The Saint John’s Bible: Lecture

On Friday, March 4, 2011, the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library and the St. Louis Calligraphy Guild jointly hosted The Saint John’s Bible: Special Treatment Illuminations, a lecture by Diane von Arx. The Saint John’s Bible, in seven volumes, is an artistic and spiritual undertaking of monumental proportions—the first handwritten, illuminated bible to be commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey in over 500 years. Ms. von Arx is a calligrapher and graphic designer who is part of an artistic team that has created contemporary illuminations for this world-renowned project. A volume of the limited edition facsimile was on display (pictured here). Approximately 50 people from the SLU and the St. Louis community attended.
On March 8, a Digital Research Fair was held in Wool Ballroom in BSC. The fair, hosted by the Center for Digital Theology, was a showcase for faculty, staff, and students from all across the university who are working with various forms of digital research.

SLU Libraries was represented by three exhibits: highlighting the Digitization Center, Pius Reference department, and the Medical Center Library.

The Digitization Center exhibit demonstrated the various digitization projects the library has put online in the last five years, including the online Yearbooks, course catalogs, rare book exhibits, and over 7,000 photos from the SLU Archives.

Pius Reference had two exhibits. The first, “Leverage Your Research @SLU Libraries”, highlighted the various electronic resources the library makes available to students and faculty, such as e-books, databases, eJournals, and online government documents. The second, “Mobile Access to SLU’s Digital Resources”, showed the availability of the library’s website and electronic resources via mobile devices like the smartphone and the iPad.

The Medical Center Library (MCL) exhibit showed off their Digital Document Delivery (D3) service, for providing online access to all their journals. It also featured a timeline made of digitized photos from MCL’s archives.
Young-adult, or YA literature

YA is a category used to describe literature written for and marketed to young adults. What age range this constitutes is often debated, but it usually falls somewhere between the ages of 14 to 21. It is becoming a field of literature that is heavily discussed and is rapidly growing in the diversity of scope of materials it covers. Exhibits created by Martha Allen, Assoc. Prof./Faculty Librarian liaison and student Laura Plack highlighted the growing collection of YA literature at Pius Library.

The displays were separated into different genres: fantasy/dystopian fiction, historical fiction, realistic fiction, and graphic novels. Though these sub-categories do not encompass the full range of YA fiction, they offered a good sampling of the diversity in the field.

There was a great response to this exhibit! Students wrote their favorite YA book on a board next to the displays. People selected books from all genres and time periods. Choices ranged from classic YA literature like Little House of the Prairie and Johnny Tremain to fan-favorites like the Harry Potter series to newer YA titles like Countdown by Deborah Wiles and We Were Here by Matt de la Peña. YA literature is reaching a wider audience than many assume. Though most of the titles listed were already part of the Pius collection, approximately a dozen new titles were purchased in response to the feedback.

Published since 1957, Manuscripta: A Journal for Manuscript Research continues to be the premier source for manuscript-related research & writing.

This issue includes:

- Frank T. Coulson, “The Catena Commentary and its Renaissance Progeny”
- David T. Gura, “From the Orleanais to Pistoia: The Survival of the Catena Commentary”
- Susan Boynton, review of Singing with Angels: Liturgy, Music, and Art in the Gradual of Gisela von Kerssenbrock, by Judith Oliver
- Kathryn A. Smith, review of Studies in Manuscript Illumination, 1200-1400, by Lucy Freeman Sandler

Copies of Manuscripta are available online or in print. Go to: http://slulink.slu.edu/special/vfl/manuscripta.html
“Softball at the Lodger’s Picnic”: Digitized Photo of the Month

In honor of spring and the start of baseball season, April’s “Digitized Image of the Month” is of a student trying to slide home in a softball game. It’s a close call, but I think he’s out! This photo was taken in 1952 at the annual Lodgers Picnic in Forest Park. The Lodgers, an organization for students from outside the St. Louis area, were one of the most popular student clubs of the 1950s.

Nearly 7,000 images are now available in our online Digital Collections (http://cdm.slu.edu). This photo, number PHO 01.6.11 in the Archives collections, can also be seen online at http://cdm.slu.edu/u?/photos,6041

Events/ Exhibits

Library Collections on Global Justice & Sustainability
Atlas Week April 1-8
Atrium, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Informational exhibit -- featuring books, biographical information, maps, and audio visual resources
Sexual Assault Awareness

Exhibit April 1 through May 15
Level 2 Landing, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

The display highlights items from the SLU libraries collection that focus on the issue of sexual assault. Coordinated by Reference Librarian Jane Gillespie and MSW student Shelley Ohlms. Shelley is completing a practicum at Safe Connections which is the oldest and largest locally-founded agency serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the St. Louis region.

