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Fall 2009

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Friends of the Bethel University Library

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SAYING GOOD-BYE

by Amy Reinhold

It was twenty years ago, as a Bethel College student, that I first met Bob Suderman. On my first day working at the Circulation Desk, he unlocked the door and greeted me. As an unsure freshman, he made me feel comfortable that morning. I have now had the privilege to work under Bob's leadership these past ten years and witness the value he places on people, not things.

He is my example of a servant leader: sacrificing his self-interest for the good of the group, valuing other people and their ideas, and being committed to helping others develop and grow. He has confidence in each staff member's ability to do their job and gently pushes us to do more than what we think we can do.

During Bob's 33 years

as Library Director, the staff has grown from seven to seventeen. With Bob's guidance, we moved from a card catalog to an online catalog, added 100 public computers, and kept the library current with technology while creating a space that is warm and inviting.

On Friday, September 25, the Bethel community, friends, and family gathered in the Bethel Library Fireside Lounge to honor, celebrate, and thank Bob for his years of service, leadership, and dedication to the library. Guests could view several displays highlighting the changes in technology and Bob's passions outside the library, as well as the fun gifts and trinkets given by Bob to staff throughout the years.

Former Bethel president George Brushaber, Cooperating Libraries in



Above: (Left to Right) Bob and Family: Bob, wife Alice, granddaughters Samantha & Jessica Dahl, daughter Brenda Dahl, Son Keith Suderman (hidden), son-in-law Brad Dahl.

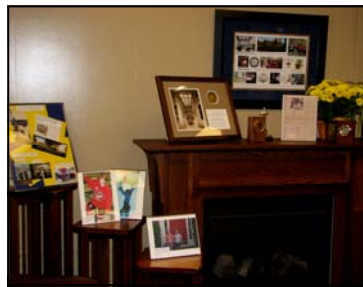
Below: (Left to Right) Bob & Carol Johnson, Director of St. Catherine University. Jessica, Brenda & Samantha Dahl. Bob's honors display. Keith and Alice Suderman.

Consortium (CLIC) board president Jane Ann Nelson, Bethel President Jay Barnes, and I reflected on Bob's influence at Bethel and CLIC. To Bob's surprise, president Barnes announced that a future library space will be named in Bob's honor. Several guests then had the opportunity to recount memories and experiences shared with Bob through the years.

It is difficult to say good-bye, but I am grateful for the time I have worked alongside Bob. Congratulations on your retirement, Bob! You will be missed.

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If God said in plain language, "I'm giving you a choice, forgive or die," a lot of people would go ahead and order their coffin."

From Secret Life of Bees

GROWING UP CAN BE HARD TO DO

By Eric Gossett

Ranging from South Carolina to southern India, and from dealing with pesky cousins to dealing with the difficulty of forgiveness, the books and DVDs in this column, all on the theme of growing up, are touching, at times heartbreaking, but ultimately rewarding.

The Secret Life of Bees, a novel by Sue Monk Kidd, is set in South Carolina in 1964, shortly after President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Bill.

Racism is a major backdrop to the story, but not the primary focus. Fourteen-year-old Lily, the narrator of the story, is poor, white, motherless, and living with an emotionally cold father. She runs away, taking her African-American maid, Rosaleen, with her. They end up staying at the house of the three Boatwright sisters: August, June, and May. A main theme in the story is Lily's search for information about her mother. Some syncretic religious ideas also weave through the book. Here is a statement by Lily to give a flavor of the style and content:

"People, in general, would rather die than forgive. It's that

hard. If God said in plain language, "I'm giving you a choice, forgive or die," a lot of people would go ahead and order their coffin."

The movie adaptation features an amazing ensemble of actresses. Most of the names are familiar (such as Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson, and Alicia Keys). Sophie Okonedo is a British actress of African descent, whom you may have seen in *Hotel Rwanda* or the recent BBC production of *Oliver Twist*. They all achieved very believable performances, in a movie quite faithful to both the content and spirit of the book. Both are suitable for older teens and adults.

The family-friendly Canadian television series, *Road to Avonlea*, is based upon some of the short stories and novels by Lucy Maud Montgomery, best known for *Anne of Green Gables*. One of the central characters is young Sara Stanley (on the left of the



image, with her cousin Felicity), who has been sent to live with her dead mother's siblings. For fans of the *Anne of Green Gables* miniseries, there are regular appearances by Marilla Cuthbert, Rachel Lynde, and eventually, Miss Stacy (all with the original

actresses), though Anne never shows up. There is a very nice web site about the series at www.avonleaguide.com

I have not read the short stories, but my daughter informs me that the author occasionally reflects some of the racism of her time; in particular in regards to the native population of Canada. The television series avoids this problem. The show is suitable for mid-elementary school age through adults. Both children and adults share equally in screen time.

