



# STATE LIBRARY NEWS

For the People, the Government and the Libraries of New York State

Fall 2005

## LEGISLATORS: STATE LIBRARY HELPS WHEN LAW MEETS SCIENCE

Bird flu, stem cell research, AIDS, heart transplants, and other health concerns are drawing lawmakers further than ever into areas where law and science merge. BioOne, a database with full text articles from bioscience journals, can equip you with a deeper understanding of the technical side of scientific research and help you make informed decisions about laws relating to standards and ethics in the current scientific arena. You can access BioOne on the State Library's Web site by pointing your browser to <http://nysl.nysed.gov/electres2.htm>.

## NEW KEY TO NOVEL SIMPLIFIES SEARCH

Your New York State driver license or New York State non-driver photo ID now opens the door to NOVEL. With this new option, users can scan NOVEL databases with just one search instead of looking at each database separately.

Staff of the State Library and the State Department of Motor Vehicles worked together to bring about this service. The new option supplements the current method of logging on to NOVEL. For more information call (877) 277-0250 or go to <http://novelnewyork.org>.

## SED COMMISSIONER MILLS APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH LIBRARY



**Loretta C. Ebert**  
heads Research Library.

Janet M. Welch, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, announced that Loretta Caren Ebert has been appointed to the position of Research Library Director, beginning in mid-January 2006.

Ms. Ebert has served as librarian in a broad range of institutions, including large research libraries at Syracuse University and the University of Rochester and the highly specialized libraries at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she currently serves as Director of Rensselaer Research Libraries.

To strengthen research endeavors across academic institutions, she has committed to creating and promoting partnerships among New York's academic libraries that have resulted in enhanced library resources and services. For the past ten years, she has been building consortia and serving on governing bodies or advisory groups of statewide and national collaborative organizations, such as Partners in Information and Innovation, ConnectNY, and the New York State Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI). She also served on the statewide task force that collaborated on the implementation plan for NOVEL.

Nationally, she serves as a representative to the OCLC Members Council from the Nylink Network. She has served as an evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and as a member of the Trustees Library Advisory Committee for Carnegie Mellon University.

*continued on page 2*

## IN MEMORIAM

Dr. J. Clinton Brand, retired dental surgeon, died October 14, 2005. "As a volunteer at the State Library for over 20 years, Dr. Brand repaired thousands of library books," said Roger Wilber of the Preservation Unit. "He will be greatly missed, not only for his preservation efforts, but also for his sense of humor."

Jean D. Worden, homemaker, died August 21. Performing

volunteer work at the State Library at least twice a week since 1967, she discovered that few Hudson Valley church records were available to the public. This prompted the printing and nation-wide use of these documents. At the time of her death, she and her husband Gene were indexing the *New Project Genealogical Data*, commonly referred to as the "Grandfather Papers".

## "IT'S ELEMENTARY, WATSON," NOVEL HAS THE ANSWER

■ June Smith, fourth grade, at PS 74 Hamlin Park Elementary School in Buffalo, had to give a class report about whales.

■ Bill Brown, fifth grade, at the Beekmantown Elementary School in West Chazy had a homework assignment about Leonardo da Vinci.

■ Alice Jones, second grade at Willits Elementary School, Syosset, loves to read *Ladybug*, a magazine for children, but cannot afford to subscribe.

What do these three elementary school children have in common? You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to find the answer: Their names are fictional but the way they solve their problems is not. June, Bill and Alice accessed Kids Search on NOVEL, the State Library's online library, for help. This database offering elementary school children a full text of *Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia*, the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (Fourth Edition)*, hundreds of journals, newspapers, and other reference materials helps educate children and enriches their lives. Organized and operated by the State Library with funding from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), NOVEL serves New Yorkers through school, public, and academic libraries without charge. Kids Search is just one of NOVEL's many wellsprings of information children and all New Yorkers need to succeed in this fast-changing world.

For more information, go to <http://novelnewyork.org>.

## NEW NETHERLAND INSTITUTE AWARDS FELLOWSHIP



Duane Perry

**Jeroen van den Hurk** researches New Netherland architecture.

Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph. D candidate, of the University of Delaware was awarded the first New Netherland Institute fellowship for the study of New Netherland and the Dutch Colonial Atlantic World. Van den Hurk spent the fall term at the New Netherland Institute in Albany researching his dissertation, "Imagining New Netherland: Origins and Survival of Netherlandic Architecture in Old New York, 1614-1776."

## LORETTA C. EBERT

*continued from page 1*

At Rensselaer she has served as an institutional representative to national organizations such as EDUCAUSE, the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Research Coalition (SPARC).

Ms. Ebert's appointment follows a comprehensive nationwide search. The State Librarian thanks the Search Committee for their participation and hard work during the process.

Many thanks go as well to Mary Redmond for her hard work, leadership, and accomplishments as Interim Director of the Research Library for four years. During that time, she made significant improvements in library services that provide better access to State Library resources for New Yorkers. Her efforts include extension of circulation privileges to New York State residents, expansion of 24-hour remote online access to NOVEL electronic databases and other electronic information, and improved facilities for onsite use; closer cooperation with the State Archives and the State Museum to provide seamless service to customers of the Office of Cultural Education; and contributions to research and scholarship through the work of the New Netherland and New York State Newspaper Projects and the Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency Program in New York State History and Culture.

