

Friends Forum



a newsletter for the Friends of the Library

November, 2001

From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr., Librarian

I would like to welcome you all back for another academic year and for another season of the Friends of the Geisel Library Society. The academic year began early for the Library staff due to our participation in the freshmen orientation program. It marked the first time the Library had been included in the weekend program, and the culmination of an important initiative done in conjunction with the Academic Dean's Office. Our participation in freshmen weekend provided us with an excellent opportunity to introduce nearly all of our incoming freshmen to the resources of the Library, as well as getting to know many of the next generation of Anselmian scholars ourselves. Though many worked to make this a successful event, special thanks go to the Assistant Dean of the College, Dr. Duane Bruce, who long ago realized the virtues of library instruction for all of our students. Special thanks also go to Ms. Miriam Johnson and the Library Reference staff who arranged the Saturday program. In subsequent years we will seek to improve our orientation program, in a concerted effort make the Library a welcoming place for our entire academic community.

Our summer at the Library was a productive one, and a time where many preparations were made for the upcoming academic year. Perhaps the most important innovation was the enhancement of ANSELM, our online library catalog. After seven years ANSELM received a major facelift known as *Millennium*, a general upgrade to the system which improves the capabilities of the entire catalog. The virtues of *Millennium* are fully articulated in this issue in an article by our inestimable Head of Technical Services, John Dillon.

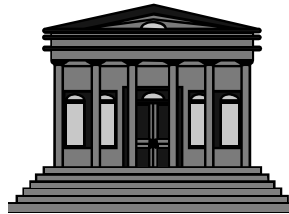
Though most difficult, we also had to say goodbye to several long time staff members this summer. Florence Cimon, who for most of her thirty years at the Library served as Head of Periodicals, retired to spend more time with her husband Norm, her children and grandchildren. Florence was dedicated to her work at the Library and the Periodicals department was always meticulously organized during her years of service. As a co-worker Florence was always upbeat and possessed of the

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Anselm Institute To Be Established Within Geisel Library

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr., Librarian

On July 30, 2001, Fr. Jonathan DeFelice, O.S.B., President of Saint Anselm College, announced the formation of the Institute for Saint Anselm Studies, under the leadership of the esteemed philosopher, Fr. John Fortin, O.S.B. Last year, as you may recall, the College sponsored a major conference on the life and works of Saint Anselm, an initiative which served as the beginning of the process that led directly to the founding of



the new institute. As his first act, Fr. John named several members of the College community to the Institute's Advisory Committee including Dr. James O'Rourke as Chairman, Dr. Elona K. Lucas, Dr. Duane F. Bruce, Fr. Augustine Kelly, O.S.B., Dr. Kevin A.

McMahon and myself. Along with Fr. John, the Board will help plan the future of the Institute, with a special emphasis this year on a second Anselm conference to be held April 12-13, 2002.

The Anselm Room will be located on the second floor of the Geisel Library and include shelving space for the Anselm Collection, a work area for visiting scholars, and a seminar table for classes or groups focusing on Anselm of Canterbury. The room will be very well appointed, and form a showplace within the Library highlighting the life and works of our patron saint. The Anselm Collection is currently held in the Creaghe Room of Special Collections and has grown steadily over the past several years. It includes such notable titles as R.W. Southern's magnificent, *Saint Anselm: A Portrait in a Landscape*, the *Letters of Saint Anselm of Canterbury*, translated by Walter Frolich, a four volume *Concordance to the Works of Saint Anselm* by last year's conference key note speaker Gillian Evans; as well as two of our most historic works Eadmer's *Historia Novorum* and *Saint Anselm*, a three-volume set written between 1668 and 1690, authored by the Spanish

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Betsy's Books

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

New Fangled and Old – Used Book Sales Live On

I was recently looking through the *Christian Science Monitor* and found an interesting article by Robert Klose about the phenomena of used book sales. He began the article by mentioning that while Stephen King “published” an electronic “e-“ book on the Web last year, Mr. King himself reflected that there is, indeed, nothing like a bound copy of an interesting story. For Klose, the proof that printed books have staying power is that singular event known as the used book sale. He describes in detail the legion of such sales in his home state of Maine, put on by small-town libraries, fraternal organizations, and churches. He even provides his strategy for getting the best bargains at a sale, usually arriving an hour or so before the sale closes,



“when books lie strewn about like the remains of a harvest.” The reason? He reckons his tastes are so esoteric that he is always assured of a few gems after the mine has been sifted (not to mention the “clear ‘em out” prices.) Klose concludes that while the books he picks up at a sale may not be valuable in a monetary sense, he considers them old friends, a status that an e-book would be hard-pressed to attain.

