Friends of the Brooks Library Newsletter, April 2010

Friends of the Brooks Library

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MAY 6, 2010
NOON
(DETAILS ABOUT THIS LUNCHEON MEETING INSIDE)

PATRICIA CUTRIGHT
NEW DEAN OF THE BROOKS LIBRARY

THE FUTURE
OF THE
LIBRARY

Patricia Cutright's talk will be held at the Rodeo City Bar-B-Q. The cost of the buffet luncheon will be $10.80, including tax and gratuity. Because a Friend of the Library will be collecting the money for your lunch, please be prepared to pay with cash or check only.

Patricia Cutright became dean of the Brooks Library on April 1. Although her most recent position was Director of Libraries at the Pratt Institute in New York, she is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest. She received her master's degree in librarianship from the University of Washington. From 1986-2004, she served first as electronic resources librarian and ultimately as library director for the Pierce Library at Eastern Oregon University. She is best known for chairing the group that merged the Orbis and Cascade library consortia into the current Summit system.

MEETING DETAILS

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

The Friends of the Library book sale in November earned proceeds of $826.50. Many thanks go to all those volunteers who worked for this annual event.

We welcome donations for the Friends of the Library book sales. If you want to contribute, please contact Pat Owens at 509-963-1306. Fiction of the belles lettres variety sells very well, as do books on travel, cooking, and current events. Children's books are always in demand. At this time, we are not accepting encyclopedias.
We want to thank Phil Tolin for sacrificing one year of a well-earned retirement to act as dean during a very difficult period in the Brooks Library's history.

One of the last acts of Phil's deanship was a communication to the university community concerning the library's resources. As Phil noted, cuts to the university's budget have severely impacted the library. Funds for acquiring all materials have declined, and some print and electronic periodical subscriptions will have to be canceled. In striving to maintain the most critical subscriptions, the library will consult with the teaching faculty.

At the end of this academic year, the library will also lose to retirement an individual whose efforts over many years have served the research needs of faculty and students alike. We wish Inter-library Loan Specialist Becky Smith, a future of lively leisure. Because of the hiring freeze, she will not be immediately replaced.

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We impose by current budgetary difficulties, Becky will not have served the research needs of faculty and students alike. We wish Inter-library Loan Specialist Becky Smith, to retirement an individual whose efforts over many years to the university community concerning the library's resources. As Phil noted, cuts to the university's budget have severely impacted the library. Funds for acquiring all materials have declined, and some print and electronic periodical subscriptions will have to be canceled. In striving to maintain the most critical subscriptions, the library will consult with the teaching faculty.

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Many of you will recognize the Brooks Library's fishbowl in the photo on the adjoining page. The fishbowl is a good example of the ways in which the library encourages CWU's community to thrive. For most hours of the day, students gather here to study, to prepare for group presentations, and to review for exams. Materials to aid their work are close at hand in the library's stacks or computers.

As the motto for this year's National Library Week implies, libraries are aggressively carving out for themselves the role of fostering community. The American Library Association is currently planning to publish a book of essays that will address libraries' functions in creating communities that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable.

Recently, a city councilor contacted me for information relating to city planning. Three years ago, I had compiled a list of resources—both print and electronic—for interested citizens, so his request was not hard to fill. It required only a bit of foraging to update the list. And I was happy to tell him that he could consult most of those resources in the Brooks Library.

At least one recent study has found that thriving communities are those with flourishing libraries. Traditionally, of course, libraries have always supplied information, knowledge, and understanding relevant to social issues, to the macro-and micro-economies, and to the environment. That function has become increasingly vital with the arrival of the "information age."

Students in the fishbowl, in the computer labs, and in the reference room lounge are learning that libraries not only help them thrive academically but will serve them well as citizens of their future communities.

Beverly Heckart