A Peck on the Cheek is a film from southern India, in Tamil with English subtitles. The main character is nine-year-old



Amudha, abandoned at birth in a refugee camp when her mother went back to war-torn Sri Lanka. When told on her ninth birthday that she is adopted, she becomes obsessed with finding her birth mother. Her loving Indian adoptive parents eventually take her to Sri Lanka to search. The film, suitable for teens and adults, highlights the conflict in Sri Lanka and also provides a look at adoption outside America.



FROM SCROLLS TO SCROLLING

By Ann Gannon
(with Bethel Communication
and Marketing)

In 2004, the Friends of the Bethel University Library, together with the Bethel Biblical and Theological Studies Department, purchased a facsimile of *Codex Vaticanus*, one of the earliest copies of the Old and New Testaments together in book form, dating back to A.D. 360. On Homecoming weekend in September, 2009, the *Codex Vaticanus* went on permanent display in the Bethel University Library as part of an exhibition leading up to a presentation by Michael Holmes, Ph.D.,

University Professor of Bethel University, which took place on Friday, October 23.

Dr. Holmes' presentation, "From Scrolls to Scrolling: Scripture, Technology and the Word of God," examined the rise of the computer age and the shift in the form in which we read Scripture. For many believers, the printed text is being replaced by electronic texts, which can be accessed in a variety of formats via a wide range of electronic devices, including laptops, iPhones, Blackberries and other PDAs, and e-book readers such as the Kindle.

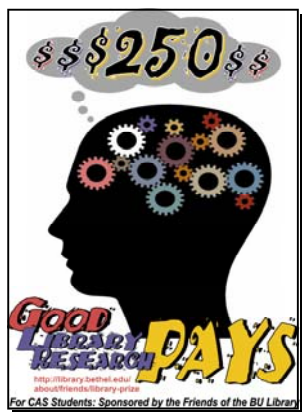
Dr. Holmes' dynamic presentation asked such

questions as: How and to what extent will this change in form affect our perceptions of Scripture and the ways in which we read Scripture?

Dr. Holmes was appointed University Professor in March 2008, and is only the second faculty member to be given this prestigious recognition.

If you would like to listen to this presentation, you can find it online at: <http://www.bethel.edu/its/itunes-u/>. Use the appropriate login. Under "Speakers," click on the "Mike Holmes" tab to download the file to iTunes on your computer.

FRIENDS GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE! By Karen Johnson



Good Library Research Pays!

In an effort to encourage and reward good library research, the Friends of the Bethel University Library has created a \$250 prize available to

undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences. This is an effort to reward those students who use our resources and services extensively and demonstrate an understanding of information literacy competencies. Not only will the recipient of the award receive prize money, but they also will make a presentation at our ever-popular "Primetime" series that takes place on Tuesday/Thursday mornings in the Fireside Lounge area of the library. Thank you, Friends, for encouraging our students' research efforts by providing this prize!

2009-2010 Connie J. Larson Scholarship Winner

The second annual Connie J. Larson Scholarship winner has been chosen, and the winner is April Walker, a sophomore with an English Literature & Writing major.

April was nominated by her supervisor in the serials department, Sally Smith, who worked closely with April on a difficult project this past summer. Along with the heavy work of moving periodicals as well as attention to detail, April was commended for her work ethic in going beyond what

she was asked to do. She is a welcome addition to our staff and her service is recognized by awarding her with a \$300 scholarship in memory of Connie Larson, a former librarian at Bethel. Congratulations April!



April Walker

BETHEL UNIVERSITY DIGITAL LIBRARY IS LAUNCHED!

By Earleen Warner
(with Kent Gerber)

In the Fall 2007 issue of *Among Friends*, an article appeared that introduced the possible creation of a Bethel University Digital Library.

We are now pleased to announce that the dream is becoming a reality! In August, Kent Gerber was hired as the new Bethel University Digital Library Manager. Kent comes to Bethel with experience as a Cataloging Librarian, a Systems Assistant—Digital Library Intern, and a Reference Librarian. His studies during library school included such courses as “Planning and Creating Digital Libraries” and “Creating and Managing Digital Assets,” and involved research in the creation of

digital repositories specifically for academic institutions.

