Students and faculty will soon be poring through stacks of books, examining paintings from West Virginia artists and simply enjoying the atmosphere of a refurbished Charles G. Wise Jr. Library.

Renovation work is on schedule to be completed in November 2002. Collections, furnishings and equipment will then be integrated into the newly renovated facility prior to its reopening to the University community in January 2003.

The 70-year-old library closed for a massive renovation project in January, as the new Downtown Campus Library opened its doors to welcome patrons.

The result will be a library that's more conducive to studying and integrates new technology, yet maintains the historical character of the building. When the renovation is complete, the atrium and walkways will join the new Downtown Campus and Wise Libraries, allowing them to work as one integrated building complex.

"Preparing the Wise Library building for reopening, for me, is an exciting process because it is very different from construction of the Downtown Campus Library," said Ruth Nellis, library construction coordinator. "I believe the users will really enjoy seeing how the public spaces have been transformed. A lot of work is going into matching the existing details of the building. The historic integrity is being preserved."

Workers are paying painstaking attention to details to preserve the majestic green marble in the lobby and marble wainscoting in the hallways of the administrative sections of Wise.

Along with the lobby, the spaces in Wise receiving the heaviest renovations are the rooms that served as homes for reference, government documents, periodicals, and the Appalachian Collection.

The former large reference room will become the James and Ann Milano Reading Room, and the space that was the government document room will become the James Robinson Reading Room.

Renovation work will return these spaces to their original 1930 appearance. Unlike in the new Downtown Campus Library, technology will be hidden. The rooms will be filled with dark, wooden bookshelves and antique reader tables, without a desktop computer in view. Patrons wanting to use the Internet and other electronic library resources will be able to connect via a laptop computer through network and power drops in the base of the table lamps.

The former periodicals room will be the new home for the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The WVRHC will also occupy the seventh through tenth floors of the stacks. Level five will hold the University Art Collection comprised of art integrated from the Creative Arts Center and the WVRHC.

John Carlibert, WVRHC curator, said the renovated Wise Library facility will be a tremendous boon to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, particularly in resolving one of its oldest:

Continued on page 3.

Mary Strife Named Evansdale Library Director

WVU Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien recently named Mary Strife director of Evansdale Library.

In announcing her selection, Dean O'Brien praised Strife for being an innovative and energetic individual with a great sense of service to library users.

"Mary will make sure that the Evansdale Library is an asset to learning and research," O'Brien said. "She will have an important leadership role in planning and implementing the collections and services needed to ensure support for faculty and student academic responsibilities."

Strife, who has been serving in the position on an interim basis since August 2001, is enthusiastic about her role within WVU Libraries and the possibilities on the horizon.

"I'm very excited about the Evansdale Library. There's a lot of untapped potential out here, both faculty and staff," Strife said.

She wants a main focus at Evansdale to be or strengthening its relationship with academic departments and students.

Continued on page 4.

Music Library Moves to Evansdale Library

WVU's Music Library recently joined the symphony of collections at Evansdale Library.

The collection, located in the Creative Arts Center since 1968, now occupies a large portion of the lower floor at Evansdale Library. The move unites the music library with other collections for the creative arts and means increased services to users.

"We hope students and faculty will appreciate the improvements," creative arts librarian Beth Royall said. "The library will be open more hours. They will have access to a reference librarian and to other resources."

Evansdale already served as home for the theater, art, and dance library collections. The music library fol-
West Virginia University student told an audience of more than 250 people gathered for the April 10 dedication of Downtown Campus Library that she and her peers have staked their claim to the new building.

"I've seen the use of the library increase from opening day, and it's still on the rise," Claire Houston told an audience of more than 250 people. "Students are taking advantage of our new facility, and it has become a meeting place for students to study alone and in groups."

The sophomore spoke to a packed house assembled in the atrium connecting the new library to the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library. Her words and image were also digitally broadcast to computer screens throughout the five-floor 124,000-thousand-square-foot building.

The 180 computers are just part of the offerings that help make research a much easier and more pleasant task. There are 15 group study rooms and five media viewing rooms that enable students to meet in groups to study or work on projects.

The reference desk greets users when they pass through the Alumni Lobby. Books have been relocated from the crowded stacks to rows of shelves on the open and well-lighted floors of the new library.

"It is no longer a scavenger hunt for a book or a free computer," Houston said. "The 10-floor maze of books is nothing but a memory to us."

