

N *The NCSU Libraries* Newsletter

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/whatsnew/>

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NCSU Libraries “Newslogs”

With the continued explosion of online news, content aggregation through a “newslog” is becoming the most popular news delivery model. It saves time compared to acquiring content from individual publications and ensures a comprehensive view of the news by topic rather than publication. According to a January 2005 “Pew Internet and American Life Project Data Memo,” 5 percent of Internet users say they use RSS (Really Simple Syndication) aggregators or XML (Extensible Markup Language) readers to get news and other information delivered as it is posted online. This is a clear indicator that this approach to receiving news is gaining in use.

The NCSU Libraries has produced several “newslogs” containing library information of relevance to various library branches and affiliates as well as to subject areas. In addition to the Libraries’ main “newslog” (<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/libraries>), the following are available:

BRANCHES AND AFFILIATES

- Learning Resources Library
(<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/lrl>)
- Natural Resources Library
(<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/nrl>)
- Textiles Library
(<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/textiles>)

TOPICAL

- Agriculture and Life Sciences
(<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/als>)
- Business Information Network
(<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/business>)
- Geographic Information Systems
(<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/gis>)
- Government Documents (coming soon)

These “newslogs” may also be accessed from the Libraries’ Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news>. Each has its own focus and features, depending on the intended audience. For example, the Textiles Library “newslog” delivers news and information of interest to the faculty, students, and staff of the College of Textiles, as well as to the wider Centennial Campus community. Among its special features are class assignments and presentations, a “Reference Book of the Week” feature, and textile terms.

Those who would like to receive the headlines of current news items as they are posted may add any of the above “newslogs” to a news reading application using the RSS protocol. The RSS feeds are most often viewed in a reader program that retrieves articles on a regular time interval and displays them sequentially, much like electronic mail. A small orange-colored XML or RSS icon on a Web site indicates that a feed is available and can be accessed using a reader or aggregator to quickly and easily collect and browse the latest postings and news.

There are many free and open source feed readers available for download, including Abilon (<http://www.abilon.org/>) and FeedReader (<http://www.feedreader.com/>). These are desktop applications that are simple to install and use and come packaged with predefined headline providers that are especially useful for beginners. To add one or more NCSU Libraries’ news feeds to a reader, click on the orange RSS link in the bottom right corner of the “newslog,” then copy and paste the URL into the news reader.

For more information on “newslogs” and RSS, please call May Chang at (919) 513-3732 or send an electronic mail message to may_chang@ncsu.edu. ♦

Vietnam, A Journey of the Heart Exhibit Now Open

SPECIAL LECTURE PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY

From January 8 through March 6, 2005, the NCSU Libraries is hosting an exhibit organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). *Vietnam, A Journey of the Heart* features fifty-two photographs of contemporary Vietnam by Geoffrey Clifford and descriptive text by John Balaban, professor of English and poet-in-residence at NCSU.

On February 17, 2005, the Friends of the Library will host a special presentation in conjunction with the exhibit. Balaban and Clifford will discuss their work together at 4:00 P.M. in the Assembly Room, second floor, East Wing, of the D. H. Hill Library. The event is free and open to the NCSU community and to the general public. For more information, please call the Friends at (919) 515-2841. ♦

Bob Cairns To Speak at Special Friends of the Library Reading

The Friends of the Library will host a special reading by NCSU's Bob Cairns, author of *V & Me: Everybody's Favorite Jim Valvano Story*. The event will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2005, at 7:00 P.M. in the Faculty Senate Chambers. The Faculty Senate is located on the second floor, West (Erdahl-Cloyd) Wing, of the D. H. Hill Library. The event is free and open to the general public and to the NCSU community. Books will be available for sale. A portion of all profits will benefit The V Foundation for Cancer Research.

In his book, Cairns reminisces with more than 100 people about their memories of the dynamic Jim Valvano. Kay Yow, Dick Vitale, Dean Smith,

Mike Krzyzewski, and many more sports notables shared personal stories about the coach who brought the NC State Wolfpack to an NCAA basketball championship in 1983.

Cairns has been a writer at NC State University for twenty-seven years. He has written for *Sports Illustrated*, *TV Guide*, *Field & Stream*, *Baseball Digest*, and *Golf Digest*. He is author of the novel *The Comeback Kids* and of the nonfiction book *PEN MEN*.

For more information, please call the Friends of the Library at (919) 515-2841, or visit the Web at www.lib.ncsu.edu/friends/. ♦