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WRL Newsletter Spring 2013

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SPRING 2013

WYNDHAM ROBERTSON LIBRARY NEWS

WWW.HOLLINS.EDU/LIBRARY

BEAUTY FROM A FAR-OFF LAND

A donation to the library from the McDonald family has turned the 3rd floor loft into a place where armchair travelers can imagine themselves transported to faraway places such as Morocco, Turkmenistan, or the mountains of Iran. Doug McDonald, father of Anne Marie ('16), donated several rugs and woven pieces from a collection built by his father, the late Gilman McDonald. The woven hangings are decorative, made to adorn horses or other pack animals. The largest of these would have been worn by a camel used in a wedding procession.



(rug detail)

THERE'S MORE
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ARTICLES

DATABASES: EASY ACCESS BY SUBJECT

The library has added lists of preferred databases for each academic department to our website: art, biology, business, and so on. You can also sort databases by format: images, music, newspaper articles, video. For those who know exactly which database they need, the "A-Z" list is also still available.

Questions? Our reference librarians are always happy to help you choose the right database for your research. Contact us at (540)362-7465, askref@hollins.edu, or send a message via the library's home page.

MEET JAMES MILLER

We are happy to introduce you to James Miller, the library's newest librarian! James works with students and faculty in the natural sciences and mathematics, helping them with research and resource needs. He is also the library's IT specialist. We asked him some questions:



Contact James:
540-362-6653
millerjc@hollins.edu

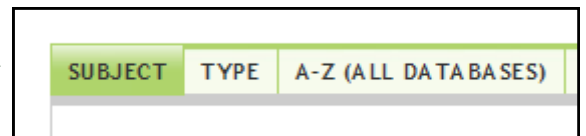
Q: What is your academic background?

A: I received a B.A. in English from Austin College, a small liberal arts college about the same size as Hollins. My MLIS is from Drexel University.

Q: What did you do before joining our library?

A: I was an assistant librarian at South Georgia Technical College in Americus, Georgia. My position entailed collection development, instruction, web site maintenance, and essentially everything else. It was a great learning experience.

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The Articles & Databases page:
www.hollins.edu/library/databases.shtml

MORE LIBRARY NEWS

BEAUTY FROM A FAR-OFF LAND CONTINUED

Several of the items hail from Transcaucasia, the area where Asia meets Europe; others were woven by tribes whose territories range from Turkmenistan into Iran. McDonald describes their origins: "The weavers of these items were women, who wove to satisfy the immediate needs of their families, and in the case of the pile weavings seen here, for sale in local and international markets, which brought their wares in great numbers to Europe and America in the late 19th and 20th centuries. They passed down their technical knowledge of spinning and weaving, as well as the designs they carried in their heads as a kind of literacy, from one generation to the next.

The multitude of small rugs, bags, bands, covers, and trappings they wove and imbued with beautiful colors and designs have long captivated collectors, connoisseurs, and the general public alike. That Gilman McDonald's collecting efforts and love of this art form will be shared with patrons of the Hollins University library would have caused him much joy. "

MEET JAMES MILLER CONTINUED

Q: What do you like to read?

A: I still love literature (Cormac McCarthy, Don DeLillo, Jorge Luis Borges), but I'm trying to be more well-rounded and read more non-fiction. Most of my non-fiction interests center around health, nutrition, and sustainable food. I try to learn about science (climate, chemistry, etc.) indirectly by reading about how food is grown/produced.

Q: What else would you like to share about yourself: hobbies, fun facts, life goals?

A: I'm a Dad now so hobbies are scarce and must be child-friendly. I like to garden and play guitar. I used to be an obsessive tennis player. Anyone play here at Hollins? Fun Facts: I skateboarded for 10 years and won an amateur contest in Mainz, Germany. My first job at age 17 was as a locksmith and entailed jimmying open cars and apartment complexes, but don't call me now for those services. I've never seen the film "Titanic."

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MEET HAZEL FOSTER

Hazel Foster is the library's newest reference assistant, answering your questions on evenings and weekends. She is also a Hollins MFA student. This is our Q & A with Hazel:



Q: What is your academic background?

A: I have a BA in Writing with concentrations in Fiction and Poetry and a minor in English Literature from Grand Valley State University. Currently, I am working on my MFA in Creative Writing here at Hollins. My intended thesis is a collection of short stories.

Q: What did you do before joining our library?

A: For nearly five years, I worked in a public library system back in Michigan. What a different world! I also spent a lot of time enjoying the benefits of living near Lake Michigan—swimming, soaking up sunshine, reading on the beach.

Q: What do you like to read?

A: I will read almost anything, from George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Fire and Ice* series to Annie Proulx to *Watchmen* to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Anything. Really.

Q: What else would you like to share about yourself: hobbies, fun facts, life goals?

A: I love sitcoms, particularly *The Golden Girls*, *Will & Grace*, *Roseanne*, and *How I Met Your Mother*. Eventually, I hope to write a book of creative non-fiction essays about this love affair.