

# The NCSU Libraries Newsletter

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 2 • SEPTEMBER 1998 • NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY • TERRELL ARMISTEAD CROW, EDITOR

## Town Meetings on Copyright Ownership Issues

**I**n response to a request from the Office of the Provost, the University Library Committee's Scholarly Communication Subcommittee recommended that NC State establish a Copyright Ownership Task Force. Provost Phillip J. Stiles and Charles G. Moreland (vice chancellor for Research, Outreach, Extension, and Economic Development) recently appointed David Danehower (Crop Science) and Ross Whetten (Forestry) to co-chair the task force. Its charge is to review university copyright policies and recommend revisions as appropriate to enhance the creative works of members of our academic community and to ensure that these works will be managed in a manner that will benefit the authors, the university, and the citizens of North Carolina.

To fulfill this charge, it is imperative that the interests and concerns of faculty in all disciplines be determined through their active participation. In support of the Copyright Ownership Task Force, the Scholarly Communication Subcommittee is sponsoring a series of Copyright Ownership Town Meetings. These meetings will provide an opportunity for faculty to learn about copyright and its issues and to voice their views and needs. Departments, colleges, or other interested groups are invited to host a town meeting.

Information on the Copyright Ownership Task Force will soon be available on its Web site at URL:

[http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/governance/task\\_forces/COTF/](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/governance/task_forces/COTF/)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HOSTING A  
COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP TOWN MEETING  
OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ROSS WHETTEN  
(ROSSWHET@UNITY.NCSU.EDU OR EXT. 5-7800)  
OR DAVID DANEHOWER (DAVID\_DANEHOWER@NCSU.EDU  
OR EXT. 5-7959).

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*Contributors to this issue are Kate Anthony (Collection Access and Delivery Services); Chris Filstrup (Collection Management, Organization, and Preservation); Peggy Hoon (Scholarly Communication Center); and Tony Reevy (Library Development).*

## NCSU Libraries Mourns Loss of Two Colleagues

**T**he NCSU Libraries lost two valuable colleagues and friends during the last few months. In April Gurdine (Gert) Bliss, a fixture in the Reserves Room at the D. H. Hill Library, died unexpectedly after a severe attack of bronchitis. In August the Libraries lost David Jackson, head of Special Collections. The following article describes the many contributions of these two wonderful people.

### IN MEMORIAM GURDINE BLISS

The NCSU Libraries' Gert Bliss (1926–1998) not only worked as a character actor in the local theater scene, but also was a character in the fullest sense of the word. She will be missed not only for her many years of devoted work as a library assistant in the Libraries' Reserve Room and Current Periodicals, but for her playfulness and audacious brand of humor. Anyone who knew Gert recognized her zest for working with the university community and its students. She dubbed herself the world's oldest living teenager. As a valued staff member, Gert helped the Reserve Room survive some difficult times. She was also a quick learner who adapted well to change, especially those involving new technologies. Her patience as a teacher is a prized memory of the many staff she trained.

Bliss always stayed busy. She pursued studies in NC State's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, held a full-time job at the D. H. Hill Library, worked in the theater, and devoted time to projects involving friends, family, and church. Never one to let a good opportunity slip by, Gert was always ready with an act to amuse faculty and students, and she kept colleagues and patrons on their toes.

Gert died while following one of her passions—working in the theater. For the three months before her death in April, she had been working diligently to direct a youth production of *Godspell* at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Unbeknownst to many, she was suffering from debilitating complications caused by acute bronchitis. Her death shocked her friends and student thespians. When the students learned that Gert had passed away, they continued with their Sunday performance and dedicated it to her memory. Once, a colleague asked her, "Gert, when are you ever going to finish your M.A. thesis anyway?" She quickly responded, "Never," as she winked.

Gert's family has asked that donations in her honor be sent to the Gert Bliss Memorial Church Drama Fund. Those interested in contributing should call the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for details at 828-1687.

### IN MEMORIAM C. DAVID JACKSON

C. David (Dave) Jackson, head of the NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Department, died on August 14, 1998. Dave, who was thirty-two years old, had worked for three-and-a-half years at North Carolina State University, joining the NCSU Libraries in January 1995. He also was an alumnus of the university, holding an M.A. in public history from NC State, in addition to a B.A. in history from Kenyon College.

Jackson's many accomplishments during his tragically brief career demonstrate the magnitude of the university's loss. He was the guiding force in founding and implementing the NCSU Libraries' North Carolina architectural archive, including acquisitions from donors such as Mary J. C. Baker; Boney Architects; Charlotte Brown; George Matsumoto; Ramsay, Burgin, Smith, Architects; and architectural files from UNC–Chapel Hill. He also charted the course for the library's new Special Collections Department. Under his leadership, the department began systematic acquisitions of rare materials in regional architecture and the history of modern technology and strengthened the already substantial entomology collection. Dave initiated the use of digital technologies to make the department's holdings accessible over the Internet. Additionally, he directed exhibits honoring NC State's World War II classes and former School of Design professor and archival donor George Matsumoto, and he wrote a number of successful grant proposals, publications, and presentations including *A History of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*.

Dave is survived by his wife, Maggi, and their daughter, Acy. The family has requested that donations in his memory be made to Preservation North Carolina, 101 St. Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC 27605. During the following months, the Special Collections Department's interim head will be Paul Kiel. Questions concerning Special Collections should be directed to Kiel at ext. 5-2273. ♦