

# OUTLOOK

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

FALL 09

## REMEMBERING LOTHAR SPANG



*Librarian Lothar Spang passed away on July 3, 2009.*

On July 3, 2009, the Wayne State University Library System lost a wonderful librarian, valued colleague and great friend with the death of Lothar Spang. He was 66. "Lothar was the type of person that you assumed would always be there because he always was. He was a great man that will be missed but never forgotten," said Matt Wisotsky, Help Desk supervisor at the Wayne State Libraries.

Spang earned his master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan and held bachelor's and postgraduate degrees in history from Wayne State University. He spent his entire career with Wayne State, starting in the early 1960s as a student assistant. He moved on to become a librarian, for which he received tenure in 1974. During his time with the libraries, Spang held many positions, including assistant to G. Flint Purdy, adjunct faculty in the School of Library and Information Science and as building director of the Purdy/Kresge Library, among others. "Lothar was my escort when I first came to Wayne State in the 80s to interview for a librarian position," said Librarian Nancy Wilmes. "He had a way of putting me at ease and making the interview day a relaxing and wonderful experience."

*...continued on next page*

Spang served as a grievance coordinator and executive board member of the Wayne State University American Association of University Professors (AAUP) union until his death. "As an officer in his union, Lothar was tireless in the representation of his colleagues and loved his work for the university and the union," said Charles Parrish, political science professor and president of the Wayne State AAUP-AFT Local 6075. "He was a happy warrior for the things in which he believed."

In addition to serving as a librarian and educator, Spang served as a member of numerous professional associations including the American Library Association, Association for College and Research Libraries, the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters and the Michigan Library Association, as well as serving as a member of the Wayne State Academic Senate. A co-

author of several works on outreach and partnerships, in 2006 he received the Outstanding Faculty Award from Educational Accessibility Services.

In recent years, Spang focused on community service and outreach projects, concentrating his efforts on information literacy and job training programs. He directed the Book Lovers Collection Writing Contest, an annual essay competition funded by the United Parcel Service that awards cash prizes to junior and high school student essays that reflect the students' private book collections. He also coordinated the Wayne State Library System's annual Job Shadow Days to introduce Detroit students to library resources and the profession of librarianship. Spang's latest endeavor, the chapbook program, sought to improve literacy in Detroit area schools. Throughout the city, Wayne State librarians worked with K-12

students in their classrooms to create artwork and poetry that was compiled and published. "Lothar opened the gates of opportunity and higher education to hundreds and hundreds of young people through his outreach efforts," said Sandra Yee, dean of the Wayne State Library System.

In addition to his academic outreach work, Spang reached out to the community during the holidays by serving as the coordinator of the Adopt-a-Family program that was run by the Wayne State Library System. Through his work with area schools, Spang developed a partnership with a guidance counselor at nearby Edmonson Elementary School who recommended needy families for the program. In the last five years, co-coordinator, Joanne Miyamoto, personnel clerk at the Library System, and Lothar rallied other staff members to assist in helping out the families



*After he stepped down from being an administrator, Lothar found an important role as a mentor for new librarians, an advocate for outreach to the Detroit community and a supporter of librarian rights.*

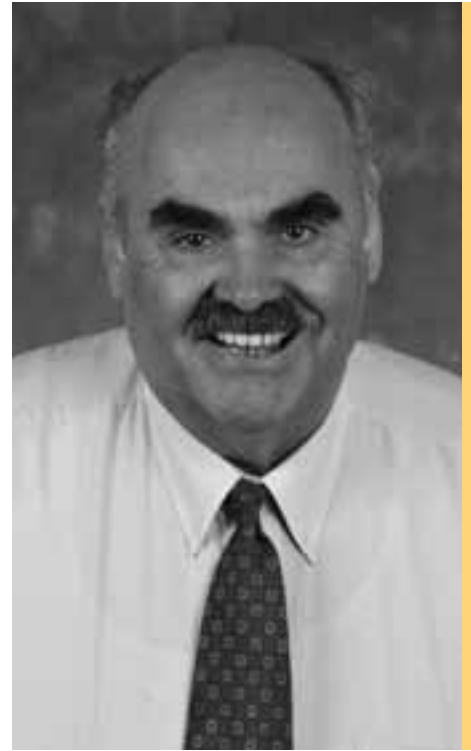
**Bob Holley,**  
SLIS professor





*Lothar Spang was the heart and soul of WSU Libraries. He cared about all levels of staff, the library collections and services, the faculty and the community surrounding the university.*

*Karen Bacsonyi,  
retired WSU librarian*



by providing Thanksgiving dinners and collecting hundreds of gifts for the children and their families for the holiday season. “For Lothar, it was all about the kids—that’s where his passion was,” said Miyamoto. “It was important to Lothar to bring Wayne State to the community and show these kids that the university was here and looking out for them.”

“He was a great librarian, mentor and friend,” said Dean Yee. “This loss will be felt by all of us here in the Library System and across the university.”