The dedication was a homecoming for alums Nancy Davenport, who is director of acquisitions at the Library of Congress. She got her start as a student worker in Wise Library during her time at WVU.

She admitted to being in awe several times during her tour of the Downtown Campus Library.

"The students of West Virginia University have a great gift that was given to them by you and by the people of West Virginia," Davenport said. "This is a state-of-the-art facility. It is spectacular."

WVU Dean Frances O'Brien accepted the accolades with a broad smile, encouraging visitors to explore the new building to learn for themselves the resources available for users.

"We are here to appreciate the coming together, the joining of forces with our traditional library collections, our strong philosophy of excellent library public service, and the best of new technology resources," O'Brien said.

WVU President David C. Hardesty drew the audience back to April 10, 1902, as the WVU Board of Regents accepted the newly completed University Library in what is now Stewart Hall.

In 1902, the University moved the library from a single room to its own building to better serve students in the 20th century. Likewise, the new Downtown Campus Library is ready to lead the University through the 21st century.

"Today, we are here to renew the University's commitment to meeting the informational needs of this century's students and to say proudly to the nation at large: 'We will be an academic institution to be reckoned with,'" Hardesty said.

For more information about the dedication: www.libraries.wvu.edu/dedication

Library Veteran Retires with 23 Years Service to WVU

After spending more than three decades surrounded by books, Bernard Conway finally has the time to catch up on his reading.

Conway retired from WVU Libraries this spring bringing the final chapter of a 33-year career to a close. Twenty-three of those years were spent in service at WVU.

After accomplishing his immediate plans of visiting family and traveling with his wife, Kathryn, he plans to settle in at home and take on a very flexible to-do list.

"I have things I want to do around the house. I want to work with some friends, help them do various things. And I want to learn many things, too," Conway said.

"I want to do some reading and work on the outside. I'll be kept active. I'm not going to become a couch potato."

A sedentary life has never been a practice of Conway.

He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Immaculate Conception Seminary and then immediately pursued his masters in library science from the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1969, his first job in libraries took him to the University of Dayton, where he worked as a reference/government documents librarian.

He then accepted the position of head of acquisitions at Xavier University in 1974. While there, he received his masters in education.

Finally, he came to WVU in July 1979 and spent the majority of the time as head of acquisitions.

"I've enjoyed being a librarian for the past 33 years. It's an interesting field," Conway said.

The awe that initially attracted him to working in a library has yet to wear off.

He's still amazed by the power librarians wield. He views librarians as caretakers of knowledge who hold the responsibility of leading people to the information they need.

"I've always found it fascinating that when you help somebody - give them the information they need - you can see the sense of pleasure in their face," Conway said. "They think to themselves, 'How were you able to do this with the little information I gave you.'"

Another side of his time at WVU that Conway will miss is the people who surrounded him.

Lunch won't be the same for Chuck Burkart, head of Media Services, and John Cuthbert, curator for the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The three regularly shared stories and quips over sandwiches.

"Bernie is always cheerful. He always looks on the good side of life," Burkart said. "He's someone who's hard to get down. You can't shake him."

Continued on page 3...
Ernest Hemingway wrote romantic stories about hunting wild game in Africa during the early 1900s. Thomas Ofansky offers a less attractive story about the dwindling green hills of Africa. His new book, *Paradise Lost: A History of Game Preservation in East Africa*, chronicles the drastic environmental changes that have occurred in a few decades.

"The biggest thing is the impact people have on wildlife. It's a very negative impact," said Ofansky, an analyst for the U.S. Department of State and WVU alumus. "In less than a century, it went from something none of us could believe today to just a few little endangered pockets."

The author will return to campus this fall to discuss his book. The presentation, the first for the newly formed Friends of WVU Libraries, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Downtown Campus Library's large group viewing room.

The book, published in May by the WVU Press, began more than 20 years ago as Ofansky's dissertation. He traveled to East Africa several times as a student and worked on temporary duty assignments in several U.S. embassies in East Africa, including Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan after receiving his doctorate.

Ofansky names mass tourism and population growth as the major contributors to the environmental woes East Africa is facing.

A problem with tourism is that people who visit the national parks want to stay in five-star hotels rather than tents. The luxury first means clearing land for the hotels. Hotels, in turn, require frequent deliveries of water, food and other supplies, and people need to relocate to the parks to work in the hotels. More roads soon follow to carry the increased traffic into the formerly pristine areas.

