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## WRL Newsletter April 2011

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APRIL 2011

# WYNDHAM ROBERTSON LIBRARY NEWS

[WWW.HOLLINS.EDU/LIBRARY](http://WWW.HOLLINS.EDU/LIBRARY)

## MEET CHRIS SHAVER

If you have gone to the reference desk late at night for help with research, you have probably met Chris Shaver, one of our new reference assistants here at the library. To get to know him better, we asked him a few questions...

**Q:** Can you tell us a little about your professional background and education?

**A:** I grew up in Giles County and after high school attended the College of William and Mary where I double majored in history and religion. Upon graduating, I worked in an antiquarian bookstore in Williamsburg, The Bookpress, Ltd. Since then, I have worked in a used bookstore in State College, PA, and in libraries at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State.

**Q:** Why libraries?

**A:** Because I love being surrounded by books and by other people who have a love of learning.

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## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

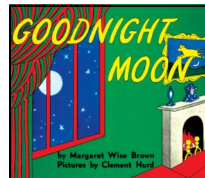
On April 7, President Nancy Gray and University Librarian Joan Ruelle presented the winners of the 2011 Undergraduate Research Awards. The reception marked the first time the two \$250 prizes have been awarded. Kelsey DeForest's ('13) paper "Imperial Performativity: the life, transgressions, and writings of Isabelle Eberhardt under the lens of queer theory" received the award in the First-Year/Sophomore category, and winning in the Junior/Senior category was Sarah Mirseyedi ('11) for "A Unique and Mysterious *Shahnama* Miniature."

The Undergraduate Research Awards celebrate originality and creativity in finding, choosing and using sources. Any project involving research is eligible; as a result, the projects submitted ranged in format from two senior theses to oral presentations and dramaturgical research.

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## STORY HOUR WITH MARGARET WISE BROWN

Kids of all ages are invited to the campus for a series of Saturday Morning Story Hours featuring the works of beloved author and Hollins alumna Margaret Wise Brown (class of 1932).



Local celebrities will read such classics as *Goodnight Moon*, *The Runaway Bunny*, *Big Red Barn*, *The Little Island*, and *Baby Animals*.

Each story hour will conclude with milk and cookies and an opportunity to have your child's photograph taken for your very own READ poster!

Saturday Story Hours are part of Hollins University's yearlong Margaret Wise Brown Festival celebrating Brown's huge body of work, including the children's books which remain popular around the world.

All Story Hours start at 10 a.m. in the library.

## READ WITH THATCHER HURD

Children's book author and illustrator Thacher Hurd, son of the illustrator of *Goodnight Moon*, will present the first story hour on **Saturday, June 25**.

After story time, visit the Wilson Museum on campus for an exhibition of original illustrations from *Goodnight Moon*. Hurd, an author and illustrator in his own right (*Art Dog*, *Mama Don't Allow*, *Zoom City*) will give a lecture in the museum at 1p.m.

## SPECIAL COLUMN: NEW INITIATIVES

### NEW ITEM! Now loaning goats

In a groundbreaking initiative, the library will collaborate with the Hollins Community Garden on a new program to loan goats. As Circulation Coordinator Joesephine Collins explains, goats are an excellent resource for repurposing materials such as vegetable waste and last semester's chemistry paper. Goats obviate the need for expensive, noisy appliances such as leaf blowers and last but not least, they are "very good company." Check out a goat today!



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# MORE LIBRARY NEWS

## NEW DATABASES: ART & READER'S GUIDE

Two new databases have been added:

The **Reader's Guide Retrospective** is a searchable version of Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, an essential source for finding subjects in the popular press. RG Retrospective is the full Reader's Guide from 1890-1982, a period still unavailable in databases covering popular publications today. Users will be able to search citations from over 3 million articles from 375 leading magazines.

**Art Index Retrospective** extends the Art Full Text Database (which starts in 1985) with searchable citations to more than a half century of art literature – back to 1929. The AI Retrospective covers almost 600 journal titles including publications in French, Italian, German, Spanish, and Dutch, as well as important yearbooks and select museum bulletins. The retrospective (1929-1985) and the current file (1985 – today) can be searched together or separately.

For more information about these databases, contact our reference desk at **540-362-7465** or [askref@hollins.edu](mailto:askref@hollins.edu).

## SPECIAL COLUMN: NEW INITIATIVES CONTINUED

### NEW POLICY! Zombies in the library

For the sake of patron comfort, all zombies will immediately be dispatched, either by “compacting” in the moveable shelves on the ground floor, or by simple decapitation (staff training is underway). If zombie status is in question, said person will be locked in a study room until it is determined whether the intent is upon devouring just literature, or one's fellow students.



### NEW COLLECTION! Collecting the trivial

Hollins Archives are now collecting Hollins trivialities. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines trivial as “commonplace, ordinary”; this new collection will focus on collecting and preserving for posterity items commonly found around campus such as leaves, paper napkins, Moody silverware, squirrels, and first drafts. Bring us your trivialities today for this very special collection!

### NEW POLICY! Random due dates

Research shows that libraries are often thought of as boring and predictable. To make your library experience more spontaneous and unexpected, we will be rolling out a new “random due date” initiative on \$#%^&\*# (it wouldn't be spontaneous if we told you when, now would it. Surprise!) Under the new initiative, due dates for films and books will be adjusted irregularly and without notice, based on the following factors: 1. Horoscopes ; 2. The Moody menu ; 3. Height and shoe size ; 4. An internationally compiled decision matrix involving Hollywood opening weekend grosses, average travel time Paris -Tokyo, and the price of cod.

Date: April 1

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## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE CONTINUED

A panel of two librarians, two students and three faculty members selected the winners and four finalists from a total of 18 entries. The submissions' subjects were also diverse, from research in mathematics to economics and from art history to Arab literature. "It was a difficult process," said librarian Maryke Barber, "but also very interesting to read such a broad range of papers. We saw strong theses, as well as excellent papers from the first-year seminars. It's inspiring to see the great work Hollins students are doing!"

### Research Award Finalists:

Junior/Senior

*Melissa Hammond ('12): "Absurdity as Resistance in Arab Literature"*

*Raisha Kasaju ('11): "Living in the Dark in Nepal"*

*Meredith Levy ('12): "We Endure Around Truths Immemorially Posited": a dramaturgical research analysis on Brian Friel's linguistic-historical drama *Translations*."*

First-Year/Sophomore

*Amber Rambharose ('13): "Why God, Why? A defense of the contradictory God in *Paradise*"*



## MEET CHRIS SHAVER CONTINUED

**Q:** What would you like to share about your hobbies and interests?

**A:** I enjoy reading and watching old movies (I am working my way through Cary Grant movies at the moment). I also enjoy riding my bike and have it as a goal to ride it more often this spring and summer.

**Q:** What's a favorite type of research, and why?

**A:** I haven't been working in reference long enough to have a favorite, but my anal-retentive nature likes questions that have a definite, conclusive answer. I was told when I interviewed that while the quantity of questions may not be high, the quality of questions would be, and I have found that to be true.

**Q:** What do you like to read?

**A:** History and biography with some mystery and spy novels mixed in. I've recently enjoyed reading *Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong*, by Terry Teachout and Ian Fleming's *James Bond* and William F. Buckley, Jr's, *Blackford Oakes* spy novels.