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## Letter from the President

Natasha Cooper, ENY/ACRL President

Snow fell as I contemplated getting started on this newsletter column. By the time you are reading the column, it may (or may not) be spring-like. I didn't look at past newsletters, but I wondered how many other Chapter Presidents started their spring column with that same thought. I also briefly contemplated writing this column in a series of 140 character tweets, but was daunted by the task so I am resorting to full length sentences and paragraphs. However, **Suzanne Preate** kindly agreed to distill and respond to the article in *simulated* tweets using our very own Twitter feed...as an exercise and for the fun of it!



ENY ACRL @enyacr1

15 Mar

Tasha Cooper, Future Past President (FPP) considered tweeting her #newsletter column, but sometimes that 140 thing is tough. #FPPspeaks

I had a brief glimpse of warmer weather during my trip in January to the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, where I once again appreciated opportunities to meet with colleagues.



ENY ACRL @enyacr1

15 Mar

Colleagues are valuable. Definitely one of the best things about conferences. #seattle #ala #midwinter

Some I have known for a while and some are new, but the conversations are more often than not informative and helpful, expanding thinking and insight, while sharing good ideas (over coffee) and observations (while noticing the interesting recycling containers in the city).



ENY ACRL @enyacr1

15 Mar

More conference bonuses: good coffee, invigorated thinking from time spent w/new cast of characters, local flavor #recycling #everydayisearthday

Reflecting on the ACRL Chapters Council meeting at the ALA Midwinter meeting, I am thinking about ACRL involvement. I am grateful for the regional chapter offerings which make it possible to meet with colleagues without traveling great distances (and returning on overnight flights).



ENY ACRL @enyacr1

15 Mar

Regional conferences are great for the mind & the wallet. Collaboration + local expertise. #growlocal #developwhereyoureplanted #anti-redeye

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President p.1  
ENY/ACRL Spring Conference p.3  
Partnership with NYSHEI p. 4  
Board Nominees p.4

Open Access Week at UAlbany p.5  
Information Literacy for Seniors p.6  
The Human Library at Morrisville p.7  
Notes from the Field p.8

## Letter from the President

### Continued from page 1

I also value national interactions. At the Chapters Council meeting, we had visits from Mary Ellen Davis, Executive Director of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), as well as Steven Bell, ACRL President, Trevor Dawes, ACRL Vice President/President-Elect, and candidates for president elect of ACRL, Maggie Farrell, and Karen Williams.



**ENY ACRL @enyacr1**

15 Mar

Conferences support new connections to library leaders, thinkers, movers & shakers. There's something special about being in the same room.

All of the above is a preamble to encouraging all ENY/ACRL Chapter members to bring forward suggestions for ways to share and collaborate on common interests, and to contribute to discussions through local organizations or national participation (or both).



**ENY ACRL @enyacr1**

15 Mar

Participate, collaborate, get involved, make suggestions, make it better... Energy + good ideas can have a real impact locally & nationally.

I gratefully acknowledge the work of ENY/ACRL Chapter board and committee members. During this past year, this group worked on several projects, including planning fall events and the upcoming spring conference (please join us in May in Albany!). Additional projects included updating our chapter documents, keeping information up to date for incoming board and committee members. This is a huge undertaking and I thank everyone for their efforts.

Those who have served on the ENY/ACRL board or committees for more than one term provide continuity and I appreciate their willingness to share their experience. I thank those who agreed to be nominated or in some cases re-nominated, thus continuing to share their knowledge.



**ENY ACRL @enyacr1**

15 Mar

Odd fact or is it just me? As an officer, you are usually the most competent/confident on the last day of your term. #what-to-do? #runagain?



**ENY ACRL @enyacr1**

15 Mar

A way to tap org memory, provide continuity & share expertise w/ new officers is crucial. Ideas: former board member listserv, Board intern?

I'm also involved in the ACRL Chapters Council's work on updating the orientation manual, trying to ensure continuity and share lessons learned with those joining the Council for the first time.



**ENY ACRL @enyacr1**

15 Mar

More document editing?! Our FPP is a glutton for punishment. ☺ #workethic #impressive

Importantly, I sincerely thank all ENY/ACRL members for being part of the organization, for getting involved, for sharing good ideas, and, quite often, hosting ENY/ACRL events. I enjoy the opportunities to visit libraries and campuses in our region. See you in May. Thank you (and thanks to Suzanne for the tweets).



**ENY ACRL @enyacr1**

15 Mar

Take-away: Our members are fabulous! Take advantage of opportunities! Looking forward to the annual conference May 20 in Albany! #untilthen

## The UX Factor: User Experience and Libraries ENY/ACRL Spring 2013 Conference

Jane Kessler, ENY/ACRL Vice President/President-Elect/Program Chair

The 2013 ENY/ACRL Spring Conference will focus on user experience (UX) and libraries, including learning about UX methodology and exploring how it can be incorporated into the design of library services in order to improve patron satisfaction. The conference will take place on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the downtown campus of the University at Albany.

