



January 2008

## Responding to SGA Survey Results



On the recent SGA Committee on Academic Issues Academic Satisfaction Survey undergraduates were given an opportunity to respond to five statements related to the Gordon Library.

Below are the statements, which were supplied by library staff, the student favorability rating toward the statement, and the planned follow-up action.

Among all undergraduates polled:

68.4% were in favor of the statement, "I prefer that the library maintain group study rooms without technology/plasma TV for first-come-first-serve use. **Action:** We will continue to offer many open study rooms without technology for first-come first-serve use.

51.2% were against the statement, "The library should convert ALL group study rooms to technology enabled Tech Suites." **Action:** All rooms will not be converted. Although Tech Suites are extremely popular, we recognize the importance of open study rooms.

71.8% were in favor of the statement, "The library should provide more large screen monitors at existing workstations for group project work." **Action:** We plan to install at least four large screen monitors later this calendar year on the third floor.

62.6% were against the statement, "The library should purchase more electronic books and less print." **Action:** We will continue to purchase a healthy mix of print and electronic titles. Ebooks are becoming increasingly popular due to 24 X 7 X 365 access from anywhere in the world. Online access is very convenient for students at project centers, distance learners, and digital library users.

50.8% were in favor of the statement, "The library should designate more space for quiet (as opposed to group) study." **Action:** Instead of adding additional quiet space we are looking into reallocating existing quiet zones to minimize noise in certain areas of the library while encouraging collaborative group study where appropriate.

In addition to the five statements, students supplied many valuable library-related comments. Those issues are currently being examined and responses will appear in future newsletters. Library staff greatly appreciate being included in SGA initiatives and we would like to thank **Roseann Gammal** ('10), Chair, Committee on Academic Issues, for inviting us to participate.

## News from the Archives and Special Collections

### Theo Brown Diaries Now Online

**Lora Brueck** and **Rodney Obien** presented the Theo Brown Diaries project at the recent Digital Showcase Conference at the New England Library Network (NELINET). In 2006 the Gordon Library received a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to digitize a collection of diaries by the noted John Deere engineer Theo Brown. Theo Brown, a graduate of WPI Class of 1901, was head of the experimental department of John Deere & Co. and responsible for 158 patents on farm implements and machinery. His diaries (65 volumes, 23,000 pages) chronicle his 41-years at John Deere and capture the spirit of Americana in his day-to-day descriptions of family, travel, and current events from 1893 to 1971.



The project has a fully functional site: <http://theo.wpi.edu>. Nine diaries have been scanned and are viewable on the site: 1893, 1897, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1920, 1928, 1938, and 1948.

### Photography Club Exhibit – C Term

The WPI Photography Club will be exhibiting members' works beginning on January 23rd. The works will be exhibited in both the Gladwin Art Gallery (2nd Floor) and the Class of 1941 Gallery (3rd Floor). Photos from the following members will be included: Ian Anderson, Kunal Atigre, Ben Buck, Robert Capizzio, Erik Carlson, James Cialdea, Daniel Herzberg, Simeon MacMillen, Jeffrey Madden, Charles Meza, Nathan Taylor Nesbitt, Greg Opperman, Christopher Petrie, Bhavika Shah, Caitlyn Elizabeth Shaddock, Niva Shrestha, Christopher Szlatenyi, and Bryan Arthur Watkins.

### YouShoot Riot: Library Video Contest

Are you a budding filmmaker or do you enjoy creating short films on your own? If so, consider entering the Gordon Library video contest. Create a short movie about the Gordon Library or library resources and enter to win fabulous prizes. For full contest rules, see <http://www.wpi.edu/+Library/About/Events/youshootriotcontest.html>. Entries are due by April 1st and winners will be announced during National Library Week, April 13-19.

The contest is made possible by a grant from the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System. Good luck!



## Library Director Search

The search to find WPI's next Director of Library Services is currently underway. The search committee, appointed in November by Vice President for Information Technology **Tom Lynch** and Interim Provost **John Orr**, includes **Len Albano**, Associate Professor, Civil and Environment Engineering, Fire Protection Engineering; **Amit Bagadia**, Graduate Student Representative, GSG Vice President of Events; **Betty Goodrich**, Interlibrary Loan Associate, Gordon Library; **Mary Beth Harrity**, Director, Academic Technology Center; **Beth Howland**, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations, Development and Alumni Relations Division; **Alison LeFlore**, ('09) Undergraduate Student Representative, SGA Committee on Academic Initiatives; **Kent Ljungquist**, Professor of English, Humanities & Arts Department; **Don Richardson**, Assistant Director, Library Systems, Gordon Library (Chair); **Lynne Riley**, Access Services Librarian, Gordon Library.



The committee met twice in the latter part of Term B2007 and created an advertisement for the position that was placed in several online and print locations. The committee has received a number of applications to date and will begin a review of them by February 1, 2008. For questions concerning the search, please contact the committee chair, **Don Richardson** by phone, 508-831-6161, or email, [drichard@wpi.edu](mailto:drichard@wpi.edu). The new director will replace **Helen Shuster**, who retired on October 31 after 32 years of service to WPI.

## Did You Know?

There are a variety of Current Awareness Services that will allow you to keep your research up-to-date. These services include Table of Contents, Saved Search, and Citation alerts. For more information on how to sign up go to: <http://www.wpi.edu/+Library/Faculty/curraware.html>



## How To ... Videos



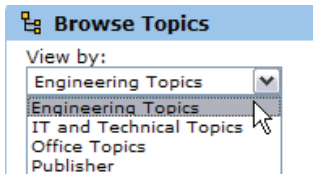
Have you ever wondered how to search for journals, magazines, and newspapers at the Gordon Library? Or how to use RefWorks? If so, we have these "How-To" videos (and many more) located at: <http://www.wpi.edu/+Library/Help/Self/Movies/>

## Facebook

The Gordon Library has a Facebook page. If you want to see what is new in the library, ask us a question, or are wondering what library-related events are on the way, please be sure to check us out and become a fan today! There are a lot of exciting things going on at the Gordon Library and we hope our Facebook page makes it easier for you to connect with library staff. Search "WPI Gordon Library" in Facebook to find us.

## New Electronic Book Collection

Almost 1,000 engineering related ebooks were recently added to the collection! EngineeringPro, a Books 24 X 7 resource, contains titles from 25 different topical areas, including Bioengineering, Environmental Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. These titles are searchable through the library catalog or they can be accessed via the Books 24 X 7 link, which is located at: <http://www.wpi.edu/+Library/Collections/ebooks.html> Please note that you will need to register for a free account before you are able to access the books. Once registered, select "Engineering Topics" under the Browse Topics menu to go directly to the EngineeringPro collection.



## New Best Sellers/DVDs in the Library....

In addition to academic titles, the Gordon Library receives New York Times Best Sellers and popular DVDs almost every day! Some of our recent acquisitions include:

*Art 21: Art in the Twenty-First Century* (DVD)

*Darkest Evening of the Year* by Dean Koontz

*Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain* by Oliver Sacks

*The Science of Sleep* (DVD)

*T is for Trespass* by Sue Grafton

## Upcoming Classes

Interested in attending an upcoming library workshop? Check out [wpi.edu/Regi/Lib](http://www.wpi.edu/Regi/Lib) to see the wide variety of classes that will help you become a more efficient researcher.



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