### **LIBRARY SYSTEM ESTABLISHES TWO LOTHAR SPANG MEMORIAL FUNDS**

Two memorial funds were recently created to further Lothar Spang’s commitment to the things that meant the most to him.

The School of Library and Information Science established the *Lothar Spang Memorial Annual Scholarship* in honor

of the longtime librarian’s years of dedication and service to the university and Detroit community. The Spang fund will recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and provide assistance to students in financing their education in the SLIS.

*The Lothar Spang Community Outreach and Engagement Tribute Fund* will honor Lothar Spang’s demonstrated commitment to increase awareness and access to higher education for youth and their families in underserved and diverse communities.

To donate to either fund, make checks payable to Wayne State University with the memo portion indicating the appropriate fund. Mailed gifts should be sent to WSU Fund Office, 5475 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. For more information, contact Marguerite Carlton, major gifts officer, at (313) 577-2822.

## LIBRARY SYSTEM WELCOMES VIRGINIA C. THOMAS AS LAW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

On February 1, the Library System welcomed Virginia C. Thomas as the new director of the Arthur Neef Law Library.

Thomas joined the Library System with over 30 years of experience working



in law libraries, most recently as Law Library and Information Technology director at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she also served as an adjunct law professor. Previously, Thomas held positions at the University of Miami School of Law, Loyola University of Chicago School of Law and the Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology. "Wayne State is widely recognized as a model among urban research institutions and I'm glad to be a part of that," said Thomas.

Thomas received a B.A. in philosophy and German language and literature from DePaul University, an M.B.A. and J.D. from the Illinois Institute

of Technology, and an M.A. in library science from the University of Chicago. She has taught, lectured and coordinated instructional support in law and is currently developing a course in empirical legal research. The author of numerous publications and presentations, Thomas is active in professional and community service activities and organizations.

As the director of the Neef Law Library, Thomas is now responsible for overseeing one of the nation's 30 largest legal collections. Thomas succeeds Georgia Clark, who retired from Wayne State after serving over 30 years as the director of the Law Library. "Virginia Thomas is a wonderful fit for the Law Library," said Sandra Yee, dean of the University Library System. "She is already building on our strengths and taking the quality of service to the next level. We're thrilled to have her here."

## SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE HOSTS REACCREDITATION VISIT

The American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation (COA) Review Team visited the Wayne State campus from October 3-6 to evaluate the School of Library and Information Science for reaccreditation. Each MLIS degree program accredited by the ALA goes through an extensive review process every seven years. The vast majority of public and academic professional librarian positions in the United States and Canada require a master's degree from an accredited program as a pre-condition of employment.

In preparation for this regularly scheduled evaluation, the administration and faculty conducted a review during the past year to determine how the SLIS is meeting the *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library & Information Studies*. The SLIS presented its assessment to the review team and the COA will determine whether the SLIS will receive accreditation for the next seven years. The School receives its final decision concerning continuing accreditation in January 2010.

## UPDATES AND RENOVATIONS IN THE LIBRARIES

### TRC Instructional Lab

A lab in the Technology Resource Center has been completely renovated into the LearnLab, a space that better utilizes design and technology to encourage learning and collaboration. The space received a fresh coat of brightly colored paint and was divided into two areas, the LearnLab and a faculty lounge area.

The LearnLab was designed to encourage collaboration by incorporating four large tables with six chairs each. Using triangulation, three screens were placed throughout the space so that all spots in the lab have a view of the screens. With the addition of a laptop cart, instructors have an option to teach with or without computers. The Office for Teaching and Learning staff will pilot the layout and technology in the space but in the future, Wayne State instructors will be encouraged to use the space for teaching classes.

### Kresge Third Floor Remodeling

The entire third floor of the Kresge Library is being remodeled to create new office space for the School of Library and Information Science faculty. The new office design will create an open and collaborative environment for faculty to work with students. When the construction is complete, there will be 24 new offices, two conference rooms, a server room and a kitchenette.

### UGL 2nd Floor Renovations

With the expansion of the Honors College further into the UGL's second

floor, the Library System is renovating the area to create 15 new group study rooms on the south side of the second floor. The construction is expected to be completed before the winter semester.



*TRC LearnLab*



*TRC Faculty Lounge*



## SHIFFMAN MEDICAL LIBRARY OPENS INSIDE RICHARD J. MAZUREK, M.D. MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMONS

After over 35 years in its previous location, the new Shiffman Medical Library opened in May inside the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D. Medical Education Commons. The new library is 34,300 square feet and optimized for wireless mobile technologies. The building has an instruction lab and 13 group study rooms as well as 20 desktop stations for student use. Motion-activated compact shelving allows for easy retrieval of books while leaving more open space for study areas, as well as conserving energy.



Aligning with Wayne State's Living Green Initiative, the Education Commons received a high Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating. The LEED rating system encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. The new construction reused building materials from previous renovations wherever possible and recycled minimal waste in environmentally responsible ways.