Our keynote speaker will be Steven Bell, current president of ACRL and Associate University Librarian for Research & Instructional Services at [Temple University's Paley Library](#). Steven will speak about how a "Way We Serve Statement" can help libraries provide a truly exceptional library experience for their patrons.

Following Steven's keynote address, we will hear from Alex Wright, Director of User Experience and Product Research at The New York Times and the author of [Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages](#).

After the business meeting and lunch, there will be time for poster sessions and a chance to visit with our sponsoring vendors. The afternoon will also include a choice of three breakout sessions and a session of lightning rounds. Attendees will have a chance to tour the beautiful Dewey Graduate Library at the end of the day.

We hope you will join us for this exciting day of programming! Registration will open on April 1. As always, registration is affordably priced and includes lunch. Additional details are available on the ENY/ACRL website at <http://enyacrl.org>.

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## Discussing Ebooks Over Lunch

Jane Kessler, ENY/ACRL Vice President/President-Elect/Program Chair

The ENY/ACRL Brown Bag Lunch series continued this fall with well-attended discussions about ebooks at 3 locations: SUNY Potsdam, Sage College of Albany, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). All 3 sessions were originally scheduled for the last week in October but Hurricane Sandy appeared, and the Albany and Syracuse sessions had to be rescheduled for November. Institutions participating were Clarkson, Clinton Community College, Jefferson Community College, LeMoyne, Sage Colleges, Skidmore, SUNY Albany, SUNY Canton, SUNY ESF, SUNY Potsdam, Syracuse University, and Union.

The Brown Bag Lunch at SUNY Potsdam began with presentations by Jennifer Whitaker from SUNY Canton and Marianne Hebert of SUNY Potsdam, followed by a group discussion. Jennifer shared Canton's experience with Overdrive, an ebook platform that connects patrons to ebooks for recreational reading. Marianne presented on their consortial academic ebook pilot, which is being handled via the Western New York Library Resources Council. At the Sage College of Albany session, there was a lively discussion, which included the technical challenges posed by loading records into the catalog for academic ebook subscription packages and PDA programs. The discussion at SUNY ESF focused on the significance of ebooks for libraries and users, and covered issues involved with acquisitions vs. licensing, collection development, access, management, and regional ebook initiatives such as ConnectNY.

Many thanks to all who assisted and participated in the Brown Bag Lunches, with special thanks to the coordinators and hosts: Elizabeth Andrews and Marianne Hebert of SUNY Potsdam, Lisa Brainard of Sage College of Albany, Steve Weiter of SUNY ESF and the planning group from Syracuse University: Tarida Anantachai, Camille Chesley, Suzanne Preate, Annie Rauh, Uma Sharma, Nancy Turner, and Peter Verheyen.

Let us know if you have a topic suggestion for next year's Brown Bag Lunch series!

## ENY/ACRL's Partnership with NYSHEI

In January 2013, the Eastern New York Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ENY/ACRL) formalized a partnership with the New York State Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI). The Chapter recognizes the importance of working together to support research and higher education in New York State. Additionally, we feel the relationship will provide increased opportunities for communication about regional organizations and initiatives. NYSHEI will regularly provide ENY/ACRL with updates regarding state-wide activities, the first of which is included in this column.

**Noting that he is “excited about the new partnership,” Jason Kramer, Executive Director of NYSHEI, provided the following update:**

On behalf of NYSHEI I thank you for standing with us to advance the interests of academic and research libraries.

The 2013 legislative session has begun and NYSHEI is looking to build on our recent successes. Topping our agenda is implementation of the procurement reforms won in 2012. These reforms are an essential foundation for the statewide information infrastructure NYSHEI continues to work toward. Our goal is lower costs, more information, and better access – and little by little we are getting there.

Defending library aid against further cuts and seeking aid restorations is of equal importance. Statewide, library aid hovers near 1997 levels including coordinated collection development aid and medical library budget lines. NYSHEI is committed to stopping and reserving this decline.

During 2013, NYSHEI expects to make New York the first open access state in the nation with the Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research (TAPFR) legislation.

As always, we will continue to articulate the importance of academic and research libraries to our students and faculty, and New York's economy. Through our joint efforts state decision makers are coming to understand the critical role of our libraries and librarians.

For more information visit [nyshei.org](http://nyshei.org).

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## ENY/ACRL Board Nominees

**John Cosgrove, ENY/ACRL Past President**

As of our February 8th, 2013, deadline, we had only one nominee for each position that will be opening up on the ENY/ACRL Board. In accordance with last year's bylaws change, we will not mail ballots for these uncontested elections. At the annual business meeting (May 20, 2013, at U Albany) Natasha Cooper, ENY/ACRL President, will affirm the uncontested candidates “by general acclamation”. Please welcome me in congratulating our candidates and thanking them for their willingness to serve.

