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Museletter: April 2010

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Museletter

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**THE LAW LIBRARY:
A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE
by Matthew Farley**

For the past two years, the Muse Law Library has hired a 3L student to help develop student-oriented research tools, provide assistance to the reference faculty, and work the reference desk throughout the year. Back in September, I was fortunate to be hired as this year's Reference Intern.

In early April, Ms. Suzanne Corriell, our Head of Reference and Research Services at the library, surveyed a portion of the law school regarding library usage and services. As I took that survey—giving the library all “Excellent” ratings, of course—I was struck by the myriad resources we have at our fingertips. That reflection was amplified as I realized I would soon be an outsider to Muse library. When I graduate in a month, I won't have unhindered HeinOnline and JSTOR access, I can't nonchalantly run 6 different Westlaw searches looking for a single, elusive case, and I certainly won't have people like Ms. Corriell and her colleagues in the library to guide my research.

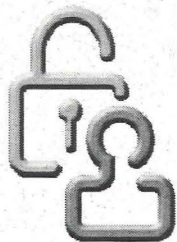
So I'm writing you, the student body and primary benefactors of the library, to tell you about some of its more outstanding features. 3Ls, I'm sorry. For the most part, it's far too late for you. 2Ls and 1Ls, it's your education, your school, and your library, so make the most of it.

Bridge the Gap

Every spring, Ms. Joyce Manna Janto and Ms. Corriell alleviate some of the anxiety of graduating by organizing a terrific workshop on, you guessed it, bridging the gap between law school and law practice. The program always features alumni speakers who recently underwent the transition from toiling away in law school to working in a private firm or for a judge. This program has got everything—good firsthand insights, a brief research refresher, and a word on professionalism and its importance. Go to this event if at all possible. In a down economy, you need to hit the ground running. Even if you missed the program this year, you can still check out the DVD of the program—talk to Ms. Corriell.

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**Want to use your
Westlaw or
LexisNexis
accounts for
approved uses
this summer?**



**Remember to
REGISTER
your
password!**

The Law Library: A Student's Perspective

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Reference Librarians

I've mentioned two of them, but there are many more. I can't overstate how helpful and insightful this group is. Dean Coggins is our resident librarian extraordinaire—he teaches, stays involved with the larger university, and still finds time to answer the tough questions at the reference desk. Ms. Janto is the number two in the library. Her personality is welcoming, and her expertise nearly unparalleled. Ms. Corriell heads up research and reference at the library. Another friendly face, anything related to research services and databases falls to her. Ms. Gail Zwirner, the library's Head of Access Services, is our face to other libraries. She handles Interlibrary Loans and is perhaps the most acquainted with Virginia-specific researching. Other incredibly helpful librarians who will help you at the Reference Desk are Mr. Paul Birch, Ms. Sally Wambold, and Ms. Amy O'Connor.

Finally, our newest addition, Ms. Heather Hamilton, joins us from Baton Rouge. I have not had the chance to work with Ms. Hamilton yet, but I had the opportunity to interview her months ago, and she is a terrific fit for Richmond and another welcoming personality in the library. So that's them, now go talk to them.

The Collection

I was rather disappointed we didn't make the National Jurist's top 50 law libraries in the country list. We excel in every category they evaluate—hours open per week (106), number of students per librarian (about 80 by my count), number of library seats per student (about 1.15 by my count), and our outstanding collection. On the last of these, consider that the library houses 207,374 titles in 407,871 volumes, has countless rare books, and is a depository for Virginia Supreme Court documents. So, what's the point here? It's twofold—first, know that what we have at Richmond is top-notch (no matter how the National Jurist wants to spin it), and second, get out there and use it. At the very least, have the decency to check out a law-themed DVD every couple of weeks.

Research Guides

Have an international law paper this semester? Writing a Virginia-specific paper for your health care class? Need to figure out what source will support that stray footnote in your spading? The library's got you covered. Check out the research guides that the librarians have compiled for you—they're just in front of the Reference Desk in the library. And don't stumble around HeinOnline's databases for twenty minutes before you pick one up, they are most useful at the outset of your research. The library is also using a new online research guide format called LibGuides—you'll be seeing them more prominently featured on the library's new web site soon.