The Bethel University Digital Library will provide the Bethel University community with access to digital materials and resources unique to Bethel that support the University’s mission of excellent teaching, rigorous research, and Christ-following service. It will do this by collecting materials that are already “born” digital as well as converting physical formats to digital form. These objects will also be organized so that they can easily be found and re-used within the Bethel community and shared with the world when appropriate. Resources will be featured on a designated web space within the Bethel University web

page for discovery and interaction with the appropriate audience. Preserving digital items is complex and the digital library will steward Bethel’s resources appropriately by planning preservation strategies that anticipate and alleviate issues associated with technological change.

Examples of the Bethel University Digital Library’s collections include the following: Bethel University History Collection (historical images and publications) and Baptist General Conference History Collection. Access to these collections can be found at the following address: <http://content.clic.edu/bethel.html>.



Kent Gerber
Bethel University
Digital Library Manager

LIFELONG LEARNING AT PRIMETIME EXPANDS

By Ann Gannon

It is Tuesday morning, and the Fireside Lounge in the University Library is filling up with faculty, staff, and students ready to learn more about the world and myriad new ideas. It’s Primetime @ BU Library.

What started three years ago as a collaboration with Faculty Development and a program called *Not (necessarily) Ready for Primetime* has expanded. It now also includes *Ready for Primetime*, a celebration of faculty projects

that have been published or presented; *Edgren Scholars*, collaborative projects between faculty and students; and *Faculty Excellence Award* winners as well as *Study Abroad Spotlights*, sponsored by International Studies.

In October, we traveled with students to Belize and Italy and with Dick Peterson (Physics) to Daystar U in Kenya, researched the fall productions of *The Clearing* and *The Imaginary Invalid* with Meg Zauner and Rick Rees (Theatre), and more.

**Primetime
@BUlibrary**

**10:15–11:00 AM
@ BU LIBRARY
FIRESIDE LOUNGE**

The upcoming schedule is just as rich, with presentations by Edgren Scholars, Faculty Excellence Award winners, and both students and faculty sharing their learning experiences.

Primetime @ BU Library events can be found on the library webpage news. Just logon to <http://>

library.bethel.edu to find out what’s next on the schedule. Then come grab a cup of coffee, take a seat by the fireside, and enjoy an hour of stimulating new ideas.

WHAT'S A KINDLE?

By Verena Getahun

The Kindle has landed! This summer, the Library purchased four Kindle wireless reading devices from Amazon.com, and began circulating them this fall. The Kindle is a slim little device designed for reading electronic books and other texts. It can hold up to 1,500 titles, and because of its wireless capability, you can purchase and start reading a book instantly wherever there is a wireless signal. Our patrons can check out a Kindle for three weeks at a time, and so far this fall, each Kindle has been steadily in use.

We expect that use of the Kindle will evolve as our patrons become familiar with it, but for now, we think of the Kindles as an enhancement to the Leisure and Lifelong Learning collection. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, we were able to purchase about 100 fiction and non-fiction titles across several genres, including Chris-

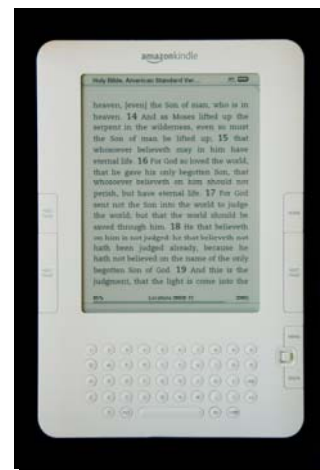
tian Fiction, Mystery, Biography, and Foreign Language. We have also downloaded 80 free books, mostly classics such as *War and Peace*.

When I mention the Kindle, I often hear, "Well, I'm a book person. I just like turning the pages of a good, old-fashioned book." My sentiments exactly. To my surprise, however, when I brought the Kindle home for a weekend, I found myself reading comfortably for hours. I experienced what the designers of the Kindle hoped for—that the device would "disappear" in my hands as I get lost in a good story. A simple menu makes it easy to do the things one is used to doing with print, like bookmark pages, highlight passages, and make notes. And there are some extra features that only an electronic book could have: the Kindle remembers the last page you were on in each book, it can search the entire text of the book, and it will even read aloud in a passable electronic voice. For some

readers, the Kindle lives up to its designers' dreams. But not everyone loves it; there is no backlight, so you need to supply your own lamp to read in dim corners, and the dull gray screen has been memorably described as being the color of "wet newspaper."

