

# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF GEISEL LIBRARY

# VERSO

SUMMER / 2021 / VOL. 3, NO. 1



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Annual Book Sale Preview**  
Thursday, September 30,  
2021 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.  
Open to the public  
October 1-3
- **Annual Day Planner**  
December 2021
- **8th Annual Celebration of  
Research & Scholarship**  
Spring 2022

Visit our Friends of the Geisel  
Library Website for details and  
up to date information:

<https://www.anselm.edu/geisel-library/services/friends-library>

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

After a most unprecedented year of business as *unusual*, campus-wide and worldwide, we welcome you back and invite you to re-engage with us again as active Friends of Geisel Library. In fact, as I write, the college is currently allowing guests and visitors back to campus, and also anticipating a return to normalcy for the fall semester. In this issue of *Verso* you can read about several updates and reminders regarding being a Friend of Geisel, and where to go to find even more information.

In the meantime, a brief update about two very special friends of Geisel Library - the first being our library director **Charles M. Getchell, Jr.**, who retired in February, 2021. We had the privilege of having Charles with us at the helm since 2013, and while here, Charles always raised spirits (and the volume level!) everywhere he went. More importantly, he worked closely with staff and the community on developing Library staff, services, facilities, and resources to be as supportive of the curriculum as possible. We wish Charles all the best and we know we will surely see him on campus at any number of sporting events.

And secondly, for those who may not have heard, the Library and College bid farewell to one of our longest-known and dearest friends ever, the **Rev. Peter J. Guerin, O.S.B.** After a long and quite remarkable life on the Hilltop as a Monk, Priest, Professor, College Dean, Campus Minister, monastic superior and friend to all, Fr. Peter, 85, was called home to the Lord on July 9, 2021. Not only did Fr. Peter oversee Geisel Library administration for several years as Dean, but he also treasured its resources and collections, good parts of which he helped to personally select, and which his family often generously and directly supported. Beyond even his impact at Geisel, it is simply a marvel to consider all the countless lives Fr. Peter touched and blessed over the years among students, faculty, staff, his monastic confreres, and the larger community. We will remember and miss Fr. Peter often, but we also know that his academic legacy and example of Faith will continue to inspire us for years to come.

~ John Dillon, Interim College Librarian

## RETIREMENT

Geisel Library and Saint Anselm College bid a fond farewell to College Librarian and Geisel Library Director, Charles M. Getchell, Jr., in February 2021. Charles spent the last seven of his 40+ years of professional service in academic libraries at Saint Anselm College. He began his career at the University of Kansas as a freshly minted library school graduate. Over time he moved up the ranks with leadership positions at Wake Forest University and Quinnipiac University before settling in for his final years here on the Hilltop.

At Geisel, Charles cultivated a collegial, team-orientated atmosphere. He supported staff in experimenting with new ideas, services, and campus collaborations. He oversaw numerous building improvements, including the creation of the Monseigneur Paradis Archives and Special Collections space. His energy and enthusiasm for our profession was infectious. He served as a mentor to not only the Geisel staff, but also to new library directors across the United States through the American Library Association's College Library Directors Mentoring Program.

An avid sports enthusiast, he served as an academic advisor of the Saint Anselm baseball team, and traveled with the team on seven spring break trips. Go Hawks! In recognition of his contributions to providing a "transformational student-athlete experience," Charles was awarded the *Hawks Soar Higher* award in September 2018.

Charles' booming laughter will echo through the library's halls for years to come. While he will be greatly missed, we celebrate his accomplishments and wish him all the best on his journey to retirement.



## News

### COVID: A Year in Review

The need to implement COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols last fall resulted in swift adjustments to library spaces and staff schedules when students returned to campus. To allow for social distancing and reduce building capacity, group study rooms became storage rooms for furniture. Also, library staff divided into two groups, Team A (aka team Anselm) and Team B (aka team Benedict), rotating weeks working from home and working in the building. Other safety measures included the installation of plexiglass partitions at the circulation and periodicals desks, virtual reference services, one-way directional signage, single-user restrooms, and ongoing cleaning and sanitizing. Strict protocols and a 5-day quarantine were also put in place to ensure safe handling of library materials used in the building, borrowed by our community, and borrowed from other institutions.

Our strategy was successful with no COVID outbreaks originating in the building or with our student workers or staff; the library was able to maintain all existing services and resources for students, faculty, staff, and the monastic community.

