Alumnus, Author Speaks to Library Friends at Inaugural Event

The Friends of the WVU Libraries roared to life in September with a presentation by alumnus and author Dr. Thomas Ofcansky.

Ofcansky returned to campus to speak to a group of faculty, students, and library friends about his book *Paradise Lost: A History of Game Preservation in East Africa*, which focuses on the environmental impact tourism and other factors have had on the formerly pristine wilderness of East Africa.

"I'm very gratified to be here. It was a long haul getting this thing published," Ofcansky told the audience gathered for the first event for the Friends of the WVU Libraries.

The book, published in May by the WVU Press, began more than 20 years ago as Ofcansky's dissertation.

"How I got interested in this? I guess you can blame Prof. Maxon," explained Ofcansky, an analyst for the U.S. Department of State. "He was the one who helped me get to East Africa and taught me about the history of the region."

Ofcansky traveled to East Africa several times as a student in the late 1970s 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.

The frequent visits enabled him to talk with residents of the region about the changes they've seen to their homeland and to witness for himself the effects of the creation of infrastructure and tourism.

He contends problems started with the construction of the Uganda Railway at the close of the 19th century, which made it much easier to reach the interior of Kenya. Small towns sprouted up along the railway. British settlers moved in to farm, and the war between wildlife and people began. Animals attacked people who entered their territory, and people killed animals to protect themselves and for food.

Tourism has also left a negative impact of the environment. Several hundred people traveled to Africa to see animals in the early 1900s, but the figure grew to 120,000 tourists seeking the safari experience in 1985 and then exploded by the late 1960s with the convenience of jet travel.

Ofcansky doesn't peg tourists alone as the problem. It's the task of keeping tourists happy that creates havoc.

"The idea of living in a tent appeals to very few. They want a nice hotel at the end of the day, a bath, food," Ofcansky said.

To meet this need, five-star hotels have gone up in or near many of the national parks. Ofcansky points out that providing the accompanying luxuries - pools, fine meals, roads - places more pressure on the fragile land.

"What's happened in East Africa over that last century is a microcosm of what's happening in the world. We're a pretty tough species, and we've caused a lot of damage on this old beat up earth of ours," Ofcansky told the audience. "This is one small example. Sadly, from my perspective, I don't see that changing soon."

Sitting in the audience was a reward for Maxon, chair of the Department of History. He has remained in close contact with Ofcansky over the past two decades. The pair collaborated on the Historical Dictionary of Kenya, and Maxon calls on Ofcansky's expertise as an analyst in the field.

"This is something we always want to see and we're happy when it happens," Maxon said. "We're honoring the publication of a new book but also recognizing his achievements in a way."

Along with *Paradise Lost*, Ofcansky has authored several articles and books, including...

Alumni Makes Gift of Gratitude to Libraries

WVU alumnus Kenneth Walter Cameron left West Virginia University in 1931 with two degrees in hand and found success as a popular professor of American literature at Trinity College in Connecticut. More than 70 years later, he still remembers the institution that led him on that path.

He demonstrated his appreciation by donating $40,000 to the WVU Libraries this fall. Cameron wrote on his check, "gift of gratitude for early collegiate years."

The libraries will use the gift to establish an endowment to purchase American literature titles, and a small group study room in the Downtown Campus Library will bear Professor Cameron's name.

"I remember the morning we received Professor Cameron's gift. All of us were touched by his generosity in remembering his early academic experiences here at WVU," Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said. "We all have memories of our undergraduate days, but he chose to validate his."

A native of Wheeling, Cameron earned his A.E. in 1930 and A.M. in 1931 at WVU and his Ph.D. at Yale University in 1940. His career took him first to North Carolina State University where he taught English from 1938 to 1943. After a brief stint at Temple University, he settled at Trinity College where he served as a professor of 19th century American literature from 1946 to 1975.

He earned the status as a leading authority in the study of the American Transcendental Movement and received the Award for Distinguished Achievement in Emerson Studies.

