Tribute to Virginia Willig

Virginia Willig, a model for excellence in service (and namesake for the library's Virginia Willig Award for Service Excellence), passed away on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. Virginia worked at IPFW for many decades, first in the IPFW Day Care Center from 1977-1987, and later for Helmke Library from 1988-2005. Virginia was a much loved and respected colleague. We share many fond memories of Virginia, and below are just a few of our recollections.

From Cheryl Truesdell, Library Dean:

Virginia was an embodiment of the Helmke Library service ethic. In fact, the library created the Virginia Willig Award to recognize library staff who demonstrate excellence in service. In the library, Virginia was the ever-present, ever-vigilant parent. She kept track of all employees, especially our student workers. She was an exacting teacher, concerned mentor, and dedicated IPFW employee. Virginia made sure that tasks were done immediately and done right, requiring student workers to repeat a task until it was done to her standard. She trained my son (the same boy she took care of years earlier in the IPFW child care center) when he briefly worked in the library as a student, and I remember his herculean efforts to pass Virginia's eagle-eyed inspection of his work.

My most vivid memory of Virginia was of her energy and unwavering work ethic. She could work rings around others less than half her age! I don't know how many books she moved during the many library shifting projects, but it would not be far off to say that she touched every single volume in the library at one time or another.

From Pamela Sandstrom, Director of Library Programs and Development:

What Alan (retired IPFW professor of anthropology) and I remember most about Virginia was the incredible compassion and caring nature she expressed in everything she did, from taking care of our son Michael at the IPFW Child Care Center 28 years ago, to caring for our friend and fellow librarian Marilyn Murphy in her last days, to taking care of business at the Service Desk (and especially, socializing generations of students to do good work). Many of us in the library got to meet Virginia for an enjoyable lunch on October 1. Little did we know how sweet that parting would be. We will treasure many fond memories of Virginia – her enigmatic smile, her enthusiasm, her sturdy endurance, and endless patience. And the high standard of excellence to which she held herself, and all of us. What a privilege to have known Virginia Willig, a kind person of sterling quality.

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Dean's Notes

I am sometimes asked by faculty, students, and administrators why they do not have access to all of the online resources available from the libraries at the main campuses of IU and Purdue. It strikes students and faculty as unfair that the degrees and certificates earned at IPFW are designated as either Indiana or Purdue, but that members of the IPFW community are not fully IU or Purdue citizens when it comes to library resources.

In most cases, publishers and vendors consider IPFW and each of the other IU and Purdue campuses as separate entities when consortia deals and contracts are negotiated by any of IPFW's partners. Several large consortia, such as Academic Libraries of Indiana, Lyrasis (nation's largest regional consortia, comprised of more than 2,000 members), Midwest Collaborative for Library Services, Committee on Institutional Cooperation (Big Ten schools + 2), often negotiate a better price than an individual campus. However, IPFW always pays its share of the total subscription cost, which is usually based upon a formula involving student FTE counts. When a deal is on the table, each campus, including IPFW, has to determine if they can afford to pay their portion of the negotiated group price. Regardless of how good the deal might be, we may have to opt out of the offer if IPFW cannot afford to pay its way.

None of these individual or group deals are the same. Some vendors will not negotiate any group purchase discount (as is the case with JSTOR and ARTstor). Sometimes the group negotiating the contract will chip in to make sure all participants can afford access to a resource (which is true for our license to Academic Search Premier), or because losing a number of libraries would raise the cost so much for the remaining participants that it's better to make sure all can subscribe. In addition, the IU main campus library has purchased or subscribed to a number of online resources that they then offer free to IU libraries systemwide; as of October 2010, these virtually "free" resources numbers 88. This arrangement, of course, provides a significant saving to our campus and increases access to valuable materials we could not otherwise license on behalf of IPFW users.

Contracts are typically negotiated for one year, while others may be extended over multiple years; either way subscription prices tend to go up over time, anywhere from a modest 5% annual increase to "the sky's the limit," at least for some. For example, recently Indiana academic libraries began negotiating with the American Chemical Society (ACS) for access to its online journals. Refusing to clarify its pricing model, the bottom line offered by ACS for Indiana academic libraries was an 8.2% increase each year (for a five year contract). With accreditation for chemistry programs in the balance (one of the few arts and sciences programs with a separate accreditation system), there's not much that can be done but sign on the dotted line and hope that budget increases will save the library from having to cancel other necessary subscriptions to pay for such a steep increase.