## LIBRARIES LOSE LONGTIME STAFF MEMBER, SU BARDELEBEN

*Written by Diane Paldan and Kim Bursick*

When we lost Su Bardeleben at the end of August, we lost a kind and supportive friend and colleague. Su was dedicated to her family, her friends, and this institution.

Su first worked for Wayne State University in the 60s, left to work at the VA hospital and later returned to Wayne, working at Science and Engineering since the 80s. Su was a curious person and a forward thinker. She was always eager to test and embrace new technologies. She loved learning new things and was one of the first staff involved in exploring online options for journals – searching sites and printing out licenses. The move to electronic fascinated her.

She cared for her mother for decades and those of us who knew the situation realized what a physical and mental challenge that was. Su also struggled with her own illnesses for over a decade, determined to remain a productive part of the Library System.

Throughout these personal challenges, Su always met life with her sense of humor intact. She had a delightfully wicked streak of comedy, which was accentuated by her love of words and language. Su could always be counted on to lighten a difficult day with a terribly clever, yet awful, pun.

Su was an avid reader with broad-ranging, eclectic tastes. She always had a book or two with her at work. Our best memory is of her standing at the side of SEL during her



breaks or lunch, reading her books and smoking, indulging in what she referred to as her “evil deed.”

Su’s family suggested that donations in Su’s memory go to Seedlings, a non-profit organization that provides Braille books to children, which Su herself donated to over the years. For more information on Seedlings and how to donate, visit [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org).

## DONOR AND NEW BOARD OF VISITORS MEMBER: MICHAEL SULLIVAN WELLS

The Wayne State University Library System Board of Visitors (BOV) recently welcomed longtime Detroit resident Michael Sullivan Wells as its newest member. As a BOV member, Sullivan Wells brings a strong sense of community-mindedness and a desire to help the libraries be vibrant and responsive institutions within the community.

Sullivan Wells began his library career nearly 35 years ago with the Detroit Public Library (DPL) when he began working in Services to Shut-Ins and Retirees. During his years at the DPL, he served in a variety of positions and locations including chief of the Bookmobile Program, chief of Conely, manager of Edison, coordinator of the Douglass Branch for Specialized Services. Most

recently, he was coordinator of TIP, a free community information and referral service that helps people find answers to the problems of everyday living.

As a library and information science student at Wayne State University, Sullivan Wells was a fellow in a program established by Professor Genevieve Casey to educate librarians on serving economically disadvantaged and underserved populations. Currently, he is giving back to the program that offered him a start in the library field by leading a fundraising effort for an endowed scholarship in Genevieve Casey's name to provide education in urban librarianship.

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From left: Darlean Bridges, LIS class of '72, Provost Nancy Barrett, Michael Wells, Professor Genevieve Casey, SLIS Director Stephen Bajjaly and Dean Sandra Yee at the SLIS Urban Librarian summit held last year at WSU's McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Together, Wells and Bridges are spearheading the fundraising efforts for the Professor Genevieve M. Casey Endowed Scholars Fund.



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*Every attempt is made to provide accurate information. If there are any edits or omissions to this list, please contact Development Director Marguerite Carlton, at (313) 577-2822 or margueritec@wayne.edu*

## GREETINGS FROM DEAN SANDRA YEE



As the fall semester gets underway, the Library System is working hard to continue aligning our services and resources with patron needs to make using our libraries even easier.

We've begun a review to evaluate our current journal subscriptions to determine how best to meet the teaching and research needs of the University, given available resources. With the help of faculty, and under the guidance of our library liaisons, we will assign priorities to our journals. This will help us determine the most

appropriate titles to retain so that our collection meets the needs of students, researchers and faculty. It will align with our teaching and research goals at the university as well as encourage a collaboration with faculty, students and staff.

Another major initiative this semester is the Amnesty Program, an endeavor that we haven't explored for over 10 years. From October 1 through November 15, we're asking patrons to bring back overdue books and other library materials that are in good condition without penalty or fine. In this economic climate, this program is especially important because it helps us recover our materials and also allows our users to keep a little extra money in their pockets.

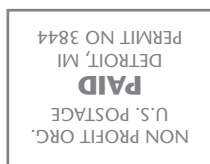
Our Public Services group held its first ever Staff Information Fair in order to better educate our staff about working with our users. The fair

consisted of information booths and short presentations on library services. Some of the topics covered included reserves and e-reserves, library security situations, referring users to library liaisons, helping patrons find information using ArticleReach, MEL and ILL and other areas. The fair was well attended and staff reported that they learned a lot.

Finally, we unveiled our new University Libraries Web site. Based on user feedback, the new Web site features a complete redesign, with user-friendly navigation and full access to all of our resources. Visit [www.lib.wayne.edu](http://www.lib.wayne.edu) for all your research needs as well as to find out about library news, events and programs.

Sandra G. Yee,  
Dean

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UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM  
3100 Undergraduate Library  
Detroit, MI 48202