Cameron has authored and edited several books on the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. WVU Libraries has 81 of those titles.

Cameron also penned *West Virginia University Sixty Years Ago - Memories of Louis Watson Chappell*, which is held in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

In the book, Cameron tells about his time at WVU and the impact of Chappell and other WVU professors on his life. Cameron arrived in Morgantown determined to be a lawyer but credits Chappell for fueling his interest in teaching literature. Chappell gained notoriety for field recordings of folk music he gathered while traveling the state in the 1930s and 1940s.

Cameron lives in Hartford and continued doing research and writing through the late 1990s.
Remember staring at a blank computer screen or sheet of typing paper while the deadline for a research paper fast approaches?

Some students are spending a lot of time preparing for the deadline at the Downtown Campus Library. This fall, the DCL opened a term paper clinic to provide assistance to students struggling with research papers.

"A lot of students feel overwhelmed by all the information the library has," said Kelly Diamond, who has a library science degree and teaches English 102. "We hope this will help guide them."

For two hours every weekday, Diamond sets up shop in a study room in the Downtown Campus Library and meets with students with questions about writing research papers. The offer of help has drawn close to 20 students a week to the free clinic.

Carrie Cantrell, a biochemistry junior, gained some needed direction for her paper on Swine flu by meeting with Diamond a few times.

"I couldn't decide on a topic initially. Now I'm just trying to define what I want to do and get everything correctly cited and organized," said Cantrell. "The fact you have to compile so much data and make it an organized paper with good ideas is intimidating."

Kara Ruby, a pre-sports management sophomore, made a couple trips to the clinic for help getting on track with her paper about women in sports.

"You're starting from blank," Ruby said. "When it doesn't come to you, you get frustrated and worry that it's going to be a bad paper."

However, after some advice from Diamond, Ruby is confident about the quality of work she can produce. She said she appreciates the time Diamond makes available to students.

"She's willing to help with anything, even if you having just a small problem," Ruby said. "If I have a problem on next paper, I can come back."

Caroline Doyle, a pre-business sophomore, agrees. She tossed out all her ideas for a paper, and Diamond responded with useful feedback on the possible directions Doyle could head with the topic. Doyle was also more at ease now that she better understands of citations.

"A lot of people are intimidated about writing a huge paper," Doyle said. "It's nice to have someone to help."

This research paper is a first for Lindsay Pursglove, a sophomore majoring in pre-occupational therapy.

She needed help using the many online databases available at WVU Libraries. Diamond taught her how to find the best keywords for a topic to find the best results in a search.

"It's nice to have someone you can go to for help," Pursglove said. "You don't feel like you're alone late at night sitting in your dorm room."

David Gough, a pre-forensics sophomore, came to the clinic determined. He wanted to learn what he could do to strengthen his paper, where he could find more sources, and if he could file it down to a more specific theme. He worked with Diamond to narrow his topic from all sports violence to sports violence among fans.

He especially appreciated the clinic because he's in Diamond's English 102 class.

"It makes it less intimidating coming in and talking to your teacher about what she wants. Writing a paper and not knowing what they want is a little hard," Gough said. "I feel I have a lot better start than I did when I came in - a lot better direction."

WVU President David C. Hardesty (right) admires the restoration work in the James V. and Ann Pozega Milano Reading Room. He's joined by Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien, Associate Dean Myra N. Lowe, and Dr. Jacqueline Swasinger, who is serving as an American Council on Education Fellow at WVU this academic year. The Wise Library reopens at the start of the spring semester.
Doctor's Endowment Sends Librarians Around the World

West Virginia University's Health Sciences Library was one of the first of its peers to use the Internet to electronically transmit requested journal articles and other materials directly to the desktop of a student or doctor.

Thanks to the Robert L. Murphy Health Sciences Library Faculty Development Endowment created by Dr. V.K. Raju, librarian Nancy Wasson, head of Access Services, was able to showcase such HSL achievements at an international conference in Munich.