When it comes to online library resources, IPFW is NOT a mere child of IU or Purdue but its own adult, responsible for paying its own way in the wild and woolly world of online research assets.

IUCAT is Learning New Languages

An important enhancement is coming to IUCAT catalog! Currently in the testing phase, a Unicode conversion and extensive post-conversion reindexing is planned for the IUCAT database. Once Unicode-compliant, IUCAT catalog will support the enhanced display and printing of cataloged records that feature the world's alphabets, thus enabling users to search by entering true symbols and characters. The upgrade will also support the ability to "copy and paste" information directly from IUCAT into other Unicode-compliant applications, as well as copy Unicode data into IUCAT for searching.

The conversion will take place between December 20, 2010, and January 2, 2011. The regular production catalog will be down during the entire period of the conversion and index rebuild. A read-only version of IUCAT catalog will be available during the transition. Patrons will still be able to check out material from Helmke Library, but other services that require access to users' library accounts such as Request Delivery and My Account will not be available in the read-only catalog, but requests for materials from the ALF auxiliary library facility will be available. Notices concerning the upgrade will be posted on the IUCAT catalog homepage so please stay tuned for further developments.
Fort Wayne's Unique Manuscript Library and Museum  
By Sue Skekloff

The Karpeles Library (www.rain.org/~karpeles) is the world's largest private holding of important original manuscripts and documents. Archive subject areas include Literature, Science, Religion, History, and Art. Among the treasures are "The original draft of the Bill of Rights of the United States," the original manuscript of "The Wedding March," Einstein's description of his "Theory of Relativity," the "Thanksgiving Proclamation" signed by George Washington, Roget's "Thesaurus," Webster's "Dictionary," and more than one million additional resources.

Fort Wayne is one of nine locations in the United States where Karpeles displays these fascinating documents. Last August, Librarian Sue Skekloff and Assistant Service Desk Manager Debra Haley checked out the Fort Wayne site and were intrigued by two exhibits, one containing primary sources on the history of medicine, and the other an exhibit of original sketches and notes from the development of Star Trek: the Next Generation. The theme of the current Karpeles display is the history of the Bible; next spring they will present an exhibit on Florence Nightingale, including primary documents and artwork.

On Thursday, December 2, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., the library will host a visit from Lisa Olinger, Fort Wayne Karpeles librarian, and her assistant, Jan Cave, in the library's classroom-lab (LB 440A). They have titled their presentation "Digging through Documents: The Resources and Exhibits of the Karpeles Library Museum." Interested faculty are invited to attend.

For more information on the Karpeles facilities and mission, please visit their Web site at www.rain.org/~karpeles.

Mobile Version Available for IPFW Course Guides

The library recently adopted a licensed platform called LibGuides for developing Web-based course guides. These guides, which are available at http://libguides.lib.ipfw.edu, have a new mobile version. Now whenever someone visits the site using a mobile device, such as an iPhone, iPad, or Blackberry, they will be automatically redirected to the mobile version. As many database providers also provide mobile versions for searching electronic resources, this is an exciting step toward enabling faculty and students to do their research on the go.

New Exhibits Adorn Library Walls

The 10th Student Art in the Library Fall 2010 exhibition is now on display. Thirteen students entered 19 works, including photographs, paintings, and digital art. The award winners are: Barbara A. Mendez, 1st place for "Field of Dreams"; Swikar Patel, 2nd place for "At the Front Door #1"; Nicholas Klein, 3rd place for "Cloudy Day at the Grand Canyon."

The 2010 International Travel Photography exhibition has also been mounted. It includes two works by Helmke Library's own Chris Smith, taken during a trip to Peru. "Homeward Bound" received 2nd Honorable Mention in the Favorite Cultural Interaction category and "A Woman's Work" was selected for 3rd Honorable Mention in the same category.
New Collections Added to mDON

Two new collections were added to the mDON Mastodon Digital Object Network in October — the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer Series and the IPFW Omnibus Lecture Series.

The Distinguished Lecturer Series digital collection (http://distinguished-lecturer.mdon.lib.ipfw.edu) is a compilation of video and program material beginning with the 1989 season. This long running and dynamic biannual series began in 1982, and is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. IPFW's own Alan Sandstrom, George Kalamaras, James Farlow, Larry Kuznar, and Peter Iadicola are only a few recent honorees among the 25 lecturers representing IPFW faculty. Lectures in the fall are presented by scholars from outside the IPFW community; past speakers have included Chester Starr, Richard Westfall, and Dan Rockmore. The lectures span a wide range of disciplines and can now be watched via mDON. This is an ongoing collection, with new presentations and associated material added each fall and spring.