Klose can make a good argument for print versus e-books, but you can't convince this librarian that e-delivery of information via the World Wide Web isn't anything but a great place for the New Fangled Used Book Sale. Looking for a specific used or out of print title has never been easier! I've mentioned in past articles handy web sites for used book purchases (<http://www.bookfinder.com> and <http://21northmain.com>), but I've found a new one I'm excited about: Half.com (<http://www.half.com>). Part used book sale, part yard sale, Half lets sellers list used books, CD's, videos and computer games for nothing. If they are purchased, Half takes 15% of the price. The company bills the buyer and pays the seller, which makes transactions easier for all. Give Half.com a try when you know the title you are seeking. ☼

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Benedictine, Joseph Saenz De Aguirre, a Spanish Cardinal who was one of the most notable commentators on the life and works of Saint Anselm of Canterbury. In the future we hope to acquire many more materials for the collection, including perhaps some manuscripts produced during Anselm's era. Work on the area has already commenced, with our inimitable carpentry staff doing some of their finest work. The room will be ready for dedication by the time of our conference, an event that will undoubtedly be one of the proudest moments in Library history. I hope many of you will be in attendance for this event next spring. ☼

Book Review

By Joel Burdette,
Reference/Government
Documents Librarian



Colson, Charles W., & Pearcey, Nancy R. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1999.

Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey have written a book that intelligently explains how Christianity can impact one's entire worldview. A former presidential aide to Nixon, Colson found redemption during the prison term that he earned for his role in Watergate. Appropriately, then, the book begins with a descent into a putrid Quito prison. Juxtaposed with its horrific conditions is the description of “the Home,” a spotless wing of the same prison transformed by Christian inmates, Prison Fellowship volunteers, and Jorge Crespo. So begins a series of chapters elaborating on those forces and philosophies that darken our world, and those divine graces that renew people and culture.

The aim of *How Now Shall We Live?* is to equip and encourage Christians to be agents of cultural renewal. It is a well-reasoned discussion of practical theology for the layperson, drawing examples from historic and modern sources. Anyone wanting to sharpen his own understanding of the Christian worldview will find this an interesting read. The first sections of the book examine the idea of a worldview, and of creation, the fall, and redemption. They provide an intelligent defense of the Christian gospel and worldview. Students and faculty in higher education especially will appreciate the treatment of present-day concepts and philosophies including scientific naturalism, liberation ideologies, and New Age religion. The authors' frank discussion of the “Einstein dilemma” of the problem of evil and suffering is apt in this age of worldwide strife. Other basic life questions are discussed, including the origin and purpose of life, and the means of being saved from the human predicament.

In the final third of the book, Christians are reminded of the call to create and reform culture. The authors challenge us to place no dividing line between sacred and secular. Instead, they provide engaging examples of those that are shaping work, politics, family, and art in a way that builds a godly culture. They tell of the behind-the-scenes inspiration of artists. We read of the events in Martha Williamson's life that led to the “Touched by an Angel” TV series. We learn that the movie *Braveheart* was a production of a company started by Mel Gibson, a devout Catholic, in order to reflect a Christian understanding of good and evil, honor and courage. We feel the fierce opposition withstood by the Polish composer Forecki as he produced and conducted a musical work commemorating St. Stanislaw's martyrdom. We are reminded of the influence of faith in the works of writers like John Donne and Dante, composers like Vivaldi and Dvorák, and visual artists like Rembrandt and van Gogh. Art like this expresses and positively shape a culture's values.

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College Upgrades Library's ANSELM System

By John Dillon, Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator

Library technology soared to new heights this summer with the implementation of a "Millennium upgrade" for ANSELM, the Library's automated system. Dating back to 1994, our ANSELM system has served as major information tool for academic research and for library management. Though the Library made countless incremental improvements in system services over the years, nothing will prove as significant as this major overhaul. Such a boost is important because it gives our community an even more powerful set of tools and it helps to keep the College competitive with the kinds of automated Library services new students continue to expect.

Our Millennium upgrade began with a new central computer in the Library to support the Library databases and services. Initially, this has been the most dramatically felt improvement because it makes ANSELM both faster to use and better able to handle newer memory intensive services.

One such new service will be called "My ANSELM" and will be modeled after the similarly-named Netscape or Yahoo products which allow users to personalize or customize an interface. Thus, with "My ANSELM" Library users will soon be able to maintain settings in the Library catalog such as a list of "preferred searches", an email alert service, and a way to update their patron records options. A related feature already now available allows searchers to export their search results in specified styles and formats.



Also new, and already available, are advanced methods of Keyword-searching for resources in the ANSELM catalog. In essence, these new search features are allowing students to construct more complex database queries in the catalog. So, for example, the Advanced Boolean search now allows techniques such as Adjacency, Proximity, Wildcarding, and pre-search limiting. Another feature on the way will be known as AltaVista searching and will allow searchers to use the familiar AltaVista operators and syntax. For examples, see <http://library.anselm.edu/search/X> or <http://library.ANSELM.edu/search/Z>.

