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Greenwood Library Welcomes New Dean of the Library

Suzy Szasz Palmer, who had been deputy librarian at the Library of Virginia and previously worked in the library systems at Cornell University and the University of Louisville, is the new dean of the Greenwood Library at Longwood University.

“Dean Suzy,” as she likes to be called, began June 25 and had been at the Library of Virginia since June 2007. She started as director of research and information services and was promoted to deputy librarian in July 2009.



Dean Suzy held various positions at the University of Louisville Libraries from January 2003 to May 2007, finally as associate dean for collections, preservation and digital initiatives.

From 1979 through 2002, she held numerous positions in the Cornell University Library, including head of public services for rare and manuscript collections, reference coordinator and bibliographer, and special project assistant to the deputy director of the Olin Library,

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Dr. George William Jeffers Collection in Janet D. Greenwood Library

Dr. George William Jeffers, who taught at Longwood for 42 years, will always be remembered because of the George William Jeffers Collection housed in the Special Collections Room of the Janet D. Greenwood Library. This collection of materials provides a glimpse into the life of the educator who began his teaching career at the Farmville State Teachers College in 1926 where he was loved and respected by students and colleagues alike. The collection, which brings this interesting man to life, includes information about his teaching career, his professional affiliations, and his personal interests.

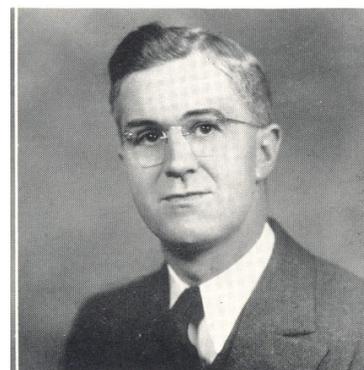
The collection of personal

and biographical information gives a basic overview of his life. Looking through the collection you learn that Dr. Jeffers was born in 1897 in the community of Freshwater, Newfoundland which is where he grew up. In 1917 he graduated from the Methodist College in St. Johns. He moved from Newfoundland in 1919 to attend Boston University where he earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees. In 1926 he became a professor at the State Teachers College in Farmville, Virginia, where he taught science until his retirement in 1968. In 1931, while on sabbatical, he earned his doctorate in marine biology at the University of Toronto.

Included in this collection are documents that refer to Dr. Jeffers’

many affiliations and professional activities. He served as President of the Virginia Academy of Science from 1940 to 1941,

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G. W. Jeffers, B. S., M. A., Professor of Biology, makes every class keenly interesting by his quick wit, sense of humor, and understanding personality.

Jeffers Collection (cont.)

and as the Director of the Survey for the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Commission from 1943 to 1945 which was financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. He was one of the co-founders of the National Association of Biology Teachers which was organized in 1938. In 1941 he served as President of this organization.

The collection includes a large number of manuscripts for studies, reports, articles, and stories that are interesting to read. It is obvious that Dr. Jeffers enjoyed writing. Although it is not documented anywhere, one of the handwritten manuscripts seems to be autobiographical. The stories about former Longwood folk such as President Jarman are both enlightening and fun to read. Dr. Jeffers was a contributor of articles published in several scientific journals. He and a colleague, Edith Stevens, collaborated on several texts used in-house by their students. Dr. Jeffers' area of expertise was marine biology which he wrote about while working on several studies.



Dr. Jeffers carved out a reputation for himself that resulted in a successful career which was celebrated with many accolades and words of praise when he retired in 1968. On the advent of his retirement, he received top honors and awards from the Virginia Academy of Science and the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. He was awarded the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award for significant achievement in scientific endeavors. In the spring of 1969, the auditorium in Stevens Hall was named the Jeffers Auditorium in his honor. At the dedication, a former

student, and later a colleague, made a few remarks that provide some insight into Dr. Jeffers' personality. Quoting from the transcript of the remarks she stated the following.

I represent literally thousands of Jeff's girls who have loved, admired and respected him through the years.... One recalls the warmth of his personality, his seemingly inexhaustible fund of knowledge on so many different subjects – psychology, sociology, philosophy; his down-to-earth, common sense approach to problems; plus the patience, friendliness and understanding that have helped many a bewildered freshman resolve conflicts such as that of science and religion. All of these mean Jeff to us "Old Girls".

