

# 2012 – 2013 Annual Report

McConnell Library  
Radford University

Steven P. Helm, Dean of the Library  
April 1, 2013



# Executive Summary

McConnell Library has continued moving in strategic directions with our collection, spaces, and services to better serve the RU learning community. Our strategic goals are transforming McConnell Library into increasing digital, engaging and collaborative roles. While the McConnell building and print collections continue to honor our cherished traditions and history, our virtual services and collections have been expanding dramatically. This report begins with a review of our progress on strategic goals, and then covers a summary of activities, instruction and support, collections, engagement and outreach, McConnell faculty and staff professional development and contributions, awards, and personnel changes.

We continue vigorously pursuing our mission to “build strong relationships and advance learning with all members of the Radford University community.”

## •Goal 1: Make McConnell Library a Radford Destination:

Following last summer’s renovation above the lobby, and several years of roof work on the 1930’s section of McConnell, Radford University Facilities is now focusing their efforts inside the library. Over the summer 2013 they will completely renovate the McConnell Library reading room ceiling, walls, moulding, and lighting.

The 1967 McConnell addition is also undergoing extensive work to the HVAC system to replace worn out dampers with controllable pneumatics, as well as an electrical upgrades to improve the lighting switching system.

## Goal 2: Enhance Spaces for Study and Collaboration:

Three Steelcase media:scape collaborative stations were installed for student group work on levels 2 and 4. These have proven to to be extremely popular with students to perform group work, and prepare for and rehearse class presentations.

**Goal 3: Provide Technology and Support to Improve User Access** through effectively deploy electronic resources, technologies, and staff to expand access to information for students and faculty.

In addition to last year’s roll out of the Electronic Theses and Dissertations repository, the McConnell Technology staff have now created a Syllabi repository to meet requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for all RU departments to retain course syllabi so that they may be easily accessed and reviewed.

In response to faculty requests for locally hosted open electronic journals, McConnell Library has deployed an open source software package called [Open Journal Systems](#) (OJS) by [Public Knowledge Project](#) (PKP). The first two journals hosted in

the McConnell's OJS are Susan Van Patten's "Journal of Unconventional Parks, Tourism & Recreation Research (JUPTRR)", and Dr. Joseph R. Jones and Dr. Jennifer Jones' new quarterly journal on Teacher Education and Leadership.



Open Journal Systems (OJS) is a journal management and publishing system that has been developed by the Public Knowledge Project through its federally funded efforts to expand and improve access to research.

**Goal 4: Enhance and Expand Archives and Special Collections** by continuing to build unique collections that attract specialized researchers and contribute to Radford University's reputation.

The McConnell Library Archives now hosts over 1500 historic RU photos, and nearly 3309 total items in CONTENTdm in 14 collections. The current Radford University Digital Collections include; the Virginia Deal Lawrence Scrapbook Collection, Radford Family Letters Collection, William C. Blizzard Soviet Union Photograph Collection, Keystone Slide Collection, RU Documents, Douglas Covington Collection, Home Economics Collection, Shelor Scrapbook Collection, Appalachian Studies Collection, Harley Cordle Collection, Virginia Iron, Coal, and Coke Company Collection, *Beehive Yearbooks*, and the RU Photograph Collection. Kudos to Archivist Gene Hyde for continuing to seek out, develop these exciting new collections, and for overseeing the the processing and herculean digitization efforts.

**New Archives Reading Room:** Starting in September 2012 the Archives and Special Collections began staffing regular hours for the Archives and Special Collections to assist students and researchers on level 5. This space is being renovated over the spring/

summer 2013 to improve access to, and security of the McConnell Archives and Special Collections. The new space will house a research space to handle materials from the Archives and Special Collections as well as an office for the Archivist.

**Goal 5: Community Engagement:** The library will actively participate in university-wide initiatives and events, and will host events in the library.

In support of the Library's mission, nearly everyone in McConnell Library has been activity working on numerous engagement and outreach activities this past year. Please read the engagement and outreach activities section below.

