



# from the steps of Adams Library

Winter 2009

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## President Carriuolo Shares Her Love of Reading

The James P. Adams Library hosted the first of its library lectures on October 22, 2008. Rhode Island College's president, Dr. Nancy Carriuolo, was the inaugural speaker and spoke about the significance of books and reading in her life. An avid reader throughout her life, President Carriuolo recalled that reading was one of the few "affordable" activities available to her as a child growing up in a family of very modest means in rural New York. Trips to the public library were a regular and always special activity. She was able to "give back" in later years when as a college student she interned at a public library. She had many projects and activities there, but one of her favorites was the weekly story hours for children. As a high school English teacher, President Carriuolo was also intent on encouraging and instilling an appreciation of literature and reading in her students. Even her early college teaching experiences included teaching remedial reading. Reading truly "engages the brain" she said, and in many ways. More than simple word recognition or comprehension, reading calls on the mind to visualize, hear, smell; reading works the memory and imagination. Read-



**W**elcome back and Happy New Year 2009! This marks my sixth month as Director of Adams Library. Thanks to my colleagues on the Public Relations committee for their help and perseverance in preparing this second edition of "From the Steps of Adams Library." As Samuel Johnson said, "Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome."

Please keep in mind that Adams Library offers you access to a vast array of print and electronic resources. Adams features an integrated library system that not only connects you with our holdings on campus but also with the resources of other schools that are part of a consortium of Rhode Island institutions.

One of Adams' greatest assets is its library faculty members who teach library research classes (more than eighty of them last fall) and who conduct library orientations for faculty and students in discipline-specific courses. The entire library staff, from reference and periodicals to circulation and special collections is here to help and they are only steps away on campus. Each time you visit Adams library you can feel the energy, the enthusiasm and the resourcefulness of its staff.

We firmly believe that a well-informed citizen is a productive and socially conscious member of the community. One of the most important elements of good citizenship is critical thinking. To that end, we at Adams are committed to working alongside our colleagues all over campus to help our students be good citizens. This spring semester we will continue toward that goal by offering an array of activities and services, which we hope you'll attend. We'd love to see you.  
~Hedi BenAicha, Director, James P. Adams Library

ing creates opportunities for adventure and to experience many things from the "safety of a comfortable chair." With less time these days to read, President Carriuolo has focused her reading on books about higher education, particularly those by college and university presidents in hope that she may learn from their experiences and wisdom. The 55 students, staff and faculty in attendance in the library's Reference Reading area, were soon joined by Ms. Lynda Thompson's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class from the Henry Barnard School. Everyone was treated to a reading by President Carriuolo, of *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School* (Mark Teague, 2002). The book is about a rascally canine named "Ike" who ends up "captive" at obedience school, much to his chagrin. His letters home complain of "imagined indignities and exaggerated tales of mistreatment." The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were very taken with Ike's adventures and offered many keen observations and wise recommendations regarding his plight and general misbehavior.  
~Rachel H. Carpenter, Associate Professor

## ... "And madly read:" musings of an amateur book collector

"Musings" is a lovely word – lovely sounding and lovely in its meaning. The Oxford English Dictionary defines "musing" as "a spell of thoughtfulness or reflection; a meditation;" and so indeed was Emeritus Professor Norman Smith's talk about his life long love of books and reading. He entered the world of books and literature through his father's library in rural Vermont. Over six and a half decades later, on Dec 4, 2008, in the James P. Adams Library's Charles Fortes Room, Professor Smith fondly reminisced on many of his "travels".

A professor of History at Rhode Island College for 32 years, retiring in 1997, Dr Smith, of course, has read numerous scholarly and academic books in many disciplines, but he has always been an avid reader of fiction; particularly westerns and crime & mystery novels of turn of the century American and British authors. He spoke of scouring over booksellers catalogs, rummaging through dusty old bookstores, befriending dusty old booksellers, and, of course, surfing the World Wide Web to amass his collections. In recent years he has donated a few of these collections to Adams Library. The Library has received his collections of the works of American authors (Madly Read...p3)

## Marlene Lopes, Special Collections Librarian



As Marlene tells it, she was "ready for a change" in 1990 after 8 years as the Head Reference Librarian at the James P. Adams Library. She moved into her new office in Special Collections, filling the post left vacant by retiring librarian Sally Wilson, ready to take on the challenge of something new. The area known as the reading room was filled to overflowing with boxes, books and papers, and Marlene was excited, attracted by the idea of creating order out of chaos. It took

two years, but she finally discovered that there was furniture under the boxes.

A native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, Marlene is a third-generation Cape Verdean American whose family has been in the United States for more than 130 years. This rich heritage is evident in many of her publications and special projects, and also in the library's Cape Verdean collection, a unique assemblage of books, papers, artifacts and other materials that is known world-



Shown at right with Cape Verdean Scholars

wide to scholars of Cape Verdean and Cape Verdean-American history (see "Special Collections ..." next page).

Marlene's accomplishments in this area include working with the National Park Service in its creation of an orientation film on New Bedford whaling, and in a program on the Cape Verdeans of the Blackstone Valley that was later picked up by the History Channel.

She also serves as a link between Rhode Island College and the cultural and scholarly community of Cape Verde. This year she helped to coordinate two official visits. The Director of the National Archives of Cape Verde, with the head of the National Library and other Cape Verdean scholars and authors, visited the college in April to discuss Cape Verdean scholarly publications, research libraries and archives as part of the college's Convocation of Scholars. In November the Library, with the College's Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, hosted the Prime Minister of Cape Verde who delivered an address on the role of higher education in Cape Verde.

As curator of the college's archives, Marlene frequently is called upon for answers to questions relating to the history of the College. Her research into this archival treasure trove has resulted in several publications, including "Phenomenal Females: The Women of RIC" and "The Normal School's First Women of Color" in *What's News at RIC*, and "This Wonderful Institution: Teaching and Learning at Rhode Island College, 1854-1958" in *Issues in Teaching and Learning*. Most recently, she

edited *Rhode Island College On The Move*, an oral history of the College's move from downtown Providence to its current location.

Marlene serves on the Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board, holds membership in local, regional and national organizations of librarians and archivists, and serves on several College committees. This spring she will present, "Cape Verdeans in Rhode Island: Foxpoint and Beyond," as part of the Coming to Americas lecture series sponsored by the Rhode Island Geography Education Alliance.

So how does she manage all this? Marlene admits that she couldn't run the department without her student assistants. Over the years she has nurtured several students into becoming accomplished special collections assistants, while encouraging them to discover their own interests within the collection. Not everyone is up to the task. "You can tell early on whether they'll become Special Collections students," she explains.

Marlene and her husband, Ed Porter, live in West Warwick with their dogs Sandy, Lacey, and Pedro.



With husband, Ed

~Debra Thomson, Library Purchasing Manager

## Adams Library, Shaping a New Generation

The Access Services department of Adams Library is once again blessed this year with two volunteers from local area schools. Isaac Louis, a seventh grade student at St. Anne's in Providence, and his sister Naphtali, a sixth grader also from St. Ann's, are fulfilling requirements of their school curriculum to do a minimum of one hour in public service to a community organization each week.

Isaac and Naphtali help in a variety of ways by helping to un-bag, sort, count, and process the in-coming inter-library loan delivery, by putting books in Library of Congress call number order prior to re-shelving, and other office tasks as needed. The benefit runs two ways: the library is able to de-

vote scarce student resources to other jobs for the 1-2 hours per week they are volunteering, and Isaac and Naphtali are learning a variety of skills that will serve them well as they go up the educational ladder.

Isaac and Naphtali are the children of Enneson Louis, '96, '02 BA, MA. Enneson is presently a seventh grade math

teacher at the Nathaniel Greene Middle School in Providence. Perhaps one day, his children will also attend Rhode Island College!

~David Maine-Library Facilities Supervisor





## Special Collections at Adams Library

A special collections department within an academic library, or any library for that matter, is generally collections of rare or unique materials; including archives, books, images, manuscripts, faculty publications, artifacts and ephemera. The special formats and genres of such materials call for careful management, organization, housing and preservation, and thus, these items are separated out from a library's main collection and housed together. Use of the "special" items is generally restricted to their special area and the items are non-circulating.

The Special Collections Department at the James P. Adams Library meets the above description pretty closely. Located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the library, Special Collections holds the Rhode Island College Archives, RIC faculty publications, a number of donated manuscript and curriculum driven collections (early education textbooks, history of nursing,) artworks, artifacts, furniture, and so on. Marlene Lopes, Associate Professor, is the

library's full time Special Collections Librarian as well as one of her department's most active researchers. As the Special Collections Librarian since 1990 (and formerly Head of Reference, 1984-90), Marlene has expanded existing collections as well as built new ones. Of particular note is the Cape Verdean Collection. Researchers have come from around the country and the world to use this collection which includes general texts but also theses, newspapers, clippings, photographs and many other items and artifacts related to Cape Verde and to the Cape Verdean American connection. RIC students are heavy users of the Cape Verdean Collection, as well.

The Special Collections Department receives 400-500 inquiries most years. The questions are often in depth and complex rather than "ready reference", though the range of questions is extensive. Questions related to the history of Rhode Island College are the most common. The archives are used by all segments of the

college community and beyond. Student use of the archive materials is considerable. Some courses on campus have focused, in recent semesters, on aspects of RIC history.

The many artifacts, photographs and "realia" held in Special Collections are displayed in the regularly changing exhibit cases in the hall outside of the Special Collections Department. From time to time, items from our collections are requested by other libraries, colleges, etc., to be included in exhibits to be mounted at their institutions.

Many of the books in Special Collections are cataloged and thus can be identified using the HELIN catalog. Many of the materials,

however, are not. Thus, it is the knowledge and expertise, as well as the care and management, provided by the special collections librarian that enables the wealth of these resources to be shared.

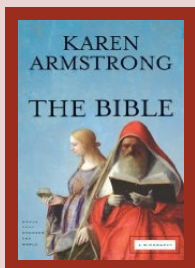
~Rachel H. Carpenter



Special Collections Reading Area, Level 4



### Nonfiction



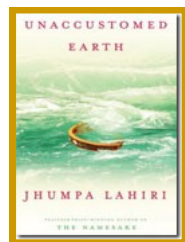
#### *The Bible; a biography*

By Karen Armstrong  
New York: Atlantic Monthly, 2007  
BS450 .A763 2007

A span of 2000 years of history in one not very large book (288p.). One in a new series called "Books That Changed the World," the writing of this brief but scholarly and fully documented "biography" of the Bible must have been a strenuous exercise in restraint. Yet, Karen Armstrong, the author of such sweeping works as *The History of God* and *The Great Transformation*, has succeeded brilliantly in distilling her tale of the "cryptic yet perfect" book. She clearly explains the characteristics of the writing and compiling of texts in the context of their times. She tracks the major translations and authorizations of canonical and apocryphal books. Trends in interpretation throughout the ages and all over the Western world are covered with both inspired reverence and practical clarity, touching the heights of human aspiration and the gruesome depths of intolerance. Some may find the parade of names of so many important rabbis, bishops, scholars, critics, priests, ministers and mystics a bit overwhelming, but the narrative itself carries the reader along effortlessly. A glossary is included to explain terms that may be unfamiliar to a general audience.

~ Judith Stokes, Associate Professor

### Fiction



#### *Unaccustomed Earth*

By Jhumpa Lahiri  
New York: Knopf, 2008  
PS 3562 A316 U53 2008

Jhumpa Lahiri is a wonderful writer who has mastered the art of the short story. *Unaccustomed Earth* is the latest collection of short stories by the Pulitzer Prize winning author who grew up in Rhode Island. These eight stories center on the cultural differences of two generations of Bengali immigrants: the parents and their American-born children who form relationships with other Americans. As each story unfolds the reader becomes involved in how the conflicts of the traditional and non-traditional expand or restrict the decisions the characters make in these relationships. The stories are complex, emotionally compelling and poignant. By the end of each story, the characters seem to come to a resolution about how they fit into the world to which they have become accustomed.

~Carla Weiss, Associate Professor

## Madly Read... (continued from p.1)

society chronicler Booth Tarkington (1869-1946), and mystery and crime writer Mary Roberts Rinehart (1876-58). He has also donated his collection of the prolific (175 novels) British author Edgar Wallace (Brit 1875-1932). A number of titles were on exhibit at the event and Dr. Smith, and his wife Lola, also brought a few extra book bags full of rarer volumes of great beauty and considerable age to share with those in attendance. The titles from the collections donated to the library are cataloged, in the library's main collection and readily available to all fans of great classic genre and popular fiction

A long-time fervent supporter of the library, Dr. Smith was also instrumental in creating the endowed History Library Memorial Fund. The income generated by the fund makes possible the purchase of history-related library materials selected by the History Department each year.

~Rachel H. Carpenter



## Upcoming Events & Exhibits

<http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/events>

<b>January</b>	<b>Library Exhibit:</b> Poe Bicentennial
<b>February &amp; March</b>	<b>Library Exhibits:</b> Darwin Day and Owen Jones
<b>March</b>	<b>Library Lecture Series:</b> <i>Writers and Writing</i>
<b>April</b>	<b>Library Exhibit:</b> LGBTQ Issues
	<b>Library Lecture Series:</b> <i>Dr. Elizabeth Rowell &amp; RIC Rainbow on "Changing the Culture"</i>
	<b>Library Lecture Series:</b> Celebration of National Poetry Month, <i>Poetry Readings</i>
	<b>Library Lecture Series:</b> Celebration of National Library Week <i>Drs. Joan Dagle, Kathryn Kalinak, &amp; Vincent Bohlinger lecture on film research in libraries/archives</i>
<b>May 4</b>	End of Year Celebration

## Friends of the Library Holiday Sale

Home-made crafts, gifts and food items filled the library lobby as we hosted the first Friends of Adams Library Holiday Sale on December 10, 2008. Rhode Island College staff and local vendors presented their wares to raise money for the Friends of the Library and to provide a pre-holiday shopping opportunity to the college community. Current and retired staff members selling their crafts included Kathy Sasso (jewelry), Janice Fifer (crocheted items), Marie McDermott (novelty photo albums) Kresten Jespersen (jewelry) and Debra Thomson (photography). Vendors who participated in this summer's RIC Farmer's Market, including Ocean State Chocolates, PeepToad Hollow, My Wicked Garden, The Stirring Spoon, Hickory Hill Farm and Fruit Hill Apiaries, were also on hand with locally-produced gift and food items. The Friends table offered Presidential Prisms, Rhode Island College posters, assorted gift books, hot drinks and of course membership applications. The sale brought in some much-appreciated funds for the Friends of Adams Library. We plan to repeat the experience again next year.

~Debra Thomson

A bookish young man I call Harry  
Was thinking it time he should marry  
He asked "Where might I find,  
A mate of like mind?"  
I said, "Why, check them out at the library"

Rachel Carpenter

## Then and Now

Continuing with our look back at how we've grown, some numbers:

Library Stats	FY'07	FY'08	(+/-)
Total Checkouts	38,567	41,627	8%
Loans to HELIN libraries	6,3187	6,932	10%
Borrowed from HELIN libraries	7,111	7,495	5%
Reserves total	22,352	37,549	68%
Print	5,974	5,781	-3%
Electronic	10,421	27,135	160%

*A great library contains the diary  
of the human race.*

—George Mercer Dawson  
(1849-1901) *Address on Opening  
the Birmingham Free Library*

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published by the  
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<http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary/>



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COLLEGE**