This collection of papers tell a story about the life and career of George William Jeffers, who was a beloved professor, colleague, neighbor and friend to all who knew him in the classroom, within the Farmville community, and across the state of Virginia.

References:

"Academy of Science Launches Organization of Junior Unit." Richmond Times Dispatch 5 May 1940.

"Virginians in the Public Eye" The Commonwealth: The Magazine of Virginia. June 1941

"Science Groups Honor Longwood Professor." Richmond Times-Dispatch 11 May 1968.

Library Events

On Friday, March 4, 2011, the Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library hosted its spring event, featuring an evening with retired Campbell County judge, the Honorable J. Samuel Johnston. Johnston mingled with guests during the reception, provided humorous tales of the courtroom during his presentation, and concluded the evening with a book signing. Johnston's presentation may be viewed on the Friends website at:

<http://blogs.longwood.edu/libraryfriends/>

Mark your calendars!

On Friday November 4, 2011, Ellen F. Brown will speak to the Friends of the Library. Brown co-authored the book *Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind: A Bestseller's Odyssey from Atlanta to Hollywood*, which was published in February of 2011. This entertaining and informative account traces *Gone With the Wind* from its origins in the Civil War-era experiences of Mitchell's relatives through its status today as a pop culture icon that still generates impressive profits for her estate. At the core of the story is Mitchell's struggle to capture on paper the sights, sounds and smells of antebellum Georgia and how she dealt with her book's stunning success. Please join us on November 4th!



Message from Dean Suzy

It's an honor and a privilege to be the new Dean of the Janet D. Greenwood Library. I'm fortunate to have nearly thirty staff and librarians dedicated to providing the best service possible to Longwood students, faculty and staff – and to the community at large.

As a Friend of the Library, you help us improve and update our collections and physical space, adding new resources, technologies and equipment. In FY 2010-2011, the Friends' memberships brought in \$8,824. I'd like to see us break the \$10,000 mark in the coming year!

One of the best ways you can help support the Friends is by inviting your friends to join as new members, or consider a membership in a friend's name as a gift. It's also very important that you renew your own membership annually, and if you're able, increase your level of giving. Beginning this year, I've introduced a new benefit at the Editor level: with your donation of \$100 (to \$249) you now receive one bookplate in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice.

I hope to see you at our fall event on November 4, 2011, with author Ellen Brown speaking about her book *Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind*. Or just come by the Library anytime and say hello!

Suzy Szasz Palmer, Dean of the Library

Library Welcomes Dean (cont.)

Cornell's largest library. At the time, Cornell University Library consisted of 20 libraries and was about the 10th largest academic library in the country, Palmer said.

Dean Suzy is active in the library profession regionally and nationally. Most recently, she served as vice president/president-elect of the Richmond Academic Library Consortium and the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies/State Library Agency Section, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). She also chaired the Hot Topics in Front Line Reference Discussion Group of the ALA's Reference and User Services Association from 2008 to 2010, and she has chaired the Publications Committee of the Virginia Library Association since 2008. She has twice served as editor-in-chief of what is now *Microform & Imaging Review*, was a member of the editorial board for the *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, and recently was appointed to the editorial board of *Public Services Quarterly*, a library publication. She has spoken nationally and internationally on a variety of topics including the ethics of reference service and the future of the book.

Her goals for Greenwood Library are that it "become a more flexible and nimble organization that can adapt to change. I think there will have to be a re-thinking and a re-shifting of how we do our jobs to meet the needs of our clients. I'm pleased that there is a vibrant atmosphere in this library and a staff dedicated to customer service."

Her vision for the Friends of the Library is to expand the community of friends so every member can share in and benefit from the library experience, even if you are not directly affiliated with Longwood. In addition to the Friends newsletters, invitations to special events, CD, DVD and video checkout privileges, membership at the \$100 level is recognized with a book plate in honor of an individual of your choosing. Dean Suzy is also hoping to create a program where anyone can receive special recognition through an "Honor with a Book" program. This may be used for special occasions such as a graduation, and will honor someone with a Friends of the Greenwood Library membership. Donations and membership fees are gratefully appreciated and will continually help to build the collection and services of the Library.

