What happened after Deputy Fife hung up his gun holster, Mr. Furley left the landlord business, Mr. Chicken overcame his fears, and the Apple Dumpling Gang rode off into the sunset? That’s when Don Knotts, the comic genius and WVU alumnus, returned to his first love, live theater.

This lesser-known aspect of Knotts’ acting career is chronicled in the latest gift of memorabilia from his widow, Francey Yarborough-Knotts, to the WVU Libraries’ West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

“Don Knotts had a very long and broad career in live theater,” said John Cuthbert, Curator of the WVRHC. “This donation is quite extensive and provides a comprehensive look into Don’s career, including his early career.”

Among the gems are a thick stack of playbills, many with covers bearing Knotts’ wide grin, that mark his work in dozens of stage productions over a span of decades.

Few people probably know that the Morgantown native starred in performances of classics such as On Golden Pond, Harvey, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, You Can’t Take It with You, and The Odd Couple. In The Odd Couple, he took on the role of Felix Unger to Art Carney’s Oscar Madison.

“People knew the well-known characters on TV, but Don had a whole other life in the theater,” Yarborough-Knotts said. “That is what he seemed to thrive on and that was who he was.”

Even during his later years, Knotts still loved hearing the roaring laughter of a live audience. At the same time he was doing voiceovers in movies such as Chicken Little, he regularly performed in plays and in shows with his old friend Tim Conway.

And while he was always writing new material, he liked to draw on bits that he created back in Morgantown. A favorite involved calling a make-believe football game.

“Don was such a working actor when I knew him,” Yarborough-Knotts said. “He was always putting on these shows. He was always creating them and going out on the road and doing them. And that was the way he was since he was 13 years old.”

Along with playbills, she also donated boxes of articles and promotional materials, pictures of Knotts on stage, personal letters and writings, pages of handwritten stories and jokes, multiple Matlock scripts, his Screen Actors Guild card, and a scrapbook of photographs and newspaper clippings compiled by TV Land.

The piece de resistance is a watch that Andy Griffith presented to Knotts upon his departure from The Andy Griffith Show. Yarborough-Knotts said it was one of the few items Knotts treasured enough to store in a safe-deposit box.

The watch was especially meaningful because of the humorous personal message Griffith and the show’s producers had engraved on the back. Along with the number 5 are the words: “See, we thought we’d put 5 on it because you’ve been here for 5 years.”

“They were being funny, and that sounds just like Andy,” Yarborough-Knotts said.

Griffith and Knotts met and became friends during the Broadway run of No Time for Sergeants. They reunited for the silver screen version and then The Andy Griffith Show. Griffith later invited Knotts to join him for several episodes of Matlock.

Yarborough-Knotts’ donation of memorabilia is the third such gift to the WVU Libraries. She previously donated several items in early 2007. The first gifts came in January 2006, just one month before Knotts’ death. He donated his personal copies of scripts for The Reluctant Astronaut (1966), The Love God (1968), The Shakiest Gun in the West (1967), How to Frame a Figg (1970) and Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo (1976).

Currently, an exhibit of scripts and other memorabilia is on display in the WVRHC. Plans call for a new exhibit highlighting some of the latest additions to be up early this fall. A major exhibit is in the works for 2009 in the Davis Family Gallery in the Wise Library.

“We’re very proud to be able to represent his life here in the West Virginia Collection and to provide the opportunity for people to learn about his life and amazing career,” Cuthbert said.

Interim President Magrath Tours Library

Although Interim WVU President C. Peter Magrath is intently focused on the future of the University, he recently set aside time for a lesson in the state’s past. The West Virginia and Regional History Collection welcomed Magrath and Interim Provost Jane Martin for a white-glove tour of some of the Collection’s treasures.

“As a semi-historian, it was wonderfully stimulating to see a bit of such a splendid collection and to have things explained by top professionals who so obviously care about their work and the collections,” Magrath said.

John Cuthbert, Curator of the WVRHC, created a display of about a dozen pieces from the archives to highlight the state’s colorful early history.

A few of the gems included the earliest map (1630) depicting part of West Virginia; a land grant signed by Benjamin Franklin; Civil
Jennifer Vanella found a new favorite spot to study in the Downtown Campus Library. The multidisciplinary studies senior sat at a small table on wheels in one of the library's newly redesigned areas and typed away on her laptop computer.

“I like this space a lot,” Vanella said. “It makes studying not feel so disciplined. It’s actually relaxing to study.”

Just a few months ago, the room housed the library’s microform collection. It is now home to a flexible study environment.

A glass wall erected at one end creates a group study room. The remainder of the space is furnished with chairs, tables, and white boards, all on wheels, which allow students to reconfigure the area to best meet their needs at the moment. Its popularity is evident by the crowds and how often furniture placement changes throughout the day.

“I like that the tables can be rearranged,” said Jeremy Bryner, a biology freshman.

Classmate Maureen Palmer, an education freshman, agreed. She also felt more comfortable meeting with others there than elsewhere in the library.

“It seems like you can talk more without disturbing others,” Palmer said.

Neither had been in the space before. They were among a group of freshmen who met after class to prepare for an upcoming test. Their introduction to the area came through classmate Rachel Nieman, a public relations freshman, who studied there about every other day.

“It’s a nice place to get together with a lot of people,” Nieman said. “We were going to do a study session at my house, but this is the place to do it.”

A similar transformation occurred on the lower level with what used to be the maps room. Glass walls create two group study rooms, a study alcove, and a main area to be used for group or individual study. It, too, contains moveable furniture.

The changes were part of a summer renovation project aimed at providing users with a variety of study space options, more computers, and a convenient link to academic assistance while writing a paper or technical support while working on a computer.

“Our main goal was to respond to student needs,” said Myra Lowe, WVU Libraries Associate Dean. “We want to provide them with a place that is conducive to studying, working on assignments with others, creating multimedia projects, and obtaining needed assistance along the way.”

To respond to the growing demand for computers, the library added 36 carrels with Dell computers to the first floor, purchased 20 Dell laptops and 20 MacBooks, and created a multimedia center on the lower level. The multimedia center offers students a mix of work stations equipped with iMacs, media-enhanced iMacs, and multi-media enabled Dell PCs.

Lowe envisions a place where a student can do everything from start to finish for a multimedia project. Students can check out cameras and other necessary equipment for filming and then return to compose their work on a computer.

Another key component to the transformation is integrating other academic units from around campus into the library.

This fall, the Libraries launched a collaborative effort with the WVU Writing Center and the Office of Student Affairs. Peer tutors are available for drop-in tutoring sessions on the first floor of the Downtown Campus Library on Mondays and Wednesdays. These new offerings partner well with the Libraries’ Term Paper Clinic.

Mike Cuccarese, an organic chemistry graduate student, gets comfortable in one of the Downtown Campus Library’s new study areas.

Evansdale Library Renovations in the Works

A renovation project at the Evansdale Library is on track for completion by fall 2009.

“I’m hoping the changes will make Evansdale Library a much more comfortable and inviting place for students,” said Mary Strife, Director of the Evansdale Library. “We’re usually full, but I want to give them options.”

Preliminary plans call for reconfiguring the first floor to create a space that is open, bright, and better serves students.

First, new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint will brighten and tie together the entire floor. Students voiced their desire for more color in a recent survey on library use. Also, a flying WV carpet inlay will welcome visitors. Finding help will be quicker and easier for library users. A new desk will centralize circulation, reference, and technical services in one location.

The floor will be more open than it is currently. The layout has already opened up with the elimination of some shelving as some materials moved to the Libraries’ Depository, and more space will become available as additional materials are shifted and shelving is removed. Gone will be the traditional stationary tables and chairs. In their place, Strife wants to add tables and chairs on wheels to allow students to move the furniture to best meet their study needs.

One group might choose to push two or three tables together to work on a class project, while another student might want to move a comfortable lounge chair near a window for the light and outside view. Students have also asked for more study rooms. Although Evansdale already has 17 study rooms, plans call for more. One possibility is adding modular glass walls to create multiple study spaces.

“The whole idea is to give everyone a flexible and open space conducive to a variety of learning and collaboration opportunities,” Strife said.
Think you know how to read a book? Good battery life on your laptop may one day be as important as good lighting.

The West Virginia University Libraries are among 14 institutions picked to participate in a book digitization pilot project. The goal of the project is to digitize a selection of rare and significant books from the participants’ collections and make the electronic versions available via the Internet.

“I hope books never go away, and I don’t think they will, but digitization makes a book available to anyone, anywhere in the world, who has an Internet connection,” said Frances O’Brien, Dean of the WVU Libraries. “I think that’s valuable for people who live a distance from a research library.”

The project is led by PALINET, an organization of hundreds of libraries, information centers, museums, and archives, that promotes library cooperation and resource sharing, and is partially funded by a $1 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Unlike other book-digitization projects currently underway, in which entire collections are being scanned and posted online, the PALINET Collaborative Digitization Service has a more defined mission and scope. Their focus is on providing free and open access to an array of rich cultural heritage materials belonging to the group’s institutions.

“This is an exciting time for PALINET members,” said Catherine C. Wilt, PALINET’s Executive Director. “Members will soon begin to create vital digital assets and share them through the Internet Archive, ensuring unprecedented open access to the important historical and archival resources in our region.”

During the pilot project, each institution will submit five to ten books to be digitized. After the pilot phase, the initial target will be to convert 60,000 books into digital format and place them on the Internet Archive, www.archive.org.

On this site, users can search by author or title to find a book. After selecting a book, the reader views the book as a flipbook and can virtually flip through the pages with a few mouse clicks. Because the pages are scanned, users see vivid pictures of the actual pages, not simply typed text.

This means readers see all sketches or pictures in the original manuscript. The same goes for any dog-eared pages, underlined sentences, or scribbled notes in the original manuscript. The text of the virtual books is also keyword searchable. Type a word in the search box, and the software flags the pages where the word appears and highlights the word on the page.

Another benefit of the project is preservation. Harold M. Forbes, Rare Books Collection Curator, said the chief dilemma for people who work with rare books and archives is allowing access and yet providing for the maximum amount of preservation.

“These books are old, and they’re fragile, and there is always the difficulty of preserving a book that is used a lot. Maintaining that balance is essential. It’s a fine line that we’re always on,” Forbes said. “Book digitization is a way of providing access and assuring preservation of the original.”

O’Brien worked with Forbes and Jo. Brown, the Libraries’ Appalachian bibliographer, to identify what books to send as part of the pilot.

William Rafter, Head of the Libraries’ Cataloging Department, compiled the books’ metadata, which is information that describes the book for cataloging purposes. The books came from the Rare Books Collection, the Appalachian Collection, and the Africana Collection created by former Libraries Dean Robert F. Munn.

To avoid copyright concerns, the project is focusing on materials published prior to 1923. Among the Libraries’ submissions are two volumes by Dr. David Livingstone, the famous missionary to Africa. There is, of course, also a major focus on West Virginia during the 19th century.

Along with a book on the creation of the state and one on sightseeing on 1850s’ railroads, Forbes included two books that debate the medical benefits of West Virginia’s many natural springs.

Brown contributed a biography of a revenue officer from the 1800s and a 1902 response to the hillbilly stereotype.

The exact number of books the WVU Libraries will submit throughout the overall project has not yet been determined, but Forbes doubts the Rare Books Collection will run dry of unique and interesting contributions anytime soon.

“These selections are just the tip of the iceberg. We have hundreds more,” Forbes said.

O’Brien is excited for the WVU Libraries to participate in the PALINET Collaborative Digitization Service. Although the WVU Libraries have won praise for several digital projects that librarians and staff have already developed, digitizing text is a new frontier.

“While we learn something new that will be part of our digital future,” O’Brien said. “We’ll then need to make the decision of how much of our future text digitization is going to be.”

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War items, including Stonewall Jackson’s field writing kit; the diary of the father of West Virginia, Sen. Waitman T. Willey; a notebook David Hunter Strother used during John Brown’s trial; and a selection of 19th century photographs depicting the logging, oil, and coal industries.

“I’ve always enjoyed nineteenth century history; therefore, many of the Civil War items and the stories surrounding West Virginia’s separation from Virginia intrigued me,” Magrath said. “I found the Grant-Lee cable exchanges from April 1865 fascinating.”

The series of telegrams between the Civil War generals negotiated the details of Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. Magrath spent several minutes reading the correspondence and conversing with Cuthbert about the contents.

“President Magrath impressed me greatly with his ability to comprehend 19th century handwriting and abbreviations by reading these telegrams aloud,” Cuthbert said. “That is very difficult for even seasoned historians to do.”

Magrath, though, is quite familiar with the time period. He earned his doctoral degree in political science but considered himself a very “historical” political scientist. He penned books on Morrison Remick Waite, Supreme Court Chief Justice during the Grant Administration, and the Yawoo Land Frauds, which led to a landmark constitutional decision in the early 1800s.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Libraries’ Rare Book Room, where Harold M. Forbes, Rare Books Collection Curator, assembled a selection of interesting and unique books and gave Magrath a brief overview of the Collection.

Books in the Collection range from the 1300s to the 1900s and cover topics such as British and American literature, worldwide history, religion, philosophy, natural history, and West Virginia. A few of the notable authors best represented in the Rare Book Room include William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, and Isaac Asimov.

“I thought it was wonderful, both the loving care to preserve these treasures and the great artistic quality of the bindings and the beautiful decorations and art that are a part of these precious, rare books,” Magrath said.
A walk in woods was never just “nice” for George Bird Evans. He would instead draw from a vast palate of colorful words and phrases so his readers could vividly experience the rolling landscape, the warm Indian summer breeze, and the rustling sounds playing throughout the woods.

