Buley Acquires 20 Years of DeStefano Papers

In January 2014 Buley Library received 93 boxes of former New Haven Mayor, John DeStefano Jr.’s papers. The files contain correspondence from his 20 years in office between the mayor and various city departments as well as local businesses, politicians, and constituents. The library is very excited to be able to preserve this important archive of New Haven's history as well as to make it accessible to future researchers.

The papers are organized in two categories. First there are binders that contain the chronological papers of Mayor DeStefano by month for each year that he was in office. Each binder also lists the mayor’s schedule for every day of the corresponding month. The library received 124 binders and their contents will be moved into archival boxes for better preservation. In the second category, there are an equal number of files in folders that are organized by city department.

In addition to maintaining the physical files in the library, we are digitizing the materials so that researchers from near and far will be able to access the collection via the Internet for free. In March 2014 the library hired a university assistant, Robert Velez, to scan and upload the files into our digital content management system, ContentDM. Robert is also assisting, cataloging and digitizing librarian, Jackie Toce with adding metadata so that the files will be discoverable in our system. We hope to have most of the files digitized in two years. The physical files, stored in archival boxes, will reside in the newly renovated part of the library.

To date three years of files, about 10,000 pages in all, have been uploaded and are searchable on the library’s web site. You can find them here http://libcdm.southernc.edu:2011/cdm/landingpage/collection/DeStefano or go to our home page http://library.southernc.edu/ and click on “About Buley” then “Digital Collections” to see all of our digital collections listed.
For this edition of the Director’s Column we have a guest column from Robert Sheeley, on the library construction.

The project is progressing well with a tentative date of December 5th, 2014 scheduled for what is called a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy which means all life safety building systems have been inspected/tested and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of the State Building Inspector. It allows us to begin to plan for moving in but there will still be some cosmetic work to be done. Although the contractor is confident that they will meet the December 5th date I am more leaning toward a January 1st, 2015 date based on my observation when I toured the building this morning [Friday, Nov. 5].

One thing for sure, regardless of the date we can occupy, the renovated portion will truly be beautiful. The outdoor landscaping currently well underway, I am confident that it will all be completed with the exception of a few areas. This will transform the entire academic mall as we know it and provide a great space for outdoor events in the future.

Robert G. Sheeley
Associate Vice President for Capital Budgeting & Facilities Operations
Southern Connecticut State University
Library’s Music CD Collection Explodes!!

The Buley Library was the recipient of an incredibly generous gift from SCSU’s Music Department that doubles the size of our recorded music collection. Dr. Craig Hlavac, Chair of the Department of Music, contacted Wendy Hardenberg (the Library’s Music Department liaison) and David Feinmark (the Library’s Collection Development Librarian) to discuss the possibility of donating approximately 3,000 music CDs which had long been kept in storage in his department. After reviewing the materials both Dr. Hlavac and Ms. Hardenberg considered them to be invaluable and exciting additions to the library’s collections. These largely classical CDs (including opera, orchestral, and chamber music) filled many gaps in the Buley Library’s music CD offerings. Composers represented in this new material range from Bach and Beethoven to Verdi, Vivaldi, Wagner, and Weber and music forms range from concertos to operas and operettas, sonatas, and symphonies. Within the library the conversation focused on how to make these pieces as accessible as possible not only to the music students but to the entire University community. With a donation of this size, both the Access Services and Technical Services Departments were called on to collaborate to catalog, physically process, and shelve the CDs in a timely manner.

By the beginning of the fall semester over 2,800 of these newly acquired CDs were shelved and available for circulation. Housed in the Media Collection on the 1st floor of Buley Library these materials can be checked out by all SCSU students, faculty, and staff for 1 week for either curricular or personal use.

David Feinmark
Collection Development Librarian
The faintest ink is more powerful than the strongest memory.

Chinese Proverb

Family Bible

This June in New Orleans at the annual convention of the American Theological Libraries Association I attended an interesting session on family Bibles by Bruce Eldevik from Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Like most people, I was familiar with the term “family Bible” and like most people I really had no idea what these were.

The roots of the family Bible can be traced to the eighteenth century when publishers began adding commentaries, concordances, indexes, notes and tables. Eventually, these grew extensive and illustrations were added as well. In the 1840’s Harper and Brothers produced an Illuminated Bible with sixteen hundred illustrations and weighing over thirteen pounds.

It was less a bible than a theological reference library. It was also too heavy to read, but as an object was most impressive. With deeply carved leather bindings and metal clasps it typically rested on a special stand, often on a purpose-built table in the parlor, a setting that earned it the alternative names: “furniture” or “parlor” Bible.

The more common name, “family Bible” derived from special pages, usually between the Old and New Testaments, where one could record births, deaths and marriages, or even a whole family tree. Some had special pockets for photographs and owners even added special objects, such as swaths of wedding dresses. In short, one could add one’s own family to the sacred genealogy.

While it would be nice to have a copy of the Harper Illuminated Bible, it is a $10,000 book. Fortunately the Harpers edition spawned a half-century of imitators. The Bible that we were able to afford is impressive enough: Brown’s Self-Interpreting Bible by John E. Potter of Philadelphia (1873).

Family Bibles are scarce now, they disappeared with Victoria and front parlors, so when Special Collections is open in a few months, come by for a look!

Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian
**Move Your Boundaries**

On November 4th, Friends of Buley Library sponsored an inspirational talk by Jean-Paul Desrosiers, Jr. A Marine Corps veteran, semi-pro cyclist, marathoner, and owner of Sherpa Fitness, Desrosiers recounted his journey to the toughest footrace on earth, the Marathon des Sables, a 156 mile, 5 day race across the African desert. Desrosiers talked about the physical and mental journey he took to prepare for and complete the race and how the experience challenged and expanded his views of life and what is possible.

The event was well attended and well received.

Shirley Cavanagh, Access Services Librarian

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**Reaching Out With Library Help Guides**

If you have never seen our library guides, this article is for you! Your friendly librarians have created several web pages for research assistance, subject guides, and for providing useful information about the library using the very popular LibGuides software. LibGuides is a web 2.0 knowledge sharing system used by libraries to create, share, and promote information resources. Under the “Research Guides” tab on the library home page you will find specific course guides, topic guides, database tutorials, and general help. For starters, check out our “Help” guide from the vast array showcased there (http://libguides.southernct.edu/libraryhelp). There’s something for everyone. Here you can find information on library hours, subject librarians, remote and mobile access to library resources, how to find a journal article, how to cite sources, how to use the interlibrary loan service, difference between primary and secondary sources, Google Scholar, peer-reviewed articles, plagiarism, doing basic research at Buley library, database tutorials, and much more.

Students do not always come to the library for help. They expect to access all library resources, including help, on their computers and mobile devices. One of our responsibilities as librarians is to ensure that these resources are available to students at their time and point of need. The Library Help Guide is a one-stop shopping site that brings together the most helpful library resources in one place! We would like to encourage teaching faculty to link to these pages on Blackboard Learn 9 which is a universal access point for students. Students and faculty can access multimedia content such as websites, electronic articles, images, e-books, and videos through our subject guides. Including library links and guides to course pages may propel students to interact with these resources and draw attention to relevant resources for specific assignments and projects instead of randomly searching the library website or the internet. The guides are user-friendly and information is presented in an intuitive fashion so students will not have any difficulty navigating through them. As a result their research and learning experience is enriched. An added advantage is that they can contact their subject librarian directly through these guides with their questions and research needs. Students and faculty can also use the Website Comments and Questions link at the bottom of the guide to make comments and suggestions.

To link a guide to your course, simply cut and paste the URL which appears distinctly

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“What’s a Book?”

Peter and Donna Thomas, a.k.a. the Wandering Book Artists, arrived at Lyman Center in their Gypsy Wagon Bookmobile at about 10:30 on Wednesday, September 17th, then came into the library to give a presentation from 11:00 to 12 noon. Peter and Donna spoke about their work and history as book artists—they have been making paper and binding books together since the mid-1970s. They displayed more than 30 handmade books, many made using their own handmade papers. Three of the books were made from musical instruments—not to mention the ukulele Peter strummed to entertain us with his melody and lyrics to “What’s a Book?”

The program was sponsored by the Friends of Buley Library.

Tina Re, Special Collections and Arts Librarian
Paul Holmer attended the American Theological Library Association annual conference in New Orleans June 18-21. Paul particularly enjoyed a session on family Bibles. Everybody knows that the Big Easy is a good restaurant town, but it is a good book town too. If it were not so warm it would be librarian heaven.

Several librarians made it to ALA in Las Vegas at the end of June. Head of Reference Winnie Shyam reported that it was hotter than India with temperatures between 99 and 104 degrees! Her personal highlight was meeting Jane Fonda. Winnie reports that she is pleasant, intelligent, friendly, and has the body of an 18 year-old! Her forthcoming book: You, Your Body, Your Life, is based on her experiences at the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential and Emory’s Fonda Center for Adolescent Reproductive Health, both of which she founded.

Winnie reports that among the sessions she enjoyed included “Leading from the Side: On, Off and Within Your Campus” which discussed innovation with emphasis on digital research, and “Free and Affordable Apps for Accessibility” focusing on low-cost apps for tablets and smart phones for special needs populations.

David Feinmark Collection Development Librarian, made it to Vegas as well. He assisted in moderating a pre-conference session titled: “Statistics and Reports: Data Driven Decision Making.” He also attended numerous meetings and sessions touching on Collection Development.

Also on site was Buley’s Instruction Coordinator Wendy Hardenberg where she presented a poster session. Wendy has many talents and has been busy in other ways as of late. She has just had an article in Women’s Studies: An Inter-disciplinary Journal, and has finished a book translation of Jacques Vandroux’s, The Heart Collector (2014). This is a spooky tale just in time for Halloween!

Librarians Shirley Cavanagh, June Cheng, Rebecca Hedreen, and Winnie Shyam participated in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in August titled Copyright for Educators and Librarians. Rebecca Hedreen also completed a course on Social Science Research Methods.

Just in! Winnie Shyam spoke at Goodwin College about SCSU’s mentoring program.

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Call for Book Donations!

Did you know you can donate novels, popular titles, and best-sellers for our Leisure Reading Collection? Help us give our students a well deserved break with a great book. Duplicate titles or other books not accepted for the collection will be sold at the Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale. Books can be dropped off at the Circulation Desk on the first floor.

Book Sale!

As always, we are accepting donations for our annual Spring Book Sale benefiting the Friends of Buley Library. For more information on the Book Sale, contact Jackie Toce, tocej1@southernct.edu. For more information about the Friends, contact Shirley Cavanagh, cavanaghs1@southernct.edu or see http://libguides.southernct.edu/hcblfriends

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for their conference in November. Winnie is active in the campus Faculty Development Advisory Committee and the Faculty Development mentoring program.

Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian

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Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference

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Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference