Building update: New library faces ‘The Compass’ on Shafer Court

Although funding for actual construction depends on a General Assembly appropriation in the current 2013 session, VCU is moving ahead with designing the new Monroe Park Campus library building adjacent to and connected to James Branch Cabell Library. The schematic design and an updated cost estimate were submitted to the state’s Bureau of Capital Outlay Management in early December. On Jan. 14, the VCU building committee met to kick off the next phase of preliminary design, which will continue into the spring. Architects are refining the exterior façade design, but the site plan shows the footprint of the building and the new entrance off the “Compass” on Shafer Court.
How do race and wrongful conviction connect?

VCU Libraries’ 11th Annual Black History Month Lecture is Feb. 5. The topic is “Justice for All: Race, Wrongful Conviction and the Innocence Project.” Peter Neufeld, co-director of the Innocence Project, will take the stage with Marvin Anderson, who was exonerated of wrongful conviction through the use of DNA evidence. In 1982, Anderson was charged with crimes that he did not commit, and he spent the next 15 years in prison. Anderson, currently an Innocence Project Board member, and Neufeld, who assisted Anderson in winning his exoneration, will explore the controversial relationship between race and wrongful conviction in a program focusing on the important work of the Innocence Project. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A book sale, signing and reception will follow. Registration is open.

On the first wave of innovation

As one of the first major research universities to launch a pioneering new cloud-resident enterprise library platform, Virginia Commonwealth University hosted a Jan. 9 session designed to help other libraries around the world prepare for the next generation of library technologies. “Moving Up to the Cloud” is the wave of the future, according to industry leaders who spoke.

"The great majority of our collected, acquired library collections now reside in the cloud," said John Ulmschneider, university librarian. "We spend most of our money buying journals that we don’t have on site. … We don’t have a catalog anymore. We are at the point now where the catalog is just wrapped into everything else, and no one even notices that there isn't a separate catalog anymore."

- Watch the presentation
- Read VCU news article
- Photos from the event
What do you think?

The VCU Libraries web redesign team invites your ideas and opinions. Take a minute and help us build the library web site of the future. *Answer our five quick questions, please!*

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Updates and announcements

- **VCU Libraries in the News**
  - John E. Ulmschneider on [WLEE's “Jack Gravely Show,”](#) John Duke on [WCVE-FM](#) and more
- **New programs serve international students**
- **RamSafe shuttles new on the scene at Cabell and other locations**
- **Cabell Novelist Award receives record submissions:** Readers needed.

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Upcoming events

- **Feb 5:** 11th Annual Black History Month Lecture - The topic is “Justice for All: Race, Wrongful Conviction and the Innocence Project.”
- **March 13:** “Gabriel's Conspiracy: Exploring the Richmond Slave Rebellion of 1800,” featuring Michael Nicholls and Philip J. Schwarz
- **Late March:** “Another Untold Story of Race and Richmond,” Carmen Foster reflects on the history of Hartshorn Memorial College, a women’s college that became part of Virginia Union University
- **April 4:** Dr. Jack Spiro’s annual Brown-Lyons Lecture, “What Gives Life Meaning? A Jewish Response”
In the book blog:
Literary horror, short stories and a new look at Tolkien

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Update your information: Do you have a new email address or address? Please update your information by contacting Gregory G. Kimbrell (M.F.A.'11/A), membership and events coordinator, at (804) 828-0593.

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