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## Friends of the Library Newsletter Autumn 2011

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# The SPU Library

*Discover, Create, Share*



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011

## Meet SPU's New University Librarian: Michael J. Paulus Jr.



Michael Paulus is SPU's new library director. Before coming to SPU in July, Michael was head of archives and special collections at Whitman College; prior to that, he was a special collections librarian at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Michael's management experience and research interests focus on the transformation of academic libraries in the digital age. In addition to leading new collecting, curricular, and digital initiatives at Whitman and Princeton, he helped direct development of the Digital Services and Northwest Digital Archives programs of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. He regularly publishes and presents on library and historical topics, and is active in a number of regional and national professional organizations.

Born and raised in Bellevue, Washington, Michael's journey through "the school of Christ" led him from business school (University of Washington) to divinity school (Princeton Theological Seminary) and library school (Rutgers University). As he has come to appreciate the transformative influence of *the* Book and books on human history, culture, and flourishing, he has found his spiritual and professional development to be mutually formative.

Michael enjoys teaching in any context. He taught courses at Whitman College and Walla Walla Community College, and he has taught adult Sunday school classes for years. He is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and attends Bethany Presbyterian Church with his wife and two daughters.

## The Reconfigured Lower Level: Tradition Meets Innovation

This summer the Lower Level of the Library was transformed from a collection-storage area into a dynamic learning space.

The reconfiguration of the Lower Level included creating space for two new library service areas: the Tech Desk and the Archives. It also reduced the footprint of the Library's print journal collection.



## Friends of the SPU Library

Friends of the Seattle Pacific University Library perform a vital role in enhancing both the quantity and quality of the resources that the Library makes available to students and scholars at SPU. To become a member or renew your membership, please visit the Friends of the Library [giving site](#).

## SPU Library Numbers

In academic year 2010-11:

**243,425**  
people entered the library.

**54,109**  
books were checked out.

**180**  
information literacy classes were taught by librarians.

**8,710**  
reference questions were answered.

## Orbis Cascade Alliance Numbers

There are **37** colleges and universities in the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

Combined, there are over **30 million** items in Alliance libraries.

SPU patrons checked out

In the [Tech Desk](#) area, students have access to new tools and training, and a new space in which to use technology collaboratively and individually.

The [Archives](#) area provides a place to explore, teach about, and research SPU's history.

With these changes the Library is advancing its mission, in both traditional and innovative ways, to support the discovery, creation, and sharing of knowledge. Moreover, the activities now facilitated by the collections, services, and staffing on the Lower Level -- work with primary materials (e.g., archives), engagement with secondary sources (e.g., journal literature), and the creation of new knowledge (e.g., in the Tech Desk area) -- make it a place that represents the process of scholarly communication.



## The Orbis Cascade Alliance: Think Local, Act Global

The SPU Library is a member of the [Orbis Cascade Alliance](#), a consortium of 37 colleges and universities in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

What began as a model for shared borrowing has evolved into an exemplary model for deep and extensive collaboration among academic libraries. The Alliance has an ambitious strategic agenda, which will help its members develop a collective collection and a shared technological infrastructure.

Current initiatives include moving to web-based discovery and delivery systems, building a consortial e-book collection driven by patron demand, and evolving systems for distributing and preserving digital content.

Within the context of its Alliance membership, the SPU Library can expand its resources and services and realize an operational scale that it could not have realized on its own. At the same time, the Library is freed up to focus on developing distinctive local collections, strengthening its teaching role, and making the Library building a unique place for learning on campus.

### Connect

- Friends of the Library are individuals who contribute to the Library's endowed fund. If you are not already a member, or have not yet renewed your annual membership, please visit the Friends of the Library [giving site](#). Friends of the Library receive [alumni library borrowing privileges](#) and are invited to an annual luncheon.
- The Library hosts a lunchtime series, [Thursday Food for Thought](#), in which SPU faculty and staff read from recently published, or about-to-be published, works. The series runs during the academic year and is open to the public.
- The Library's website was recently redesigned and improved. Explore the site's new look, and the resource and services available through it, by visiting [spu.edu/library](http://spu.edu/library).

**7,168** items from other Alliance libraries.

The SPU library shipped **7,385** items to other Alliance libraries.





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