Vice President/President Elect/Program Chair

Andy Krzystyniak has been Resource Sharing/Science Librarian at Scribner Library, Skidmore College, since 2008. Prior to Skidmore, he held posts at SUNY Albany, Albany Medical College, and The Sage Colleges. His past involvement with ENY/ACRL includes participation with the Program Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2011 conference. Andy appreciates the opportunity provided to him to work with the board and members of ENY/ACRL as the organization's Vice-President/ Program Chair. Continued on page 14.

## Open Access Week at UAlbany - October 23, 2012

Irina Holden, Information Literacy and Science Outreach Librarian, University at Albany

Open Access Week 2012 events took place in the Standish Room of the Science Library, University at Albany, and proved to be a great success. The program attracted approximately 40 attendees from the Capital Region.

The lightning rounds opened the events. They were moderated by Lorre Smith of UAlbany, a long-time researcher of the field of copyright and academic authorship, and lately an avid proponent of the Open Access movement, and presented by graduate students from the School of Informatics, University at Albany Lily Shafer, Cary Gouldin, Chris Kotfila and Tor Loney. Each of the speakers presented thought-provoking analysis of several issues related to copyright and Open Access in the world of information. Lily Shafer spoke about professional organizations' transition to Open Access. Cary Gouldin talked about the impact of open access on author rights. Chris Kotfila presented an interesting point of view on the intersection of Open Access and open source, and Tor Loney spoke about institutional repositories. Lightning rounds presentation initiated a good discussion that continued in small groups during buffet lunch. Everybody seemed to have some questions to ask and ideas to share.

The second part of our program continued with the presentation "Preservation and Research Data at Binghamton University Libraries" by Edward Corrado, Director of Library Technology, Binghamton University. Mr. Corrado has been known for his leadership in information technologies and digital initiatives, and also as a long-time advocate for Open Source Software in libraries. He has presented on this topic at local, state, national, and international conferences. The audience was very much interested in the implementation of Digital Preservation System at the Binghamton University Libraries. The projects began in 2010, and the software chosen for it was Rosetta by ExLibris, after piloting a couple of other tools by different providers.



*Edward Corrado speaking at Open Access Week*

Mr. Corrado, speaking in a very engaging manner, provided a lot of useful information about the process of implementation, the issues of staffing, and collaboration between several departments, including Special Collections, Archives and Web Services Librarian. Metadata Librarians create metadata and also provide staff training. Mr. Corrado is looking forward to seeing more SUNY campuses using this model. The presentation generated great attention from the audience and sparked a lively discussion during Q&A session.

Overall it has been a wonderful experience to host this event at the University at Albany Libraries. We are most thankful to ENY/ACRL for continuing to sponsor this terrific opportunity for our members to get together and learn and share their experience and thoughts about Open Access.

## A Course for Success: Information Literacy for Seniors

Barbara Norelli, Social Sciences/Instructional Services Librarian, Skidmore College

Beth Ruane, Reference and Emerging Technologies Librarian, Skidmore College

Information literacy has been a hot topic on college and university campuses since the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education were approved in 2000. As academic librarians, we continually face the challenge of not only teaching information literacy skills – often in a one-shot instruction setting – but also the assessment of that learning process and the retention and application of this particular skillset. Teaching of research skills is most often directed at extremely visible groups on campuses, such as first-year students, first-generation college students, and other at-risk populations.

At Skidmore College, information literacy skills are considered an essential component of the liberal arts education, and the library faculty work closely with those traditionally targeted student groups, while at the same time reaching out to a little-discussed user population: fourth-year students undertaking a senior thesis or capstone project. Recognizing that “undergraduate theses are important because such papers are often gateways to graduate study and research and may serve as writing samples in graduate school applications” (Harrington 398), but for many fourth-year students, the scope of these projects, as well as the amount of research, evaluation, and organization required, may be daunting.

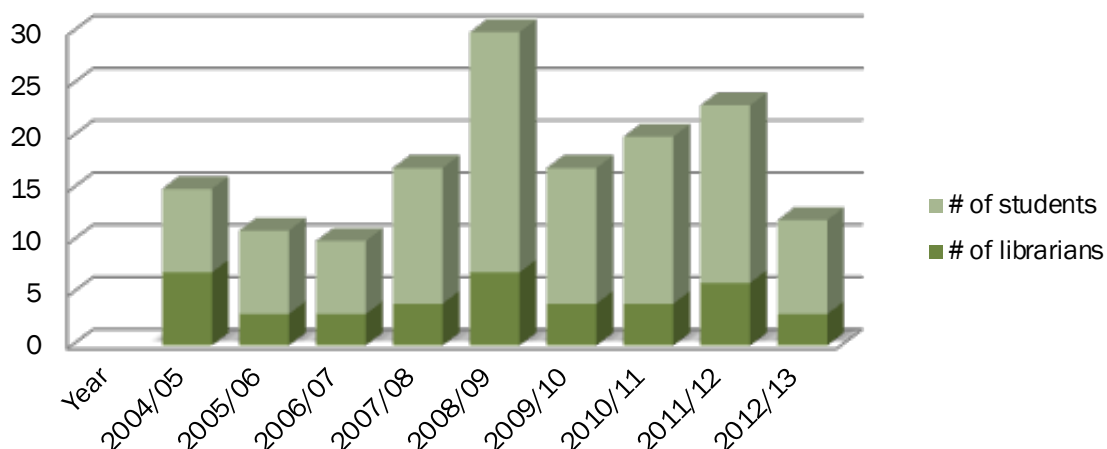
Course URL: LI 371/372

[bit.ly/LI371-2CoursePage](http://bit.ly/LI371-2CoursePage)