So that's it. I know of many other bragging points in the library, but I will spare you. The bottom line? Everything in the library is yours (literally, your tuition dollars) so you should make yourself aware of its contents and take advantage of every resource it holds.

“EAT CAKE @ Your Library”
National Library Week
April 11-17, 2010

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee. This committee encouraged people to read in their increasing leisure time to "improve incomes and health". In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

The Law Library will be sponsoring a National Library Week celebration on Tuesday, April 13. Stop by the library's Special Collections & Rare Books Room after 1 p.m. to have a piece of cake!

J.D. Career Materials

What Can You Do With a Law Degree?: A Lawyer's Guide to Career Alternatives Inside, Outside & Around the Law by Deborah Arron. Call number KF297 .A877 2004 (second floor).

This book is one of the law career classics, intended to assist you in developing a satisfying, long-lasting career, in or beyond the law. This edition includes job and career suggestions, web addresses for numerous resources, extensive self-assessment exercises, profiles of successful graduates, tips on putting plans into action and even a test to determine the right fit for you within the practice of law.

The Opportunity Maker: Strategies for Inspiring Your Legal Career Through Creative Networking and Business Development by Ari L. Kaplan. Call number KF297 .K37 2008 (second floor).

This resource presents the concepts behind business and career development, exploring the proven and creative strategies for lawyers to empower their legal careers, starting in law school and continuing through partnership. It discusses ways to build a personal brand, leverage your creativity, and maximize potential in business development. Some of the chapters have titles like: "The Most Important Lesson Law School Never Teaches," "Find a Mentor," and "Networking & the Personal Aspects of Promoting Yourself."

Fifty Unique Legal Paths: How to Find the Right Job by Ursula Furi-Perry. Call number KF297 .F87 2008 (second floor).

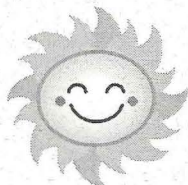
A law degree is versatile—it can provide diverse career choices, many of which enable you to positively impact the lives of countless people through your work. Filled with resources and practical tips, this book is a valuable resource for the law student just starting out, or for the legal professional looking for a change.

Welcome!

The Law Library welcomed a new employee in April!

Heather Hamilton began as the Reference/Research Services Librarian on Monday, April 5. Prior to joining us, she was the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian at Louisiana State University Law Center. She is a graduate of the William and Mary School of Law, having received her J.D. in May 2009. She received her Master's in Library Sciences from Drexel University and a B.A. in English Literature and a B.A. in History from the University of Cincinnati.

While in law school Heather worked as a Law Library Fellow at the Wolf Law Library at William & Mary's Law School. She provided reference services to students, faculty and other users of the Wolf Law Library and assisted faculty with research projects. Heather's office is L-27 in the Law Library, and her phone extension is 8727. Stop by and say hi!



Summer Information

Regular hours for the Summer Session (Sunday, May 16—Saturday, July 24) are:

Sunday	10:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday	7:30 a.m.—10:00 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

The Law Library is closed on Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day) and Sunday, July 4 and Monday, July 5 (Independence Day).

Graduating students who are not preparing for the Virginia bar, and students who are registered for Fall clinics, swapping carrels, and transferring or visiting away next year must empty their carrels and turn in the key to Deborah Barlett, Law Library Operations Manager, in the Library Administrative Office (L-17) prior to leaving.

All students should clean their carrels before leaving for the summer. Personal belongings may be left only in the locked portion of the carrel. Nothing should be left on the carrel surface, the sides, the top or the floor underneath (NO boxes, full or empty, should be stored on the floor under the carrel or on top of the carrel). Housekeeping will clean the carrels during the summer. The Law Library is not responsible for damage to personal items left in the carrels. We especially request that students check the locked portion of the carrel and remove any leftover food or food wrappers. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

For any additional information about carrel assignment, please see Deborah Barlett in room L-17 of the Law Library or email her at dbarlett@richmond.edu.

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