"This gift has been tremendously helpful as it allows Health Sciences Library personnel to learn new and better ways to serve the needs of our users and to let the world know WVU is developing and implementing improvements of its own," said Terrance Burton, Director of the Health Sciences Library.

Burton considers improvements to the quality of the library's service locally and the advancement of the profession nationally and internationally as important elements of the role of library faculty.

"The creation of the Robert L. Murphy Health Sciences Center Library Faculty Development Endowment by Dr. Raju gives us the resources to fulfill those responsibilities," Burton said.

Dr. Raju, a Morgantown-based ophthalmologist, is a longtime advocate of libraries.

"Someone said if you want to learn a subject, you consult a book. When you want to understand a subject, you consult a library," Raju said. "Libraries are the most wonderful places in a university."

After settling in Morgantown in 1977, Raju quickly made the WVU Health Sciences Library a regular haunt. He praises the former director Robert Murphy for assisting him in his research of the history of ophthalmology.

"Not only me - a lot of people thought very highly of Bob Murphy. When he was retiring, I thought it was an opportunity to honor him," Raju said. "What better place than a library."

Along with honoring someone he respected, Raju's aim in establishing the endowment was furthering knowledge.

The endowment generates funds to be used for Health Sciences Library faculty development activities with preference given to travel opportunities to learn about other library systems and operations and to maintain currency in leading edge advancements in the library and the information science field and to share innovative approaches to library services with our peers.

Along with Wasson, three other Health Sciences librarians have already benefited from Raju's gift. Sally Brown, Jean Siebert, and Virginia Bender used the funds to attend a conference in Dallas in the spring of 2002. They presented a poster about the HSL's innovative use of matrix management to improve library service by the Information Services librarians.

Raju, a strong believer in staff development, is pleased to hear about the impact of his support.

"I always believed there are three solutions to every problem. First is education. Second is education. Third is education," Raju said. "As long as we are one place, we think nobody is better than us. That is a tragic thing - thinking that we know everything. Perfection is a moving target. We should keep on learning."

That is the goal of faculty and staff at the Health Sciences Library. Wasson sees a two-fold benefit in attending and presenting at professional conferences.

"And conferences give librarians a chance to meet with peers, learn what's happening at other academic libraries, and discover what new technologies and services are on the horizon. Conferences also provide an opportunity for librarians to share their accomplishments in the field, such as Wasson's trip to Munich to discuss the Health Sciences Library's digital document delivery services."

"The libraries are often not in the forefront, and I think it's important to make it known what we are doing," Wasson said. "This kind of funding will enable us to get out and do just that."

Alumnus Donates Asimov Collection to Libraries

Alumnus Larry Shaver donated his collection of Isaac Asimov books and paraphernalia to the WVU Libraries. Shaver (left) is pictured with Michael Ridenbusch, assistant curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection; Harold Forbes, WVRHC associate curator; and John Cutburt, WVRHC curator.

An alumnus and self-avowed sci-fi fan recently donated his Isaac Asimov collection containing about 600 books, games, audio recordings, videos, and wall charts to the WVU Libraries.

"Putting them together, I've had the pleasure of reading everyone," Larry Shaver said. "But as the collection grew, it seemed such a waste to keep them on my shelf."

Shaver, a Fairmont native and 1974 graduate of WVU, developed an interest in Asimov when he spotted one of the author's paperbacks in a Pittsburgh bookstore more than 30 years ago.

He quickly finished the book and began looking for more titles by Asimov. After reading 100 of his books, Shaver set the goal of reading all 600 of Asimov's books.

"I didn't intend to build a collection, I just intended to read his books," Shaver said.

"The best way to determine if you already read a book is to have it on the rack."

It was about 10 years ago that Shaver accomplished his first goal and set his next challenge as replacing the paperback with better editions. Since then, first editions account for nearly 75 percent of the collection, and 20 of the first editions are signed. Shaver also orchestrated Asimov's wife, Janet, to inscribe a first-edition of the late author's autobiography, It's Been a Good Life, to WVU.

There are also a few rare items, such as two college textbooks. The voluminous collection contains all but 25 titles on the most comprehensive lists of the writer's work.

"Isaac Asimov was not only one of the most prolific authors of all time, but also one of the most diverse," said John Cutburt, special collections curator.

"In addition to being one of the pillars of science fiction, he wrote often about history, religion, literature, theater, chemistry, physics, mathematics, humor - the list goes on and on. Thus, there is literally something for everyone in this marvelous collection."

The prolific storyteller propelled readers throughout the universe wrote from a foundation of science fact. He held a doctorate in chemistry and taught biochemistry at Boston University's School of Medicine. His scientific research included work in kinetics, photochemistry, enzymology, and irradiation.

Shaver, now an air traffic control instructor at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma, credits Asimov for stirring his interest in academics. He said Asimov incorporated an easy-to-understand writing style in explaining fairly complicated topics, like the sciences.

"I didn't know those things were so interesting. I thought they were things to be avoided," Shaver said. "I think he earned the title of the Great Explainor. He explained it to me, and now he'll explain it to other people."
WVU’s Libraries add PsycARTICLES™ to Electronic Journal Collection

WVU Libraries has made research a little easier for psychology faculty and students with the addition of PsycARTICLES™, an online database of 43 journals from the field. "It's the difference between night and day," psychology professor Stan Cohen said. "The time savings alone will be incredible."

Before, finding a needed article in one of these journals required going to the Downtown Campus Library, finding and retrieving the journal from the stacks, photocopying the article, and repeating the process for each desired article. And then the actual work could begin.

Now, the task simply requires finding a computer with Internet access and clicking a few keys. Students and faculty can access the database, PsycARTICLES™, from the WVU Libraries homepage, www.libraries.wvu.edu. It joins WVU Libraries collection of more than 10,000 electronic journals.

Cohen expects the online access to benefit psychology students who are often asked to do brief abstracts of journal articles. Rather than a few hundred students racing into the library to grab the same journals, they can read them online from home.

Psychology professor Barry Edelstein finds the ability to do research from his office or home appealing. "You can't sit in the library all the time and write a manuscript," Edelstein said.

Both educators see advantages just in the increased access to quality sources. "Students can more easily peruse the journals," Cohen said. "It's as if they have a subscription to 43 new journals - journals they would not otherwise read."

For faculty who subscribe to journals included in the database, the access equals financial savings. "Many of us have subscribed to some of those journals over the years and they're very expensive," Edelstein said. "We won't have to do that anymore."

PsycARTICLES™ is a database of full-text articles from journals published by the American Psychological Association, the APA Educational Publishing Foundation, the Canadian Psychological Association, and Hogrefe & Huber. The database includes all material from the print journals from 1988 to the present with the exception of ads and editorial board lists.

Author Speaks continued from page 1...


Maxon eagerly gave the latest edition to that list a stellar review. "We were impressed when it was first completed as a dissertation. We think it's an excellent piece of work," Maxon said.

He also praised the WVU Libraries for playing an integral role in research performed by faculty and students.

"Our library here has been very important in bringing people like Dr. Ofcansky here in the first place because we had a good collection on East Africa here at that particular time," Maxon said. "Compared to a lot of other institution at that time, it was definitely superior."

Ofcansky's visit was the first of several similar events for the Friends of the WVU Libraries. The Libraries' goal is to present three Friends Group programs a year. We will be looking at author talks, panel discussions, presentations from our West Virginia & Regional History Collection, and an "Antiques Roadshow" for books.

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

Supportive Measures

The new Downtown Campus Library's enhanced features as a learning environment have made a big hit with WVU's students. Making sure that all of the library facilities continue to meet student and faculty needs in the coming years is a significant challenge for the university - and one that anyone may help accomplish.

A simple way to do that is to include a gift provision in your will or revocable trust to "the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries."

If you choose, your gift can provide for the purchase of academic journals and technological resources. Often, these purchases suffer in times of budget cuts; private support can assure the stable supply of knowledge resources that are so vital to the Library's continued functioning.

Gifts made through wills or revocable trusts by donors who will be at least 65 by December 31, 2003 count in the University's Building Greatness Campaign.

Truly, these supportive measures are needed and appreciated!

Do Millennials Dream of Electric Libraries?

The WVU Libraries Web Team is pleased to present the Libraries new web site, offering more services than ever for WVU students, staff, and faculty. The new site was ready and waiting for the largest incoming freshman class in WVU's history.

This class belongs to a new generation, and the new site is designed to work well with their information seeking behaviors. Some of the observed characteristics of Generation Y or Millennials (students that graduated from high school in the new millennium) include confidence and energy, passionate tolerance, an emphasis on teamwork and community, focus and a drive to change. These sophisticated computer users will be able to navigate through the vast amount of information organized and presented by the Libraries. The design includes simple but detailed menus that will lead users to the type of information they need.

The amount of research material directly available through the Libraries web site has increased exponentially since the original site launched eight years ago. The WVU community has unlimited access to more than 10,000 electronic journals and more than 100 specialized research databases from anywhere they can access the web.

Newspapers such as the New York Times are available in full text from 1851 to the present day. Online dictionaries, encyclopedias, and many other reference sources are also available through the site. Interlibrary Loan is a service that can obtain nearly any publication not owned by the WVU Libraries. The service is now completely electronic and is offered on the site.

Library web site users were consulted about what they wanted on the site. Using this information, the team developed and studied a prototype for usability. Along with the usability study results, a panel of web experts in design, graphics, and accessibility were consulted to create the current site from the prototype.

"The design of a web site has a half-life of about 18 months," Beth Toren, coordinator of the team, said. "Technology is changing more rapidly than ever, so new developments become obsolete quicker. We designed the new site with this in mind. Our information architecture is simple and stable enough to change with the times. We are pleased to welcome the new class with a new generation of web services."

If you have any questions about the site, feel free to contact Beth Toren at (304) 293-4040 Ext. 4018 or btoren@wvu.edu

You can visit the new site at:
http://www.libraries.wvu.edu

In response to student demands for increased library access, the Downtown Campus Library will be open until 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday for Spring Semester.
What do Judy Blume and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* have in common? Both are part of a long list of books some people want to prevent others from reading.

In September, WVU Libraries marked Banned Books Week by joining libraries around the nation in celebrating the freedom to read by turning the spotlight on banned or challenged books. "Banned book week is an educational week where we try to inform the public that books are being challenged for their ideas," said Heather Campbell, a library technical assistant. "Even if a person doesn't believe or agree with the material that's in a book, that doesn't mean it should be taken off the shelf."

Challenging a book is requesting a book be removed from school or library shelves. The ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom says it has recorded more than 6,500 challenges in the past decade. Research suggests that the actual number of challenges could be four times greater.

The most challenged titles last year included books from the Harry Potter series; and decades after publication, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* landed a close second.

Those were some of the facts shared with students through a display set up in the Mountainlair by WVU Libraries. It also had a list of the 100 most challenged books, and Campbell and other librarians distributed pamphlets about banned or challenged books.

"Not every book is for every individual," Campbell said. "I would hope people would take a look at these books and at least read them to say whether or not they agree with who's challenging them."

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WVU Libraries sponsored two readings on campus for two diverse groups to celebrate Diversity Week.

One crowd included a mix of students gathering at Towers Residence Hall, the other included children of WVU faculty and staff sitting in reading circles at Evansdale Library.

Early one Tuesday morning, while a handful of students typed away on computers and prepared for the day of classes ahead, a group of pre-school students slowly filed into Evansdale Library and quietly found a spot on the floor.

They soon huddled into groups and intently listened to University students and Susan Hardesty, WVU's first lady, read from a selection of children's stories that teach diversity.