Bethel University Library was one of the first academic libraries in the Twin Cities to start circulating Kindles, and we have worked together with librarians from Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas to sort out the challenges of adapting Kindles to library use. We chose the Kindles because they were the best e-readers available, but in the last few months, the market for e-readers has exploded with new models and features, such as color touch-sensitive displays.

We will keep an eye on the rapidly developing e-reader scene, but for now, we're happy to be able to share our Kindles with the Bethel community.



Bethel University Library was one of the first academic libraries in the Twin Cities to start circulating Kindles

NEW DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES NAMED

David Clark, Bethel University Provost, recently announced that David Stewart, current director of the Luther Seminary Library, will become the first Director of Libraries for Bethel University, effective January 4, 2010.

David Stewart has served at several important libraries including at Princeton Theo-

logical Seminary and Regent College. He is currently president of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), a role that shows he is recognized by his peers as a leader in librarianship. He received his M.L.I.S. from the University of Western Ontario, M.Div. and Th.M. from Regent College, M.A. from Providence Seminary, and

B.A. from the University of Lethbridge (all in Canada).

As the director of Bethel University libraries, David's responsibilities will include supervision of all Bethel libraries including both libraries in St. Paul as well as those at Bethel Seminary San Diego and Bethel Seminary of the East.



David Stewart



Friends of the Bethel University Library is an alliance of people dedicated to improving the resources of the Library. *Among Friends* is published twice a year.

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BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Bethel University Library
3900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul, MN 55112

VISIT THE BETHEL UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY'S WEBSITE AT:

<http://library.bethel.edu>

LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

By Earleen Warner



• **New Computer Classroom** At last a real classroom for many of our 300+ classes each year, and it makes the library the largest lab on campus with nearly 100 public workstations.

• **New Reference Librarian**

Will Keillor, previously Acquisitions Coordinator at Luther Seminary Library in St. Paul, and recent graduate of the Dominican University/College of St. Catherine MLIS program, has joined the staff as a new Reference and Instruction Librarian.



• **Farewell to Verena Larson!**

Verena entered the retirement chapter of her life in August after 25 years of service in the Bethel University Library. Among her many contributions, she taught information literacy to College Writing students, edited the *Among Friends* newsletter, updated the Library News on the Library's web

page, wrote songs to honor Library staff at special events, and enhanced the Library's ambiance with green plants. Verena will be missed!

• **Congratulations!**



• Carole Cragg, Associate Director of the University Library was appointed as Interim Director during the library director transition. She was also recently honored for 25 years of service to Bethel University.

• Amy Reinhold, Materials Services Cataloger was also honored for 10 years of service this year!



• **Busy Place!** The Library continues to attract students, faculty, and staff. Over 1 million people crossed the threshold during the 2008-2009 school year!

• **Friends Can Now Give Online!** You can now give to the Friends of Bethel University Library online. An online form is available from the Bethel homepage or by going to <http://www.bethel.edu/development/give-to-bethel/online>. Designate "Friends of the BU Library" in the "Other" category.



You are Invited to Make a Difference.

The Friends of the Bethel University Library has helped the library purchase many items that would not have been possible within the normal budget. These include books for the Amazon Kindles; literature for leisure reading; travel guides; classic films and books about cooking, gardening and sports.

The Friends continue to host forums on timely subjects and presentations by faculty, students, and distinguished alumni through the expanded Primetime @ BU Library program.

We are especially pleased to not only offer the scholarship opportunity in honor of Connie J. Larson, but have added a yearly Library Research Prize for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Here's a heartfelt thanks to you Friends who have made all this possible and a warm welcome to new Friends who will help us continue to enrich the BU Library experience.

Eric Gossett
President, Friends of the Bethel University Library



FRIENDS OF THE BETHEL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Membership for 2009-2010

Renewing Member New Member

Membership Levels / Annual Dues

Student \$10
 Supporting* \$25
 Sustaining* \$50-\$100
 Patron* \$250
 Lifetime** \$1,000

* Sustaining, Patron & Lifetime levels can be joint membership for couples

** Lifetime membership may be paid over a period of up to 5 years

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- Please notify me by email so I can read *Among Friends* newsletter on the Library website
- I live in the Bethel area and would like to have University Library privileges
- No, please do not list my name & membership level In Friends materials

Visit the Library website at <http://library.bethel.edu>

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- Online at <http://www.bethel.edu/development/give-to-bethel/online>
- Check payable to **Bethel University**

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 St. Paul, MN 55112

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