



Spring 1996

Spring 1996: A New Year

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the dean's corner

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A New Year

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For students, staff, and faculty it may be difficult to realize a new year has begun. Academics think of new years as beginning in September not January. Still, January is a good time to take stock of where we are both personally and professionally. And in this issue of the *Dean's Corner*, that is what I shall do.

First the good news. We are happy to welcome to the library faculty, Rose P. Davis, who is our new coordinator of library instruction. An experienced librarian from Mississippi State University with a strong background in English and instruction, Rose is impressing all of us in the library with her skills and quiet enthusiasm.

We have drawn on present faculty members to fill two other open positions. Jean Wells is the new Coordinator of Electronic Services and Lois Walker is our new Government Documents Librarian. Assisting Lois in Documents is Nancy White who is new to the library staff but is already making her mark.

In an effort to improve communication at all levels, a number of the library technical assistants are representing the library in important capacities. Jannifer Tucker (Circulation) played a key role in organizing regular meetings of staff members; Genie Poag

(Acquisitions) has been appointed as a liaison member to the campus-wide Salary Administration study committee; and Lee Miller (Dean's Office) is on the President's Staff Advisory Group.

We welcome all this involvement from the library technical assistants who do so much to make the library program a successful one.

During the spring semester the library, in conjunction with York Tech, will be sponsoring a teleconference aimed directly at the interests and concerns of LTAs. On a lighter note, library student workers, guided by Geri Gaskill (Circulation), once again won the Holiday lighting contest and promptly donated their winnings to Rock Hill's Empty Stocking Fund.

There have been several important developments in library programs and services. The OCLC *FirstSearch* service for providing access to materials not owned by the library was established and offered to students on a limited basis in the fall and during the spring semester it will be added to all DOC terminals and the campus network.

The library's nationally recognized archives program sponsored a series of programs

commemorating the centennial anniversary of Winthrop's move to Rock Hill.

These programs, under the direction of Ron Chepesiuk and Gina Price White, were led by outstanding speakers and attracted much community interest.

On a state level, the dean and associate dean continued to work closely with the Library Directors' Forum in an effort to attract legislative support for a state-wide electronic library network. In February, the Dean will present to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees the Library Committee's seminal report: *Scholarly Communication and Dacus Library: With or Without Walls*.

Other initiatives coming from the Library Committee will be faculty and student surveys on library collections, services and hours.

It is our hope that the survey findings, accompanied with essential budget support, will result in an even better library program.

The library is also active in efforts to attract funds from nontraditional sources. The fundamental obligation to support library resources for our students, of course, rests with the state.

that, aside from the faculty, the library remains the single most important instructional resource on campus and as such should receive at least the modest support suggested by the guidelines of accrediting groups and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Hard work and generous donors provided several encouraging developments in recent months. The Class of 1935 donated \$10,000 to the library for the enhancement of library computer equipment and collections.

Dr. Albert Lyles, dean emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences at Winthrop, brought his endowment gift for scholarly periodicals in the humanities up to \$10,000.

Both of these are particularly generous and important gifts as two of the library's greatest unmet needs are funds for library automation and funds to support critical periodical needs.

In November, the library conducted its third successful book sale and in January prepared a proposal to launch an "Adopt-a-Book" program aimed at parents of current students. The program will enable parents to make a gift that will result in a book being purchased in their son or daughter's major field or area

of interest. The volume will be individually bookplated giving the name of the parents as well as the student. Publicity on the campaign will be ready in the near future.

Last, and certainly not least, friends of the library among retired and emeritus faculty are in discussions with me about additional ways in which they can help to enhance library services and collections. In a time of great financial stringency, all these developments are particularly welcome.

The not so good news is that the library continues to suffer from a budget process that does not encourage rational planning and does not fund planning when it takes place.

This year we have narrowly avoided the need to cancel hundreds of additional journals through the assurance that there will be a one time infusion of funds to meet inflationary costs. Until the library is able to build into its base budget the predictable costs of doing business, we may expect further last - minute crises of this sort. There is unhappily nothing new about any of this but surely the time has arrived to begin actually addressing this dysfunctional budget process.

In terms of exploring new and innovative ways of providing services and collections, the library continues its leadership role on both the state and local level. The FirstSearch initiative (de-

scribed earlier) is the latest and most exciting of these initiatives.

This program joins MARCIVE (the addition of government document resources to our online catalog) and CARL UNCOVER (the provision of periodical articles via the Internet and FAX) as ways in which the library is using technology to meet information needs. These services come with a price tag and the myth that technology reduces costs cannot be too regularly exploded. Unlike a cat it seems to have more than nine lives.

Technology is helping us do our job better but it is increasing, not reducing, costs.

So this is the good and bad news for the year ahead. This is the view from the Dean's Corner.

Now we are ready to hear your views, your comments, your compliments and complaints, your suggestions for the future.

With the above in mind, the library committee of the Faculty Conference plans to survey your (students and faculty) views in the spring semester. Let's keep the conversation going!

Paul Z. Du Bois
Dean of Library Services

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