A survey of the current literature discussing library support for thesis work most often concentrates on graduate students. One bibliography from 2009 which reviewed 25 years of literature concerning research support for undergraduate thesis writers found “there is little scholarly literature devoted exclusively to this topic” (Harrington 397). Of the literature that did focus on undergraduate thesis support, often the extent of the librarian-student partnership was a research consultation scheduled for the beginning of the thesis project, as in Isbell’s “A Librarian Research Consultation Requirement for University Honors Students Beginning Their Theses.” Alternatively, there are examples of more intensive workshop-type programs, like the weeklong “bootcamp” offered by the University of Notre Dame for student thesis writers on campus during the fall break (Smith and Kayongo). In this model, a small section of the library was reserved for student thesis writers, and for the week, the group met daily. Morning workshops were offered on a variety of topics, such as writing a literature review or on effective use of the citation manager RefWorks, and the afternoons were reserved for writing and meeting individually with subject librarians.

In our estimation, these two examples do not go far enough in managing the anxiety and variety of research skills, subject expertise, and strategies required for successful completion of a senior thesis or capstone project. Thus was born LI 371/372. Continued on page 13.

LI 371/372 Participation 2004 - Present



# The Human Library at Morrisville State College

Angela Rhodes and Christine Rudecoff

As part of Morrisville State College's 2013 Martin Luther King Day events, the college Library organized and held a Human Library to raise awareness of and to encourage constructive dialogue about prejudices and stereotypes that lead to discrimination. In a Human Library the books are people from groups who are often subjected to social profiling. "Reading" in the Human Library consists of conversations where borrowers and books can confront commonly held perceptions and stereotypes and, in doing so, brings together individuals who might otherwise avoid interaction. The conversations are not intended to convince, convert, or pressure anyone into accepting something they do not believe in; the conversations are meant to raise awareness of how distorted, preconceived notions about a particular group of people thwart our capacity to find common ground. Thanks to the efforts of Librarian Angela Rhodes, Morrisville State College Library is a member of the Human Library organization, which is part of the Council of Europe, an organization dedicated to human rights and democracy. Our project was also supported by a mini-grant from the campus MLK committee and donations.

## Organizing Our Event

The timing of our event, with planning starting toward the end of the fall semester and the actual event taking place at the beginning of the spring semester, made book recruitment challenging. Our final collection consisted of nine books: all students with the exception of one professional staff member. In our next iteration of the Human Library we plan to start our collection building further out from the event date. We worked with the student government organization, residence hall advisors, the Educational Opportunity Program, and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program to identify and recruit book volunteers. We also sought out faculty and staff volunteers in an effort to get as broad a cross-section of our campus community as possible.



Individuals who expressed an interest in being a book were asked to complete a short online application. Applicants then met with a librarian who determined if the potential book was appropriate for our collection and to assess if the individual was prepared to negotiate conversations with borrowers. The selected books were given a more detailed overview of the event, tips on preparing for conversations, and additional information about the goals of the Human Library. Book volunteers also worked with librarians to develop somewhat provocative titles that highlight a particular prejudice and write short descriptions to entice readers. While our collection was small it did include a cross-section of the diverse membership of our campus community with

representatives from different ethnic groups, the LGBT community, athletes, religious groups, and individuals who overcame disfiguring health issues.

To provide access to our collection, librarians put together several copies of our Human Library catalog which consisted of a binder with book titles and descriptions, and gathered materials for a checkout system that included issuing Human Library cards to each borrower. Continued on page 11.

## Notes from the Field

### Binghamton University

New Staff Member: **Stephanie Hess**, Electronic Resources Librarian.

**John M. Meador, Jr.**, Dean of Libraries, and **Molly O'Brien**, Metadata/Cataloging Librarian, presented a poster titled "Digital Libraries Preservation" at the SUNY Critical Issues In Higher Education Conference in New York on November 8, 2012.

**Elizabeth Brown**, Scholarly Communications and Library Grants Officer, **Edward Corrado**, Director of Library Technology, and **Dean Meador** presented a poster titled "Digital Curation and Preservation: An Integrated Approach" at The Research Data Symposium at Columbia University on February 27, 2013.