“George’s writing stood out from other sportsmen’s,” said LeJay Graffious, a trustee of the Old Hemlock Foundation. “His writing had a different quality. He elevated it.”

Evans excelled in both quality and quantity. In addition to meticulously recording the results of more than 65 hunting seasons, spent primarily in West Virginia’s Allegheny Mountains, Evans authored more than two dozen books and 100 magazine articles about the sport that was his vocation and avocation.

He also found time to breed a line of English setters whose descendants are treasured today by bird dog enthusiasts throughout America. “George Bird Evans was a giant in the field of upland game bird hunting literature,” said John Cuthbert, Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. “His eloquence and philosophical bent earned him an avid following among hunting literature enthusiasts across the nation and beyond.”

The West Virginia Collection focused on Evans and his work during its annual celebration of the state’s founding on June 20.

Evans, a native of Uniontown, Pa., began his professional life in the late 1920s working as an illustrator for Cosmopolitan magazine and other clients in New York City and quickly earned a reputation as a gifted artist. The metropolis, though, lacked the wildlife and wilderness he dearly loved since childhood. So, in 1939, he talked his bosses at Cosmopolitan into allowing him to relocate and to submit his work through the mail. Evans and his wife, Kay, then bought an old farm house and permanently settled near Bruceton Mills in Preston County.

Their home, which Evans called Old Hemlock, became well known to sporting literature enthusiasts throughout the country during the late twentieth century. His writings were largely based upon his experiences at Old Hemlock and in the nearby hills and mountains.

Although he began documenting his forays into the woods in a “shooting journal” begun in 1932, it was not until the 1950s that he began professionally writing about his passion for birds, dogs, and the West Virginia mountains.

Evans began his literary career by collaborating with his wife to write a mystery series under the pseudonyms Brandon Bird and Harris Evans. The five novels earned them a modest amount of fame and fortune and helped hone their writing skills for the more significant work that lay ahead.

In 1956, Evans began writing magazine articles about hunting and the outdoors. Most of his articles appeared in Field & Stream or Pennsylvania Game News. In 1971, he published The Upland Shooting Life, which told about the sport and his life at Old Hemlock. The book became an instant classic and gained Evans a loyal following to this day.

Evans’ extensive collection, now housed in the WVU Libraries, includes personal papers, manuscripts, books and other materials by and about Evans and his wife, co-author, and editor, Kay Harris Evans.

An exhibit focusing on the Evans Collection and other sporting collections and memorabilia in the West Virginia Collection will remain on display throughout the fall semester in the J. Hornor Davis Family Galleries on the sixth floor of the Wise Library.
As West Virginia’s flagship university, WVU has a mission to serve the people of the state. So it’s no surprise that WVU’s librarians will again play a major role at the West Virginia Library Association’s Fall Conference.

Barbara LaGodna, a WVU librarian and WLVA President, is proud that 11 librarians and staff are scheduled to make presentations during the three-day meeting in December.

“I’m honored that we will be able to contribute so much to our fellow librarians from across the state,” LaGodna said. “I’m happy they have the opportunity to contribute their unique expertise and also learn things that they can bring back to the campus.”

The presentations spring from work the librarians and staff have accomplished in their daily roles of serving our university community. Topics range from digital databases to communicating with users online to using the latest resources to create student-centered libraries to researching your family’s genealogy.

“Providing for Tomorrow’s Students”

The wisdom of the ages is found in libraries. The WVU Libraries’ administrators and staff know that their ongoing mission is the accumulation, preservation, and dissemination of that information. Students, faculty, staff, and the public rely on them for these ever-changing resources.

Considering the evolution in information-gathering during recent decades, it’s interesting to think about what libraries will be like in another 25 years or so. Whatever that will be, information-access opportunities will change over time. And as has been true for centuries, change requires funding to bring that about successfully.

Those who value the role libraries play in our society can support the WVU Libraries through a gift in their will by having their attorney use the wording of “to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries.”

“Ask-A-Librarian,” another widely popular offering, brings the reference librarian to the students. Over the past few years, the Libraries’ reference departments have employed technology to enable people to ask questions via instant messaging. Penny Pugh, Head of Reference at the Downtown Campus Library; Beth Royall, Reference Librarian at the Evansdale Library; and Susan Arnold, Director of the Health Sciences Library, will talk about the technology and how other libraries can use it.