### "Hands Together" Student Art Exhibit

In 2019-20, librarian Hannah Cabullo and Fine Arts professor Kimberly Kersey-Asbury ran a year-long project, funded by the college's *Diversity & Inclusion Innovation Fund*, to promote student artwork around the theme of diversity and inclusion. The project was supposed to culminate with an exhibit in the library in spring 2020, but because of the pandemic, this conclusion was delayed. Happily, we were able to host the exhibition this spring semester, featuring a variety of ceramics as well as digitally created artwork.



## DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY ARTICLES

## LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

The 2020-21 academic year was a busy one for the Library Systems and Technical Services Department. **Christine Clayton**, Head of Cataloging & Metadata, quickly implemented new workflows and procedures to continue cataloging physical materials off site. She also completed important cataloging on Faculty-authored publications, NHIO Presidential collections, and our EAST consortium holdings, while also publishing our bi-monthly New Books & Media guides. Meanwhile, **Nicole Pennell**, in addition to her crucial budgeting and accounting support, assisted with vital help on our Viewsonic ePoster displays, iPad lookup stations, and coordinating Circulation services during alternating Team B weeks - when half our staff worked remotely. **Martha Dickerson**, our Head of Circulation Services, was essential in making successful a “very different” year that included negotiating with students on extended borrowing privileges, getting items safely returned to our collections, and decisively adapting to a whole host of customer services changes as needed. **John Dillon** coordinated three major technical upgrades this year including the updating of the library’s Sierra integrated library system, the migrating of Geisel to a new Summon discovery platform, and implementing single sign-on for off-campus access to library resources. John also transitioned to the role of Interim College Librarian, assuming further duties in the management of administrative functions and the User Services Department.

## REFERENCE AND INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

The Reference and Instructional Services Department provided its services virtually during the 2020-21 academic year. It was an exciting new challenge to learn how to teach online; and, overall, Geisel librarians taught 80 classes online—both in real-time over Zoom, and via online modules that students could complete at their own pace. With reference, we were delighted by how well Zoom worked for scheduled research appointments with students, a format we will certainly continue in the future.

In Interlibrary Loan, Geisel Library was invited by OCLC to be part of its new Express Digital Delivery program, open to member libraries of OCLC’s WorldShare ILL network that consistently deliver articles and digital resources within 18 hours or less.

Members of the department have also been able to attend a variety of online conferences and workshops this year, including the ACRL New England Chapter Annual Conference and the annual OCLC Resource Sharing Conference.

## MONSIGNOR WILFRID H. PARADIS ARCHIVES &amp; SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Since the last newsletter, we have received a number of collections including additional material for the Anselmian Abbey Players collection from the former director Professor Landis Magnuson. The materials date back to the founding of the Abbey Players and more recent materials including performance recordings and set design scale models and drawings.

Work with the Lavalliere Franco-American Collections has been progressing well. With three institutions in the University of Maine System and Assumption University, our team was able to secure funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to build an online discovery portal to locate materials in libraries and archives across the continent on Franco-Americans (individuals with French Canadian ancestry). This bilingual portal, called the *Franco American Digital Archives / Portail franco-américain*, will be ready for use in a few months. We are currently exploring other grant funding opportunities to digitize and make available materials from each of our collections.

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

After two years of hard work we are nearing completion of our Federal Government Depository documents relocation project, first mentioned in the inaugural issue of this newsletter. Nearly all members of our team have been involved in some aspect of evaluating, deaccessioning, shifting, cataloging or labeling to complete the relocation of over 8,000 items in the collection. The rapid transition to remote teaching in March 2020 initiated an immediate need for more electronic books, journals, and streaming media. In fact, we licensed 110% more streaming films in the last 18 months than we did in the prior 5 years. Lastly, we say farewell to a beloved team member, Sue Gagnon, who retires this July after 27 years of service. She will be greatly missed.





Saint Anselm College  
**GEISEL LIBRARY**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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### **MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS**

Your July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022, \$20.00 membership dues include:

- Biannual Friends newsletter, *Verso*
- Annual day planner
- Invitations to special events, such as invited speakers, the annual Celebration of Research & Scholarship, exhibit opening talks, and a preview to the annual book sale
- Friends library card with borrowing privileges—for new members
- Borrowing privileges are extended for the current year—for existing members with cards

See our website for more details: <https://www.anselm.edu/geisel-library/services/friends-library>

Don't forget to mail back your membership form to take advantage of these exclusive benefits. Contact us at 603-641-7365 or [geiselfriends@anselm.edu](mailto:geiselfriends@anselm.edu) with questions.