

Hunter's Clarion

from the University Librarian

Winter 2006

by Bil Stahl

I am writing this after I agreed in March to take on the role of Interim Chief Information Officer for the University in addition to my responsibilities as the University Librarian. I was a CIO before and made a very deliberate decision to leave that profession and return to libraries. While I will be in this CIO role for a limited period of time, it gives me an opportunity to muse on libraries from a slightly different perspective. I have not really kept up with information technology, other than how it is used in libraries since coming to Western Carolina University in 2000. Now I have the perspective gained from being thrust back into it five years later.

Information technology is interesting because it drives so much of our society. It is relentlessly pushing us in many directions – some positive and some negative. Technology is not only pervasive, but it has become very invasive. The primary function of information technology is to deliver information. However, it generally does this in an undifferentiated way. It is still up to us human receivers of this information to sort it out. There are many companies working on creating some form of intelligent digital agent that will screen the massive flow of information for you. These efforts have been marginally successful and primarily limited to very specific applications where rigid diagnostic criteria can be programmed into the technology. The major problem scientists face when designing these intelligent agents is that we really don't know how humans sort through all the information we are constantly barraged with. For the foreseeable future, we

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Neighborhoods in Your Neck of the Books

by Brandon A. Robinson

At this critical time in its history, Hunter Library is making instrumental changes in the organization of its many collections. Anyone who has visited our ground floor last semester will recall the setting up of numerous shelves and the transit of library material. But what many students may not know is that the ground floor may soon be, not a large room of books, but a community of intellectual neighborhoods.



The library has recently developed the idea of "neighborhoods". Students have expressed the feeling that our ground floor is unwelcoming because it seems like an uninhabited warehouse of books. The neighborhoods, to the contrary, would break the collection into niches rather than long rows. For each general area of study there would be a common area with furniture, a computer to access the library's electronic resources, and a data port, encouraging social and intellectual dialogue among that subject's students and faculty. And of course, the library's resources on that particular subject would provide the focus of interaction.

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From the University Librarian...

will have to depend on human screening capabilities for the major human creative achievements.

As information technology has become more powerful and, at the same time, smaller, it has also become much more invasive. "Information" is force fed to us. Everywhere there are people talking on cell phones. Ipods and similar players, not only play music and deliver "podcasts". Video broadcasts have invaded our shopping experiences and now there are even video billboards. "Information overload" seems to be rapidly going from a serious problem to a critical one.

One of the benefits of information technology is that it can provide "anytime, anyplace" access to information. This truly is a benefit, but like most benefits, it as a downside. Because we can access information anytime, anyplace does not necessary mean that we should always do so. Some feel that they should always be connected to a constant stream of information. The problem with this is that we lose the ability to reflect. I continue to think about the role of library as place. My refocus on the state of information technology has reinforced my belief in the importance a physical library has. It is a universally recognized space for intellectual inquiry and reflection. A library is a place where we can peruse and select information rather than having it "streamed" to us. It is place where the serendipitous discovery of information is a com-

mon event. Walking into a library for many people sets their mind in a more reflective frame of mind, somewhat like entering a church does. There has been a lot of discussion and experimentation over the past decade in creating Information Commons. This is generally a place where library and information technology services can be delivered together. While I generally support this idea, I realize that the library has always been a "Commons". It has always been a place where people have met to discuss ideas and events. It is Information Technology services that are being added to the already existing commons of the library, rather than being the co-creator of a commons.

I am pleased that a new library is being incorporated into the new University Master Plan and is also being discussed as part of the University's Millennial Initiative. We will need to have a library presence on both sides of Rt. 107. Having two facilities, each tailored for the particular clientele in that part of campus opens both challenges and opportunities for us to re-envision library services. While there are many details to be worked out, one thing everyone involved in the process seems to recognize is the importance of the library as a physical commons.

Dust Bowls at Hunter Library

by Brandon A. Robinson

If a book collects dust in the bottom of Hunter Library, and no one is there to clean it, does it enlighten?

Perhaps, if one eludes the dust bunnies.

Since last fall, Hunter Library has undergone a comprehensive dusting project of its general collection stacks; "comprehensive" is the apt word, for we have approximately nine miles of shelving—enough to cover the distance between WCU and Dillsboro!

