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Museletter: April 2000

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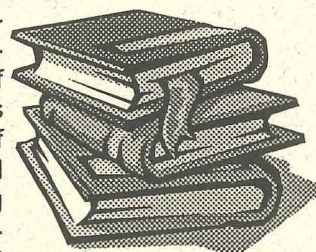
Museletter

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK:
APRIL 9-15, 2000
MEET YOUR MUSE LIBRARY STAFF

National Library Week celebrates libraries and librarians and the contributions these institutions and professionals contribute to society. Many of the University of Richmond Law School Library's staff are "public services librarians," who meet the research and instruction needs of the faculty, student body, and the public. Our "technical services" staff keeps the operations of the library moving forward, but usually work "behind the scenes." The following will introduce all the staff, so you'll better understand the complexities of the library operations .



Best Wishes
And
Congratulations
To
The
2000
Graduates!



In addition to managing the library operations, coordinating the first year law skills program, overseeing computer operations for the law school, and teaching first-year legal research and advanced legal research, Director **Timothy Coggins** currently serves on the Board of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) and the Intellectual Freedom Committee for the Virginia Library Association. He has been President of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL), and served on or chaired various committees at the national level (AALL).

Deputy Director **Joyce Janto** teaches legal research in the first year law skills program and the course in professional responsibility. She has served as President of both VALL and SEAALL. She has chaired or served on various committees of AALL. And, remember all those cookies? Joyce serves as troop leader of the St. Edward Epiphany School's Junior Girl Scout Troop No. 959.

Sally Wambold, the Director of Technical Services, serves as Treasurer for SEAALL, which took her on a journey to San Juan this month. She also Chairs the Preservation Committee of the Virginia Chapter, and recently served on the Awards Committee for AALL. Sally occasionally moonlights as "Dr. Catalog" for the *Museletter*.

Computer Services Librarian **Paul Birch** is the webmaster for VALL and coordinates the listservs for VALL and SEAALL. He recently was nominated for a position on the Board of Directors for CALI. In "another life," Paul plays the mandolin in a bluegrass band, "Backforty."

Gail Zwirner and **John Barden** are regularly on the frontlines at the reference desk as Reference/Research Services Librarians. They also teach legal research in the first year law skills program. Gail serves as President of VALL and John is the current newsletter editor. John has several historical research projects he is

*Library
serials
account
for over
1000
system
entries
monthly!*

pursuing; he is presently editing the papers of a Massachusetts soldier who served in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia during the Civil War.

The library's newest librarian, **James Wirrell**, serves as Circulation/Reference Librarian. He is a Canadian from British Columbia, and is finishing his University of Illinois J.D. here at UR as a visiting student. James contributes to the law school website, and away from school, is currently working on a revision of his Anglican Communion site.

Janette Alsworth is the law school's "Santa Claus." She coordinates the purchase of the additions to the library's collection. To the library's benefit, we are able to sample frequently her culinary delights, including her famous muffaletta.

Deborah Barlett keeps the librarians organized as administrative assistant, and students will recognize her as taking charge of carrel assignments. Debbie's son Nicholas is one of our student employees.

No periodical or supplement arrives on the shelf without first being recorded by **Betty Cliborne**, our Serials Assistant. Those materials account for over 1000 entries monthly.

Tim Edwards and **Bob Weertman** assist **Sally Wambold** in cataloging functions for the library. The online public access catalog would not exist if it weren't for this team. Tim also is the contact for AV requests.

Leah Viar is the collection management specialist. She handles the collection, binding, and shelving organization of the entire library.

In addition to the full-time staff, we have 3 part-timers, **Eric Nepomuceno**, **John Bric** and **Robert Avramescu**, who support the extensive filing needs for the library. Thirty-five student assistants also round out the payroll for support with Circulation, the Computer Help Desk, Technical Services, and Interlibrary Loan.

CARRELL INFORMATION

By Deborah Barlett

Graduating 3Ls who are not staying for the bar review, those students going into the clinics in the Fall, and students transferring or visiting out, must empty their carrels and return their keys to Mrs. Barlett in the Library Administrative Office (L17) prior to leaving town after exams. Any student who has made arrangements through Mrs. Barlett to change carrels in the Fall must empty his or her present carrel and return the key prior to leaving for the summer break.

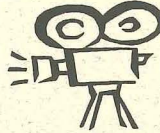


All other students should clean up their carrels prior to leaving for the summer. You may leave personal belongings in the locked compartment of your carrel only. Nothing should be left on the work surface, side walls, the top of the carrel, or on the floor. Housekeeping will clean the carrels during the summer. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If you are not planning to use your carrel next year, please consider turning your carrel key in to Mrs. Barlett. There are other law students who may be able to use the carrel. You can still sign up for a carrel during the year for exams, etc. Thank you.

AT THE MOVIES: ERIN BROCKOVICH

BY GAIL ZWIRNER



Erin Brockovich is the latest Silkwoodesque type movie of toxic tort goes to Hollywood. It is the fact-based story of a single mother/file clerk who helped coordinate 634 plaintiffs in Hinkley, California to reach a settlement (breaking all previous records) against Pacific Gas & Electric for polluting the local water supply.

For anyone interested in complex litigation and arbitration, there is enough dialogue to satisfy any curiosity. However, the strength of this movie is the development of the characters. Julia Roberts plays a frank, confident Brockovich, who sets the perfect example of getting the proverbial "foot in the door" and landing a job. She's twice-divorced with three young children, is unemployed, without child support or child care, has \$74 in the bank, is visited frequently by a roach the size of a Buick, and has a mouth worthy of a toxic tort. After a string of unsuccessful interviews, she marched into the office of the attorney who lost her car accident case and demanded a job.