**Goal 6: Develop Staffing Priorities:** The library will evaluate staffing, make adjustments, and develop staffing priorities to better serve the university community.

While FY 12-13 staffing initiatives were unfunded, the Library developed, revised, and proposed new staffing initiatives for FY13-14 year. These were submitted as part of the Academic Affairs budget development process along with the non-personnel initiatives.

**Goal 7: Pursue Development Opportunities:** The library will identify funding possibilities within the library and will work with the Radford University Foundation to create a development program.

Improvements to the University Advancement website now allow donors to designate McConnell Library as the recipient of their gifts. Donors are now being invited to McConnell Library events and discussions are underway on the feasibility of creating a McConnell Friends of the Library group.

**Goal 8: Create an Assessment Plan:** The library will implement a focused assessment plan to demonstrate library stewardship and impact.

Eric Ackerman, Head of Reference Services and Library Assessment, administered the LibQUAL+® Triads Pilot in the spring 2012 . The resulting survey data is currently has been analyzed and will soon be presented to the McConnell Administrative Council for review, and action.

McConnell department heads have begun utilizing LibPAS Counting Opinions' assessment system to report ACRL statistical data. With reporting ACRL data now underway, we intend broaden LibPAS functionality by storing DOE Academic Libraries data, local statistical data, and data mapping to allow rolling monthly data in to multiple annual reports .

**Goal 9: Demonstrate Agility and Support Innovation:** The library will demonstrate agility in response to unforeseen opportunities and challenges ahead and will encourage and support staff creativity and innovation

# Summary of Activities

McConnell Library faculty and staff are engaged in a full array of both traditional and innovative services to students and faculty. Services and operations are improved and expanded through the work of more than 34 colleagues, student workers, interns, a host of committees, and several of task-specific working groups. This annual report makes no attempt to document every important activity and milestone of the year. Similarly, to use a terms such as “Significant” or “Notable” activities invites glaring omissions. Following report is a sample of activities that reflects the contributions of McConnell Library and the history of its year. **All the McConnell faculty and staff should be highly commended for their role in making this an extremely successful year!**

## Use of McConnell Library:

Number of library instruction sessions taught: **444**  
Total number of students taught in library instruction sessions: **8,058**  
Total number of reference transactions: **6,188**  
Number of books, CDs, DVDs, etc, checked out (excluding renewals): **39,152**  
Number of items ordered from other libraries by Interlibrary Loan: **4,072**  
Number of items loaned to other libraries by Interlibrary Loan: **8,110**

## Use of McConnell Library’s Website and Online Resources:

Total visits to McConnell Library’s website’s front page: **365,639**  
Total visits to individual pages in McConnell’s website: **664,087**  
Number of classic catalog searches: **114,474**, and visits **24,185**  
Number of Encore (discovery platform) searches: **240,518**, and visits **26,461**

## Collection Statistics:

Total number of print books (volumes) in McConnell Library: **370,576**  
Total number of electronic books: **274,264**  
Total number of print and online serial titles subscribed: **31,093**  
Total number of online subscription databases: **397**  
Total number of free online serial titles through consortial sources (VIVA): Over **20,000** full-text journals providing access to millions of articles  
Number of ebooks through VIVA: **24,000**  
Number of academic videos through VIVA: **Over 6,300**  
Full-text reports, dissertations, conference proceedings, pamphlets and newspapers through VIVA: **Over two million**  
Number of databases through VIVA: **Over 170**  
Radford searches of VIVA resources: **252,620**

# Instruction and Instruction Support

Library instruction librarians reached **8,058** students through **444** formal instruction sessions last year. The impact and reach of McConnell instruction librarians continues to outpace all other libraries in RU's peer group. Kudos to all our Instruction Librarians (Candice, Alyssa, Lisa, Jennifer, and Katelyn, and Craig)!

