May 2012

NEWS AND UPDATES

Commonwealth's budget includes VCU Libraries: The 2012-14 Virginia biennial budget includes funds to plan and design a new library building on the Monroe Park Campus adjacent to James Branch Cabell Library. In May, the University will issue a request for proposals from architectural firms. Actual design work should begin before the fall semester starts.

"This is the all-important first step in an 18-month design and planning effort," said University Librarian John E. Ulmschneider. "VCU's goal is to create nothing less than first-in-class academic work space for our students, in a building distinguished by the vibrancy and energy it reflects from the VCU community."

The process will result in an architectural design for the new building, renovation plans for the existing Cabell Library that will connect it to the new building and construction drawings. More.

Late nights at the Libraries: In a pilot program, Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences extends service hours — closing at midnight — through May 10, during busy study days. More. At James Branch Cabell Library, the spring semester pilot program of 24-hour operations Sunday-Thursday continues. Starbucks also matches Cabell's 24-hour cycles.
New to the Collection—The Vogue Archive: An icon of the modern age, Vogue magazine was founded in 1892 for New York's social and chic elite. Articles, fiction, advertisements, fashion spreads and illustration and photography by leading visual artists document vast cultural changes. (Image, May 1961, The Vogue Archive) Says art collection librarian Emily Davis, "While many people think of Vogue as just a fashion magazine, in reality it presents a broad portrait of its era. Searching through the archives one can not only track the change in silhouettes, but one can also view pictures of Paris after the liberation, read an interview with Fellini or an essay by Simone de Beauvoir. Fashion does not exist in a vacuum. Vogue documents both style and society." Members of Friends of the Library have access to VCU Libraries databases inside library buildings. More.

On view in VCU Libraries Galleries

- INTERSECTIONS: ART AND SCIENCE at Tompkins-McCaw Library
- The Fourth Floor Gallery at Cabell Library shows off holdings from Special Collections and Archives. New this spring, a display features the career and art of Richmond Professional Institute alumnus Carl "Chick" Larsen (1923-91), longtime cartoonist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

James River Writers connections: University Librarian John E. Ulmschneider has joined the Advisory Board of James River Writers, the region's substantial educational and networking organization for writers and readers. More. In April, Cabell Library hosted a poetry master class for James River Writers.

Serving students and saving resources: The Associated Press Stylebook is the bible of usage in mass communications and public relations. VCU Libraries recently introduced the online version and purchased enough licenses so that faculty can use the online version in classroom settings. Since the School of Mass Communications requires all students in journalism and in many other courses to buy the current Stylebook ($20) or purchase an individual subscription to the online version ($25 annually), "this online resource might save students a significant amount of money each year," according to the school's website.
Tweet, tweet, tweet: Want to stay in touch with VCU Libraries 140 characters (or fewer) at a time? Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences is posting a stream of timely health and medical items and you can get a taste of library life in the wee hours by following tweets from the overnight desk. Follow us.

Open house at CHEC: Some 350 people attended the April 17 open house celebrating 10 years of service at the Community Health Education Center, Gateway Building, 1200 Marshall St. This consumer health information library is one of only a few such centers nationwide. View photos from the reception.

News to use: the Community Health Education Center's new web site is packed with free information resources to enhance community health. Tell your friends about the site.

Stay in touch: Like us on Facebook to keep updated with the latest in library news! Follow us on Twitter, too. 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.

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