETI@home screensaver.



This is a scientific experiment that uses Internet connected computers in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. The library is participating by running a free program that analyzes radio telescope data.

We have downloaded the SETI client to our public computer and set it to run as a kind of screensaver mode, where it crunches data only when the machines are completely idle. SETI@home claims to have more than 2.5 million individual users who have donated 500,000 years worth of processing time.

This program uses a technology called "distributed computing" that involves linking a group of client computers together and harnessing their idle processing cycles to work on a single, large number crunching project. Universities and research institutions have taken advantage of this technology for years. Now with the widespread popularity of the Internet, distributed computing projects can be carried out on a much grander scale.

SETI is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific research, education and public outreach. The mission of the SETI Institute is to explore, understand and explain the nature and prevalence of life in the universe. The SETI@home project takes radio recordings from the Arecibo Radio telescope in Puerto Rico, chops them into conveniently sized packets and sends them to a screen saver program to be analyzed. It takes 24 to 96 hours to process a packet depending on the speed of your computer. The results are uploaded back to the servers at the University of California-

*(Secret Life of the Geisel Computers, continued on page 3)*

## Betsy's Book Shelf

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

### The Gift of Books

Many libraries come into being as a result of purchasing or receiving a donation of a large number of books. The Library of Congress, for example, purchased Thomas Jefferson's personal library to create the core of its collection.



In his 1993 *Saint Anselm Magazine* article "Library's Story: Striving for Excellence", Fr. Jerome Day, O.S.B. wrote that the impressive collection of today's Geisel Library originated

with a bag of books brought by Father Hugo Paff, O.S.B. from Saint Mary's Abbey in Newark, New Jersey in 1893. From that moment on, the library has been the beneficiary of any number of generous book donations.

An exhibit in the lobby of Geisel Library this fall celebrates the generosity of Geisel Library book donors. I'd like to take this opportunity to mention a few from the past and present.

Geisel Library has received more book donations from Saint Anselm Abbey than any other source. The core of the theology collection was received from the monastery. Recently, the library was the beneficiary of the outstanding collection of Celtic, Nordic, and Early English materials from the personal library of Fr. Daniel Dempski, O.S.B. His donation included a vast array of books on heraldry, as well as reference works from the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the Library of Congress.

An ever-growing strength in the collection of Geisel Library is its primary source materials. Many donors have generously given published memoirs, personal narratives, and papers that significantly contribute to the studies of the Saint Anselm community. Particular thanks in this area go to John K. Russell, Saint Anselm Class of 1963, who in memory of his parents, Pearl C. and Rolland T. Russell, presents us with jewels of twentieth century history and politics. The late Professor Charlie Steele of the University of Lowell had a professional interest in computer science, and a personal devotion to the history of the United States, Cuba, and Ireland. His widow recently gave hundreds of significant texts on these topics to Geisel Library.

Faculty, Alumni and their families have generously given to the collections of the Geisel Library. Peter Howard, a son of a Classics professor in the area of Greco-Roman studies, donated significant titles to the Classics area of the library.

Professor Emeritus and Friend of the Geisel Library Austin Conley has established an endowment for the purchase of further Classical texts.

The library has received many books in the field of art, literature, and education. The personal library of Arthur Geraghty, former art director of the *New Yorker* magazine is now in the collection of Geisel Library. Other significant donors in this area include Friends of the Geisel Library Dr. Barbara J. and Dr. David G. Stahl, Mr. Thomas G. Kudzma, and Dr. Vito Perrone, recently of Harvard University School of Education and father of Professor Sean Perrone of the History Department.

These are but a few of the very many generous donors that have benefited the library. If you would be interested in donating books, or funds to be used to purchase library resources, please contact me at [eholmes@anselm.edu](mailto:eholmes@anselm.edu), or 603-641-7166. 📖

---

## Book Fund Donation Forms Available Online

For your convenience, Geisel Library Book Fund donation forms are available online and can be printed on your home or workplace printer. Access the Saint Anselm College web site at [www.anselm.edu](http://www.anselm.edu) and go to the "Faculty/Staff" bar located on the left. From the drop down menu select "Library". Once on the Library homepage select "Other Services" where you will be able to access information on the Geisel Library Book Fund as well as a printable donation form.

Once the form is complete, simply mail it to the address on the bottom of the form along with your donation. Checks should be made payable to "Saint Anselm College Geisel Library".



Should you require information about the book fund or need donation forms and do not have access to a computer, please contact Denise Labore, Geisel Library Secretary at (603) 641-7301 or e-mail [dlabore@anselm.edu](mailto:dlabore@anselm.edu). The appropriate materials will be mailed to you as soon as possible.

Contributing to the book fund is an excellent way to commemorate a special occasion or remember a loved one. Your generous donations greatly benefit the library as well as the entire college community and are always sincerely appreciated. ♥

# Cutting-Edge Technology: A LAWN Inside The Library!

By John Dillon, Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator

Can it be true? Has the library director finally gone new age? Well yes, but maybe not in the sense you thought. In this case we're talking about Geisel Library's new **local area wireless network (LAWN)**. I suppose the more common acronym is *WLAN*, but that's just not as fun.



The idea of a “wireless” library was born last fall when Geisel Library and Information Technology (IT) staff was considering issues of network access for our students. The question, as it so frequently is with technology was: “What next”? Former Director of IT Richard Powell strongly believed that wireless computing was “next” and asked if the Library would be a Beta test site for the campus. After careful consideration, both staffs agreed that this would be a wonderful experiment and since then, this idea has become a reality.

On the surface, wireless at Geisel means users can gain access to networked resources without being tied to or waiting for a dedicated reference workstation. In months to come it will mean much more.

