



# from the steps

of Adams Library

Fall 2008

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**y**

*our* library is an evolving institution, as well as a critical catalyst for change. It is a dynamic space for research and social interaction and a cross-roads for intellectual interchange.

We are partners in the college's academic endeavors. Each and every member of the Library staff is committed to serving everyone in our college community and all who use our library. Our role is to organize and disseminate information and knowledge and to stimulate intellectual and social interactions.

In these changing times, more than ever global competitiveness hinges on the capacity to find, gather and analyze information, as well as on the ability to clearly communicate complex ideas. As you know, many library resources are available online; however, the library is also a physical place where critical thinking is taught and intellectual interactions are held. I hope that you will attend some of the activities we have planned during the fall and spring semesters. The first speaker in our lecture series is our President, Dr. Nancy Carriuolo, who will talk about the importance of reading and its impact on her professional and personal life. We will also organize panel discussions around themes of interest, sponsor poetry readings and more.

This year, we will continue to forge and strengthen the healthy collaboration of the library with other academic departments. We will also continue to enrich the curriculum, the course material and the intellectual discourse. Adams Library plays an important role in furthering our mission as educators. And remember, the library is that lively, enriching space just steps away on campus. Won't you join us?

**Hedi BenAicha**  
Director, James P. Adams Library

## President Carriuolo Opens Library Lecture Series



We are very happy to have Dr. Nancy Carriuolo as the inaugural lecturer for our new library lecture series. Her talk will take place on **October 22, 2008 at 12:30 in the Reference Reading Area**. Dr. Carriuolo will be talking about books and reading - an excellent topic.

In a conversation about the value of the lecture series, Dr. Carriuolo stressed that a college experience should comprise many and varied opportunities for

students and all members of the college community to share and discuss ideas. Debating and exploring ideas are dynamic pathways for learning. Much of this occurs in classes, but extra-curricular lectures provide our whole community with fabulous opportunities to teach and to learn – which is at the very heart of what we all do. Dr. Carriuolo added that it is particularly pleasant to hear one's own colleagues share their ideas, discuss their research or others areas of interest, defend their opinions, define their personal philosophies and describe important experiences of their lives. This not only gives them an opportunity to engage oth-

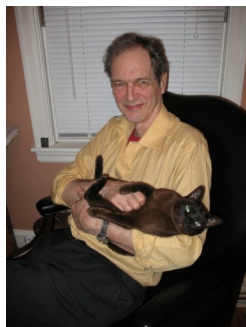
ers but offers all of us the opportunity to know our colleagues and friends, more individually and personally.

We embrace this idea at the library. Reading Hedi's message above one can see how strongly he believes the library must be a place of ideas and a forum for expressing them. We are planning future lectures for this academic year, continuing in our theme of books and reading.

-Rachel H. Carpenter, Associate Professor

This is our first issue of *from the steps*, an occasional publication developed to inform the college community about new and changing facets of library services, resources and collections. We will also announce upcoming events and other library news and highlight our staff and student assistants.

## Kresten Jespersen, Cataloging/Reference Librarian



**I**t was as a graduate student in Art History at Brown University 33 years ago that Kresten Jespersen was first introduced to the work of British architect and artist Owen Jones, author of *The Grammar of Ornament* (1856). *The Grammar* is the highly influential and monumental bible of ornament and design. Kresten was urged by his advisor, the renowned architectural historian,

William H. Jordy, to pursue the study of the Jones masterpiece. This September, in a lecture sponsored by the Library and the Friends of the Library, Kresten spoke of his 33 year journey researching Jones and the *Grammar*. His investigation and exploration brought him to focus on the *Grammar* in his thesis, dissertation, in articles and in book manuscripts. Kresten brought to the lecture his own copy of a first edition of the *Grammar* (1856) - a large imperial folio volume with 100 richly colored examples of ornamental designs from Europe and the Near and Far East. In July, Kresten had a month long display in Adams Library on *The Grammar* and other chromolithographed works.

Dr. Kresten Jespersen, educated in Britain in his younger years, received his BA from Providence College and both his A.M. and Ph.D. from Brown. He also earned an M.L.I.S. from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Rhode Island in 2002 and was employed in the Cataloging Dept of the Levin Library of Curry College under the direction of the well known cataloging scholar,

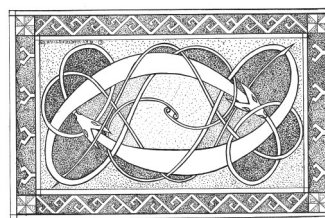
David Miller. In 2005, Kresten joined the staff of Adams Library as an Assistant Professor and Cataloging Librarian. He delights in his work as a cataloger, where, in addition to tending to many of the traditional forms of information resources (i.e. books), he also is the cataloger of federal and state documents and e-resources. Kresten spends about a third of his time as a Reference Librarian, as well. He enjoys working at the reference desk which he feels enriches his work as a cataloger and which provides an additional facet of teaching to his overall responsibilities.

In recent years Kresten has been team teaching the Cataloging course at the URI GSLIS. His "team-mate" is his life-mate - his wife, Heather Jespersen, M.L.I.S. and Ph.D. (Brown, Art History). Heather is a librarian at the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University and is currently adjunct faculty in the RIC Art Dept.

Kresten has truly enjoyed the time that he has been working at Rhode Island College. He values the emphasis on the college community as family and feels that he experiences this kind of camaraderie daily with his colleagues at the library, with students, and throughout his campus activities.

Kresten is also a guitarist and a guitar collector. He plays an ambient guitar style as well as a bit of the blues. Kresten and Heather live in RI with their two cats- Siri, a Bengal, and Sakka, a Burmese.

~Rachel Carpenter



**Double Dragon Knot**  
by Ray Hartenstein,  
Library Technician

## Scuffy Wiesman, Access Services Student

Painting with acrylics and reading graphic novels are two favorite activities for Emily "Scuffy" Wiesman, outside of her Social Work studies. She enjoys acrylic painting when working on self portraits and pieces like cats with wings. Scuffy's art extends to the clothing that she wears, as well. Many of her favorite pieces are altered to reflect her own special style and her desire to be surrounded by her art. Altering garments by applying patches and stencils is another way of expressing herself. From her appearance, people often mistake her for an art major, but Scuffy finds working on her art projects helps her to focus on her studies in Social Work.

Reading graphic novels is another big interest for Scuffy. "The Sandman" series by Neil Gaiman is a particular favorite. Scuffy is pleased and excited at the growing acceptance of graphic novels as valid literature today.

Volunteering at Youth Pride, Inc. in Providence since 2005 greatly influenced her decision to become a Social Work major at RIC. One day she hopes to obtain a position in Social Work that uses art as a means for counseling and therapy with queer youth.

Scuffy has been working in the Access Services Department at the library since June 2008. She loves the work and considers it one of the best jobs she's ever had.

~Brian Baker, Reserves Supervisor in Access Services



From *The Grammar of Ornament* of 1856 by Owen Jones: Plate XCVIII "Flowers and Leaves from Nature" by Dr Christopher Dresser.



## The Browsing Collection at Adams Library

Since 2003, the James P. Adams Library has subscribed to the McNaughton Books Plan, a service of the Brodart Company, which allows the Library to "lease" hardcover bestsellers and other popular fiction and non-fiction titles. This collection is quite dynamic in that new titles are selected each month as other titles are returned to Brodart. Titles can also be bought back and added to the Library's permanent collection at a very reasonable cost. Many titles have been retained over the

years because of their relevance to the College's curriculum. For example, the library has added fiction by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winners Gunter Grass, Doris Lessing, J.M. Coetzee, Toni Morrison, Jhumpa Lahiri, Geraldine Brooks, and Cormac McCarthy. Non-fiction titles which have been added back include biographies of Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Edith Wharton and the works of authors such as Barbara Ehrenreich, Bob Woodward, and Jeffrey Toobin. The

last three books in the *Harry Potter* series have also been acquired through the Plan.

The McNaughton Books, also referred to as the "Browsing Collection," are located on the third floor of the Library (main level-street side) - in an area which offers a more relaxed atmosphere for browsing and leisure reading. Here, one can also find current issues of select periodicals, newspapers and recently acquired DVDs. McNaughton books can be borrowed for a 4 week period.

~Carla Weiss, Associate Professor

## CHECK IT OUT

### Fiction



**The Gargoyle**  
by Andrew Davidson  
Doubleday Publishing  
McN PS 3604 A9457 G37 2008

Davidson's first novel begins as the narrator, a cocaine-addicted porn star, is nearly burned to death in a fiery car crash caused by his alcohol-induced hallucination of flaming arrows. While recovering in a hospital burn ward, he wants only to end his life and thus, his suffering. But he awakes one day to find the beautiful, enigmatic Marianne, a psychiatric patient and, as we discover, a sculptress of gargoyles, standing at his bedside. She tells him incredible stories of

their past lives together, beginning with their first meeting in a German monastery in the fourteenth century. While believing that her stories spring from her mental illness, he allows her to enchant him into working toward recovery, and, unwittingly, redemption. The story is woven skillfully between past and present, myth and reality, hallucination and memory. The narrator's view is cynical and sarcastic; Marianne's stories are dark fables of sacrifice and love, and their two voices combine to create one of the most unusual novels I've ever read.

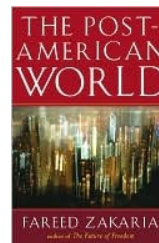
~Debra Thomson, Library Purchasing Manager

"Eyes unveil. Burning hands, burning feet, fire everywhere, but I am in the middle of a blizzard. A German forest, and a river is near. A woman on a ridge with a crossbow. My chest feels as if it's been hit. I hear the hiss as my heart gives out. I try to speak but croak instead, and a nurse tells me to rest, that everything will be okay, everything will be okay. Blackness. A voice floats above me. "Sleep. Just sleep."  
~from *The Gargoyle*



Adams Library Browsing Area, Level 3

### Nonfiction



**The Post-American World**  
by Fareed Zakaria  
W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.  
CB161. Z34 2008

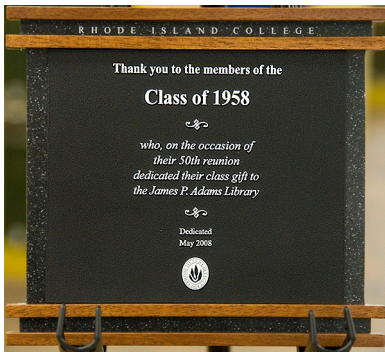
*The Post-American World* is not about the decline of the U.S. so much as what Fareed Zakaria calls "the rise of the rest." America's position as the only superpower

is eroding relative to other nations, both politically and economically (though perhaps not militarily, but weapons alone do not make a world power). So Zakaria addresses problems and opportunities of America's new situation, as "the first among many world powers." Rapid growth in China, India, Brazil, Russia, and other smaller countries will continue to have an increasing impact on international relations, as well as global economics.

~ Judith Stokes, Associate Professor



# Thank you, Class of 1958!



As part of the College's Homecoming festivities, Adams Library acknowledged the generous donation of the Class of '58 to the library.





President Carriuolo and Hedi BenAicha, Library Director, dedicate the new Library Instruction Facility.





## Then and Now

In 1958, the library, which was located in the north end of the Student Center (now our Art Center) had approximately 35,000 volumes

Today, the library has:

-  647,959 volumes and
-  2,621 periodical titles (406 hard copies and 2,215 online)

In 2007/2008:

-  we added 5,897 volumes to the book collection
-  we answered 14,762 reference questions
-  we taught 2,588 students in 139 classes, and
-  41,627 items were checked out

## Upcoming Events

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 10/16 | 5:00 pm Fortes Room ~ Friends of the Library Cultural Heritage Celebration<br>Lecture presented by Joseph R. Muratore<br><i>The Italian American Experience in RI, 1880-1960.</i>   |
| 10/22 | 12:30-2:00 pm Adams Library Reference Reading Area ~ Library Lecture Series<br>President Carriuolo speaks on the importance of reading and its impact on her personal & professional growth and reads to a class from the Henry Barnard School.           |
| 10/29 | 12:30-2:00 pm Library Instruction Facility<br>Faculty Workshop on Library Services  |
| 11/12 | 12:30-2:00 Library Instruction Facility<br>Graduate Faculty Workshop on Library Services  |
| 11/12 | 12:30-2:00 Fortes Room ~ Friends of the Library Lecture<br>Dr. Joseph Zornado, Professor of English, presents:<br><i>The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear (prescription) Shades</i><br>(pertaining to his new novel, 2050 Volume One—Gods of Little Earth) |
| 12/4  | 5:00 pm Location TBA ~ Library Lecture Series<br>Dr. Norman Smith, Professor Emeritus of History, speaks on book collecting.  |
| 12/10 | 10:00-4:00 Reinhardt Lounge ~ Friends of the Library Event<br>Holiday Craft Sale  |

*from the steps* is published by the Adams Library PR Committee.

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