Suzy is the author of a book about living with lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease she was diagnosed with at the age of 13. *LUPUS: Living With It: Why You Don't Have to be Healthy to be Happy*, published in 1991, is still in print. A copy of a revised paperback edition, published in 1995, is in Greenwood Library. Palmer, a native of Syracuse, N.Y., is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Syracuse University (A.B., summa cum laude, political philosophy) and has a master's degree in library science, also from Syracuse.

EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)

"one-stop"  interface

The Janet D. Greenwood Library selected and implemented *EBSCO Discovery Service* (EDS) this past summer, combining the library catalog and the majority of our article databases in one seamless search interface. For marketing purposes, we have named our EDS service OneSearch.

What is it? A single interface to search most of the Library's electronic and print collections: books, articles, and more. One Search:

- Provides users with a seamless search experience
- Uses the EBSCOhost search platform and offers familiar EBSCOhost features
- Searches all EBSCOhost databases and most of our other databases
- Searches the Library's catalog, including CDs & DVDs
- Includes the Library's electronic book collections



The decision to pursue a discovery service option was based on the Library's desire to stay current with library technologies and optimize information search capabilities across all of its research resources. The Library chose EDS after a thorough evaluation of competing discovery products and conducting faculty and student focus group studies. Features of EDS, such as customization options, powerful article and journal metadata, rapid response rates, and our experience with their quality customer service made their service the preferable choice. The final factor was that the Library already subscribes to many products from EBSCO. As a result of our work, the Greenwood Library now offers OneSearch to provide the LU academic community a seamless and comprehensive searching experience.

We were particularly pleased to be able to choose our own interface colors and logos to brand the Library and its services rather than the "out-of-the-box" EDS "look-and-feel." In addition, EDS allows us to add widgets to the interface, such as our "Ask a Librarian" chat box and to customize the toolbar for links to additional library resources. EDS has all the major features of today's discovery tools and major commercial search engines, including real-time availability, faceted search, and integrated result sets. EBSCO also provides our staff with regular webinars on administration updates, technical applications and new features to improve our product and offers strong, timely technical support.

EBSCO Discovery Service provides a unified index of the majority of the Library's resources within a single, customizable search point, thus providing the majority of what our researchers need in one place. One of our upper-level students commented on the ease of searching broadly and then narrowing by format and database proclaiming that "The Library has finally googled itself!"

Options for Becoming a Member of The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library

Levels of Giving

Author: \$10 to \$99

- Greenwood Library Newsletter
- Invitations to special events, such as book signings and book groups

Editor: \$100 to \$249

- One (1) bookplate in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- CD, DVD, and video check-out privileges
- And all of the above

Publisher: \$250 to \$499

- Two (2) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

Patron: \$500 to \$1,249

- Five (5) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

Collector: \$1,250 to \$2,499

- Ten (10) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Membership in the Longwood University

President's Circle

- Recognition on a donor honor roll located in the Library
- And all of the above

Greenwood Society: \$2,500 and up

- Twenty-five (25) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Lunch with your favorite librarian
- And all of the above

Become a Friend of the Greenwood Library!

You may become a member of the Friends of the Library by making an annual tax-deductible contribution. Online contributions may be made through the Longwood University Foundation Office at www.longwood.edu/advancement.

Please indicate "Greenwood Library" under "Allocation" as your gift designation. You may also mail your contributions to Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library, Longwood University Foundation Office, 201 High Street, Farmville, Virginia, 23909.

Planned Gifts, Endowment Opportunities and Other Options

Donors making qualifying gifts may request that a room be named in honor or in memory of an individual or organization. The naming of buildings, rooms, or other physical spaces is contingent on approval by the Board of Visitors. Call Franklin Grant at 1.800.281.4677, extension 3, for a confidential discussion about the opportunities available.

Contact Us

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library at Longwood University is governed by a steering committee composed of librarians, faculty, staff, students, and community members. For more information about the Friends of the Greenwood Library, please visit the Friends website at www.longwood.edu/library/friends or contact Suzy Szasz Palmer, Dean of the Library, at 434.395.2083 or palmer@s@longwood.edu.



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