Another session will focus on student-centered technology and multi-media resources in the Libraries. This fall, the Downtown Campus Library added several top-of-the-line computers and created a new multi-media center. At the Evansdale Library, students can now reserve study rooms online. Martha Yancey, Evansdale Access Services Head; and Hillary Fredette, Downtown Campus Library Access Services Head, will talk about the implementation of new technology and hope to show a student-generated multi-media presentation.

Yancey has been involved with WLVA for 11 years, and it’s been a busy stretch with her wearing multiple hats. Prior to her term as president, Yancey served as Reference/Interlibrary Loan Roundtable chair, and Special Libraries Division chair. She is currently secretary, Awards Committee chair, and a member of the Conference Committee.

Despite the work preparing for conference and the hectic whirlwind that will accompany the event, Yancey still looks forward to the gathering.

“Participating in WLVA allows me to give back to the profession that I love dearly and to work for the benefit of libraries and librarians,” Yancey said. Fredette and fellow WVU Librarian Linda Blake are also both very active in the organization.

In five years a member, Fredette has been on the Scholarship and Conference committee and has served as chair of the ILL/Reference Roundtable and as roundtable representative to the Executive Board.

“I participate because I do think it’s important for WVU to play a role; mainly because we are the largest library in the state and we have the means to participate,” Fredette said.

Blake, a 12-year veteran, has chaired the College and University Section and served as second vice-president. Currently, she represents West Virginia to the American Library Association as ALA councillor. Along with helping others in her field, she said involvement keeps her up to date concerning new programs and services other academic libraries are offering.

“Beyond the lofty ideas of why librarians should join and participate in WLVA, it’s just a fun organization,” Blake said. “Serving on a committee, chairing a section, or attending sponsored programs are all great ways to meet colleagues from all areas of the state.”

Director of Health Sciences

The WVU Health Sciences Center has named Susan Arnold Director of the Health Science Library.

Dr. Fred Butcher, Vice President for Health Sciences, praised Arnold’s leadership and service as interim director since June 2004 and in coordinating the complicated move from the old library into the new Learning Center.

“As director, Susan is responsible for maintaining a dynamic learning and research environment,” Butcher said. “Her leadership ensures that WVU will continue to grow to meet the needs of health sciences students, faculty and staff.”

The past few years have been quite exciting at the Health Sciences Library, especially since moving into the new Learning Center in January 2007. The gate count has doubled in the new facility.

Traffic peaks at nearly 21,000 visitors per month during the busiest part of the semesters, and demand for more study and classroom space already exists. Arnold believes that the renovations planned for the old part of the library, which are expected to commence soon, will address those needs.

Her other challenge involves enhancing the electronic resources available to faculty and students.

“Our mission at the Health Sciences Library is to provide our users with the best resources available and to assist them in their research,” Arnold said. “I judge our success by the success of the students and faculty at the Health Sciences Center.”

Arnold came to the WVU Hospitals in 1988 as a clinical nutrition manager and dietetic internship director. In 2001, she joined the staff of the WVU Libraries as an information services librarian at the Health Sciences Library.

She earned her bachelor’s of science in Dietetics from West Virginia Wesleyan College, master’s of science in Human Nutrition & Foods from Virginia Tech, and master’s of Library & Information Science from the University of South Carolina.

Arnold has been active in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association since 2001, serving a term as secretary for the organization. Last year, she was named a senior member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals.
If you are interested in helping with an immediate need, the following are a few items that would be valuable resources for our students and faculty. We will recognize your generosity by affixing a book plate in the volume that you help us to purchase. It can bear either your name or that of a favorite professor or loved one. A book plate serves as a wonderful lasting tribute.

**Biofuels, solar and wind as renewable energy systems: benefits and risks**
David Pimentel, $89

**Post-oil energy technology: the world’s first solar-hydrogen demonstration power plant**
Bela G. Liptak, $100

**Solar power in building design: the engineer’s complete design resource**
Peter Gevorkian, $100

**Biofuels: biotechnology, chemistry, and sustainable development**
David M. Mousdale, $119

**Handbook of plant-based biofuels**
Ashok Pandey, editor, $119

**Solar hydrogen generation: toward a renewable energy future**
Springer Verlag, publisher, $119

**Biomass and bio-refining: technologies for renewable energy**
Nicholas P. Cheremisinoff, $129

**Managing the transition to renewable energy: theory and practice from local, regional and macro perspectives**
Jeroen C.J.M. van den Bergh and Frank R. Bruinsma, editors, $180

**Laser Fundamentals: Part 1**
Landolt-Börnstein, $3,625

To help fund any of the items listed above, contact Monte Maxwell, development representative, at (304) 293-0306 or monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu.