



RUTGERS

The Rutgers University Libraries
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RUTGERS
University Libraries

Report

SPRING 2010 ISSUE

WHOLE-SCALE RENOVATION UNDERWAY AT PAUL ROBESON LIBRARY

So much has changed, or is soon to change, that a Rutgers-Camden alumni from this decade might not recognize the Paul Robeson Library if he or she stopped in.

MANY MORE COMPUTERS

Over the past two years, the library has cleared out the book stacks from much of the first floor, creating space for dozens of personal computer work stations. The computers are maintained by the campus Office of Information Technology (OIT). More book stacks are currently being removed to create space for two computer labs that OIT is moving from the Business and Science Building and the Campus Center. OIT is converting the old computer labs into classroom space.

When all of the current renovations are completed, the library will have over 185 personal computer work stations for use by students, staff, or faculty on the first floor alone, and additional computers on the other floors.

NEW COMPACT SHELVING

To maximize space in the building and create another home for the books moved from the first floor, the library has installed compact shelving on the lower level. The sleek, electronically-motored compact shelves allow the library to more than double their storage space for books by eliminating the space needed between ordinary stationary shelves.

Library users can move sections of the compact shelving to gain access to a desired publication by using the small control panel with right and left arrow buttons on each shelving unit. Each shelving unit is equipped with an optical eye and touch-sensitive kick bar at the bottom, which stops any two shelves from moving together if a user is located between them.



Paul Robeson Library Director Gary Golden demonstrates the new compact shelves at the library.

SPECIAL-ORDER COMPUTER

Library users who venture to the lower level will be able to receive assistance in locating a desired book by using a touch-screen computer mounted near the entryway to the compact shelving section. The touch-screen computer will enable a user to enter the name and/or call number of the volume they seek, receive precise location information, and communicate with a reference

RU LIBRARIES SELECTED AS A NATIONAL MENTOR IN PRESERVATION EFFORTS

When the New York Public Library was looking for a few reputable partners for an innovative national project, one of the places they turned to was Rutgers' Special Collections and University Archives.

In spring 2009, the New York Public Library (NYPL) was developing a grant proposal to be submitted to the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The proposal would support the development of a fellowship to train library science graduate students in the best practices of library collection preservation - the technical skills library professionals use to extend the life of rare and historically significant books, manuscripts, recordings, and other artifacts.

To round out the prospective fellowships, proposal author Evelyn Frangakis - the Aaron and Clara Greenhut Rabinowitz Chief Librarian for Preservation at the NYPL - sought partner academic libraries. The role of the partner libraries would be to provide the fellows with real world experience in best practices, through mentoring in their preservation programs. Overall, the experiences would prepare the fellows to better care for materials, while also demonstrating the importance of working with the resources of both comprehensive and/or developing research library preservation programs.

Evelyn drew on her experience and contacts as a teacher in

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librarian on the main floor if further assistance is needed. The touch-screen computer has been specially developed for this application by the IT staff at the Robeson Library.

The library renovations have cost over \$700,000, which have come from the University's Classroom Renovations funding.

MASSIVE BOOK WEEDING CREATES SPACE

To prepare for the shift in the book collections, the library engaged in a massive weeding project to remove all books that had not been used in five years or more. Many of the affected books, which related to specific disciplines, were published two, three, or even four decades earlier, and were judged by subject specialists in the library to contain outdated information.

To date, over 46,000 books have been removed from the shelves and sent to Better World Books or discarded if damaged. An additional 7,000 last copy books were shipped to the Libraries' Annex on Rutgers' Busch campus, where they are available for prompt delivery throughout the Rutgers University Libraries system.

BUILDING ON EARLIER RENOVATIONS

The recent changes at the Robeson Library build upon upgrades implemented over the past few years. A new, more accessible reference desk was installed in the previous year, and placed closer to the entryway of the library for greater convenience. An attractive study lounge, with comfortable arm chairs and soothing water sculptures, was placed in the entryway of the library to replace the enclosed computer lab that had been relocated within the library. Earlier, the circulation desk had been updated to allow for more comfortable contact between users and library staff.

The library is not done imagining and planning for changes to better serve their users. The librarians and staff of the Robeson Library look forward to increased service to the Rutgers-Camden Campus, and invite current Rutgers students, staff, faculty, and alumni to drop by to see all the changes. ■

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preservation certification programs, and recruited as her partners the libraries at Yale University, the University of Connecticut, and Rutgers University.

IMLS enthusiastically endorsed the grant proposal in August, providing an award of over \$500,000 to fund the fellowships.

The grant will support the creation of the IMLS Preservation Administration Fellowship, enabling eight fellows over three years to participate in nine-month residencies that will immerse them in collections care, conservation treatment, and audio and moving image preservation.



Tim Corlis, left, directs Special Collections and University Archives student worker Kavan Panchal (MGSA '13) in the finer points of book preservation.

Fellows on one track will spend fifty weeks learning best practices at the Yale University Library and then two weeks at the University of Connecticut Library, putting their new skills to work. Fellows on a second track will spend fifty weeks learning best practices at the New York Public

Library and then two weeks at Special Collections and University Archives of the Rutgers University Libraries.

While at Rutgers, the fellows will work under

the guidance of Tim Corlis, head of preservation for Special Collections and University Archives. The first two fellows who will train at Rutgers are expected to arrive in spring 2010. ■

MEDIA CENTER MOVES TO ENHANCED FACILITIES

Over winter break 09/10, the Libraries' Media Center moved from the lower level of the Kilmer Library on the Livingston Campus, to new and expanded facilities on the lower level of the Douglass Library on the Douglass Campus. The new Media Center features state-of-the-art viewing and listening stations, and also incorporates the recorded sound and moving image collections of the Music Library. ■



EXHIBITION ABOUT HENRY RUTGERS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Revolutionary War officer, New York State legislator, brewer, and noted philanthropist

Henry Rutgers (1745-1830) is celebrated in the Spring 2010 exhibition in Special Collections and University Archives, which is on view now in the first floor and lower level galleries in Alexander

Library and will run through July 2010. The "Benevolent Patriot: The Life and Times of Henry Rutgers" exhibition features historic maps,

documents, and illustrations, as well as personal artifacts that illuminate the history of Henry Rutgers and New

York during the Revolutionary War and Early National periods. The exhibition also tells the story of our continued fascination with Colonel Henry Rutgers and features contemporary photographs by

Rutgers alumna Heather Morrison of the neighborhood and sites related to him on the Lower East Side of New York City. ■

