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WRL Newsletter September 2009

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SEPTEMBER 2009

WYNDHAM ROBERTSON LIBRARY NEWS

WWW.HOLLINS.EDU/LIBRARY

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIBRARIAN



As we welcome a new class to the university, the library is also introducing a new staff member: Erin Gordon is our new Information Technology Librarian, and Liaison to the Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

We asked Erin a few questions about herself:

Q: Please tell us a little about your education.

A: I received my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz (fun fact: our mascot was the banana slug) and received my Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington.

Q: What made you want to become a librarian?

A: First and foremost, I wanted to become a librarian because I wanted to help people. Because I also enjoy investigating, learning new things, and looking for information, a profession involving helping people by connecting them with the information they need..."

See continuation on pg. 2 for rest of "Meet Erin Gordon"

HOT TOPICS @ THE LIBRARY

Get ready for season two of "Now at the Library," a series of documentary films on current topics. Films are shown in Jackson Screening Room with introductions by Hollins faculty, and a free reception afterward.



September's selection is **Further off the Straight & Narrow**, the award-winning film about the portrayal of GLBT characters on network and cable television.

"Further" will show on **Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2:00 p.m.** The screening will be introduced by Prof. Amy Gerber-Stroh.

WE ARE RECYCLING - AND JUST CYCLING

We're switching from four wheels - to three! The library has acquired a new tricycle, to be used for book pickups and deliveries around campus. Pedaling our new vehicle will mean more library deliveries will be achieved by people power instead of by the gasoline-powered golf cart; it should also get the library staff in tip-top shape! The next time you see our bookmobile on the way to Moody, we may be pedaling...



Lana Parker ('12) demonstrates the new library tricycle.

More good news: we are pleased to congratulate Better World Books on being named Most Promising Social Entrepreneur by Businessweek.com in May. Businessweek readers selected BWB as holding the most promise out of more than 200 businesses engaged in social activism. The company sells used books and donates a percentage of profits to literacy programs and libraries around the world.

See continuation on pg. 2 for rest of "Library (Re)Cycling"

There's more! Read Page 2 to find out:

- **How libraries help Better World Books in its mission.**
- **Which library staff members have taken on new roles this year.**

** Upcoming Films **

- October 25** Weather Report.
- November 15** Flesh: The Politics of Meat
- December 6** Mickey Mouse Monopoly

Co-sponsored by the Library, Student Activities & Film Dept.

MORE LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY (RE)CYCLING CONTINUED

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When books no longer suitable for the Hollins curriculum are removed from the library, the books suitable for resale go to BWB, who then donate part of the sale to Literacy Volunteers of the Roanoke Valley and a smaller amount back to Hollins. This opportunity to keep old books out of the landfill while helping promote literacy is a win-win situation for Hollins: most promising indeed!

We believe that education and access to books are basic human rights. - Mission and Core Values, Better World Books

Want to help? The next time you're shopping for books, check out www.betterworldbooks.com.

NEW ROLES FOR STAFF

Katy Baum is the library's new Cataloging & Periodicals Librarian, and Jonathan Overturf has



Jonathan Overturf

Katy Baum

moved into the position of Coordinator of InterLibrary Services and Public Services Assistant.

Katy joined the library staff in 2008. We

asked her how she likes her new job:

"I love my new position! It's a really great match for my interests and abilities. Spending my days handling books and inspecting their contents is really satisfying, as nerdy as that may sound! It's also a little bit like Christmas every day for me as I rifle through the pages of our newest books, seeing what they're about, and entering them in the catalog. Unfortunately, I don't have as much direct interaction with the Hollins community in this position, but I certainly think about our patrons every step of the way. My primary goal is to make sure that people can easily find what they are looking for, so I often consider the user's perspective. Finally, I look forward to sitting at the reference desk from time to time and interacting with patrons that way. "

When asked about his new position, Jonathan Overturf mentions that what he likes best is the opportunity to help people in their research, by helping them find the materials they need from other libraries and archives.

Since his arrival in March 2008, Jonathan has become a strong advocate for recycling and energy savings in the library, contributing ideas such as the new library tricycle (see Library (Re)Cycling.) His hobbies include finding ways to live more simply and efficiently, which may be due to the many times he has had to pack his belongings: he has lived in Germany, California, Tennessee, Nebraska, Colorado, Washington D.C. and on a Navy ship!

But one of his favorite things about Hollins is being part of a community with shared goals, so we may have persuaded him to stay. Last book read: "I Like You" by Amy Sedaris. Would he recommend it? "Yes."

MEET ERIN GORDON CONTINUED

A: "...connecting them with the information they need seemed like a perfect match for me. You could also say that I was genetically predisposed to becoming a librarian; my mother is a librarian and so were both of my grandmothers."

Q: Do you have any hobbies you'd like to share?

A: I'll try almost anything once! Things I've tried, enjoyed, and have chosen to repeat often include riding bicycles, watching baseball, reading, camping, fishing, traveling, and hiking.

Q: What else would you like students, faculty and staff to know about you?

A: I am absolutely thrilled to be joining such a wonderful, supportive, and tight-knit community! I can't wait to meet all of you.

As Liaison to Division III, Erin Gordon will be the contact for all those needing research assistance in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, environmental studies, and mathematics. You can reach her at [362-6653](tel:362-6653) or egordon@hollins.edu.