Shelf by shelf, and book by book, the project is carried out by library student workers, who focus exclusively on this for several hours a day. They commenced the project during Fall 2004, and have covered the library's general and reference collec-

tion (only the bound periodicals remain). By the end of Fall 2005, Hunter Library's entire collection will have been dusted—for the first time since the 1980's. University Librarian Bil Stahl set aside special funds to make the project possible.

We appreciate the dedicated student workers who made the dusting project possible over several stage: Amber Baker, Cheryl Crumpler, Travis Drake, Melissa Marton, Lindsey McDougall, Brittany McManus, Nathan Roberto, Gretchen Spencer and Elizabeth Williams. This endeavor is a part of Hunter's ongoing efforts to make the library attractive and inviting for the campus community

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Neighborhoods in Your Neck of the Books

University Librarian Bil Stahl is very enthusiastic about the neighborhoods project: "The primary purpose of the Neighborhoods is two fold. First, the neighborhoods break the huge collection area into human-scale components and therefore make the collections more inviting and accessible. And second, the

neighborhoods will encourage students and faculty from the same subject fields to run into each other."

Anyone interested in learning more about or commenting upon the neighborhoods should contact Bil Stahl at stahl@wcu.edu.

Hunter Library Honors National Library Day

by Brandon A. Robinson

On Wednesday, April 13, 2005, the Library celebrated National Library Day. On that morning, quotes about libraries and reading, mounted on cream-colored boards, were displayed throughout the main floor area. The perspectives came from a diverse medley of people—Cicero, Thomas Jefferson, Malcolm X, Philip Yancey, and David Starr Jordan—exhorting patrons to explore the delights of books and reflection. The reception for the event was held at two, during which Eloise Hitchcock announced the grand-prize winner for the LibQual survey—Jennifer Gerber, who was presented with an Apple iPod. Other winners, from both WCU staff and the student body, received flash drives and coupons from Java City.

At three participants enjoyed the third annual Library Olympics, a competition between student organizations for the fastest procurement of reference information on a number of subjects. Winners included SHIMA (Student Health Information Management Association) and Sigma Alpha Omega, who received monies for donation to their favorite charities.



Hunter Library's Redesigned Web Page

by Heidi Buchanan

The Hunter Library Web Steering Group was formed in Fall 2004 by the University Librarian, Bil Stahl. The members of this committee are Melissa Young, Nancy Newsome, Elizabeth Vihnanek, Alessia Zanin-Yost, and Heidi Buchanan (Chair). The purpose of the group is to assist and advise the Web Services Coordinator, Melissa Young, in the design, organization, and presentation of the Hunter Library website. Since its formation, the group has worked on organizing the subject guides and other projects including the redesign of the library website. The redesign process included researching other web pages and information about webpage design, surveying library faculty and staff, user testing, and a survey for webpage visitors.

Hunter Reference Liaisons: Taking the Library to the People

by Brandon A. Robinson

For academic departments, particularly those in which cutting-edge information is essential, the need for library resources has stretched beyond the physical presence of Hunter itself; and through the efforts of the reference librarian/subject liaisons, we see library-patron relationships develop in unique, interesting ways.

In the spring of 2005, Ann Hallyburton, Reference Librarian/Health Sciences Liaison, began a pilot program for nursing students at Enka, offering reference consultations to students and collaborating with nursing faculty on various projects. Ann began this program as an inquiry into methods of providing better service to off-site nursing students, faculty and staff. "Though the students and faculty express appreciation for the assistance I provide them, I know that I should be the one thanking them for their kindness and dedication to such demanding professions."

Beginning this academic year, Ann has provided reference instruction to approximately twenty five classes in health related programs. In addition to these efforts she has also arranged individual and group meetings with students at Hunter Library. "While I am heavily committed to the use of on-line resources whenever possible (Internet, databases, journals, WebCT, email, etc.), personal interaction cannot be underrated. The more that I personally interact with students, faculty, and staff... the more those individuals seem at ease in approaching me with research needs."

Likewise, Reference Librarian/Business Liaison Dana Edge has been busy "taking the library to the people." Since the beginning of Fall 2005, she has gone for a couple hours a week to the Forsyth computer lab on campus, offering reference consultation to students. "The first few weeks I had no questions, but now I get several on each visit," Dana said. In addition to fielding questions, Dana mentioned that many business faculty have started to come by and ask for information concerning their own projects; she was pleased to have widely expanded her contacts with those in business programs.