## Collections



**VIVA:** McConnell Library continues to actively participate in the state's library consortium **Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)**. VIVA's 2010-12 biennial budget from all sources was \$27 million. Of this total budget, the amount from the General Assembly remained at \$12 million, which represented approximately 45% of the total budget, 39% was from the public institutions, and 17% was from the private nonprofit institutions. As in the past, the vast majority of expenditures (97%) were for direct services to our members. For the 2010-12 biennium, 93.5% was allocated for electronic collections, 3.3% was allocated to resource sharing and interlibrary loan, half of 1 percent was spent on travel and training, and only 2.7% was spent on administrative costs of any kind.

Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) added two premier collections of e-books in STEM-H fields from Elsevier and Springer. The collections include approximately 700 Elsevier titles, and over 2,000 Springer titles.

The SciVerse Science Direct eBooks from Elsevier and four subject-based e-book collections from Springer will provide McConnell, and other VIVA libraries, with extensive new resources to support government, business, and educational leaders in their efforts to increase the number of college graduates in STEM-H related fields.

These ebooks will be made available through the McConnell Catalog as soon as we get them.

Alison Armstrong served on the VIVA RFP committee for Demand Driven Acquisition project, as well as on the STEM-H e-books RFP committee.

Bud Bennett serves the VIVA InterLibrary Loan subcommittee of the Resource Sharing Committee.

Dean Helm served on the VIVA Steering Committee as well as the Library Advisory Council of the State Council for Higher Education.

**SCHEV Digital Learning Resources:**

Dean Helm served on the SCHEV Digital Learning Resources committee. The work of the DLR group included researching the current state of e-textbooks, the e-textbook market, open e-textbooks, platforms, standards, costs, options, student and faculty attitudes, and resulted in a SCHEV white-paper on E-Textbook, "Feasibility of a Statewide Approach to Purchasing and/or Promoting the Use of E-Textbooks at Virginia's Colleges and Universities." The DLR Group also initiated collaboration between VASCUP members to work on state-wide e-textbook procurement.

The DLR Group also planned the first annual Open and Digital Learning Resources Conference. The OpenVA conference, postponed due to snow, has been rescheduled for Oct 15, 2013 at Mary Washington University.

**Demand-Driven Acquisitions:** The pilot demand driven acquisitions project with YBP Library Services is currently underway. The project began late last year, and we anticipate DDA improving McConnell Library's collection development, acquisition and fiscal processes. YBP's profiling is combined with the ebook publishers to present McConnell patrons with a significant repository of discoverable content that is more extensive than could be acquired under traditional methods. McConnell library's profile is used to designate subject areas for inclusion in its demand-driven plan. On a weekly basis, YBP supplies discovery records for digital titles that match RU's unique profile in order to build a growing "consideration pool" of eligible titles. Patrons can discover the records in the McConnell catalog, and the embedded URL directs them to the ebook for free browsing, short-term loans and purchases.



# Engagement and Outreach

**Library Committee:** The 2012-2013 committee members were:

Dr. Lynn Baluh  
Dr. Julia Castleberry, (chair)  
Dr. Axel Grossmann  
Mr. Steven Helm  
Dr. Lucy Hochstein  
Mr. Gene Hyde  
Dr. Monica Pazmino-Cevallos  
Dr. Premchand Uppuluri  
Dr. Monica Weinzapfel

**McConnell Library Student Advisory Group:**



Spring 2013: Members for Spring 2013 are (from left to right in the photo): Clifford Goodson, Sydney Trotter, Blair Eley, Emily Traylor, Claire Hall, Cali Vasaturo, Keelia McCaffrey, William (Billy) Zakrzewski.

**Outreach Committee:** Alyssa Archer, Candice Benjes-Small (chair), Beth Johnson, Lisa Vassady, Jennifer Whicker. These outstanding librarians have worked tirelessly to support the McConnell Library mission of building “strong relationships and advance learning with all members of the Radford University community.” Many of the successful activities listed below are due to their efforts and those of their inspired colleagues.

