Marginalia no. 14

Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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RIBBON CUTTING AND A DISCUSSION OF AMERICAN LAW

A ribbon cutting for the Quads Café was held Oct. 25 with President Hall doing the honors. The café, a joint venture between University Libraries and Utah State's Housing and Food Services, is a welcome addition to the Merrill Library, providing a variety of beverages, light snacks and pastries. The Quads Café opened in response to campus and library users' needs.

"We want to anticipate and accommodate the needs of those who use the library," said Betty Rozum, associate director for technical services for University Libraries. "The Quads Café is in response to many requests, and we've been carefully planning this project for quite some time. We're not adding this area to jump on the popular bandwagon, we're thinking of our patrons -- students spend a lot of time in the library."

In fact, more than 500,000 visitors enter the Merrill Library each year. Many of those people are sure to be hungry, thirsty, or just looking for a place to relax for a few moments. The Quads Café is just the place.

In conjunction with the ribbon cutting for the Quads Café, President Hall kicked off the Friends of the Libraries' season with a discussion of "The Oxford Companion to American Law." As editor-in-chief for this encyclopedic work, President Hall detailed for the audience what it was like to put together a reference volume of this type. Saying the book had a rhythm of its own, President Hall outlined the 14 points that were navigated prior to the book's publication. "Law is everywhere," President Hall told the crowd. "The rule of law and the emphasis we put on it is essential to the cause of American liberty."

Patrick Williams
Senior Writer
Public Relations & Marketing

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scholarly communication symposium at usu

The Utah State University Libraries mark National Library Week by inviting you to a timely and important discussion on the issue of scholarly communication. The “Scholarly Communication Symposium” will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, from 9:45 am until noon in the Eccles Conference Center on the Utah State University campus. Please join us for an engaging and critical interchange on a topic shaped by today’s evolving research and economic environment.

Why should you attend this symposium? According to the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), commercial publishers are increasing their role in the academic journal field and reporting profit margins of 20-40%. Journal prices have gone up an average of 9% each year since 1986. Libraries spent 152% more to purchase 7% fewer journal titles in 1998 than in 1986. Faculty are literally giving away their research to commercial publishers, who turn around and charge their institution’s libraries exorbitant subscription rates. This has forced a drastic reshaping of collections.

SPARC “is a worldwide alliance of research institutions, libraries and organizations that encourages competition in the scholarly communications market. SPARC introduces new solutions to scientific journal publishing, facilitates the use of technology to expand access, and partners with publishers that bring top-quality, low-cost research to a greater audience.” (www.arl.org/sparc)

The keynote speaker for the symposium will be Julia Blixrud, Assistant Director of Public Programs for SPARC. She will present a 30-minute overview of the issues surrounding scholarly communication today. A reaction panel will follow and then the moderator will open up the topic for general discussion.

LIBRARIES SPENT 152% MORE TO PURCHASE 7% FEWER JOURNAL TITLES IN 1998 THAN IN 1986.

The moderator will be James F. Williams, II, Dean of Libraries, University of Colorado, Boulder. Mr. Williams is a past Chair and current member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Western Library Alliance and the Center for Research Libraries. He currently serves on the Editorial Boards for College and Research Libraries and Portal: Libraries and the Academy.

The reaction panel includes:

Lisa Berreau, Assistant Professor, USU Chemistry and Biochemistry Dept. She is a faculty researcher at USU and a prolific author whose articles appear in Inorganic Chemistry, Journal of the American Chemical Society, and Dalton Transactions.

Jim Evans, Professor, USU Geology Dept. He currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Journal of Structural Geology.

Christine Hult, Professor, USU English Dept. She is a former editor of WPA: Writing Program Administration and has been a guest co-editor of Computers and Composition.

Paul Jakus, Associate Professor, USU Economics Dept. He is currently an Associate Editor for Society and Natural Resources and serves on the Editorial Council for the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management. He formerly served on the Editorial Council of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics and was an Associate Editor of Water Resources Research. He is the incoming Associate Editor of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Rob Morrison
Distance Education Librarian

For more information, please contact:

Judith RJ Johnson
435-797-3331
judjoh@cc.usu.edu

Rob Morrison
435-797-1477
robmor@cc.usu.edu

Marginalia is published by Friends of USU Libraries. Vicki Reid, Editor.
Trina Shelton, Assistant Editor
Kathy Schrockmel, Editor & Art Director
Randy Williams, Contributing Editor
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Address Correspondence to: Friends of USU Libraries, Merrill Library, Logan, UT 84322-3000

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The Politics of Western Water portrays Aspinall in human terms, not as a pork-barrel politician but as a representative who believed he was protecting his constituents’ interests. It is an insightful account of the political, financial, and personal variables that affect the course by which water resource legislation is conceived, supported, and implemented—a book that is essential to understanding the history and future of water in the West.

This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of USU Libraries, the USU History Department and the Natural Resource and Environmental Policy Program.

"An excellent biographical study of a major figure in federal water policies . . . It makes an excellent contribution to the literature of western water programs by close analysis of the complexities of political compromises that eventually resulted in public policies."

Gerald D. Nash, author of The Federal Landscape: An Economic History of the Twentieth-Century West
Whodunit Library Tour

The “Whodunit” Halloween Mystery tour was designed and sponsored by the USU Library Staff Development Committee. Founded April 2002, the purpose of the Library Staff Development Committee is to provide training opportunities and develop workshops or other learning activities targeted at those faculty, staff and students who work in the USU Libraries.