Dana reflected further on the Library's significance to students: "I have students that I've known from classes ask me questions on finding articles, not to mention their other class projects." Although her presence is small, she observed, Hunter Library's visibility on campus has greatly increased. Most important is that "we are reminding students that the Library remains a great source of information."

The Constitution, Banned Books, and Intellectual Freedom

by Brandon A. Robinson

September 2005 was a busy and fulfilling month, both for the University and for Hunter Library. For the first time, Western Carolina University officially observed Constitution Day (September 17), and the Library created a display on this seminal document, highlighting not only its history and that of *The Federalist Papers*, but personal reflections on the Constitution's importance from Western students, faculty and administrators. The ideas embodied in the display evolved into collaboration by Hunter staff and history and political science faculty—on an undergraduate essay contest on First Amendment freedoms.



To amplify the issues of intellectual freedom, the Library sponsored two events: on September 26, Hunter sponsored the annual Banned Books Reception on the second floor, featuring special guests Ron Rash and Charles F. Price. These noted regional authors shared their unique perspectives on the art and craft of writing, and the controversy of certain passages from their works. History students of professors Laura Cruz and Michael Paul read dramatically from books banned throughout the world and time; these participants included Jonathan Bell, Kelly Grantham, Christian Jensen, Kendra Johnson, Benjamin Locklair, Elizabeth Montgomery, Ace O'vil, Zachary Phillips, and Corey Tripp.

The next day, September 27, the Library hosted a movie showing of *Fahrenheit 451*, in the University Center Theater. Based upon Ray Bradbury's novel of the same name, the movie was introduced by English professor Jubal Tiner; Hunter Library's reference librarian Heidi Buchanan presided over the event. Group discussion followed the movie for some time, scintillated by Professor Tiner's reflections.

A Jazzy and Classical Evening in Atlanta

by Brandon A. Robinson

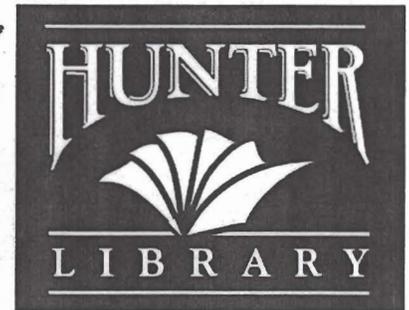
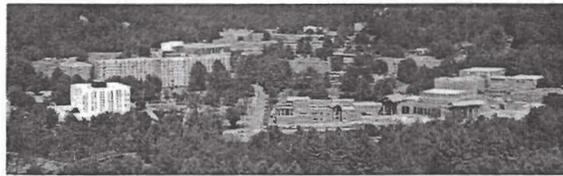
One of Nietzsche's gentler observations was that "life without music would be a mistake." In similar vein, Goethe mused, "art is the mediator of all things." *Clarion* readers must form their own opinion, but after a certain conversation in Hunter Library, I certainly endorse both maxims.

I had the pleasure of discussing the third annual "Friends Weekend in Atlanta" with Ed and Renee Cohen, and immediately realized that I had missed a treat. On the weekend of February 5, 2005 the couple, along with twenty other participants, enjoyed the high culture of Peachtree Street, the High Museum and Atlanta Symphony specifically. On Saturday afternoon, Friends of Hunter Library toured an exhibit, *The Art of Romare Bearden* (1911-1988), which captured African-American perspectives on urban life. Renee Cohen remarked that Bearden was "deeply connected with jazz; he came to his art by listening to the music. You really get a feel for the culture in Harlem during the mid-20th century." Concomitantly, the guests listened to audio guides during the tour, which included jazz selections by Branford Marsalis.

This made for rich conversation, especially over the aroma of Italian cuisine. After lingering, postprandial reflections, the Friends were off again—this time to the Atlanta symphony, where the night's performances included Ives' *Thanksgiving Day*, Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, Debussy's *La Mer*, and Ravel's *Bolero*. The soloist for the violin concerto gave an encore, and Debussy's mellifluous expression was a gentle interlude; then came the vivacious *Bolero*! Of the latter, Ed Cohen commented, "We had heard it before, but this was our first time hearing a live performance; it was truly exciting to see the performers' enthusiasm, and watch it all develop."