Thanks to all the McConnell faculty and staff who through countless hours of hard work made these events successful!

## **Engagement and Outreach Activities (sample)**

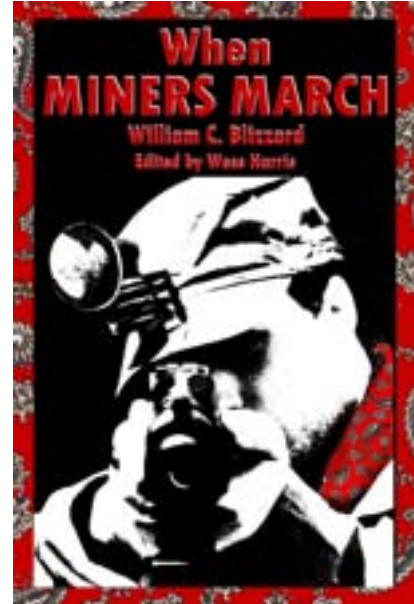
- Month Editions of the *Privy Papers*: Special thanks to Beth Johnson for her writing, editing, and designing, and the McConnell Student Advisory Group for their help with distribution.
- Stress Busters - Fall and Spring exam week.
- Quest- "Top 10 Things to Know About McConnell Library"
- Quest Parent Social - June 2012
- New Faculty Orientation and Social.
- Transfer Student Reception - Fall and Spring

- John Preston McConnell Birthday Celebration - February 22, 2013. Special thanks to all involved especially Kay Johnson who chaired the McConnell Day committee, and Jim Webster for coordinating the restoration of the John Preston McConnell portrait by conservator Sharon Koehler at Hampden-Sydney College.
- Library Appreciation Reception - April 2013. Kudos to Alison armstrong for leading this annual event!
- The second year of co-sponsoring *National Novel Writing Month* (NaNoWriMo) co-sponsored with the RU English Club. Commendations to to Lisa Vassady for her leadership on this project.
- Many McConnell staff attend VLA New Member Roundtable “Out of the Stacks” social events in the NRV.

## Guest Lecturer Wess Harris

Wess Harris a noted authority on the West Virginia Mine Wars and editor of *When Miners March*, presented the story of Bill Blizzard and the Battle of Blair Mountain March 28.

In addition to talking about Blizzard and the Battle of Blair Mountain, Harris also discussed the background behind the William C. and Bill Blizzard When Miners March Coal & Labor Collection, which is housed in the McConnell Library Appalachian Collection. This collection contains transcripts and newspaper accounts of the Battle of Blair Mountain and the subsequent trial, personal papers from William C. Blizzard, documents from Bill Blizzard's career as a UMWA leader, and other materials. The collection is open for research. A finding aid is available and select items from the collection have been digitized and are available in the [Radford University Digital Collections](#). The William C. and Bill Blizzard When Miners March Coal & Labor Collection is part of the Coal and Labor Collections in the RU Archives



## McConnell Day Celebration



The annual McConnell Day celebration of Dr. John Preston McConnell, founding president of Radford University offered the opportunity to unveil the newly restored portrait of Dr. McConnell. After an absence of more than a year the portrait returned fully restored by Hamden-Sydney curator Sharon Koehler. In addition to the unveiling there were presentations by David Horton, Assistant Dean of Students, who discuss Dr. McConnell's mother, Ginsey Elizabeth Brickey McConnell, and his wife, Clara Louisa Lucas McConnell. Steve Helm, Dean of the Library, described the history of Dr. McConnell's portrait. Jim Webster will outlined the portrait restoration process. Gene Hyde, McConnell Library Archivist, spoke on Southwest Virginia, Inc., a regional development and tourism group led by Dr. McConnell. Finally the celebration included a cake served in honor of Dr. McConnell's 147<sup>th</sup> birthday. Special thanks to Kay Johnson who chaired the McConnell Day Committee, and Jim Webster who coordinated the J.P. McConnell portrait restoration project.

