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Friends of the Library Newsletter Spring 2013

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Recommended Citation

Paulus, Michael J. Jr., "Friends of the Library Newsletter Spring 2013" (2013). *Library Newsletters*. 4.
http://digitalcommons.spu.edu/library_news/4

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The SPU Library

Discover, Create, Share

Friends of the Library Newsletter

Spring 2013

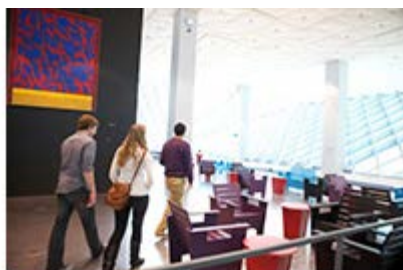


From the Director: The Past, Future, and Present of the Library

Michael J. Paulus Jr.

Last quarter I taught a University Seminar on the history and future of the book. Near the end of the course, we visited the Seattle Public Library's Central Library, which opened in 2004, and we discussed the three major challenges the building was designed to address: First, what is the place of legacy print materials? Second, how should space be shaped for new and emerging technologies? And, finally, what types of spaces do library patrons need in a 21st century library?

These questions concern the past, future, and present of the institution that we call "the library": How do libraries of all types bring historical collections forward in space and time? How do libraries construct spaces that incorporate new technologies and are open to future possibilities? And how do libraries create places where people in the present can interact with the convergence of past patterns and future potentialities of knowledge?



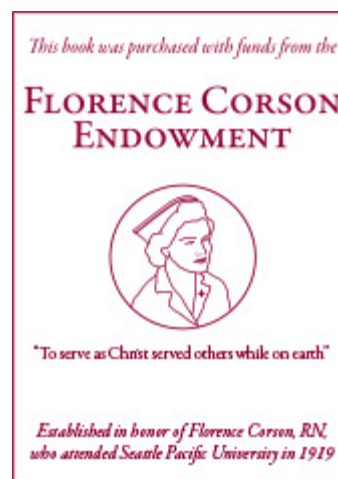
On the final exam for my class, I asked my students to articulate what would be important to them if they were to design a library. Collectively, they wrote about the need for a critical mass of resources (including books in various formats); the need for spaces to interact with knowledge and each other; the need for technologies with which to create; and the need for human guides to help them discover and use resources. These are the essential components of every great library that was, that is, and that is to come, and they are written into the mission statement of the SPU Library: "The SPU Library provides collections, instruction, tools, spaces, and personnel to advance teaching, learning, and scholarship at Seattle Pacific University." Although that statement was written last year, it could have been written many years ago — or it could be rewritten many years from now.

Annual Friends of the Library Lecture

This year's Friends of the Library Lecture will be delivered by [Gregory Wolfe](#). Wolfe is founder and editor-in-chief of *Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion* and writer in residence and founding director of the [Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing](#) at SPU. In

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](#).



The Library commissioned the above bookplate to commemorate the establishment of the Florence Corson Endowment, named for a dedicated nurse who was committed to the church and missions. Funds from this sustaining gift are used to strengthen the Library's distinctive collection of Wesleyan materials.

addition to building a variety of literary programs and institutions, he is a prolific author of books, essays, reviews, and articles.

What: "Presenting Culture: The Curator as Steward, Critic, and Provocateur"

When: Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Where: [Upper Gwinn Commons](#)



As an editor, publisher, and teacher for many years, Gregory Wolfe has presented the creative work of writers and artists in a variety of venues. Along the way he has reflected on the role of the curator of culture, which involves a process of selection and discernment. In his talk, he will speak about the curator's roles as protector of artistic tradition, arbiter of taste, and a creative force in his or her own right.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Friends of the Library will receive a complimentary copy of Wolfe's latest book *Beauty Will Save the World: Art, Faith, and the Vision of Christian Humanism*, a collection of his essays on art, literature, and faith.

If you are not already a member, or have not yet renewed your annual membership, please visit the Friends of the Library [giving site](#).

A New Library Program for a New Book Format

Through its membership in the Orbis Cascade Alliance, the SPU Library is participating in an innovative program to provide access to electronic books. The program is innovative in two ways. First, member libraries pool their funds and purchase ebooks that are jointly owned by and available through all 37 member libraries. Second, recent titles from participating publishers that appear in the libraries' catalogs are purchased only if a certain number of library patrons check them out or download them.

This approach to collective collection development combined with patron- or demand-driven acquisition builds on the Alliance's successful history of sharing academic library resources and pursuing effective and economical ways to build collections.

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](#).
- Follow the Library's new blog at blog.spu.edu/library/ or its Twitter account [@TheSPULibrary](https://twitter.com/TheSPULibrary)
- The Library hosts a lunchtime series, [Thursday Food for Thought](#), in which members of the SPU community read from recently published or about-to-be published works. The series,

which runs during the school year, is open to the public.

- Explore the Library's website, and the resource and services available through it, by visiting spu.edu/library.



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