The refreshed caravan of Friends returned, after a night in the Colony Square Sheraton, to Cullowhee's wintry hills. "The entire weekend was a collaboration of many styles of art and music," said Renee. Ed enthusiastically encouraged more people to take this interesting trip, and thanked former University Librarian Bill Kirwan in particular for organizing the events: "His meticulous planning made it so easy and enjoyable for us; we hope he will continue doing it."

PROFILES



Anna Fariello

by Brandon A. Robinson

Anna Fariello, Leader for the Craft Revival Project, joined Hunter Library's faculty this past summer. The youngest of three children, Ann was born in Madison, New Jersey, just outside New York City. She studied and earned her B.A. in art history and photography at Rutgers University, and afterwards desired to see diverse places. Her peregrinations took her to Canada, Europe, Colorado, California, Oregon, and, through her service in the Peace Corps, El Salvador. Despite her urban, northern beginnings, it was the rural south that captured her heart; the last twenty years of her career as curator and scholar have confirmed that sustained passion.

After traveling and living in Middle Tennessee, Anna matriculated at Virginia Commonwealth University, earning her M.A. in museum studies and art history. Having decided upon a museum career, Anna worked at two state-funded institutions: the Science Museum of Virginia, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, both at Richmond. Anna received her M.F.A. in studio art from James Madison University, then spent the next ten years as a museum director and tenured professor at Radford University. During this time Anna developed a new museum studies program, renovated galleries, introduced a new outdoor sculpture program on campus, substantially expanded museum budgets, and sponsored a variety of exhibitions. Shows included works by nationally known artists as well as shows focused on local quilts, regional music and blacksmithing. After her tenure at Radford University, Anna spent two years at the Smithsonian American Art Museum as a museum scholar in residence; there, her research focused on the Craft Revival in Appalachia.

Anna then continued her work as an associate professor of interdisciplinary studies; she taught museum studies, material culture, and an interdisciplinary course, entitled, "Creative Process." She had also continued to nurture her long-held interest in the Southern Appalachian Crafts, which brought her to Western.

As mentioned earlier, the culture of the rural south has had a particular appeal to Anna. Reflecting on her first visits to Tennessee and Virginia: "It must have been fate. A sense of place is very important. I like the mountains; I like the quiet; I like nature. I think nature is spiritually improving." All these attractions of the region informed Anna's work on the Appalachian Crafts Revival Movement (1890s-1930s), which was recently showcased in the Mountain Heritage Center's "Movers and Makers" exhibit. She became heavily involved in this project in Fall 2004, when Hunter Library secured a LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant through the North Carolina State Library. As the consultant and project planner for the Crafts grant, Anna collaborated extensively with WCU, Mountain Heritage Center, and ASU faculty and staff, and regional institutions such as the John C. Campbell Folk School; the Penland School of Craft; and the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design.

"Movers and Makers," an exhibition focused on the Craft Revival in Appalachia, was developed in conjunction with the 2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival that focused on the region. "Movers and Makers" opened in Virginia and traveled for two years to Kentucky and North Carolina, including the Mountain Heritage Center. Curator of the exhibit, Ann is author of the catalog, *Movers and Makers: Doris Ulmann's Portrait of the Craft Revival in Appalachia*.

Anna continues her contribution to museum work through her publications and Curatorial Insight, her museum-planning firm. She remains abreast of scholarly literature in art history and museum studies. The ideal, she says, is to "create an exhibition from a framework of interconnected ideas...this informs everything. Like politics, if you dismantle the philosophy, everything comes tumbling down."

Anna is married to William Rogers, a metal smith based in Montgomery County, VA. They have two adult sons: Clay, an electrical engineer in Blacksburg, and Lucas, a surveyor in Christiansburg, VA. In addition to her professional work, Anna enjoys the outdoors, swimming, walking, and reading the works of Wendell Berry, and of regional authors such as Barbara Kingsolver and Sharyn McCrumb.



Alessia Zanin-Yost

by Brandon A. Robinson

Alessia Zanin-Yost joined Hunter Library as Reference Librarian/Visual and Performing Arts Liaison last Spring. Born in Vicenza, Italy (near Venice), Alessia very early absorbed the humane letters of the Western intellectual tradition. Her exposure to the rich culture of Europe has deeply influenced her since and remains an enduring interest.

