You’ve Got a Friend…. At Buley Library

Buley Library recently moved into a bright and beautiful new library addition and now looks forward to the completion of our entire renovation project. All of these wonderful changes have inspired us to reach out to our alumni, staff, students, and community neighbors. For many years, the library staff has talked about establishing a Friends Association. We have wanted to promote our current library services and collections and provide unique ways to showcase the library through exhibits, programs, and special events.

Throughout the years, we have attended various state and national library conferences and enthusiastically returned with literature about how other academic libraries had started their Friends groups. We had many discussions about academic library Friends Groups and even had a meeting with a staff member from Institutional Advancement to learn about the mechanics of creating a non-profit group. But somehow the momentum of these lively discussions never resulted in taking the next essential step.

Fortunately the idea of a Friends Association for our library was born again in 2008. A group of determined library staff, with the full support of our library director, once again explored the idea of forming a Friends Association. We met for the first time in spring 2008 and talked about the purpose of the group, drafted a mission statement and considered future library programs.

Meanwhile, Library Director Dr. Christina Baum met with Barbara Kagan, Graphic Designer in Public Affairs, and developed a logo for the Friends of Buley Library. Stationery was ordered and it was exciting to see the Friends logo on the envelopes and letterhead. Now that we had the stationery, the committee was energized and excited about moving forward with actual programs, such as author talks, special donor recognition, and an annual book sale.

In early November 2008, Institutional Advancement launched the first Friends of Buley Library fund-raising drive. IA used the mailing list from previous library donors to send out information about the newly formed Friends of Buley Library and how to become a member. Library Friends who contribute $50.00 are entitled to in-house use of all library...
Director’s Column

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope...” (Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities). But the spring of 2009 finds Buley Library in the midst of uncertain times (albeit with hope) due to the stoppage of the library building project and the serious nature of the state budget and its potential effect on Southern Connecticut State University and subsequently the Library.

We moved into the new addition of Buley at the end of May 2008, with the intention of old Buley being completely remodeled in 18-24 months. The addition is wonderful. Students are enjoying the new facilities as computers, study rooms and tables are filled a majority of the time. However, it’s important to realize that the service desks (Circulation, Reserve, Reference, Learning Resources Center and Special Collections) are all temporary, quite small, and not in the best locations for access. All of these areas are to move back into the original building after it has been completely renovated. In addition, the Library Instruction Room is too small for most of our classes (a larger one is planned for the renovated building) and more group study rooms are also desperately needed. When the renovated building is completed, Buley Library will have doubled its space.

Additional funding is needed to continue the project. The original $64 million appropriated for the project now has a balance of $11 million. Inflationary costs of the materials since the beginning of the project accounts for much of the low balance left in the project. The Depart of Public Works is seeking additional funding from the Federal Stimulus Package. Buley Library is considered a ”shovel-ready” project by the state. Governor Rell is reviewing a list of these projects and she will determine the priorities. It could take up to six months before we know this outcome. If we receive the Federal Stimulus money, we could potentially get the project going again fairly quickly. If the Federal Stimulus money is not received for the project, the old building will most likely sit untouched for 1.5 -2 years. After that period of time, several priority items will more than likely be completed: (1) complete the outside (windows and brick); (2) re-establish the front entrance; (3) install sprinklers in the old building and complete the heating in that building to fulfill the obligations of the “one building” design; and (4) some interior work may be done on the first floor if funding allows...possibility to the point where the first floor could even be occupied.

In regards to the state budget cuts and how they will specifically impact the Library, it is difficult to ascertain at this time. I am anticipating a budget reduction in the library materials budget but everything else remains uncertain. The next six months will determine when and where we’re going. Stay tuned.

Dr. Christina Baum, Director of Library Services
February 12th, 2009, marked the 200th birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. Like many organizations throughout Connecticut and the United States, Buley Library and other departments at Southern commemorated Lincoln’s bicentennial with a variety of celebrations. A group of librarians worked to coordinate events in Buley Library including Shirley Cavanagh, Este Pope, Cindy Schofield-Bodt, and Alba Reynaga (chair). The first major exhibit in the new library building headlined the bicentennial celebrations in Buley, along with a lecture and reception on Lincoln’s birthday in the Periodical Reading Room.

Distinguished faculty members Hugh Davis and Clyde Weed were guest speakers at the “Lincoln Bicentennial Symposium & Reception” moderated by Bruce Kalk, Associate Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Davis, Professor of History at Southern, gave a speech entitled “Abraham Lincoln: America’s Greatest President?” which discussed the historical aspects of Lincoln's time in office. Dr. Weed, Associate Professor of Political Science, spoke of Lincoln's time in Connecticut and how his words speak today in a speech entitled "The Relevance of Abraham Lincoln in 2009."