There's good news for off-campus users as well. Prior to this upgrade, it has always been a problem for students living off-campus as well as for faculty using home offices to be able to connect remotely to particular Library Reference databases. Now however, with a new forwarding service within the ANSELM system, users can connect to powerful yet normally restricted databases from remote computers. This is achieved by configuring a person's home web browser in a particular manner and having them use their College ID information for clearance. For more information, see <http://library.anselm.edu/screens/wamproxy.html>.

In addition, the Millennium upgrade has also provided a host of other advancements which are helping Geisel staff "behind-the-scenes". One example is a new ANSELM URL-checker which is automating the process of keeping live Web Catalog links up to date and accurate. Another benefit is the ability for Circulation staff to save time and paper by sending overdue notices directly to email instead of hardcopy. And perhaps most notably, ANSELM can now accommodate an "unlimited" number of simultaneous searchers, so that as many students as possible can use ANSELM at the same time.

These are just some of the highlights of how technical services related to the ANSELM Catalog were enhanced this summer. As the Geisel Library progresses with implementing more Millennium features in the coming months, we hope the College's strong investment in library technology will continue to benefit faculty, students, and friends alike. ☺

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Colson and Pearcey's book is powerful because it illustrates truth through the gripping portraits of people we want to be like. Science, philosophy, theology, and scripture are all woven into the book, but lightly. The authors of this readable book succeed in showing that Christianity can be more than merely a personal belief. It is a truth about all reality that is a viable worldview. The reader will be challenged to live this out. Most of all, as the authors state, he or she will be encouraged to affirm those things that make us human: our sense of purpose, of right and wrong, of beauty, and of God. ☸

Quotes...

"I am mindful, in thinking of books, that we, as men and women, are creatures of endless curiosity, speculating always on the multiple facets of our compositions and our history and our world, and that only books can satisfy that boundless desire to know. Books certainly are the greatest treasures we have; in them are contained all religions and all amusements, all passions and occupations, all that we know on earth and what we suspect of heaven."

Norman H. Strouse 1906 – 1993

Hero Of Authority Control Crisis Named Assistant Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

Last year, as many of you may recall, a piece appeared in this newsletter regarding the heroic efforts of our Head of Technical Services, John Dillon, in resolving the greatest threat ever to our Library security, that of authority control. John has worked at the Geisel Library for nearly six years, and has performed any number of heroic exploits during his tenure as a department head. He has assisted the Librarian in several successful grant projects and most recently, led the implementation of our second generation online catalog known as Millennium. In view of these and many other accomplishments, John has been named Assistant Librarian, a position from which he will assist me with strategic planning and continue to provide valuable assistance on special projects. He will also continue his excellent work as Head of Technical Services and Systems Librarian.



John is a graduate of Wydams Hall College in Ogdensburg, New York and holds a Masters in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. John hails from Batavia, New York, and now resides with his lovely wife, Jean, in Goffstown, New Hampshire. Jean is also a cataloging librarian and each night she and John discuss cataloging rules for several hours at a stretch. Prior to coming to Saint Anselm, John worked at the John J. Burns Library of Special Collections and the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Libraries of Boston College. Congratulations to John, and we all look forward to working with him. 📖

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best sense of humor in the western world. Also leaving through retirement was Cindy McGreevey, a wonderful cataloger and wife of our former Head of Dining Services, Phil McGreevey. Cindy worked at the Library for some fifteen years and was perhaps, the best co-worker anyone could have. Apart from her own work, she was always willing to help others whatever the task. Like Florence, Cindy was always pleasant and seemed to



take great pleasure from her work. With Phil, Cindy has moved to the family home-stead in Messina, New York, where she hopes to restore her nineteenth century house and find work in a local library. Finally, Martha Sawyer, our delightful Head of Periodicals for the last three

years, has decided to leave the Library to pursue career in the art world. Beginning in August, Martha began serving as an intern at the Chapel Arts Center under the leadership of its dynamic new director, Fr. Iain MacLellan, O.S.B. Martha was a fitting successor to Florence as Head of Periodicals, and possessed of a sparkling personality that served to encourage the use of the collection by our students. We wish all of them the best in their new lives and hope they will keep in close touch with us always.

Events this fall include our annual Parents' Weekend book sale. This year we are also looking forward to our second Anselm Conference slated to take place in the early spring. I wish all of you the best for a pleasant Fall season and hope to see you on campus sometime soon. ☆

Friends Notes

☞ *Geisel Library Book Fund ...*

For information on the book fund or to make a book fund donation, please contact Denise Labore, Geisel Library Secretary, at (603) 641-7301 or e-mail dlabore@anselm.edu.

☞ *Address Changes ...*

Please notify us of any change in address so that we may stay in touch with you. You may contact us by mail, telephone or e-mail dlabore@anselm.edu. Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your support of the Friends organization and to convey my best wishes for a peaceful, happy Thanksgiving.

*Joseph W. Constance, Jr.
Librarian*