"I don't think anything is more important than reading to children," said Mrs. Hardesty, a longtime literacy advocate. "They can learn so much about the world and about other cultures. It was a wonderful morning for me."

Mrs. Hardesty was joined by a crew of reading volunteers: Brenda Cruz, a graduate student in agriculture; Nicole Allaire, a member of the rifle team; Tina Griffith, a member of the rowing team; and Sarah Crouch, a member of the swim team.

"Everybody had a good time. The students reading enjoyed themselves," said Martha Yancey, the librarian in charge of WVU Libraries' children's collection.

The idea to host an event for children sprang from discussions between Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien and Evansdale Library Director Mary Strife. Evansdale, which serves the College of Human Resources and Education, is home to a collection of children's literature, and the WVU Child Development Laboratory, or Nursery School, is within walking distance. Connecting the two appeared a natural fit.

"Children are our future. You've got to start early," said Jennifer McIntosh, director of the Office of Social Justice.

And reading to children is a wonderful tool to accomplish that mission.

"Every time an individual picks up a book, they're expressing the uniqueness of the written word and increasing a student's chance to become a literate human being," Yancey said. "With various types of individuals reading to the children, I think that gave them an impression that all kinds of people do similar activities. And that, to me, is the whole crux of this event."

The day of diversity readings continued that evening at Towers Residence Hall, where four faculty members took turns reading selections to a crowd of students.

Focusing on Native Americans, Sam Stack, an associate professor of education, read from The Ledger Book of Thomas Blue Eagle.

Linda Jacknowitz, assistant director of the West Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, read about cooking to offer a glimpse of her Jewish culture.

Janis-Rozena Peri, an associate professor of music, focused on an Urban African American youth's realization of her self-centeredness and learning to help others with reading of Toni Cade Bambara's short story "Raymond's Run."

Jo Brown, a librarian in charge of the University Libraries' Appalachian Collection, read from a range of West Virginia and regional writers to give the audience an appreciation of the Mountain State.

For many students, it was an introduction to Afrilachia. Poet Frank X Walker created the word to describe writing by African Americans who live in Appalachia. Brown explained that African Americans living in the region have a unique perspective because they are a minority within a minority.

"There is diversity in Appalachia at the same time Appalachia is a diverse place itself to the dominant American culture," Brown said.

McIntosh even became part of the event reciting a poem in the patois, or language, of her native Jamaica.

"It was a very broad outlay of all different type of issues, but it gave people some kind of knowledge or background of other cultures," McIntosh said. "I think the students really enjoyed it."

Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said she was glad the libraries were able to be an active part of Diversity Week.

"Academic libraries collections play a major role in creating an inclusive community. We provide programs and resources that enhance knowledge and encourage understanding of diversity," Dean O'Brien said. "We're pleased to host these events to increase awareness."

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WVU Libraries hosted two readings to celebrate Diversity Week. Susan Hardesty (center) reads to a group of children of faculty and staff during an event at Evansdale Library marking Diversity Week. Mrs. Hardesty is flanked by Phoebe Harms, Chanya Elkins, Lally Amminion, and Ray Pirrong.
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:

- **Something About the Author**, Gale Research Group, volumes 23-30, 32-34, 37, 39-103, 105-135, each volume $124.
- **Garland Encyclopedia of World Music**, entire set of 10 volumes $2500.
- **Lichens of North America**, $69.95.
- **Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, Olandorf**, 5 volume set, $499.
- **Biochemistry, Lubert Stryer, author**, $340.80
- **Hormones, Brain and Behavior**, $849.95.
- **McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, 9th ed., $1930.**
- **Directory of American Scholars, six volumes, $595.**
- **Annual Register of Grant Support, 35th ed., $829.**
- **Shakespeare’s World and Work, Charles Scribner’s Sons/Gale Group, 2001, $295.00.**

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**ExLibris the Newsletter of the WVU Libraries**

Winter 2003 * West Virginia University

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**ExLibris** is published quarterly by WVU Libraries
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
(304) 293-8040

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