Implementation began early in the summer 2003, allowing us to have many of the basics in place this fall for returning students and faculty. Technically, wireless computing utilizes radio waves, transmitted back and forth between a user's laptop and an access point mounted within range. The access point is wired into the network and allows authorized un-wired users to gain access over the airwaves. Behind the scenes there is different software to help monitor quality and ensure things work smoothly. As of September the wireless network is up and running in its early stages and covers almost the entire library.

There are a few requirements needed to make use of the wireless network. One is to have a mobile device such as a notebook computer or a handheld personal digital assistant (PDA). Additionally, the device needs a network interface component that will work with our particular frequency - known as 802.11b. (The “b” is the crucial part, in contrast to “a” or “g”). The latter is often built-in to a laptop, or can be added via a card adapter insert. In the future, the Library also intends to allow patrons to borrow laptops/notebooks from the Circulation desk for this in-building use.

Wireless technology is helping the Library increase flexibility and convenience for network users and for staff. Users can now stay “connected” from study carrels, the reading room, or anywhere in the Library. Staff can also make better use of the Geisel classroom, special collections area, or wherever a group might need network access. In the coming weeks, staff will also be looking at a unique strength of our network - the ability to “push” particular web pages to particular places in the building. We expect this feature to enhance special instruction classes, and enable users to learn more about library services most relevant to their location in the building. For more exciting details ... please stay tuned. ☺

---

*(Secret Life of the Geisel Computers, continued from page 1)*

Berkeley and a new packet is downloaded for processing

Other distributed computing projects open to the general public are the RAL Climate Dynamics project ([www.climate-dynamics.rl.ac.uk](http://www.climate-dynamics.rl.ac.uk)) which analyzes weather data to predict the climate for the next century.

Have some spare computer time? Distributed.Net ([www.distributed.net](http://www.distributed.net)) is a nonprofit organization specializing in contests that challenge participants to crack encryption codes.

Of course, commercial based ventures are also looking into this technology. Processtree Network ([www.processtree.com](http://www.processtree.com)), a for-profit site, is one of the first internet companies to offer to pay for idle computer time. Is it time for your computer to start paying for itself? ✧

## Quotes....

*"I care not how humble your bookshelf may be, nor how lowly the room which it adorns. Close the door of that room behind you, shut off with it all the cares of the outer world, plunge back into the soothing company of the great dead, and then you are through the magic portal into that fair land whither worry and vexation can follow you no more."*

Arthur Conan Doyle, 1859 - 1930



## Prof. Bert Hornback Returns to Present Selections From *A Christmas Carol*

By Denise Labore, Friends of the Library Secretary

On Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., in the DeCicco Current Periodicals room, the Friends of the Library in conjunction with the Saint Anselm College Honors Program, will be pleased to welcome the return of Prof. Bert Hornback, well-known for his re-creation of the readings of author Charles Dickens. This year he will present selections from the holiday favorite, *A Christmas Carol*.

Prof. Hornback's presentation of Charles Dicken's *Great Expectations* at the Geisel Library last November was a huge success and was well received by members of the Friends, faculty and students.



Charles Dickens

Prof. Hornback is currently a professor of English at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky. Prior to Bellarmine College, he was a faculty member at the University of Michigan for 28 years. He has written four books on Dickens, one of which, *Noah's Arkitecture* (1972), is housed in the Geisel Library. Other titles include, *The Hero of my Life* (1981), *Our Mutual Friend: An Annotated Bibliography* (with Joel J. Brattin, 1984), and *Great Expectations: A Novel of Friendship* (1986). He has also authored seven plays and hosted a ten-part television series (1973) *The Dickens World*.

Since 1976, he has presented his Dickens readings all over the United States, delighting audiences everywhere. In addition to his re-creation of Dicken's famous reading of *A Christmas Carol*, his repertoire also includes *Great Expectations*, *Hard Times*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Bleak House* and *Nicholas Nickleby*.

Like Dickens, Prof. Hornback travels with his reading stand, his only prop, a replica of a specially designed reading desk, covered in red velvet, which Dickens always used. The mood is set and a host of wonderful characters come to life.

Prof. Hornback is the recipient of many teaching awards for his excellence in the classroom and as an academic advisor for Honors students. He is the former director of the Great Book Program at Michigan, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Peripheral Thought, founder of the Society of Bremen Scholars, and was the founder and secretary of the Ann Arbor branch of the international Dickens Fellowship. He also founded the Ann Arbor-based Chamberlain's Players.

A special note of thanks goes to Dr. Mark Cronin, the Chairman of the College Honors Program, who was instrumental in scheduling Prof. Hornback's return. Dr. Cronin's assistance is greatly appreciated.

I hope you will be able to attend this very special evening, as we step back to another place and time, the world of Charles

---

(From the Librarian, continued from page 1)

Finally, Collection Development has enjoyed several terrific advances over the past few months, especially in the area of online databases. In a partnership with two other institutions we now offer *SciFinder Scholar*, the pre-eminent database for Chemistry. It contains all fundamental information for research in the discipline, including the entire scope of information contained in *Chemical Abstracts* from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. We have also acquired *Project Muse*, an online archive of some two hundred liberal arts journals covering most of the twentieth century. Along with other interesting sources we are now offering our students a most impressive array of indexes that will greatly aid their research efforts. Betsy Holmes, our Collections Development Librarian engineered these great purchases and also has an article on special donors to the Library in this issue.

Welcome back to all our Friends and I look forward to seeing you at one of our events during the year! 

### 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](mailto:dlabore@anselm.edu).

Thank you!