The Omnibus Lecture Series (http://omnibus-lecture.mdon.lib.ipfw.edu), an IPFW initiative, "is dedicated to presenting diverse ideas through educated, respected, and entertaining speakers to the university community and the residents of northeast Indiana." The mDON digital collection of Omnibus lectures extends the purpose of this key series by providing video documentation of selected lectures, beginning with the 2007-2008 season. If you missed seeing a particular speaker, would like to see a favorite again, or want to browse associated print items dating back to 1995, you now may have the opportunity to view a presentation. Print material from IPFW University Archives has been utilized in the digital collection to best represent the series in instances where video is not available. This collection is an ongoing digitization project, with new print material added regularly, and the video content streamed via our mDON portal when we have secured the speaker’s permission.

The College of Education and Public Policy Goes Online in Opus

scholarlypartnershipsedu is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal supported by the Scholar-Practitioner Center for the Advancement of Educational Leadership and Learning Organizations in IPFW's newly renamed College of Education and Public Policy. The journal was launched in 2006 by the dean of the College of Education and Public Policy as a venue for scholar-practitioners to disseminate their theoretical, practical, and/or applied research and discussions in the broad field of education. To support this mission, all research and submitted manuscripts are coauthored by educators from the university and P–12 schools or community agencies. All back issues to 2006 are available online. The current issue is a special edition featuring six articles on the theme of "Obama and Education," including one by IPFW's Dean Barry Kanpol.
Presentations

Adkins, Tiff, and Ludwika Goodson. "Quick Sprint: Enriching Course Content with Good and Bad Web Resources." Workshop sponsored by the IPFW Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT)(Fort Wayne, IN), September 30, 2010.


Joyce Saltsman has completed the IPFW "Human Resources Supervise for Success" series.

Where is Pamela?

Pamela Sandstrom, Director of Library Programs and Development, is now working for Helmke Library remotely from her new home, a charming 18th-century fixer-upper, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Using the library's remote desktop technology, the Internet, Skype video, IM, e-mail, and telephone, she is able to do just about everything she was able to do on site (and probably more, with fewer interruptions). We do miss the occasional coffee deliveries from Old Crown! Pamela will continue to work for Helmke Library until she retires from IPFW on June 30, 2011.

Hotcakes and Helmke Library!

By Tiff Adkins

I have helped many students find current articles for research papers, locate books for a persuasive speech, and track down elusive citations; however, doing this while students were eating pancakes was a whole new experience. James Christoffel, an IPFW Student Housing Resident Assistant, invited me to the new student housing club house for a pancake breakfast and to talk to students about Helmke Library. My presentation on October 9 was entitled (what else?) "Hotcakes in Helmke." What a great way to take the library to the students and convey our message that success is there for the taking. I was able to pass on examples of the vast services and resources from Helmke Library while passing the syrup.

International Students Library Orientation

By Florence Mugambi

This fall, the library held its first International Students Orientation. The session included a walking tour of the library's public spaces and a virtual tour of library services for students. The main purpose of the orientation was to establish a personal connection with the students and help them realize that the library is one of their most helpful and supportive destinations on campus.

Students were given an overview of the rich virtual and physical resources available in the library, and shown how to utilize them without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated. In addition, the orientation was designed to introduce a number of Helmke Library's librarians, who each go to demonstrate the best library services the campus has to offer.

Since international students' educational backgrounds may be varied, and their experience in libraries different from what they find here at IPFW, the customized library orientation gave these students a comfortable, exploratory atmosphere in which to interact with staff and one another, and feel free to ask questions. It was not all business though; at the end of the orientation session, students and staff enjoyed refreshments and shared experiences.

And as the semester draws to a close, we wish the students success, fanaka, 成功.
Destination Helmke@Warsaw
By Tiff Adkins and Sue Skekloff

This fall, several librarians met with Angela Williams, Assistant Director of Site-Based Credit Programs at IPFW, and IPFW Warsaw Center administrative staffers Pamela Cook and Cheryl Marchetti to discuss how we might reach out to students, faculty and staff at the Warsaw Center. In particular, we were interested in creating a greater library awareness on their campus. Librarians are constantly looking for new ways to connect with students and faculty and are especially aware of the challenges that working at a distance can present.

Our first initiative was to ask for input from faculty, so we sent an online survey in September to all faculty members teaching at the Warsaw Center. Among the five questions asked was this one:

"Do you believe your students would benefit from having a greater understanding of the availability and use of IPFW Helmke Library resources, specifically those available remotely?"

We received an overwhelming "Yes." Our response was to develop an instruction session at the Warsaw Center, meet with students face-to-face, and help them to discover Helmke Library. Yet another challenge presented itself, namely, who among the eager library staff would be able to go?

After confirming schedules, Sue Skekloff and Tiff Adkins traveled to the Warsaw Center on November 10. While there, they offered an interactive presentation about the resources and services available through the library. After the presentation, Sue and Tiff were available to provide individual assistance to students with their specific information needs. Enthusiastic comments from students and staff have motivated us to schedule a return visit to the Warsaw Center in the spring.

New Library Information Displays

Thanks to a generous grant from IPFW's Student Government (IPSGA) the library was able to upgrade the computer displays of library information scattered around Helmke Library. The updated displays currently show computer and group-study room availability and library hours. Starting in the spring 2011 semester, these displays will also include availability of laptop computers for checkout by students within Helmke Library. Displays will be located on the first, second, and fourth floors of the library, and their information will be updated every few minutes throughout the day.

Sit on It at the Library

During the 2009-2010 academic year, executive officers of IPFW's IPSGA student government awarded the library a $50,000 gift to purchase furniture and portable computers for the future IPFW Learning Commons, coming soon to the second floor of the library. Last February and March, we installed samples of a variety of seating choices (including chairs with and without tablet arms, chair-and-a-half and love-seat sized options, along with different sized ottomans) and invited IPFW students to sit-test and vote for their favorites. Based on the results of this well-publicized survey, five styles of furniture with durable and colorful fabrics were selected and ordered. The furniture finally arrived this semester, although six pieces with a special fabric selection remain to be delivered later in the fall. We barely got the items placed before they were immediately occupied by students.

The IPSGA gift also provided funding for a laptop-checkout pilot program. The laptops have been purchased, their array of software and capabilities configured by Information Technology Services (ITS), and policies and procedures are being developed. Current IPFW students will be able to check out a laptop for several hours and use it anywhere within the library. Laptops will provide access to the full suite of student-access computer lab software. The laptop checkout program will be launched during the first week of January.
Tribute to Virginia Willig, continued

From Joyce Saltsman, Service Desk Manager:
Did you ever wonder how Virginia happened to start working in the library?

I needed to hire someone quickly to start work in January 1988. HR sent only one application, and it was Virginia's. I was hesitant to interview only one person, so I decided to find out more about her. She had worked at the Child Care Center on campus, so I asked some of the mothers working in the library about her. Judie Violette's (the library's former director) recommendation was especially glowing. Virginia had left the Child Care Center because a bad knee was making it difficult to get up and down off the floor with the babies. She then worked in the campus secretarial pool, but wanted a more permanent job. I was young then and hesitant about supervising someone old enough to be my mother. With all the great recommendations, though, I decided to give Virginia a chance. That was perhaps the best hiring decision I ever made. Virginia retired in 2005, at the age of 79.

Virginia was one of the hardest working people I ever met. Even in her seventies, she was pushing heavy book trucks and shifting thousands upon thousands of books. It was her people skills, though, that made her special. She was like a grandmother to many students.

Virginia was calm when things went wrong. One morning, I found a note on my desk. Virginia had written on a 3"x5" card that a naked man had been in the library the night before. There were no details. When she came to work later that day, I learned the whole story. A resident at the State Development Center had decided that he did not want to take a shower, so he ran away without bothering to dress. He ended up in the library, in front of the Circulation Desk. He mistook a female student for one of his caregivers, and hugged her from behind. She screamed, and he let her go. Students studying on the first floor surround him to keep him from leaving as he repeated "Go home." Campus, city, state and county police had been searching for him. Staff from the Development Center did take him home. Virginia didn't think this situation worth calling me at home.

From Roger Ellert, Technical Services Processing Clerk:
What I remember about Virginia is that she was very professional in the way she went about her work here at the library. Yet in many ways she was the Professor of the Library in that she always had time to show you how to do the work in a proper, accurate, and professional manner. We all gained in experiences from working with Virginia. It was an honor to work with Virginia through the years.

From Shannon Johnson, Reference and Instruction Librarian:
There are so many memories it's really hard to pick one thing. I always got the impression that she wasn't quite ready to retire. I think she may have finally agreed, in part, so that Graham Fredrick and I could have full-time positions at the Service Desk. I'll never forget the first day after her retirement that I came in and sat at her desk (her desk, which in my mind it still is.) I was a nervous wreck, becoming supervisor to people I'd been co-workers with and trying to fill her enormous shoes. I went to look for a pen and when I opened the drawer she'd labeled every single thing in it with tiny little stickers with my name on it. Even the pen had a little flag on it with my name, all typed on her typewriter. It was a so VIRGINIA thing to do. She was always there when you needed her, always supportive and encouraging and she found a way to tell me I was where I belonged even though she wasn't physically there. She knew I'd have a difficult time trying to "be Virginia" and I think it was her way of letting me know it was going to be okay. When I asked Graham, she'd labeled things for him too. It was like getting a hug from a distance. And nothing was better than a hug from Virginia to perk up your day.

Special Needs Funds Application Deadline Changed

Special Needs Funds grant applications will be due March 15, 2011, instead of April 1, 2011 — two week earlier than in past years. The Faculty Senate Library Subcommittee recommended the deadline change to give the librarians and committee members more time to evaluate the requests and work with individual faculty to answer any questions they may have about their request before the applications are submitted and reviewed. This extra time will allow the Senate Library Subcommittee to meet prior to the last week of the semester to approve the grant applications and send letters of award to applicants. Please address questions to the chair of the Faculty Senate Library Subcommittee, Suzanne Lavere, laveres@ipfw.edu. Guidelines and online submission forms can be found on the library's Web site under Library Information > Collections > Collection Development.
Quiet Study Zones

Attention students! When you get serious about studying, finding the right place to work can help you stay focused and productive. Helmke Library has study space for every mood and occasion.

The library's third floor has been designated as the quiet floor. New signs have been hung to inform everyone. Study tables may be found in the northwest corner and along the east wall, next to the shelving for oversized art books. Individual study carrels are located along the outside walls.

Groups of students who would like to get together to discuss assignments are encouraged to make use of the new group study rooms on second floor. Group study tables and group computer work stations are located on second and fourth floors.

Whatever kind of study space works best for you, you can count on doing your best work in the library.

Getting Beaned at the Library!

It happens about this time every semester. Students begin spending many hours in the library studying for their final exams. As part of our efforts to support them during this stressful time, we decided to bean them. Actually, Helmke Library's Dean Cheryl Truesdell and IPFW's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs George McClellan are providing cups of coffee and a choice of healthy snacks at the Coffee/Study Break Table. Located near the main entrance to Helmke Library, the table will be open this semester during the first four evenings of finals week. Although our main focus is on helping students remain alert and motivated, the Coffee/Study Break Table is open to the entire IPFW community. Smiling faces from Academic Advising, the Academic Success Center, and Career Services are just a few of the folks who volunteer to serve up cups of java. As the completion of another semester quickly approaches, we are getting ready to provide gallons of coffee, bushels of apples, and a large assortment of other snacks. So stop by the library between 5:00-9:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 12 through Wednesday, December 15, and prepare to get beaned!

Adopt-a-Book / Adopt-a-Periodical Donors

The library wishes to recognize and thank the following individuals for their donations to the library's Adopt-a-Book / Adopt-a-Periodical program: Book fund donations – John Auld, Diane Behrens, Stephan and Susan Mahrt, Ronald Matheis, Daniel and Stacey Adams; Periodical fund donations - Mary Ann Metry

About Helmke Highlights

The dual purpose of Helmke Highlights is to inform the IPFW community of library activities, services, and resources, and to provide an archive of information about the library. As IPFW's newest library newsletter, Helmke Highlights is issued bimonthly as a public service by the Dean of Helmke Library. It is distributed electronically in PDF format to the IPFW community and selected constituents off campus; a limited supply of printed issues is also available. Archived copies are posted on the library's homepage at http://news.lib.ipfw.edu. For further information about Helmke Library please contact the dean's office by e-mail at admin@lib.ipfw.edu or telephone at 260-481-6514. Copyright 2010 by IPFW. All rights reserved.