The “Whodunit” Halloween Mystery tour provided library personnel access to several unknown and out of the way areas in the Merrill Library while giving them a brief history lesson of differently named rooms. Starting in the Hatch Room in Special Collections, staff were given an in depth explanation of the artifacts and history behind acquisition of this valuable gift. They were also presented with a body, a clue to the murder and a question of motive. Groups of library staff trouped through the basement; an area typically locked and off limits, decorated with cobwebs, a coffin, glow-in-the-dark skeletons, and many other Halloween decorations, which added to the festivities. Library personnel wandered through the Morgue, the Cracker Room, the Cage, the Amazon Mine, the Ho Chi Min Trail and other hard to find spots in the library while learning the folklore of each room’s naming. Along with a brief history of each room another clue to the murder mystery was given.

An extra bonus to the tour was a visit from “Marian the Undead Librarian,” the “Phantom of the Opera,” and the “Grim Reaper.”

The Halloween Tour was such a huge success among the employees that we have developed a similar tour, without the mystery, for National Library Week 2003. Those interested can attend one of two tours on Thursday, April 10th. The first tour begins at 10:00 AM with the second tour beginning at 10:45 AM. Meet in the foyer by the Merrill Library Reference Desk.

Marcia Cheney
Cataloger, USU Libraries

Halloween decorations in the Basement of the Merrill Library
western archivists to meet at usu

Special Collections and Archives will host the annual meeting of the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA), May 8-10, on the campus of Utah State University. The theme for the 2003 Meeting is “Archives Past, Present and Future: CIMA Celebrates Thirty Years.”

CIMA was founded in 1973 as a professional organization for Utah archivists and now covers a four-state region including Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona and numbers 150 members. It is appropriate that USU should host this thirtieth anniversary, as members of USU’s Special Collections were amongst the organization’s founding members and the first annual meeting was held here in 1974.

At the meeting, archivists will reflect on the past and future of the organization and on the archival profession as a whole through an impressive keynote address, pre-conference workshops and panel presentations. Friday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. in the Eccles Conference Center Auditorium Room 216, President Hall will deliver his keynote address, “Open Secrets: The JFK Assassination and Openness in Government.” While President Hall’s address is free and open to the public, for full conference participation registration is required. If you have any questions, please call Steve Sturgeon at 435-797-0891. We are excited to offer timely workshops such as “The Care and Preservation of Sound Recordings in Archives” and “Digitizing Collections”; both workshops address the technical support skills needed to manage a special collection.

The conference boasts an excellent array of panel presentations, including: “Folklore Archives and Historical Archives: Working Together,” “Archivists the Next Generation: Students and Interns,” “State of the State Archives,” “Oral History: Innovations, New and Ongoing Programs,” “Preserving Local Government Records in Utah: The Millennial Records Preservation Project,” and “Inside the Archives: USU Special Collections.”

To round out conference activities, two post-conference tours will be held. Max Peterson, retired Director of USU Libraries, will treat conference participants to a look at Cache Valley’s ranching community and Dan Davis, USU Photo Curator, will host a fly fishing trip up beautiful Logan Canyon. At the annual conference dinner, CIMA members will dine to the sounds of the “Blue Blazers,” a local band featuring Bob Parson, Head of USU Special Collections.

The conference is co-hosted by USU Libraries, the Departments of History and English, and the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies.

Randy Williams
CIMA Meeting Local Arrangements Chairperson
Fife Folklore Archives Curator, USU
more photos from the quadsde cafe ribbon cutting and president hall's lecture (from page 1)

- left: star coulbrooke wins the retro bike as part of the cafe grand opening.

- below: president hall discusses the oxford companion to american law.

- below left: guests enjoy refreshments provided by usu housing and food services.

all photographs courtesy of bill lowry
Farewell to a Great Friend:
Richard Brian Schockmel

The campus community lost a colleague Feb. 18 with the death of Richard Brian Schockmel.

Richard Schockmel joined the library staff in 1973 as a program administrator. He became an assistant librarian with faculty status in 1983 and at this time was the associate director for collection development. His wife, Kathy, is the manager of the art and music collection for University Libraries.

Richard was a talented musician who loved playing rock and blues guitar, a skilled carpenter who built toys and furniture, a knowledgeable collector, an avid reader and a great mind.

His family suggests making a donation to the Utah State University Libraries in lieu of flowers, in honor of Richard's professional life in collection development. Contact the libraries for more information.

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Yes! I would like to join Friends of Utah State University Libraries!

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Yes, I (or my spouse) work for a matching-gift company. If yes, please enclose matching-gift form. (Or inquire about alternate USU employee payment plan)

Thank you for your support!
national library week 2003 at usu libraries

tuesday, april 8, 2003
2:00-3:00/3:30 - quadsade café readings (several campus personalities will read passages from their favorite books at the quadsade café. the first 100 students to arrive get a free drink of their choice.)

wednesday, april 9, 2003
10:00 - noon - scholarly communication symposium - eccles conference center opening remarks by moderator james williams, dean of libraries, university of colorado, boulder.
keynote speaker julia blixtud, assistant director of public programs for the scholarly publishing & academic resources coalition (sparc).
panel discussion featuring lisa berreau, jim evans, christine hult, paul jakus.

thursday, april 10, 2003
10:00-10:45 - behind the scenes tour of merrill library.
10:45-11:30 - behind the scenes tour of merrill library.