Alessia majored in art history for her B.A. at California State University; while there she also minored in French. She continued in art history for her M.A. at the University of California at Davis. Throughout these years, she also continued her interests in languages: in addition to French, Alessia has studied English

and Spanish. Alessia had contemplated a doctorate in art history before a conversation with a friend, who recommended library science. Teaching art history at a junior college at the time, she wanted to continue working with students in an educational setting; for her, a library career would combine her interests of working directly with students, and research and writing.

With these goals in mind, Alessia earned her M.L.I.S. at San Jose State, where her favorite courses were in reference, literacy, and management. These interests have retained their favor in Alessia's library career. After San Jose State, Alessia began her career at Montana State University at Bozeman, a science and technology institution with major emphasis on publication and research. From this position Alessia accepted the Reference Librarian/Visual and Performing Arts Liaison position at Hunter Library.

In comparing her two reference experiences, Alessia reflected that the collection development aspect of the reference librarian/liaison position sets it apart from her previous duties at Bozeman. There is also more balance for her stated interests in research and direct consultation with students and faculty. Particularly with the latter, Alessia hopes to use the liaison aspect of her job to change perceptions about libraries: "The library has more to offer than just books; we also have many databases and services." Alessia hopes to bring an added presence to her departments while assisting various faculty and building Hunter's art, music and communications collections.

Like her favorite artist, Leonardo da Vinci, Alessia has many interests. She continues to study Renaissance and Baroque art, seeking a deeper understanding of how these areas intersected with the history of the Catholic Church. She also has interests in drawing, hiking and movies. Her husband, Mike, is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army; they have two young children.

PROFILES



Serenity Richards

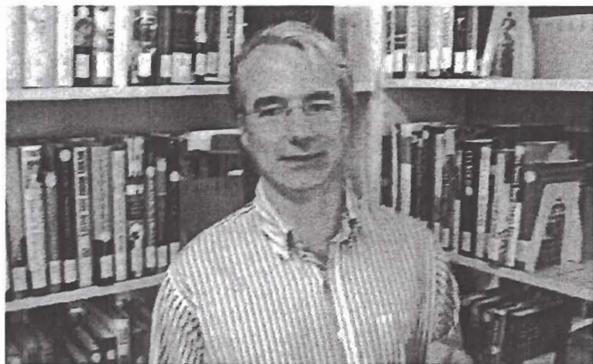
by Brandon A. Robinson

Serenity Richards, a former student worker in technical services at Hunter Library, returned to our staff in Spring 2005 as Library Assistant Cataloger. Serenity attended Western Carolina University, majoring in theatre and minoring in music; she has studied voice since the fourth grade, and her talent for theatre was highlighted in her appearances in *Rocky Horror* (as Magenta), *Blythe Spirit*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Since her graduation from Western in December 2001, Serenity has enjoyed rich experiences, including an interval in Los Angeles and a backpacking trip in Europe with two of her former classmates; during the latter she traveled in France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece,

Germany and Britain. She returned to Hunter last fall, where she works in the cataloging department, drawing from experience gained from her previous tenure.

Serenity is a voracious reader. She enjoys historical drama, horrors, fantasy and science fiction. She came to appreciate libraries quite early, as her mother works for the Fontana Regional Library. She greatly enjoys the work she is doing and the people who share it; among her considerations is a Master of Library Science degree in the future.



Brian Sealy

by Brandon A. Robinson

Brian Sealy accepted the position of Cataloging and Metadata Management Librarian at Hunter Library this past summer. He returns to the library field after a wide-ranging career in both the government and private sector.

A North Carolina native, Brian was born in Durham and early demonstrated an enthusiasm for the liberal arts and letters. He earned a B.A. from Duke University in anthropology, with a minor in economics; his other scholarly interests included history and French literature. Brian then studied at Harvard University, earning his M.A. in the history of Christianity. At this time he was deeply interested in religion from an anthropological perspective, which led him to do field work on a Pentecostal group in Durham. Brian also studied Hebrew and the Torah, the influence of myth in society, and religious figures such as Augustine, Boethius, Aquinas, Calvin and Luther. While at Harvard, Brian took courses at the Weston School of Theology at Cambridge University—a Jesuit seminary—studying the Northern Renaissance in Europe and its chief progenitor, Erasmus of Rotterdam.

