



# Milne Library Infobits

A Newsletter of SUNY Geneseo's Milne Library

No.8

Fall 2007

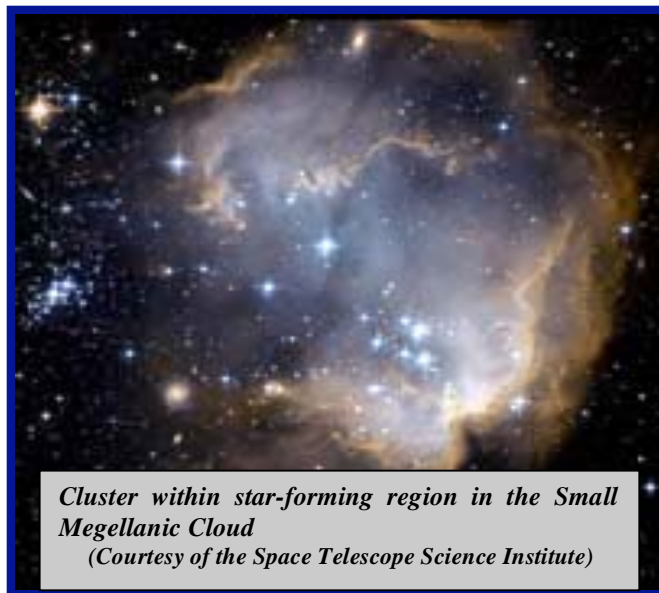
## Milne Library Reaches Starry Heights with *Heavens Above* Exhibit

Milne Library has undertaken its most spectacular and ambitious exhibit ever – *Heavens Above*, a series of twenty-nine 30 x 40-inch backlit color transparencies of images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. You may have seen some of these images before, in *National Geographic* or on posters, but you've never seen them blown up, illuminated and displayed like this!

The traveling exhibit, created by the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art and sponsored by Geneseo Corporate and Business Partners, runs from Aug. 27 through Dec. 17. The main floor of the Library has been transformed as the images glow on the Gallery walls and on new walls created specifically to display the panels. An accompanying kiosk featuring a large plasma screen, placed just inside the entrance to Milne Library, provides additional Hubble- and NASA-related video programming.

In conjunction with the semester-long exhibit, Milne Library has been offering an array of special programs and events, including a grand opening celebration on Friday, September 7 and a two-day visit in October by Joel Primack and Nancy Ellen Abrams, authors of last year's thought-provoking book *The View From the Center of the Universe: Discovering Our Extraordinary Place in the Cosmos*. Other speakers have visited throughout the semester to discuss topics such as scientific breakthroughs with Hubble, Native American star lore, Mayan archaeoastronomy, the sacred feminine in Native American cosmology, and the meaning of life.

A film series has also been part of the *Heavens Above* programming. In September, Milne Library teamed with the Alan Lutkus International Film Series to show the 1972 Soviet



*Cluster within star-forming region in the Small Magellanic Cloud  
(Courtesy of the Space Telescope Science Institute)*

classic, *Solaris*, and in November showed the documentary film *Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the Stars*, with assistant filmmaker Sue Cowell on hand to lead a discussion afterward.

Several special displays have been installed in Milne to complement the larger exhibit, including a scale model of the solar system, a meteorite on loan from Cornell, and an eclectic sample of astronomy-related items from Physics and Astronomy Professor Emeritus David Meisel's collection.

To foster student involvement, Milne Library has organized special activities around the *Heavens Above* theme. In September, students took part in a Hubble Scavenger Hunt, designed to help them learn more about space, NASA and Hubble while using the Library's print collections and online resources. William Sankey took home the \$100 prize for that event. In November, students and student groups presented their interpretations of "Recreating the Galaxy." Among the participants in this activity were ANTH 235 students who worked in groups of three to write and recite poems related to the Mayan vision of the universe, a dance competition class that performed an original piece based on the exhibit, and students presenting a diorama. The presentations were judged and prizes were awarded.

The *Heavens Above* exhibit and all events are free and open to the public. Please visit <http://heavensabove.geneseo.edu> for more information, or call or email exhibit coordinator Tracy Paradis (585-245-5159 or [paradis@geneseo.edu](mailto:paradis@geneseo.edu)).

**SEE INSIDE FOR MORE PICTURES AND DETAILS OF THE EXHIBIT AND ALL THE *HEAVENS ABOVE* EVENTS!**

## Database Comings and Goings

### New Arrivals

**CQ Researcher.** Long a staple of Milne's print reference collection, this title has joined the surge of resources moving online. Single-themed, 12,000-word reports are published 44 times a year. Recent topics have included the mortgage crisis, fish farming, shock jocks, coal's comeback and the rise of megachurches. Congressional Quarterly published this as *Editorial Research Reports* between 1923 and 1990.

**World Folklore and Folklife.** From Greenwood Publishing, this traces the origins and development of all aspects of traditional cultures around the world and gathers into one place diverse material on folklore. A search for "Old Women Tales" returns 74 results including the full text of "How a Poor Old Woman Got a Lot of Linen and Lost It Again."

**RILM Abstracts of Music Literature.** Published by Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale, New York,

this premier international guide to music scholarship covers over 500 journals as well books, bibliographies, catalogues, conference proceedings, discographies, dissertations, ethnographic recordings, Festschriften, films, iconographies and videos.



### Departures

**Biography and Genealogy Master Index and LexisNexis Statistical Universe.** These resources were infrequently used. However, *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* and

numerous other resources are available to SUNY Geneseo students, faculty and staff from the New York State Library. Apply for a card which will permit remote access to all these resources at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/apply.htm>.

**Music Index.** This was replaced by *RILM Abstracts of Music Literature*, listed above.

### New Cameras Available at Milne



Thanks to a generous donation from Eastman Kodak Company, Milne Library was able to purchase three new Kodak EasyShare Z712 zoom digital cameras for circulation. These 7.1 megapixel cameras boast a 12x optical zoom lens for greater picture range, optical image stabilization to improve video stability and reduce the effects of camera shake, a High ISO mode to 3200 for low light situations and a panorama stitch mode for creating panoramic scenes with up to three pictures.

The cameras also have the ability to take 640x480 (VGA) video. The large 2.5 inch LCD indoor/outdoor display makes it easy to view and delete pictures and to use the many on-camera features such as video editing, cropping and copying. The onboard Kodak Perfect Touch technology gives users the ability to

enhance image quality before downloading the pictures to a computer.

In addition to these three new cameras, Milne offers three Kodak EasyShare Z730, 5.0MP/4x optical zoom cameras. All, plus a wide angle lens for the Z730, are available at Milne's Circulation Desk for 1-day loan.

## Summer Sleuths in the Library

From July 16-27, Milne Library and Fraser Study Center were the sites of "crime scenes" investigated by a group of Rochester middle schoolers participating in a two-week CSI-themed camp geared at helping students stay on the right educational track. Kim Davies Hoffman, Reference/Instruction Librarian, was invited to work with several other faculty members from across the campus in designing and organizing the program. She also participated as an instructor.

The fictional crime, which was committed before the campers' arrival, involved the theft of WPA paintings. As they worked to solve the case, the students learned essential skills like forensic collection and analysis, crime scene sketching, digital photography, public speaking, interviewing, critical thinking, library research and blogging.

Many of Milne's librarians posed as suspects and witnesses and quickly became subjects of the students' keen observation, direct and hard hitting questions, and overall suspicion. In the end, it was Milne's very own Sue Ann Brainard, Reference/Instruction Librarian, who was taken away in handcuffs and indicted before Geneseo Town Justice Tom



Bushnell for the theft of one of the four paintings. Despite Brainard's protest, "You can't arrest me -- I'm a librarian!," she was found "guilty" of grand larceny with other potential charges pending, including

breaking & entering and vandalism.

Formally known as the Rochester Young Scholars Academy at Geneseo (RYSAG), this new collaborative program was the brainchild of Susan Norman, Director of SUNY Geneseo's Xerox Center for Multicultural Teacher Education, working in cooperation with the Rochester City School District and the Rochester After-School Academy (RASA).

# Student Needs Are the Focus of Milne's Latest Renovations

True to Milne Library's mission "to create an intellectual environment that promotes the search for knowledge and a passion for lifelong learning," great changes have been made to the building's lower level to accommodate an ever broader array of student needs.



*In with the new: making Room 104 ultra-flexible*

One large room has been retooled to house the new Center for Academic Excellence, where students can receive tutoring help from trained peers. Four of the five discreet tutoring areas, each outfitted with computers and white boards, can accommodate groups of one to three students, and a larger area allows for slightly larger groups (up to ten persons). The library is already home to the Satellite Writing Center, on the main floor, to which students flock for help with writing research papers and other projects.

*Minds at work in the Center for Academic Excellence*



Across the hall from the Center for Academic Excellence is a newly-constructed classroom that can hold up to 24 persons. Like the Library's other four "smart" classrooms,

this one is equipped with wireless laptop computers, multi-media-ready instructor's station with projection, whiteboards and other features that make for the most effective teaching and learning environment possible. To help accommodate the increasing number of international students at the College, this classroom will be heavily used by the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program.

The office of the ESOL and Dual Degree Programs Director, Jeannette Molina, has been moved into a newly-

designed area next door to the new classroom, as has the office of Irene Belyakov, who is an ESOL instructor, lab supervisor and coordinator. Adjacent to these offices are a comfortable study area and a small-group meeting and learning space furnished with a seminar table (which can be broken down into smaller tables), desks, whiteboards and computers.