Apart from this environmental degradation, massive deforestation has destroyed the habitats of bird and small animal populations.

While Ofansky believes the process is slow, it's also irreversible.

"This is probably the final phase of what we think of as wild Africa," Ofansky said. "It's not a happy story. Americans don't like unhappy stories. They like to think there is a solution. If there is, I can't see it."


For more information about Friends of WVU Libraries, www.libraries.wvu.edu/friends

West Virginia University alumna Nancy Davenport left two gifts when she visited campus for the dedication of the Downtown Campus Library.

One was a facsimile map of Morgantown from the 19th century, and the other was an endowment to enable staff of WVU Libraries to travel for training.

Davenport advised the audience not to think she created the endowment only so that people could go out and be educated and bring back the information. She imagines it being more of a promotional tool.

"I think they need to go out and strut their stuff," Davenport said. "There are wonderful things happening here. You have a staff of whom you should be justly proud. I want them to get the word out about what this institution is doing."

The endowment has been named after Virginia Taylor Perry, a former head of circulation who nurtured Davenport while she was a WVU student and worked in the library.

"She taught me an appreciation of working in an intellectual institution and the role that libraries and library services play in supporting the faculty," Davenport said.

Endowments for travel are especially helpful gifts because the coffers for travel are usually low, if not dry.

"Developing a highly skilled and flexible staff with a strong service orientation is one of the Libraries’ top priorities. It was wonderful of Nancy Davenport to recognize that with her gift," WVU Libraries Dean Frances O’Brien said.

Cuthbert agreed.

"With Bernie Conway’s retirement, the WVU Libraries loses a perpetually cheerful face and a universal friend. Our lives will all be the poorer for it," Cuthbert said.

Feelings are mutual. Conway said several co-workers, many who have already retired, played important roles in his life and each left an indelible mark on his life.

"I’d like to say thank you to all of them. They have been kind and have helped me in my career," Conway said. "I’ve learned a lot from them. I’m very grateful for them."

Bernie and Kathryn have two daughters, Stephanie and James Connolly, of Elkins, and Bridget and Brian Washburn, of Ohio, and granddaughter, Brianna Washburn.
Mary Strife, continued from page 1...

"We want to provide them with better services and more services," Strife said. "We will work to get them what they need and let them know that's why we're here."

The Evansdale Library maintains collections for departments located on the Evansdale Campus: the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, the College of Human Resources and Education, the College of Creative Arts, and the School of Physical Education.

Strife came to WVU with a background in the sciences. Earning her bachelor's degree in biology from the State University of New York at Potsdam in 1981, she had planned to pursue her masters in genetics but instead headed to the University of Buffalo to obtain her masters in library science in 1982. At Buffalo, she gained experience as a graduate assistant working in the science and engineering library.

Her first job as a librarian was at Cornell University. She then worked at the University of Rochester and SUNY Institute of Technology before coming to WVU in 1995 as head and coordinator of the physical sciences and mathematics libraries.

In July 2000, she moved to the Evansdale Library to serve as head of access services. She held that post until being named interim head of the library.

Evansdale is unique for her because it serves a mix of disciplines rather than being dedicated fully to the sciences.

Still, Strife has grown comfortable to switching thinking from superconductors to Mozart to Henry Miller all in a five-minute span.

"If you're a reference librarian, you get different kinds of questions everyday. The subject matter doesn't matter," Strife said. "Plus we have some excellent librarians. If I don't know something, I can find someone who does. That's the whole point of reference work."

For more information about Evansdale Library, go to the website: http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/evansdale/

Refurbished Library continued from page 1...

and greatest needs – adequate and appropriate space. Our stack areas will enable us to consolidate our holding on site for the first time in decades. Our reading areas will include separate rooms for books, rare books, microfilm and manuscripts. Also, the West Virginia Collection serves many of the functions of a state historical society, yet, one thing we have traditionally lacked is exhibit space. Thanks to the James H. Hornor Davis Family, our new home will include two galleries which will enable us to display the treasures of our rich holdings for all to enjoy."

Together, the Wise and Downtown Campus libraries will comprise the Downtown Library Complex.

"I think students will be pleased with the newly renovated building," Nellis said.

A Smart Choice

Many people don't know that a gift can both pay them income and provide support for the WVU Libraries. This works especially well when appreciated assets—stocks, mutual funds, bonds and even real estate—are donated.