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.
4th Annual Donation Drive for Local Animal Shelters
April 4 - 30, 2011
Atrium, Pius Library

Robin Martin, Circulation Assistant and the Library will be supporting the good work of Stray Rescue in the metropolitan area.

Donations of a pet-related nature (e.g., cat & dog food, toys, leashes, etc.) can be dropped off at the Pius Library Circulation desk, at the Medical Center Library, and at the University Club Towers on Brentwood Blvd. during the month of April (ASPCA Awareness month).

Randy Grim, Miracle Dog Book Signing
Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 5:30 - 7pm
Knights Rooms, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Meet the man behind the rescues. Saint Louis University Libraries Presents Randy Grim, Founder of Stray Rescue of Saint Louis.

Accompanied by a few of his best friends, Randy will briefly tell their tales of rescue and explain Stray Rescue’s part in dealing with the public health, economical, and ethical issues 40,000 strays pose to the city of Saint Louis. Books will be available for purchase and signing.
Crucifixion Meditations
April through May,
Level 2 Gallery, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

CRUCIFIXION MEDITATIONS is an exhibition of drawing prints by John Steczynski (M.F.A. Yale) and Aileen Callahan (M.F.A. Boston University). Both artists teach in the Fine Arts Department of Boston College, and both treat the Crucifixion as a vehicle for spiritual prayerful reflection which is removed from political perspectives.

These drawings do not narrate the story of the Crucifixion. For Steczynski, his images evolve out of colored ink hatchings. They relate to post-modernism in their use of the appropriation, eclecticism and focus on the body. They are to operate as visual prayers that have their roots in devotional experience. They derive from the tradition of imagery inspired by devotion, piety and faith. The imagery is focused on as mystery and presence. The images are thus always the same as the same time that they change when placed in different contexts. Thus the “Crucifixion(s) in a time of ....” etc.

Callahan’s work has expressionist line and charcoal glimpses of a head, shoulders, crown of thorns and dark instruments as though a scene is moving and one’s view is a fragment. The drawings are not places in a sequence which records an event, but rather are places to repeat the feelings and focus on the theme as a meditation. The titles work with the drawings to allow multiple meanings and capture “gestures” of the images. The viewer is near the image. The viewer is in its space.
**Petrarch’s New Clothes: The Rebinding of a Fifteenth-Century Illuminated Manuscript Lecture**

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 4pm–6pm
Pere Marquette Gallery, DuBourg Hall, Saint Louis University
Free and open to the public

A lecture by Richard C. Baker, St. Louis book and paper conservator, on the recent conservation of an Italian Renaissance manuscript in the collections of the Saint Louis University Libraries. Presented by the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library (http://slulink.slu.edu/special/vfl) and the Saint Louis University Library Associates (http://libraries.slu.edu/associates). R.S.V.P. to vfl@slu.edu or 977-3090.

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**Featured Faculty Works**

April 1 through May 30, 2011
Level 2 East, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Manuscript Layout: Form and Function, curated by Susan L’Engle, Assoc. Prof./Asst. Director, Vatican Film Library
Vatican Film Library, main floor Pius Library
January 18 through May 9, 2011
Free and open to the public

This exhibition presents various examples of layouts that medieval scribes used to transcribe texts in handwritten manuscripts. Particular graphic designs were created to convey information to the reader as clearly as possible, as well as to transmit complex ideas in an accessible format. At the same time, scribes sought visual configurations that were pleasing to the eye and aesthetically appropriate to the proportions of the manuscript page. The objects on display date from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and were produced in northern Europe: France, Italy, Germany, and Spain.

National Financial Literacy Month
April 1 through May 15
Atrium, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Highlighting resources related to various personal financial literacy skills - from saving and budgeting to responsibly managing credit to understanding investments.
Elizabeth Taylor’s Work
April 2011
Lower Level, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Highlighting Pius’ media collection of Elizabeth Taylor’s work from “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf” to the “Simpsons”. The Library also has four biographies of Elizabeth Taylor. Included are works highlighting feminism in film, Hollywood, and the real Cleopatra.

Steps through Time: Journeys in the Middle East by Thomas Oates
Exhibit runs October 2010 to June 2011
Level 2, North wall, Pius Library
Free and open to the public

Thomas Oates is a nationally-known documentarist and a distinguished Saint Louis University alumnus, having received his Ph.D. in English at Saint Louis University.

The photographs in this exhibit represent Oates’ work of the last two decades, currently supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation. The images are drawn from Oates’ twelve years of travels in Turkey, Jordan, the West Bank, Israel, and Cyprus.
Café Libros Specials at Pius Library

**Spring** March 18 to May 2
Signature Drink: Green Tea, Strawberry Crème

Hours: Monday-Thursday - 7:30am-10pm, Saturday - 11am-3pm, Sunday - 12-10pm