*President Dahl and ESOL/Dual Degree Programs Coordinator Jeannette Molina cut the ribbon at the Nov. 15 Grand Opening*

One of the Library's most popular classrooms, Room 104, has also undergone a major facelift. It has been transformed from a room filled with immovable tables and computer terminals to a much more flexible design incorporating mobile, modular computer tables with hardwired computers and special disconnects for wires, plus a seminar area for up to 24 persons. One end of the room is furnished with a sofa, overstuffed chairs, coffee tables and lamps for comfortable study. The entire room and computer facilities are open to students when not in use for instruction.

The ability of this special room to be "torn down" allows the space to be used as an events hall or auditorium for library and campus events, with a capacity of 125 persons.



*Study and meeting area near the ESOL and Dual Degree Programs offices*

With the many programs offered in conjunction with the semester-long *Heavens Above* exhibit, the Library has already been using the room in this way.

Refitting the space on Milne's lower level has required some library departments to be moved and consolidated (all phone numbers have remained the same, though). Both Acquisitions and Cataloging have joined the Serials Department in their expanded offices to form an integrated technical services area on the lower level.

## Introducing ...

**Michelle Costello** has joined the Library as its newest part-time Reference Librarian. Michelle, whose latest employer was the Rochester Regional Library Council, will receive an MLS (masters in library science) from the University of Buffalo this February. Her previous library experience includes a recent internship at St. John Fisher's Lavery Library.

## Odds & Ends

### Mary McGrath Retires

Milne Library staff (and many others from the SUNY Geneseo community) bid adieu to long-time Library staff member Mary McGrath, who retired last July after 35 years of service – all of them in the College Libraries.

Mary's SUNY Geneseo career began in 1972 in Milne's Circulation Department, where she became manager in 1983. In 1988, she transferred to Fraser Library and worked in the Circulation/Reserve Department until 2001, when Fraser Library closed and became the Fraser Study Center. Mary then found her way back to Milne Library and into her latest position in the IDS (Information Delivery Services) office.

Donna Ayers, who started working at Milne Library in February 2006 as a clerk in Acquisitions and Government Documents, transferred into Mary's vacant IDS position last summer.

### New Loading Dock

The reconstruction of Milne Library's loading dock, facing University Drive, is finally completed. The driveway has been doubled in width, allowing for two trucks to unload simultaneously, and the parking area has been enlarged. Now, library patrons can legally park for up to three hours in the three new metered spaces, and service and delivery vehicles can park in the two reserved spots. A good portion of the retaining wall has been replaced and topped with a new wrought iron rail, and some simple landscaping gives the area an overall much-improved look.

### Newly Unloaded Docs

Milne Library's entire print collection of Government Documents, including those on microform and CD, is now located in the Fraser Study Room. The documents are available for the public to access when Fraser is open, and persons wishing to borrow any should bring them to Milne for check-out. Fraser Study Room is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

An alternative method of accessing items from this collection is to submit a request to Information Delivery Services, which routinely retrieves documents and notifies borrowers when they're available in Milne for check-out.

Users should realize that much government information is available (and free) online, especially documents published within the past five years. Questions or concerns can be directed to any reference librarian or directly to Government Documents Librarian Tom Ottaviano ([ottaviano@geneseo.edu](mailto:ottaviano@geneseo.edu) or 245-5213).

### Milne Library InfoBits Fall 2007

**Editor:** Liz Argentieri

**Contributors:** Steve Dresbach, Donna Hanna, Kim Davies Hoffman, Diane Johnson, Paul MacLean, Tom Ottaviano and Harriet Sleggs.

## The (NY) Times They Are A-Changin' (just a little)

The *New York Times*, in Milne Library, is like death and taxes – a sure thing. The most current issue is always available in Books & Bytes Café, and earlier loose issues (about 2 months' worth) are kept in a marked file cabinet on the lower level. Those issues are discarded when they become available on microfilm, which is also housed in file cabinets on Milne's lower level. The library's holdings of the *New York Times* on microfilm go back to 1851.

The "newspaper of record" is also available online. Milne subscribes to both the LexisNexis and the ProQuest Newspapers databases, which include full-text articles from the *New York Times* back to 1980. In addition, this year the *New York Times* announced free access to .pdf articles from 1851 to 1922 through their website at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com).

In reviewing statistics, the Library has found that microfilm usage of the years covered by ProQuest and LexisNexis has dropped dramatically. Considering the high cost of the microfilm, Milne Library has decided not to renew it in 2008. The money that is freed up from this cancellation will be used toward the purchase of new online resources. The Library has no plans to discard any of its *New York Times* microfilm from 1851-2007.

Milne Library  
SUNY Geneseo  
1 College Circle  
Geneseo, N.Y. 14454

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Geneseo, N.Y.  
Permit No. 1