## Visit the State Library's Web Site

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>



Search Excelsior, the online catalog of our holdings and access national and regional databases. Use the State Library Web site to:

■ **Browse lesson plans.** The Gateway to Educational Materials is a great resource for teachers.  
 ■ **Listen to a book.** Learn about audiobooks from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

■ **Locate a nonprofit.** Check job listings for nonprofit organizations around the world.  
 ■ **Win a grant.** Discover grant opportunities and learn how to apply.

### And Much More

Instructions for reaching these sites are available at:  
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/friends/nysl.n.htm>

For more information, call (518) 474-7920 or e-mail: [excelsior@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:excelsior@mail.nysed.gov).

## NYLA CONFERENCE SHOWCASES STATE LIBRARY SERVICES



**Mary Redmond**, Research Library Interim Director, visits with **Peter Genovese**, Director of Libraries at Monroe Community College, in front of the State Library's exhibit at NYLA.

State Librarian Janet M. Welch, Carol Ann Desch, Mary Redmond, Katherine Storms, Stephanie Barrett, Mary Linda Todd, and Maribeth Krupczak, all State Library staff, presented several programs about NOVEL and the New Century Libraries Initiative at the New York State Library Association's

(NYLA) 2005 Annual Conference recently held in Buffalo. Other featured speakers included Senator William T. Stachowski; Assembly members Sandy Galef, Sam Hoyt, Crystal D. Peoples, and Mark J. F. Schroeder; Kathleen Miller of the Rochester Regional Library Council; and Michael Borges, Director of NYLA.

## FRIENDS SEEK VOLUNTEERS

Friends of the State Library recently launched a membership drive. If you want to join the Membership Committee and participate, call Mary Redmond at (518) 474-1195 or e-mail [mredmond@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:mredmond@mail.nysed.gov).

**New York State Library News** is produced by the Friends of the New York State Library and the New York State Library to inform New Yorkers about the collections and services of the State Library.

Editor: Miriam S. Soffer  
Intern: M. Allen McGinley  
This newsletter is not published at State expense.

*To join Friends of the New York State Library, complete the form below and mail it with your check.*

## New York State Library News

Yes, I want to join Friends of the New York State Library.

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Make check payable to **Friends of the New York State Library** and mail to: **Treasurer, Friends of the New York State Library, PO Box 2247 Empire Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220**

## BE A FRIEND

Join the Friends of the New York State Library. In addition to the deep satisfactions of preserving your heritage and sustaining a world-renowned public research library, you can obtain special discounts at local bookstores. Select:

- **Sustaining Membership.** \$25. Receive discounts at three book shops: 20% at Borders Books & Music in Colonie, 20% single use discount on one in-stock title at the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza or Market Block Books in Troy, and 25% off one purchase at the Open Door Bookstore in Schenectady.
- **Contributing Membership.** \$50 or more. Receive all of the above plus recognition in *New York State Library News*.

Every Friend also receives:

- **Free admission** to the Friends Annual Meeting featuring a talk by an author of a recently published book.
- **Invitations** to other stimulating programs at the State Library.
- **A subscription** to the *New York State Library News*, an illustrated quarterly newsletter.
- **Remote access** to Health Reference Center-Academic, a database for health and medicine.

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## FROM THE COLLECTIONS: WATERGATE REVISITED

On June 17, 1972, during President Nixon's campaign against Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, seven men working for the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP) were arrested in the midst of breaking into and bugging the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in the Watergate complex, Washington D.C. In November, Nixon was re-elected in one of the biggest landslides in the nation's history. But questions about the crime persisted. As public pressure built, an investigation and testimony before a federal grand jury followed. Then, faced with the public's wrath and a trial for impeachment for obstruction of justice, Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974.



**Richard M. Nixon**, thirty-seventh President of the United States, still stirs controversy.

Although he was never charged with planning or participating in the crime, information on tapes of White House meetings and telephone calls implicate him in the

cover-up. Controversy still swirls around the political and ethical implications of these matters. Nixon's defenders say that he did nothing that other politicians of both parties had not done, and Nixon's opponents claim that he tried to take presidential powers past constitutional limits and corrupted the electoral process.

If you want to know more about these historic events and their implications, see *The Nixon Administration*, the State Library's microfiche collection about the last two years of Nixon's administration. This comprehensive collection brings together many documents about Watergate, including judicial proceedings, impeachment proceedings, the President's resignation, and newspaper coverage.

## TWO PROMINENT MEMBERS OF LIBRARY STAFF RETIRE

Jean Hargrave, Coordinator of Library Operations at the State Library and Liaison to the Friends of the State Library, retired December 14. During her thirty-eight years at the State Library, the breadth of her assignments included General Reference, Humanities, Legislative and Governmental Services, CORE Reference, the Regents Commission on Library Services, and Library Operations. Her oversight of the myriad details of the work of

the Regents Commission on Library Services contributed greatly to the document that continues to shape the future of New York's library services in the 21st century.

Melinda Yates, Senior Librarian in Public Services, joined the State Library staff with, in her words, "the rather fey title" of "library helper" in 1974. Her love and knowledge of literature were unmatched among her peers at the State Library. She used this knowledge to

help the State Library add to its literature collection, work with the NYS Writers Institute on the State Author/State Poet events, and arrange informative and enjoyable programs for the Friends of the State Library. She also used her knowledge of State Library history to spread the word about the organization and its many services.

Thanks to Jean Hargrave and to Melinda Yates for all their work on behalf of the Library and the Friends.

New York State Library News  
New York State Library  
N.Y.S. Education Department  
Albany, NY 12230

### State Library Hours

Monday through Friday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call  
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<[refserv@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:refserv@mail.nysed.gov)>.