Friends of the Library Events

A Fine Romance-Jewish Songwriters, American Songs: Using images from Broadway musicals, classic films and personal collections, "A Fine Romance" tells the story of Jewish artists who created songs of wit, sophistication and optimism through America's ups and downs during the 20th century. Opening night Jan. 19 features a talk by Dr. Jack Spiro. (more)

Southern Film Festival: Along with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and others, VCU Libraries sponsors the Southern Film Festival, Feb. 24-25, which explores Southern identity, culture and the big screen. "Rebels" is the 2012 theme. Programs explore Margaret Mitchell, "Shenandoah," the Mississippi Freedom Riders and the little-known film "The Black Six." The story follows bikers, played by NFL stars, who travel the South to avenge a friend's death. Richmond, NFL Hall of Famer and actor Willie Lanier will speak. (more)

Coming up:
Feb. 22 - 10th annual VCU Libraries Black History Month program with advertising legend Tom Burrell
March 22 - Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa
March 29 - 27th annual Brown-Lyons Lecture, "Jerusalem: A Tale of Three Cities"

News and Updates
**Free books**: The VCU Friends of the Library are making room. Volumes leftover from the fall book sale are available for free. Go to the ground floor of James Branch Cabell Library. Remember: Book donations are welcome year-round. [Contact us.](https://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=766753687&message_id=1696741&user_id=VCU_&group_id=761551&jobid=8479996)

**John Ulmschneider distinguished alumnus**: Honored by his alma mater - the No. 1-ranked program in the nation - Ulmschneider, VCU university librarian and professor, spoke at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science's Fall commencement ceremony Dec. 18 ([more](https://www.facebook.com/)). Photos on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).

**Wintery pop-up books on display**: Seasonal selections from Special Collections and Archives' outstanding collection are on display on the fourth floor at Cabell Library. Betty Tisinger donated the books. As a retired VCU professor from the School of the Arts, she has a keen eye for art books. This display features works by Robert Sabuda, an artist and illustrator who specializes in paper engineering and three-dimensional projects involving paper.

**Paintings at auction**: VCU's School of Pharmacy will host a benefit auction of selected paintings from Dean Victor A. Yanchick's "Watercolors" exhibition at Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences. The auction will take place at 6 p.m. Feb. 3. ([more](https://www.facebook.com/))

**Cabell First Novelist Award deadline**: There's still time for first-time novelists to be considered for the 2011 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award and its $5,000 prize. Books published July-December 2011 can be submitted no later than Jan. 15, 2012. [Details about eligibility and the selection process](https://www.facebook.com/)

**New to digital collections**: "The Newlyweds and Their Baby," a rare book of early comics featuring family life, is online. This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Jennifer L. Cason, digital specialist at the VCU Libraries from 2007 to 2011.

**News to use**

This should help with basketball banter. In the second-floor VIP skybox section of the Stuart C. Siegel Center, you'll see an exhibition panel (prepared by Special Collections and Archives) about VCU's basketball history. Here's the gist of it. Before VCU donned black and gold, it wore green and gold. The panel focuses on the Richmond Professional Institute (RPI) intercollegiate men's team The Green Devils, formed in 1946. At that time, this forerunner of VCU was affiliated with the College of William and Mary and shared its green and gold colors. The Green Devils competed against other small Virginia colleges in the Little Eight informal league. The Devils retired in the 1962-63 academic year.

[www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=766753687&message_id=1696741&user_id=VCU_&group_id=761551&jobid=8479996](https://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=766753687&message_id=1696741&user_id=VCU_&group_id=761551&jobid=8479996)
Inside insight

How many times during the last fiscal year did students borrow laptop computers?

37,740. Loans of laptops jumped from 8,214 in 2008-09 to 37,740 in 2010-11; renewals increased from 529 in 2008-09 to 4,053 in 2010-11. Laptop computers are now the single-largest circulating tangible item (compared to e-resources) in the library system.

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Your annual gift to the Friends of the Library makes library events and communications like this e-newsletter possible. If you are not a member of the Friends, please consider becoming one and making a donation today.

Have you lost your card and need a replacement? Do you want to make an additional gift of support to VCU Libraries? Need to renew your books over the phone? Not sure when your Friends benefits expire? If you would prefer we send updates to a different email address or if your mailing address or phone number has changed, contact us so we can make sure you aren't missing the latest updates from VCU Libraries. Please call Antonia FD Vassar (B.A. '05/A), assistant director of development, at (804) 827-1165.