Both speakers addressed an audience of more than 40 guests at this event that took place at 4 pm on February 12th in Buley Library. Guests, including Southern students, faculty, as well as members from the community, mingled with the speakers after the talk over desserts, coffee, and tea. Dr. Davis, who is retiring at the end of the academic year, graciously signed a library copy of his book, Leonard Bacon: New England Reformer and Antislavery Moderate. When asked about his great-great-grandfather, Thurlow Weed, who was Lincoln’s campaign manager, Dr. Weed admitted he had little information in his family archive about this notable role. A small selection of materials from the library’s Lincoln Bicentennial exhibit were on display, while the main exhibit was already in place in the Reference area on the first floor.

Buley’s Lincoln Bicentennial exhibit, which was on display from February – March 2009, covered a wide range of topics related to Abraham Lincoln, Connecticut and slavery. Entitled “Lincoln in Connecticut and the Struggle for Freedom and Equality of Connecticut’s African-American Citizens,” the exhibit included primary source materials, books, images, and a computer display on the underground railroad in Connecticut. Materials were collected from a variety of sources including the

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Library of Congress, Connecticut History Online, and the library’s subscription to ProQuest Historical Newspapers, among others. The exhibit was displayed in the Reference area on Buley’s first floor, encircling the study area on top of library shelves. The display included handouts describing all the materials on display, as well as several bibliographies of books and materials in the Buley Library collection and beyond. A student employee and artist, Carolyn Stockage, created the dry-erase-board portrait of Abraham Lincoln in the exhibit area.

A companion website was created for the exhibit, which is now available as a research guide for students on topics related to Abraham Lincoln in Connecticut and slavery in Connecticut. The website includes links to other websites, bibliographies, and digitized materials used in the exhibit. Several of the bibliographies utilized features of an online library catalog service called WorldCat that links to materials in libraries all over the world, providing enhanced content such as book covers, reviews and more. The research guide is available at http://library.southernct.edu/lindon/ and through the Research Guides page (http://library.southernct.edu/guides.html) on the Buley Library website.

By Este Pope, Systems Librarian
New at the Library

JSTOR Arts & Sciences VI completes our collection of JSTOR's current resources. A & S VI focuses on economics, education, linguistics, political science, and area studies, but will include at least 120 titles broadly covering the social sciences. The full collections for V and VI are still being loaded by JSTOR, so we will see new journals being added until the end of 2010.

Included in our JSTOR subscription is the new 19th Century British Pamphlets Collection. Over 20,000 pamphlets, ranging from a few pages to small books, have been digitized by RLUK (Research Libraries UK) and JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) from seven university special collections across the UK.

While students of British history are the obvious beneficiaries of this collection, any historical or socio-political study of the 19th century may benefit from seeing the British point(s) of view as presented in these pamphlets. For instance, related to our Lincoln celebration, there are dozens of pamphlets on slavery and the American Civil War, such as Oration at the raising of “The old flag” at Sumter: and Sermon on the death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States by Henry Ward Beecher: “This Memorial is dedicated to those working men, who, through evil report and good report, and in times of temporal want of no ordinary kind, espoused that cause, and manfully supported those principles, which must eventually secure to emancipated labour, everywhere, real liberty and true justice; and is presented to them, as a simple token of high esteem, by American friends resident in Manchester.”

The pamphlets can be easily searched in the JSTOR Advanced Search by checking the Pamphlet box.

The ICPSR, the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research housed at the University of Michigan, is a collection of social and political research data. Unlike our collections of journal articles, ICPSR contains the actual data sets, such as the answers to questionnaires or surveys. These data sets are available for download in formats suitable for statistical analysis software, such as SPSS, so that researchers can perform their own analyses on the data. When a data set has a publication attached to it, such as a journal article or report, the citation is also available.

Data sets are accessible by creating a personal account, which must be done on campus. For more information, see our own FAQ for ICPSR at http://library.southernct.edu/icpsr.html and the main ICPSR website at http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/.

by Rebecca Hedreen, Reference Librarian

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services, borrowing privileges to the Buley's Library circulating collection, and a copy of the library newsletter, the Buley Bulletin. Friends will also receive advance notice to special events such as lectures, programs, book sales, and receptions. So far we have received more than $1,000 in donations.

Do we sit back and relax now that the library's first Friends Association has been formed? We already know the answer to this question. Our organization's success will include a great deal of hard work and planning. So, what's next? At our last meeting we all agreed to hold a library book sale on Thursday, April 23, during the Student Programs Council Day. The sale will start at 10am and continue to 4pm and will be held outside, adjacent to both the library and the Adanti Student Center.

We will be selling fiction and non-fiction books, videos, and magazines at affordable prices. You can buy hard bound books and videos for $1.00 each and paperback books for $.50 cents. Watch for the publicity and more details. We hope that you'll stop by and support our effort to raise money for our Friends of Buley Library Organization. We also encourage you to join the Friends and support the programs and initiatives of Buley Library. Please contact Shirley Cavanagh for more information, cavanaghs1@southernct.edu, or 203-392-5768.

by Shirley B. Cavanagh, Access Services Librarian
Thank you!

Buley Library Donors – Fall 2008

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New Buley Library Friends
– Fall 2008

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