Clyde and Mary-Jane English of Morgantown used this special gift method recently as a way to endow funds for a group study room in the new Downtown Campus Library.

Clyde served on the College of Creative Arts' music faculty for 35 years and Mary-Jane's professional career included almost 20 years as assistant dean of students at WVU. Herself a '36 graduate, she was inducted into the Student Affairs' Hall of Fame in 2001.

"We thought this would be helpful for students," said Clyde, now retired and an emeritus professor, "and we've received income and tax benefits from it."

The gift arrangement provides lifetime income for both of them and funds for the maintenance of the study room later on. Creating an income-producing gift yields a current tax deduction and avoids the capital gains taxes if appreciated assets are donated.

At the entrance to the English Group Study Room, the bronze plaque commemorating their support also symbolizes the concept that a gift that pays income is truly a smart way to help WVU Libraries.

Much can happen in a century. On April 10, 2002, WVU dedicated the new state-of-the-art Downtown Campus Library. A century earlier, an audience assembled to dedicate the University's first library building, which is now Stewart Hall.

What will WVU Libraries be like 100 years from now? We each have the opportunity to help make sure, in our own special way, that the answer is a positive one.

Having a hand in the future of WVU Libraries can be simple.

Tomorrow's Library

A gift provision may be included in a will or revocable trust simply by using the words "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries." Additional directions about the gift's use may be included as well.

Such gifts can allow WVU Libraries to function as user-friendly places to study and learn and can assure that the Class of 2102 will definitely be a well-educated group because of it.
New WVU Coach Friend of WVU Libraries


On a sunny Thursday morning the week after finals, there was a lull across campus. Students fled campus for summer break or the job search, and summer classes had not yet begun.

But WVU’s new men’s basketball coach John Beilein was at his desk with a full calendar. He had just returned to Morgantown from a successful recruiting trip and had several phone calls and meetings waiting on him.

Only a few weeks on the job, he had his energies focused on building a team for the upcoming school year and organizing a summer camp for young basketball hopefuls.

On the corner of his desk was a copy of In Harm’s Way, an account of the U.S.S. Indianapolis’ fateful mission during World War II. A bookmark was planted in the middle of the book.

Beilein tore through much of the paperback during the plane ride the day before, but it appeared that day would offer little time to delve into the pages.

Reading is the reservoir he heads to for replenishment.

“It gets me away from the stress of being a basketball coach,” Beilein said. “You need to go into a different world sometimes, to get away from basketball if you’re going to be good at coaching.”

Beilein, of course, reads all the books penned by star athletes and coaches, but he’s also a fan of John Grisham and enjoys anything that involves history or personal development. His wife recently bought him Shuckleton’s Way: Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer.

About a dozen or so books from an array of genre stood on a shelf in his office, and several dozen waited in boxes to be unpacked to join them.

“I’ve got so many books,” Beilein said. “During heavy travel periods, I always have a book with me.”

The avid reader also understands the importance of libraries to academics.

He remembers spending several hours studying in the library at Wheeling Jesuit College during his stint as a student athlete.

Rather than his dorm room or a coffee shop, he found the library to be the ideal place to study. He appreciated the limited distractions and knew the resources he needed were there. Also present were librarians who answered his many questions and pointed him in the right direction.


Though he’s only caught a glimpse during a tour, Beilein is impressed with the libraries on campus, especially the new Downtown Campus Library.

“The library will always be on our list of stops when we show people around campus,” Beilein said. “From what I can see, it’s really going to be a place we want to showcase in our recruiting.”

WVU hired Beilein this spring to replace retiring basketball Coach Gale Catlett.

If you want a good picture of the new coach, recall that high school teacher who sparked your interest in a particular subject.

Remember the teacher who made you study hard and asked a lot out of you because he knew you had it in you? Remember the teacher who beamed when you got excited about a topic and did more than assigned?

That’s Coach Beilein.

After graduating from Wheeling Jesuit College in 1975, he spent three years coaching basketball and teaching history at a high school in New York.

“If I were to get out of coaching today, my first thought would be to get into a situation where I could make a difference – probably in seventh, eighth, ninth or 10th grade teaching U.S. history,” Beilein said.

“I love to teach. I guess I love to see people learn and develop.”

Almost 25 years since standing in front of a classroom, he still holds the philosophies that made him a good teacher and uses them to make himself a good coach.