### Colgate University

**Jesi Bender** is Colgate University's new Instructional Design and Web Librarian. She has a B.A. in English and Fine Arts from Cornell University and her M.L.I.S. from Pratt Institute. Her experience includes a yearlong internship at the Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and employment at Merck Pharmaceuticals as the User Experience Designer and Information Architect for their company intranet. She also has acted as the student editor for *Archivist Roundtable's* (ART) semi-annual publication, *The Metropolitan Archivist*. Bender's professional interests include usability design, art librarianship, and incorporating multi-modal teaching methods into the educational experience.

In late April **David Roberts** will join Colgate as an Instructional Design and First Year Experience Librarian. He has a BA in History and English Education from Wabash College (IN), and a MA in History and MLIS from the UNC (Chapel Hill). His MLIS thesis was on *What Makes a Good Online Lesson Plan? : a Study of Instructional Resources Available through Digital Libraries*. He has significant teaching and library experience at the middle and high school level in North Carolina and Indiana. He created a web-based teaching tool on the Underground Railroad for the Indiana Historical Society and helped to lead week-long history cruiser trips with high school students following the path of the Underground Railroad from Kentucky to Canada. David's most recent position was as the Media Specialist for H. L. Harshman Middle School in Indianapolis, IN."

### Hamilton College

The Richard W. Couper Press

The Couper Press was established in 2006 by Couper Librarian **Randall Ericson**. The press is named in honor of the late Richard W. Couper '44, an alumnus, life trustee of Hamilton and benefactor of Burke Library. The press published a quarterly journal of scholarship, *The American Communal Studies Quarterly*, which showcases the communal societies collections of Burke Library. The *American Communal Societies* series, a monograph series, presents new scholarship pertaining to American intentional communities as well as reprints of, and critical introductions to, important historical works that may be difficult to find or out of print. The *Shaker Studies* series are short monographs on the Shakers. Occasional Publications are published on topics that highlight the special collections of Burke Library, such as the *Ezra Pound Collection*. Many of the works published by the Couper Press are now on display in Burke Library. Contact: **Christian Goodwillie**, Director of Special Collections and Archives.

Digital Humanities Initiative

**Peter MacDonald**, Library Information Systems Specialist and **Lisa McFall**, Metadata and Catalog Librarian are members of the Collection Development Team for the Digital Humanities Initiative hosted at Hamilton College, completing its first three-year phase in 2013. [Click here for more information.](#)

### Siena College

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Standish Library, Siena College, welcomed **Jennifer Fairall** as the new Coordinator of Cataloging and Metadata Services. Jennifer comes to Siena from North Dakota State University where she has been Digital Initiatives & Metadata Librarian.

### SUNY Cobleskill

We have a new information literacy librarian, **Helene Gold**. She joined us in September.

We started using Gimlet for reference statistics in the fall. So far, so good.

We also switched text reference providers to add chat reference this spring and are now using LibraryH3lp for both.



## Notes from the Field

### Continued

#### SUNY Oneonta

**Mary Lynn Bensen**, has published the article, "Telling the 'True Tale:' Thomas Hardy's Impressionism" in the Spring 2012 issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *The Hardy Review* XIV.i (2012): 17-34. The article discusses how Hardy depicts through his literary impressionism, as evidenced in *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874), *The Return of the Native* (1878), and *The Woodlanders* (1887), changing modes of perception and understanding from the 1830s to the 1890s, when modern literate culture was displacing traditional oral culture in rural England. Hardy's characters perceive and make meaning of their worlds through the formation of impressions, in pursuit of discerning the "true tale" of their lives. For them, the impression is the site where seeing becomes reading, and the visible becomes the legible. For readers, the impression is the site where reading becomes seeing, through impressions formed by verbal ingenuity and striking imagery. Impression formation links readers to the authorial narrator, whose impressions are rendered as text, and the novels' characters, who attempt to read as text each other's play of features.

#### SUNY Oswego

Penfield Library has been busy the last few months. Our First Year Experience Librarian **Michelle Bishop** has embedded herself in Johnson Residence Hall. She provides workshops and on-site research help to students from midterms through finals.

We are also pleased to announce the addition of some exciting new technology. In November, we added ten iPod Touch 5s to our catalog. The students, faculty, and staff can check them out for a week and can even download apps using their own Apple ID. Penfield will also be getting a MakerBot 2 Replicator in the coming weeks. We are one of the first Academic Libraries to offer a 3D printing service to the general population, and we can't wait to see how our community will use it. [Please check out our newsletter for more exciting news!](#)

#### SUNY Potsdam

New Hires: **Linda Hansen** was recently hired as an adjunct Reference Librarian. Linda is joining us as the next step in a varied career in libraries, including work as a library manager, skills trainer, and instructional designer, most of it international in Australia and the Middle East. **Glen Bogardus** was appointed as the Interlibrary Loan Specialist on the Collection Building Team. The position is shared with SUNY Canton as part of a SUNY-wide shared services initiative.

Library Director **Jenica Rogers** was one of the invited keynote speakers for the Australian New Librarians' Symposium (NLS6) in Brisbane, February 9-11, 2013. Her keynote speech, "Leading Libraries to a Future Beyond Book Museums," addressed strategies to build the vision and leadership necessary to design libraries of the future that go beyond warehousing information to embrace knowledge creation.

#### Syracuse University

**Suzanne Thorin**, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian at Syracuse University, will step down on June 30, 2013, after nearly 8 years of service. Highlights of Dean Thorin's tenure include a new Learning Commons in Bird Library, a master plan for all library facilities, the re-opening of the Belfer Audio Laboratory, the construction of the state-of-the-art SU Library Facility, and the renovation of the Carnegie Library. She developed a successful fundraising program and has been awarded a significant number of grants for the Library that have increased Syracuse University's national profile and enabled key initiatives at the Library. Before coming to Syracuse University, Thorin spent nine years at Indiana University as University Dean of Libraries and Associate Vice-President for Digital Library Programs. She also worked at the Library of Congress for 16 years in various positions, including Chief of Staff to the Librarian of Congress.

In addition, the Dean has been appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Museum and Library Services Board.

Thorin was sworn in by Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg at a ceremony at the Supreme Court on Nov. 15. She is one of eight individuals newly appointed to serve as advisors to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The board advises the IMLS director on general policy and practices, and on selections for the National Medals for Museum and Library Service.

**K. Matthew Dames** was named Interim Dean and University Librarian-designate. Dames will assume the interim deanship on July 1, following Suzanne E. Thorin, who announced she would step down from her role as dean and University Librarian on June 30. Dames, who was appointed interim associate dean for research, collections and scholarly communication (RCSC) in January, was the University's first Copyright and Information Policy Adviser and has been on the senior leadership team of the library since August 2008. In addition, he has been awarded permanent status at the rank of Associate Librarian.

## Notes from the Field

### Continued

#### Syracuse University Continued

**Tarida Anantachai**, librarian in the Learning Commons, has been selected to participate in the American Library Association's 2013 Class of the Emerging Leaders Program. She additionally received sponsorship from the ACRL University Libraries Section, which is providing financial support for her attendance at both ALA Midwinter and the upcoming ALA Annual Conference. Established in 2007, the Emerging Leaders program is a leadership development program which enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional, library-related organizations.

**Steven Hoover** joins the Learning Commons, and is working on developing new instruction-related initiatives and strategies. He served most recently as Instruction Design Librarian and Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Steven holds an MLS from the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University and a BA in English and Psychology, also from Indiana.

**Marianne Hanley** joined the Access and Resource Sharing department as Collections Maintenance and Management Librarian and will be responsible for general collections preservation activities. In addition, Marianne has been awarded the [Jan Merrill-Oldham Professional Development Grant](#). The Jan Merrill-Oldham Professional Development Grant is given by the [Preservation and Reformatting Section](#) (PARS) of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services ([ALCTS](#)) to support travel to the American Library Association Annual Conference. The grant is intended to encourage and support preservation librarians that are new to the field to become involved in the ALA conference. The recipient will attend the Preservation Administrators Interest Group meeting and at least one other PARS interest group meeting. The recipient will write about the experience for *ALCTS Newsletter Online*. The grant is sponsored by the Library Binding Institute.

**Robert Hodge**, Sound Engineer, joins the Belfer Audio Archive, where he will preserve the collections historic sound recordings.

**David Stokoe**, Conservation Librarian, returned to the Special Collections Research Center to conserve special collections materials.

**Pam Thomas** moved to a new assignment with Library Information Technology Services.

**Fantasia Thorne** has been promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian.

**Peter D. Verheyen** moved to a new role as Research and Emerging Issues Analyst in the Program Management Center.

The Library hosted an Open House for the new Syracuse University Library Facility (SULF), located south of the main campus. Innumerable Library staff have been involved in the planning and successful completion of this project, so this event was a celebration of their efforts, as well. The Open House included guided tours of the vault and processing areas, as well as demonstrations of equipment and technology tools. [More information about the facility can be found here.](#)

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#### Union College

Union College would like to welcome **Frances Maloy** as our new College Librarian and **Raik Zaghloul** as our new Head of Collection Development.

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#### University at Albany

**Daryl Bullis** and **Richard Irving** had an article published in *College & Research Libraries*. "Journals Supporting Terrorism Research: Identification and Investigation into Their Impact on the Social Sciences" is the lead article in the March 2013 issue (Vol. 74, Iss. 2). [Click here to view the article.](#)

**Deborah LaFond** is current Chair of the Bibliography Committee of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association and continues as Chair of the ALC Areas Studies Principles Task Force. On November 30, 2012, Deborah presented her research on *Women's Processes in Knowledge Production and Activism* at the African Studies Association's panel entitled *Reframing Boundaries of Gender and Sexual Politics*. Deborah was also a member of the planning committee for the [Harriet Tubman: Legacy of Resistance Symposium](#), sponsored by the Women's Studies department at the University at Albany, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

# The Human Library at Morrisville State College

## Continued from page 7

We used our mini-grant funds from the campus MLK Committee to purchase a Human Library Banner to promote our event and to demarcate its location within the library. The event was publicized a week in advance with e-mail announcements and a listing on the MLK Day events calendar and we encouraged faculty to give extra credit to students who demonstrated participation in the event by presenting their Human Library card.

Our last preparation step was to develop short online assessment surveys for readers to complete before they left the library and for our book volunteers to complete when the event was over. The survey questions included Likert scale ratings on how successful the event was at challenging stereotypic conceptions as well as open-ended questions to obtain more specific statements about what readers felt they had learned and how they felt the event could be improved. This assessment process is part of the Human Library organization's membership requirements. While most of our survey questions came directly from the organization, we added several questions about volunteerism (some student organizations require a certain number of volunteer hours per year) and about future participation. The questions were put into an online survey using Google Forms.

Visit <http://humanlibrary.org/> to learn more about how to organize a Human Library event on your

### The Event

Since no classes were in session on MLK day at Morrisville, students, faculty and staff had the entire day to spend at their leisure. We scheduled our event to run from 11 am to 4 pm to coincide with other activities. Four staff members were on hand to take turns, two at a time, running the Human Library circulation desk. Our nine human books arrived a few minutes before the event started and had just enough time to put their coats down, put on a nametag, and sit down before we had our first readers. We used our periodical reading area (comfortable seating and scattered tables) as a place for the books to wait for and meet with readers, who were brought to them by staff. One interesting outcome from this arrangement was that we had books that were reading each other, we had group discussions with multiple readers and books coming together and talking, and we had migratory readers that would check out one book, finish their conversation, and then just walk to another available book and start a new conversation.

We found that our book catalogs were constantly going missing; many people who wanted to see what titles we had would end up taking the catalog with them instead of bringing it back (we were trying to keep a tally of our catalog readers). Check-outs were slow to get going but by 3 pm, all of our books were checked out and people were waiting for books to become available. Our most popular titles were our homosexual book and our mixed race/ethnicity book, both of which were checked out for most of the day. By the close of the event our reading room was packed with books and readers deep in conversations.

### Assessment

When readers returned their books we directed them to a computer we had set up with the online survey. Twenty-five readers filled out the survey, about half the number of people who read the catalog of available titles. Overall, readers were impressed with their Human Library experience, 90% rated the event as "Excellent" or "Good" and all agreed that the Human Library was a good way to challenge discrimination. The book volunteers indicated that they appreciated having the opportunity to share their story with readers and to meet the other books. Continued on page 12.

# The Human Library at Morrisville State College

## Continued from page 11

Some of our reader comments:

### *What Did You Learn?*

- “Never judge a book by its cover! Each personal history is so much richer than we could ever imagine from someone’s outward appearance.”
- “i learned that you definitely shouldnt judge a book by its cover. these people are humans and tolerance is the way to go.”
- “I certainly did and learned more about certain cultures and just got to conversate with different type of people who let me into their world and shared some of their life with me.”

### *Suggestions for Improvement*

- “I would suggest more events like this in the upcoming future here at Morrisville State College”
- “have a lot more human library stories !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”
- “Maybe if the people checking out the books could get a study guide of questions to discuss with their "book" it would help with the flow of conversations. I think it's a great idea and I hope you keep doing this!”

Books comments:

### *Tell Us About Your Experience*

- “I really enjoyed telling people my story because I am finally comfortable with talking about my experience. I received a lot of great feedback and I really enjoyed this activity.”
- “It was very fun connecting with different people and educating others with my story.”

### *Suggestions for Improvement*

- “I think this was a great program. It should be repeated again with better advertising and promotion. A lot people would love it if they were aware of it”

### **Plans for Our Next Human Library**

Our Human Library proved to be an effective way for the Library staff to engage members of the campus community in an activity where they could learn about and potentially find common ground with individuals whose life story might be very different from their own. As one of the most diverse campuses in the SUNY system, providing opportunities for Morrisville students and staff to come together in a safe environment to confront their prejudices can help to positively change attitudes that would otherwise undermine the sense of community we strive to build on our campus. With the overwhelmingly positive response to our Martin Luther King Day Human Library event and with the staff enthusiasm to enlarge our book volunteer collection, we plan to hold a second Human Library during the fall 2013 Mustang Weekend, when student families and alumni are visiting campus. We will begin recruiting book volunteers this spring, since the timing of Mustang Weekend in early September reduces the time frame for book volunteer recruitment at the start of the fall semester. We also hope to expand our book collection to include representatives from the village of Morrisville to help build a bridge between the local and campus communities.

## A Course for Success: Information Literacy for Seniors

Continued from page 6

LI 371/372 is a one-credit information literacy course structured as an independent study for seniors working on a thesis or capstone project, and allows students to work one on one with the subject librarian assigned to their department. The main outcome of the semester-long course is for students to prepare an annotated bibliography of approximately 25 sources. The course was approved by the Skidmore Curriculum Committee in spring 2004 and was offered for the first time in the fall 2004 semester. The course was conceived as a bookend in our instruction program, allowing us to strategically address the need for vertical integration of research skills in the curriculum. Although our first-year instruction initiative was consistently reaching two-thirds or more of the first-year class without a campus-wide requirement, we were not necessarily seeing follow through in the upper classes. Because of this recognized disconnect, we decided to focus attention on students doing serious research in their major(s), our seniors. The result has been an average of thirteen students working with five subject librarians, primarily in the fall semester for the past eight years. In the previous five years the enrollment numbers increase slightly to an average of 16 students working with 5 subject librarians.

The course structure incorporates an array of research activities and processes and emphasizes the recursive nature of the research process. LI 371/372 is tailored to meet the needs of each independent study student after an initial meeting between the student and the librarian. For instance, some students may already have a fully formed thesis statement and are ready to begin research for a literature review, other students may need to spend the first few weeks of the semester on activities designed to help them commit to a focused research question. Depending on students' capabilities, varying amounts of time may be spent on search query formulation, advance database search techniques, citation skills, and alerting students to research support services such as student opportunity funds, library carrel assignments, and purchase-on-demand acquisitions. Built in to the course outline is encouragement for an open dialog between the student, the student's thesis or capstone advisor and the subject librarian.

See Course Outline for more detail: [bit.ly/LI371-2CourseOutline](http://bit.ly/LI371-2CourseOutline)

Periodically, course evaluations are completed by students and faculty advisors. The evaluations have demonstrated overwhelming support for the LI 371/372 course. Comments from students include:

- "LI 371 kept my research focused;"
- "I liked that it forced me establish a relationship with a research librarian. I now have someone to go to with questions who knows the project that I am working on and can answer my questions about how to research my topic."

The final project, the annotated bibliography, received strong student endorsement, as exemplified by these remarks:

- "It is the best way to become very involved and invested in the research being conducted...;"
- "...it makes you keep up on your reading and think about what you are reading in the context of your paper. It is really useful as you start to form your outline to have already been doing the annotated bibliography."

Faculty feedback was equally positive:

- "It seems to have helped [the student] get her ducks in a row regarding her thesis," and
- "I require all thesis students working with me to enroll in LI 371...it has always made a significant difference in the quality of the research, not to mention the pacing of the composition of the paper. LI 371/372 is indispensable."

Continued on page 14.

## A Course for Success: Information Literacy for Seniors

Continued from page 13

Results from the current assessment into the effectiveness of LI 371/372 have prompted us to further investigate the impact this course has on the students who take it and the caliber of their end product. Currently, we are exploring the possibilities for partnering with thesis advisors for a comparison study on thesis or capstone work produced by 371 students and non-371 students.

If attending ACRL, please stop by our poster session, *To the Checkered Flag: A Personalized Course for Senior Thesis Success*, on Friday, April 12, 2013, from 9:30-10:30am, to hear more about our assessment outcomes and the challenges and opportunities this course presents for students, faculty, and librarians. Please contact Beth Ruane ([eruane@skidmore.edu](mailto:eruane@skidmore.edu)) or Barbara Norelli ([bnorelli@skidmore.edu](mailto:bnorelli@skidmore.edu)) with any questions or comments.

### References:

Harrington, Sarah. "Librarians and Undergraduate Thesis Support: An Annotated Bibliography." *The Reference Librarian* 50.4 (2009): 397-412. Web.

Isbell, Dennis. "A Librarian Research Consultation Requirement for University Honors Students Beginning Their Theses." *College & Undergraduate Libraries* 16.1 (2009): 53-57. Web.

Smith, Cheri, and Jessica Kayongo. "Senior Thesis Camp: Partnerships in Practice at the University of Notre Dame." *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 37.5 (2011): 437-442. Web.

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## ENY/ACRL Board Nominees

Continued from page 4

### Communications Chair

Kathryn Frederick has served as ENY/ACRL Communications Chair for the past two years. She has redesigned and reorganized the ENY/ACRL website, helped implement online registration and payment systems, produced four electronic newsletters, and worked to improve ENY/ACRL's communications through blog posts and social media. Kathryn looks forward to serving another two years on the board and to finding new ways to spread the word about the activities of ENY/ACRL, its members and member libraries. Kathryn has been the Systems Librarian at Skidmore College since 2008.

### Government Relations Chair

Ali Larsen is the Serials & Web Resources Librarian at Siena College's J. Spencer and Patricia Standish Library. Previous to coming to Siena College, Ali worked for the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Library based in New York City. She also worked briefly as a Temporary Librarian at SUNY Albany in their Technical Services department. Ali received her Bachelor Degree in History from SUNY Geneseo and her M.S.I.S. from SUNY Albany. She is looking forward to working with the ENY/ACRL Board and getting to know them as well as fellow ENY/ACRL members. Ali lives in Watervliet, NY, with her husband, son, daughter, and dog.

Do you have questions or comments about the ENY/ACRL newsletter?  
Please contact Kathryn Frederick, [kfrederi@skidmore.edu](mailto:kfrederi@skidmore.edu)