All eyes were wide open when Brockovich arrived for the first day of work. Her attire goes way beyond casual day standards, to put it mildly. The office manager escorted her past the usual secretarial carrels to a desk in the corner of the copy room, where she proceeded to review files effectively, and became the business development queen for the firm. She proved herself well in organizing the plaintiffs in the action, which led her to a multi-million dollar bonus return and a window office in a high-rise swanky office building. Not bad for a file clerk!

As usual, I enjoyed the development of the supporting characters. Albert Finney was terrific as the nearly retired, burned-out attorney who never really realizes the lucrative potential of the action against the powerhouse utility. He even dragged in co-counsel to check Brockovich's work (much to her displeasure), but that at least gave us the opportunity to see a Richmond local, Veanne Cox, cast as the lawyer assigned to "handle" the no-nonsense file clerk and move the case to arbitration. My opinion of tattoos and chains has softened considerably with the performance of the Brockovich's Harley-riding neighbor, who ends up falling for the new career legal file clerk, and serving as primary child care provider for her kids.

For those of you who read credits like myself, you'll discover that the real Erin Brockovich appeared in the movie. Look for the scene where the heroine takes her children to a restaurant. Ms. Brockovich plays the waitress.

Rating:



10 Tips for Summer Associate Research Survival: A View from a Former Law Firm Librarian

- 1. Ask questions.** Don't leave the supervising attorney's office until your information is clear. Ask about client charges. Don't be embarrassed to ask if the attorney has recommendations about where you should start your research. Obtain the deadline, format, and length of the assignment results. Secretaries can save time with format instruction.
- 2. Anticipate assignments you did not cover (or you avoided) in research classes in school.** Common summer assignments include legislative histories, regulatory research, business research, and use of ethics opinions. Bring *Kunz* with you as a ready reference resource.
- 3. Plan your strategy.** Decide whether you have enough information to go directly to primary authority sources. You may benefit from consulting secondary sources first. Keep a log of the sources you have consulted.
- 4. Assess your resources.** A firm's collection will not duplicate the sources you have had access to in law school. Consult the librarian about authority to use online sources or other options, such as CD-ROM or web-based products.
- 5. Don't reinvent the wheel.** One resource consideration is a document file or memo bank. There is no point in creating something that has already been started. Look at the file. Perhaps all you'll need to do is update another memo. Your time is valuable.
- 6. Use legal resource editing to your full advantage.** Legal publishers invest tremendous amounts of money in editorial enhancements. Look at the annotations and take advantage of those references.
- 7. Know when to stop.** When you start seeing repeat patterns in your research, stop.
- 8. Understand the authority and coverage of your research tools.** Make sure any website you use is authoritative and current. If you are looking for historical information, an online database may not provide adequate coverage.
- 9. Update your research.** The supervising attorney should not have to ask if you've used a citator to update your research. "Bluebook" the memo also.
- 10. Understand the team approach.** All members of a legal team are important in accomplishing the client's goals. Be respectful of non-attorney responsibilities, and how those skills can make your experience more effective. —G.F.Z.

Gail Zwirner worked for thirteen years in the library at Hunton & Williams in the Richmond office.

It's Exam Time: Please Take the Conversations Outside the Library



The library staff frequently receives complaints about noise in the library. Particularly at this time of year when exams are being taken in the study carrels, conversations in the carrel areas should be kept to a minimum. Be mindful of signage that exams are in progress, which are displayed at the bot-

tom of the steps on the first floor, and at the elevator exits on the basement, second, and third floor levels. If you find it necessary to speak to classmates, professors, librarians, or staff in furtherance of educational purposes, please do so quietly. Turn off the ring feature on cell phones before you enter the library, and if you receive a call, leave the library immediately. Several group study rooms, located in the basement, are available for use by groups of two or more law students for a four hour period. Contact the Circulation Desk staff for the key. If noise persists, contact a member of the library staff for assistance in resolving the problem. Good luck on your exams. Thanks.

Library Hours

Regular Hours

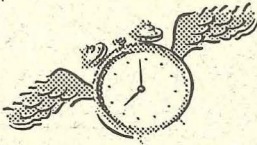
Sunday:	10:00am to Midnight
Monday-Thurs.:	7:30am to Midnight
Friday:	7:30am to 9:00pm
Saturday:	9:00am to 9:00pm

Spring Examination Period

Friday, April 21:	7:30am to Midnight
Saturday, April 22:	9:00am to Midnight
Sunday, April 23:	10:00am to Midnight
Monday, April 24-	
Thurs., April 27:	7:30am to 1:00am
Friday, April 28:	7:30am to Midnight
Saturday, April 29:	9:00am to Midnight
Sunday, April 30:	10:00am to Midnight
Monday, May 1-	
Thurs, May 4:	7:30am to 1:00am

Spring Inter-session (May 5-7)

Friday, May 5:	7:30am to 6:00pm
Saturday, May 6:	9:30am to Noon
Sunday, May 7:	CLOSED



Still missing that hour you lost for **Daylight Saving Time**? Congress placed the country on DST for seven months during World War I to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power. (40 Stat. 450) It was so unpopular, mostly because people rose earlier and went to bed earlier than we do today, that the law was later repealed in 1919 over President Wilson's veto. DST returned year-round during WWII from 2/2/42 to 9/30/45, but states and localities determined

whether and how to implement it, making it very confusing for interstate commerce. It was not until 1966 when Lyndon Johnson signed The Uniform Time Act, 80 Stat. 107, which established a uniform system throughout the U.S. States could chose to stay on standard time, so if you find the change difficult, move to Indianapolis!

Gail Zwimer, Editor
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