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Friends of the Brooks Library Newsletter, September 2008

Friends of the Brooks Library

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LIBRARY NEWS



At the end of September, 2008, Linda Busch, administrative assistant to the library's dean, retired. For those of us who worked with Linda during the last decade, her retirement represents a great loss. For her, no job was too long or too hard to do. Linda is looking forward to spending more time with her family, and we wish her all the rewards of retirement that she so richly deserves.

Until the appointment of a permanent new dean of the library, head cataloguer Dan CannCasciato will serve as the library's department chair under Interim Senior Administrator Dennis Defa, associate vice-president for faculty relations. Currently, the library is conducting a program review and will use information from the first half of that process, now almost complete, to help in recruiting a new dean. The full review will aid the librarians in planning for the future.

In late spring, 2008, the library and the Friends cooperated in making and framing a poster based on the illustration in last year's fund-raising brochure. That poster now hangs on the east wall of the Brooks Library reference room.

Visit our Web site: www.cwu.edu/~fol/

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Colleges and universities should burn down their libraries. Since "all the books in the world are already digitized," there's no need for "air-conditioning" them in our expensive buildings and ever-expanding collections.

Such was the advice of Adrian Sannier, Chief Technology Officer for Arizona State University, in his keynote address to the Campus Technology Conference in August, 2008. His remarks provoked numerous retorts that provide libraries' Friends with a reasoned defense against "technophiles and bibliophobes."

Librarians doubt that all books in the world will ever be digitized. And even if they were, how can we satisfy the student who finds a book online but wants to read the print version? (Yes, that happens.) Moreover, libraries exist to support research as well as education. In many fields, the creation of knowledge cannot occur by simply accessing the Internet.

At least one study notes that as more scholarly articles become available online, the number cited, particularly in the sciences, decreases. Online publications seem to have "accelerate[d] consensus and narrow[ed] the range of findings and ideas grappled with by scholars." Conversely, print-dependent research encourages the browsing that leads to "broader comparisons and scholarship."

In his talk, Sannier was concerned to keep the U. S. competitive in the world of learning by adopting the most up-to-date and economically efficient technology. Ironically, his approach to libraries might do just the opposite.



SUPPORT FOR THE LIBRARY

Student Supporting the Library (\$15 suggested)
Category for those currently enrolled at CWU
Annual Friend (\$35-\$99)
Special Friend (\$100-\$249)

With the following categories, you may work with the dean to purchase vital library materials, and a Friend of the Library bookplate will be affixed to your gift.

Friend of the Collection (\$250-\$499)
Sustainer of the Collection (\$500-\$999)
Steward of the Collection (\$1,000 or more)

Tribute Gifts

Many find that a gift to the library is a meaningful way to honor a special person or to remember a loved one.

In memory of _____
Send acknowledgement to:

Gifts to the Friends of the Brooks Library will be deposited in the endowment fund. The Friends use minimal amounts to defray their limited expenses.

Make checks payable to:
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