After Harvard Brian returned to Durham and worked in the Perkins library at Duke—in reserves, audiovisual resources, curriculum support, and supervising circulation student workers. He then went to Indiana University, where he attended library school and earned his M.L.S. While at Indiana, he ran a dormitory library for a semester and did rare book cataloging in the Lilly Library. Brian also received a Department of Education fellowship for an extra summer, spent at the East Asian Language Institute; there he nurtured a deep interest in Chinese language and literature. Brian continued such studies in Taiwan at the National Taiwan Normal University, where he also taught English. During his year there, he traveled in South Korea, Japan, and the People's Republic of China.

Back in the States, Brian worked at Florida Atlantic University as a foreign languages cataloger, then at the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor as Assistant Database Administrator for the bibliographic catalog. His travels then took him East again, to New Zealand for several years in the computer industry, and later to Sydney, Australia, as a consultant to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. He then joined an information technology firm based in Atlanta as a network administrator, and traveled to Europe in this capacity.

After many years abroad, Brian returned to North Carolina, and spent the last fourteen years with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where he worked on a human resources software package for public school districts. He is now at Western Carolina University, in the familiar world of libraries and higher education, in which he began his working life. Reflecting on the more intellectual atmosphere of academe, Brian says he likes the transition: "You are surrounded by books, people who read books and are interesting to talk to."

In his spare time, Brian enjoys playing the mandolin and banjo, hiking and gardening at home; he is also an avid reader of biographies and European and American history.



Shirley Finegan

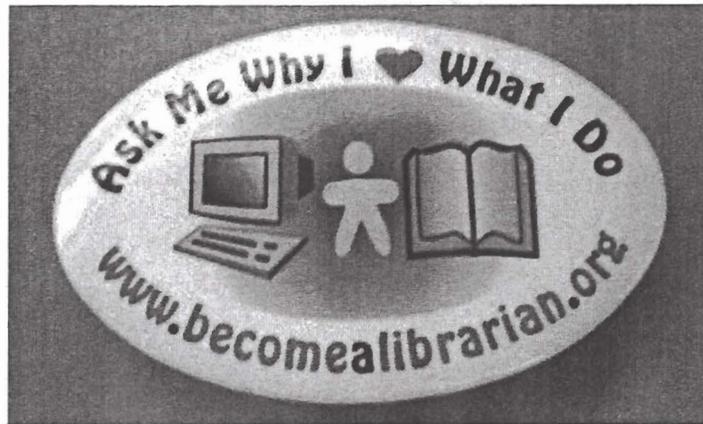
by Brandon A. Robinson

Hunter Library welcomed Shirley Finegan, Assistant Reserves Coordinator, to the Circulation Department in January 2005. In this position she will draw upon extensive experience in various departments of public libraries.

Shirley was born in New Jersey, and as the daughter of a Coast Guard veteran, traveled extensively in the Northeast. She relocated to North Carolina and studied chemistry at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, where she worked in virtually all departments of the Ellison Library as a student.

Shirley has provided many services to the Asheville-Buncombe Library system. At its main branch, the Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville, she has assisted with community and public relations, educational programs and group meetings. Shirley also assisted the Friends of the Asheville-Buncombe Library System with programming. She then spent the next few years at home with her children.

Shirley is a resident of Maggie Valley in Haywood County, and is active in the community: she teaches Sunday School at St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church in Waynesville, and coordinates the activities of her local Girl Scout troop. She enjoys cross-stitching and extensive remodeling projects at home. She and her husband, Peter Finegan, have three children—Patrick, Katie and Sean.



Have you ever thought about being a librarian?

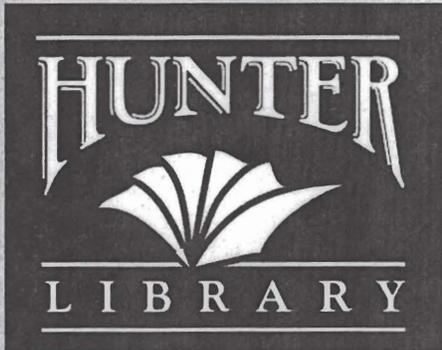
HUNTER LIBRARY HOURS

Spring Semester 2006

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mon. - Thurs. | 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m. |
| Friday | 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | Noon to 1:00 a.m. |

Java City at Hunter Library

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mon. - Thurs. | 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |
| Closed Saturday & Sunday | |



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Hunter's Clarion

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