### **Stress Busters**

McConnell Library once again offered fall and spring semester Stress Buster programs. Students needing a break from studying for exams enjoy fresh fruit and cheese, hot drinks, cool giveaways, crafts, and games! Some chose to get a relaxing chair massage, make a handmade book or a stress ball, send a postcard to the folks back home, enter a drawing for an R-SPaCE goody bag, snuggle with a therapy dog, pick up some stress-relieving tips from the Student Health Awareness Club/Peer Educators, and make a fun button or two.

**Winesett Research Awards:**

The Winesett Awards for Library Research recognize creative and original library research completed by Radford University undergraduate students.

Congratulations to our 2011-12 Winesett Awards for Library Research winners and finalists!

Carolyn Tucker. Nursing 451 paper, "Protecting those who protect us: Taking steps to reduce sudden cardiac deaths among firefighters in the New River Valley." Sponsored by Professor Maggie Bassett.

Kelsey Townsend. Biology 232 paper on the Ribbon Seal. Sponsored by Professor Christine Small



**Lower Division:**

Katherine Okie. History 295 paper, "The other Virginia Story: The Upper Valley of Virginia, 1750-1780." Sponsored by Professor Kurt Gingrich

Wendy Burcham. Core 201 paper, "Giving: A for-profit business strategy." Sponsored by Professor Erin Berman.

**Finalists:** Madalyn Dunn, Jessica Frazelle, Dylan McDaniel, and Carrie St. Clair

Special thanks to the 2012 Winesett Judges; Candice Benjes-Small, Sandy French, Ian Barland.

## Winesett Book Collection Awards:



The winners of the 2012 Winesett Book Collecting Contest were announced at an Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, November 13, in McConnell Library. The winners are:

- First Place: Rachel Klein for her collection “Vintage Volumes: My Book Collection”
- Second Place: Kirstyn Montgomery for her collection “My LGBT Collection”
- Honorable Mention: Spencer Bennington for his collection “Books that Write the Author”
- Honorable Mention: Annalea Krukowski for her collection “Once Upon A Time.”

Radford students have crafted essays and submitted lists from their personal book collections in hopes of winning the Winesett Book Collecting Contest. This year featured two cash prizes plus honorable mentions. The First Prize was \$600 and a \$100 gift certificate from bookseller Bookworm & Silverfish, and Second Prize was \$400 and a \$100 gift certificate from Bookworm & Silverfish. All winners received a certificate and an engraved bookmark.

## Banned Book Month

McConnell Library participated in the the 30th anniversary of the national Banned Books event, which raises awareness of the hundreds of challenges against literature every year. There are attempts to see books suppressed: out of the schools, out of the libraries, out of the country. Reasons particular books are challenged include religious, sexual, or moral reasons. An online map was used to depict the widespread nature of censored books, by showing the locations of challenges, the titles of the books, reasons why they were challenged, and whether they were censored.

Students, staff, and faculty at Radford University also supported the right to read by getting their “mug shots” snapped for our Banned Books event. Among others, notable works highlighted in the mug shots include *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Fifty Shades of Gray*.

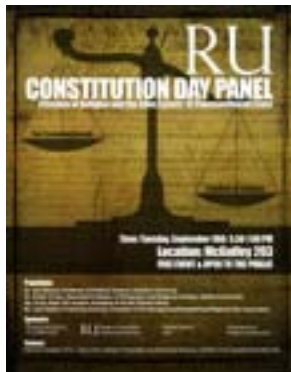


# Voter Education Stations

Headed by Instruction Librarian, Alyssa Archer, the library assisted student prepare for the 2012 election through creating in-person and online Voter Education Stations. The Voter Education Station on the library's main floor provided books, informative materials and handouts, and was supplemented by an online site <http://libguides.radford.edu/vote2012>.

Voter Education Stations provided information and forms for registering, or for applying for an absentee ballot. The Library offered vetted resources to learn more about the candidates for President, Senate and House of Representatives. Kudos to Alyssa Archer for her hard work and leadership on this project!

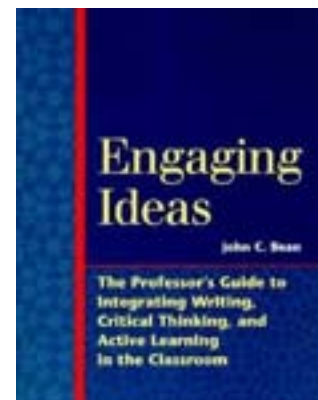
## Freedom of Religion Panel Discussion



In recognition of Constitution Day, the McConnell Library, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the RU Political Science Club, and the RU Philosophy and Religious Studies Club co-sponsored a panel discussion the First Amendment right to freedom of religion. September 18th. Speakers included Dr. Joe Stewart, Dr. Carter Turner, Ms. Emily Redd, and Mr. John Dalton.

## Faculty Book Groups

Forty faculty joined five library book groups to discuss John Bean's *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2011). This series was co-sponsored by McConnell Library and the Faculty Development Center/CITL. Thanks to Candice Benjes-Small (Head of Information Literacy and Outreach; University Coordinator of Information Literacy) who facilitated the book group sessions.





## Douglas Covington Collection



Through the efforts and under the direction of Archivist Gene Hyde, the McConnell Archives has added the [Douglas Covington Collection](#) to [Radford University Digital Collections](#). The Douglas Covington Collection includes photographs of President Covington, many of his convocation speeches, his 1995 inauguration address, and a number of his reports to the Board of Visitors. During a conversation in the Archives in September, 2010, Dr. Covington remarked that he was especially proud of the Board of Visitors Reports, and felt that they provided an accurate record of his presidency.

The Archives also houses many of President Covington's official papers. A finding aid for them is [available here](#).

## McConnell Faculty and Staff Professional Development and Contributions

In addition to providing the many aforementioned services and activities, McConnell Librarians and staff were also quite prolific in their professional development activities including the following sample of activities:

- ❖ Eric Ackermann presented on McConnell Library's use of the LibPAS library assessment management software to the SCHEV Library Advisory Council.
- ❖ Candice Benjes-Small presented a paper on Web evaluation at LOEX of the West Conference, a Poster on Website evaluation and a paper on Core Connections program at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy and a paper on our library's collaboration with libraries at Hollins and VT on instructional pedagogy at the Information Literacy conference.
- ❖ Gene Hyde presented as part of a panel discussion based on research in Appalachian Collections and a roundtable on using Archivists Toolkit at the Society for American Archivists Annual Conference.
- ❖ Kay G. Johnson was a Pre-conference presenter, Conference Planning Committee member at the NASIG Conference.
- ❖ Elizabeth S. McCormick presented on RDA/AACR2, awarded scholarship winners at the opening general session, and held the VLA Scholarship Committee's raffle at the 2012 VLA Annual Conference.
- ❖ Lisa Vassady gave a poster session at the VT Pedagogy Conference, and presented a paper on our library's collaboration with libraries at Hollins and VT on instructional pedagogy at the Information Literacy Conference.
- ❖ Jennifer Whicker presented a poster session with Candice Benjes-Small and Lisa Vassady at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech, and a session at VLACRL "Conference-Within-a-Conference" at the 2012 VLA Annual Conference.

# Awards

Lydia McAllister, Operations Manager and Candice Benjes-Small, Head of Information Literacy and Outreach were honored as RU Distinguished Women as part of the 2013 Women's History Month. Congratulations!

# Personnel Changes

## **New Colleagues**

Craig Arthur, Instruction Librarian

Katelyn Tucker, Instruction Librarian

Jason Shepherd, Collection Assistant

## **Resignations**

Josh Akers, Computer Technician

Adrian Whicker, Collection Assistant

## **Retirements**

Ben Norris,

Reference Librarian

