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Museletter: November/December 2001

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Museletter

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Fall 2001 Regular Library Hours

**Sun.-10:00 a.m.-
Midnight**
**Mon.-Thurs.-7:30 a.m.-
Midnight**
**Fri. - 7:30 a.m.-
9:00 p.m.**
**Sat. - 9:00 a.m. -
9:00 p.m.**

**Thanksgiving Break
(Nov. 20-24)**

**Tues. Nov. 20 – Wed.
Nov. 21: 7:30 a.m.-
6:00 p.m.**

**Thurs. Nov. 22:
CLOSED**

**Fri. Nov. 23: 1:00-6:00
p.m.**

LAW SCHOOL DEDICATES ROBERT R. MERHIGE, JR. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & RARE BOOKS ROOM

On Thursday October 25th, faculty, staff, alumni, students, friends and law firm partners of Judge Merhige met for the dedication of the Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Special Collections & Rare Books Room. It's an honor to have his papers as part of the law library's collection.

Other materials falling into this "special" or "rare books" category that require a controlled storage environment and care are a number of rare volumes pertaining to the development of Anglo-American legal principles. This includes most Virginia primary materials printed before 1866. In addition, the library holds the papers of David Nelson Sutton, a staff officer with the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Far East from 1945 through 1948. Sutton's papers consist of his copies of proceedings transcripts and other documents from the Tokyo War Crimes Trials. The most recent acquisition is a collection of unpublished bankruptcy opinions authored by Judge Blackwell N. Shelley. The

Law Library also preserves the Law School's history by developing and maintaining a collection of items about our law faculty, our students, our graduates, our achievements, and events affecting the law school. This collection includes items such as faculty publications, program brochures, videotapes of events, and law school catalogs

In his introductory comments at the dedication, Library Director, Timothy Cogins said: "Our law library joins a small number of academic law libraries in this country with a collection of papers from a federal judge, and we are very pleased to join the ranks of those libraries. We also are especially happy that the University honors Judge Merhige by naming this facility for him. Judge Merhige's collection offers researchers and scholars the opportunity to review more comprehensively his impact in substantive and procedural areas of the law such as civil rights, products liability and toxic torts, and multi-district litigation. Having his collection of photographs and other memorabilia from his thirty plus years on the bench offers judicial biographers the opportunity to see his life more personally than one might from just readings. Access to his materials offers our students the opportunity to investigate more deeply some of the issues that Judge Merhige addressed during his career."

John Barden's special collections experience at Williamsburg and Monticello — and of course his interest in Virginia history — will ensure that the collection will be well developed and maintained. Students doing third year writing requirements in legal history have already found the collection useful.



Judge Merhige, Dean Pagan, Mrs. Merhige and former clerk, Michael W. Smith, cut the ribbon at the dedication of the special collections room.

Best Wishes
 from the
 Library
 Staff
 for a
 Happy
 Holiday
 Season and
 New Year



Reference Source of the Month:
Virginia Lawyer and Virginia Lawyer Register
 By Gail Zwirner

Publications by State Bar Associations can be valuable research tools. For example, the *Virginia Lawyer* and its every-other-month companion, the *Virginia Lawyer Register* are issued regularly to Bar members. The *Virginia Lawyer* contains substantive articles on Virginia legal issues. The *Virginia Lawyer Register* provides advance notice of Supreme Court rule changes, summaries of legal ethics opinions prior to their publication with the *Virginia Code*, and notices of recent disciplinary actions.

Virginia law librarians participate regularly in writing articles on researching various legal or law related issues. The February 2000 and October 2001 issues were written entirely by members of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries or friends of the association whom we recruited to provide specific topical input.

For example, as we approach the General Assembly session, a review of Cheryl Jackson's article, "Legislative History: the Intent Behind the Action," will clarify what legislative history tools exist in Virginia — and yes there is legislative history in Virginia. (Feb. 2000, p. 30) For practitioners trying to make decisions about acquiring book or online sources for their firms, articles like "An Attorney's Best Friend: A Consumer Advocate Speaks" by Lyn Warmath (Feb. 2000, p. 8) or Terry Long's "Commercial Electronic Products for Virginia Legal Research," (Feb. 2000, p. 18) will guide the attorney in making cost effective decisions about collection development.

Law Librarians frequently remind their patrons about what is — and is not — available on the Internet. Hazel Johnson's article, "Internet Reality Check" (Feb. 2000, p. 20) discusses Internet myths and realities. "An Overview of Five Internet Legal Research Alternatives to Westlaw and LexisNexis" by Alyssa Altshuler (Oct. 2001, p. 10) provides valuable information for those practitioners unable to subscribe to fee-based services. And for those occasional needs for non-legal resources, two articles assist with business and medical information on the Internet: "Business Research Strategy Using Free Web-Based Business Information Resources" (Oct. 2001) by Karen M. King and "Researching Medical Literature on the Internet" (Oct. 2001) by Gloria Miccioli.

Watch for next year's librarian issue, probably in October.

At the Movies: *Tortilla Soup*
 By Gail Zwirner

The legal connection in this movie is a stretch — only a mention of a consultation with a patent attorney — but that mention qualifies it for a review of this delightful movie. Although it is apparently a Latino remake of Ang Lee's "Eat Drink Man Woman," it reminded me almost immediately of "Mystic Pizza," Julia Roberts' first movie role.

Hector Elizondo stars brilliantly as a widowed patriarch and retired chef in southern California, who insists on the family tradition of dining with his three daughters for the evening meal, for which he has labored most of the day. Just the sight of the meal being prepared made everyone head out the door at the end directly to a Mexican dinner!

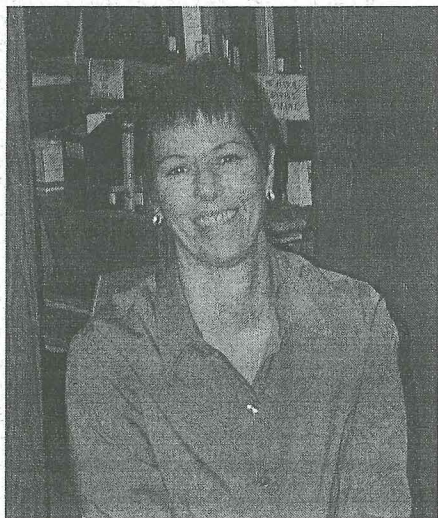
(Continued on page 4)

Meet the Library Staff: Amanda Surovy & Kathy Sagan-Salandro

Amanda Surovy is the new library assistant working in Technical Services. She will be working on items for the bindery, labeling, as well as processing the extraordinary amount of mail that the library receives each day.

Amanda moved to Richmond's West End from Danbury, Connecticut in February of this year. She was previously employed at Cendant Mobility, the world's largest corporate relocation company, where she was a Real Estate Analyst. Amanda received her BA from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania in May 1999. At Muhlenberg she majored in English and minored in Political Science with an overall American Studies concentration in both.

After settling in at the University of Richmond law library, Amanda hopes next year to begin taking classes for her Masters degree in Library Science. She enjoys reading (of course!), hiking, watching hockey and playing with her 2 cats, Biscuit and Schmidty the Kitty.



Kathy Sagan-Salandro joined the Circulation staff in September as the daytime Library Circulation Assistant. Her duties include opening the library Monday-Friday, handling general circulation duties such as checking out books, organizing the reserve collections, setting up audiovisual items for classroom use, use by law school organizations, and special functions in the Moot Court Room and the library.

Kathy completed her undergraduate studies at Clarion State College and received her M.L.S. at the University of Pittsburgh. She moved to Richmond in the summer of 1989. After purchasing a home and having children, she finally feels like Richmond is home. Of course, since her boys were born here this won't be an issue for them. She has worked in various state agencies and libraries since arriving in Richmond, but Kathy spent the last six years staying home with her two sons. Her husband is on the faculty at VCU. Kathy's children attend Richmond Montessori School (on Parham Rd.). Finding a wonderful school environment for her children has helped her find a comfort level with the city and allowed her to come back confidently to the workforce. Kathy and her family live just across the Boulevard Bridge on the city's south side. She says it's a fabulous neighborhood where her family is able to enjoy most of the opportunities Richmond has to offer.

Kathy is a huge sports fan and generally supports the Pittsburgh teams (she lived there for eight years), but since she grew up right outside Philadelphia she is partial to those teams as well.

(*Tortilla Soup*, continued from page 2)

The daughters, all so devoted to the father, but finding it challenging to go through life changes and at the same time, capture his approval. The oldest daughter Leticia is a schoolteacher, who longs for a relationship with the school's baseball coach. She spends much of her time in church and disapproving of her sisters' activities. Her serious nature is a bit tiring, until the end when a plot twist allows her to come out of her shell. Carmen is a high-powered consultant, and regularly provides the evening meal with eye-opening announcements. Finally, the youngest is Maribel, a free spirit, who disappoints her father by choosing not to attend college, and decides to "discover herself" by moving in with her Brazilian beau.

The cooking and dinner scenes were so charming, and those, like myself who need a kitchen upgrade, noticed all the details of the equipment and layout.

The only thing somewhat overdone was the flamboyant character Hortensia, played by Raquel Welch. She's counting on Elizondo being her fourth husband, but a surprise at the end eliminates that possibility.

There is nothing "deep" about *Tortilla Soup*. It's just very entertaining. Don't go on an empty stomach!

The following note appeared in the library suggestion box:

"I had a great time — thanks for all the help! Class of 2001."

Thanks from the library staff for your appreciation.

Gail Zwirner, Editor
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The Museletter is the official newsletter of the William Taylor Muse Law Library at the School of Law of the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

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