As a teacher, Beilein explained, his greatest lesson was that people learn at different rates. He brings that understanding to the court. It’s shaped the way he interacts with the men on his team.

“Your players are no different than a 7th grade social studies class,” Beilein said. “You have to use different methods to teach because everyone learns differently.”

Beilein also believes in being stern, especially when it comes to academics. He stresses academics as the central reason college athletes are at WVU.

He expects everyone on the team to attend every class and to be on time in all that they do. He’s not requiring perfection, but he pledges immediate consequences for those who are not responsible.

“Thirteen of our guys are going to WVU for free and that’s a privilege,” Beilein said. “We’re going to make sure they understand that privilege.”

Beilein and his wife, Kathleen, have one daughter, Senna, and three sons, Patrick, Mark and Andrew.

Alumnus Makes Tribute for Faculty

WVU alumnus George V. Podeleco has presented a memorial for several people who made an impact on his life.

He made a contribution to the WVU Libraries’ Special Initiative to have plaques with the names of 13 professors and others attached to chairs in the Downtown Campus Library.

“I started thinking about how much I owed to West Virginia University, and particularly those professors who inspired me,” Podeleco said. “I thought it would be nice to pay tribute to them.”

Ten of the people Podeleco is honoring were in the Political Science Department when he was a student in the late 1950s. The others include an economics professor, a philosophy professor and a librarian.

The latter individual played an instrumental role in Podeleco developing a love for reading and thus his success in life.

“Reading is the foundation of education,” Podeleco said.

Podeleco graduated from WVU in 1959 with an AB degree in political science. He later received his doctorate from the University of Maryland, College Park. He recently retired as executive director of a dual government agency, the Area Agency on Aging and the Community Action Agency.

He and his wife, Mary Lou, live in Onancock, Va.
Shelf Space

Friends of West Virginia University Libraries can demonstrate their support by taking an active role in filling our on-site and electronic shelves with needed materials.

West Virginia University Libraries seek help in purchasing the following items:

- Encyclopedia of World Music, 10 volume set, $2,500
- Encyclopedia of American Education. Facts on File, 3 volume set, $2,225
- Encyclopedia of Software Engineering, $898
- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, 5 volume set, $499
- Encyclopedia of Cell Technology, Wiley Biotechnology Encyclopedias, $795
- Biochemistry, $340.50
- Grieve's Modern Manual Therapy: The Vertical Column (2nd ed.), $861
- Encyclopedia of Genetics, $898
- Encyclopedia of Environmental Microbiology, Blackwell's Book Services, $1,995
- Hormones, Brain and Behavior, Academic Press, $6/5
- Surgical Research, Academic Press, $250
- ISBN 0028649702
  The Encyclopedia Dictionary of Environmental Change, Arnold/Oxford, $150
- World of Computer Science, Gale, $150
- Encyclopedia of Flight: v.1. Accident Investigation - Germany: Spain: Bombing; v.2: Guidance Systems; Spaitnik; v.3: Stabilizers - Ferdinand von Zeppelin, $225
- Handbook of Transport Systems and Traffic Control, Periannan, $1,825
- Handbook of Wireless Networks and Mobile Computing, Wiley-Interscience, $130
- Science and Society: The History of Modern Physical Science in the Twentieth Century, Routledge, $800
- Macmillan Encyclopedia of Engineering, 3 volumes, Macmillan Group, $850
- Martial Arts of the World: An Encyclopedia, 2 volumes, ABC-CLIO, $185
- Reader's Guide to the History of Science, Fitzroy Dearborn, $145
- Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution, Garland, $115
- Something About the Author, we used volumes 39-103 and 106-137. One volume costs $124.
- Our librarians at Evansdale Library tell us this is a well-used resource.
- Hormones, Brain and Behavior, $849/95
- Directory of American Scholars, six volumes, $898
- Annual Register of Grant Support, 35th ed., $225
- Shakespeare's World and Work, Charles Scriver's Sons/Gale Group, 2001, $295
- Panasonic AG-ES8 VHS camcorder, Standard VHS format, 250 lines of resolution, with hard-carrying case and battery charger. Estimated price $850.
- Sony MV-MK500 1.2 MP Digital Camera with 8x Optical Zoom, High Resolution 1,280 x 960 (SXGA), takes floppy discs and memory stick, with additional battery charger and extra battery. Estimated price $750.