We are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the Wolfgram Memorial Library this month. The library was dedicated on November 7, 1970. Mrs. Edith Wolfgram donated the funds for the building to honor her son William, a devoted Pennsylvania Military College alumnus, who was killed in action in Italy in World War II.

William Wolfgram was a noted scholar while at Pennsylvania Military College. He was a student at a time when it was common to collect student libraries in areas of study and interest. William Wolfgram’s collection of books in art and literature are a notable part of our resources today.

The library building, built in the late 1960’s, remains one of the most strikingly original library structures in the region. It replaced a library that was housed in the building that is today’s Admissions Building. It was designed to serve a much smaller student body that used the library in a vastly different manner than is common today. There were no computers, of course, only a card catalog. Students generally studied in isolation—no group study—and accessed reserves in print form only.

The library as a building and as an organization has accommodated tremendous change in resource access and delivery—from card catalog to dumb terminals to smart terminals to wireless. From being an isolated and independent library to being part of a
vast network of local, regional and national library systems via the Internet and the World Wide Web. From focusing solely on owning print materials to providing access to electronic resources in the form of databases, electronic journals, e-reserves and electronic delivery of Interlibrary Loans. From a time when the role of the librarian was to provide books to the time when the role of the librarian is to assist in the discovery and use of information, to provide education in the use of electronic resources and systems, to assess the value and validity of the deluge of information available from the Web.

The Wolfgram Memorial Library was built at a time when the useful life expectancy of an academic building was 25-30 years. That the building and the organization could adapt and accommodate these changes over 40 years is a tribute to the vision of Edith Wolfgram and to the industry, dedication, tenacity and vision of the library faculty and staff who have made Wolfgram a vital part of the University and a vital service to generations of cadets and students of both PMC and Widener University.

It is an extreme pleasure to mark this 40th Anniversary and to look forward to additional decades of service, of change and of continued development. ♦

One of the exciting developments for this fall is the construction of a new classroom on the library’s main level to replace the old Electronic Classroom now located on the ground floor. You may have seen the open area on the Kirkbride side of the main floor behind the Reference Offices. Teaching Information Literacy classes is a major element of the library’s service to students and it is important that we have an effective place in which to conduct those classes. The old Electronic Classroom was a major step forward when it was constructed over ten years ago, but it is now crowded, uncomfortable and dreary.

Our new classroom will be bright, easily accessible and equipped with the latest in audio-visual and computer equipment. We will partner with ITS to pilot installation of ‘network’ computers in this room, offering energy-efficient machines with a virtual desktop that allows all services to be pushed to the units via the network from a central server. This arrangement allows for efficient use of the network, reduces energy consumption and maintenance needs, and has the side benefit of having less clutter than current installations.

The office system that will be used to construct the walls primarily uses recycled materials, as does the new carpet that will be installed in a few weeks. We are pleased that we can make these improvements and still be somewhat green.

Work will start in a few weeks with the removal of current carpet and installation of new carpet—there will be a bit of disruption for a couple of days as the carpet work is completed, but that should be the extent of major disruption. We are extremely pleased that we can look forward to serving our students in a modern and effective setting. ♦
Please join us in welcoming...

Sam Stormont
to Wolfgram Memorial Library as the new Head of Reference & Instruction.

Also, please welcome...

Denise DeRosa,
Circulation/Reserve Desk
Mrs. DeRosa replaced Joanne Hahn, who is now reaping the benefits of retirement.

Grandmothers Unite @ Wolfgram
Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Mary McNeill, Serials & Cataloging Department, whose daughter, Molly, gave birth to a strapping baby lad, Chayson John McNeill, and he is affectionately known as C.J.

C.J.’s Stats
Birth: July 30, 2010
Weight: 8 pounds even
Length: 20 inches
Happiness: Off the Charts

Congratulations to Regina Gwynn, Circulation Department, on the birth of her granddaughter, Margaret Keely Kieffer, to Margaret and Sam Kieffer. Suffice it to say, mom and dad will be calling this lil’ bundle of joy by her middle name, Keely.

Keely’s Stats
Birth: September 22, 2010
Weight: 7 pounds, 14 ounces
Length: 21 inches

Jill Borin, Asst. Univ. Archivist and Reference Lib., Gives Presentation at the Eastern CONTENTdm Users Group Conference

The conference was held on August 4-6, 2010, at West Point, NY, and was hosted by the United States Military Academy Library.

Ms. Borin gave her presentation on: Extreme Makeover CONTENTdm Edition: Transforming a Physical Exhibit into an Online Exhibit using CONTENTdm, at the Eastern CONTENTdm Users Group Meeting on August 5, 2010. She served on the Planning Committee as well.

Also New @ Wolfgram

- RefWorks: online research management, writing and collaboration tool
- ICPSR: provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research
- New look for the WebPac/Catalog
- PsycARTICLES & PsycInfo databases are now provided by EBSCO
- Wiley Interscience database is now called Wiley Library Online
- 4th Floor Quiet Study Area: renovations over the summer

Happy 40th Anniversary, Wolfgram!

WolFGRAMBYTES

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