Fond Farewell to Brenda Bell as she retires

After a 28-year career in the Library & Information Center, Brenda Bell, the Library’s Administrative Manager, will retire on April 30, 2005. Brenda started her career as Clerk in the Library’s Administrative Offices and for the last 26 years has managed the Administrative Offices staff and been responsible for the Library budget and financial matters.

In 2003, Brenda was awarded the Library’s Price’s Pride award, an award that recognizes significant achievement in the Library.

Brenda’s plans for retirement are to spend a lot more time with her husband, Ronnie, at their Ellijay home in the beautiful north Georgia mountains. Also, she’ll have much more time to spend with her four children and six grandchildren. Other plans for retirement are travel and having time for household projects that need to be done.

We wish Brenda Bell all the best in her retirement from Library & Information Center. She will certainly be missed!

April Birthdays
APRIL 3 - Jean Hudgins
APRIL 15 - Windy Scott
APRIL 17 - Frank Brown
Fond Farewell to Charles Pearman

Charles Pearman retired from the Library on Thursday, March 31, after 15 years of work in the Security Department. In 1990, his brother, Bill, who worked for Plant Operations, encouraged his older brother to apply for employment. We’re glad he did! In 1992, Charles became Head of the Security Department, a position he held until November 1993. He has been in semi-retirement for the last 11 years as a part-time Security Guard.

In 1993, the Georgia Tech Student Government Association presented Charles with its “Friend of the Student” award “... in recognition of outstanding service to the undergraduate student body of the Georgia Institute of Technology.” This was preceded in 1991 with Charles receiving the Library’s Price’s Pride Award.

His plans for retirement are some well-deserved rest and relaxation and more time for his hobbies of picture framing and furniture refinishing.

We wish Charles Pearman all the best in his retirement from Library & Information Center. He will be greatly missed!

Fond Farewell to Willene Rainey

Willene Rainey came to Georgia Tech 14 years ago from a long career with General Motors. She had no experience in clerical work, but soon worked up from Clerk to Library Assistant. She says “she has been here in every sense of the word.” She is looking forward to spending time with her mother, siblings, five children, two stepchildren, husband, volunteer work and providing transportation for the elderly. She does not expect to be bored nor idle.

While she was here, Willene acted as life coach, fount of information, and source of common-sense experience for much of the library, in addition to being a source of standards for work. We’ll miss her laughter and her help, but the wider world will be gaining a great good in having more time with our Willene.
The Library’s Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 12, noon-1:30pm in Press Room A of the Student Success Center (the same location as last year). The announcement of the Kaiser and Price’s Pride award winners will take place at approximately 12:45pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Archives
The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America donated the first of many items to the Southeastern Section of the MAA Records: John Neff Collection. This collection is a new acquisition of the Archives.

Information Services
Bing Wang attended the 229th American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in San Diego from March 12th to March 16th. It was Bing’s first professional meeting, at which Bing has participated a round table discussion on Teaching Chemical Information: Tips and Techniques and a whole day program on The Future of Scientific Publishing. Bing also met other chemistry librarians from the major research institutions like Stanford University, Purdue University, MIT, CalTech, UC, Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, and etc. They shared experiences on chemical information instructions, collection development, and outreaching.

The second Tuesday Talk, sponsored by the Information Services Department/ PR Group occurred on Tuesday March 29. This month’s Talk was by Prof. Irfan Essa from the College of Computing, on the Aware Home: Sensing, Interpretation, and Recognition of Everyday Activities — “Imagine a home that senses and perceives the daily activities of its occupants. The Aware Home, a unique living lab that explores ubiquitous computing in a home setting, is such a place. Situated on the Tech campus, it resides in the Georgia Tech Broadband Institute’s Residential Laboratory. Learn about the computer vision, audition work, and other efforts in computational perception that are being used to track and monitor residents, and the methods that are being developed to recognize the activities of residents over short and long periods of time. Find out about the challenges involved in this project, and its focus on using technology to help an aging population maintain independence and quality of life.” If you missed this intriguing talk, watch for a videotaped copy to be added to SMARTech in the near future.
Information Delivery
Congratulations to Glenna Barney, Shirley Dixon, Runae Knight, and Martha Saghini on their reclassifications to Library Assistant III.

IDD staff are preparing for an April launch of the ILLiad Interlibrary Loan system. Georgia Tech students, faculty, and staff will have their own online ILLiad accounts, accessible from the Library’s website, and will be able to place and monitor the status of their requests. More information will be forthcoming.

Special Formats & Maps
On February 15th 2005 a team of nineteen, including Cathe Cannon, flew to Monrovia, Liberia. First Baptist Church Jonesboro has partnered with Peaceful Baptist Church outside of Monrovia for over eighteen years. This team went to build a classroom building for Peaceful so they can have more space for teaching the children in their area. The country of Liberia is war torn, the UN now holding the peace after fourteen years of civil war. In 2003 the rebels destroyed the power plant—the entire country is without power. The people are amazing—their warm, friendly nature and the hope they hold on to that this year’s election of a new president will bring wars to an end and allow their country to rebuild and become a provider for its people. A once in a lifetime experience!

Aisha Craft a senior in high school will be receiving an “Academic Award of Excellence.” She will also receive an honor for helping other students to achieve in school. Aisha is the daughter of our colleague Joyce Craft, let us all join in and send out a big congratulations!

Security
I would like to congratulate Talvin Westbrooks for making the gold honor roll this quarter with all As and also would like to wish him a happy birthday on April 1.

The Library Book Club will meet next on April 12 from noon to 1pm in the Wilby Room. We’ll be discussing Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie, “an enchanting tale that captures the magic of reading and the wonder of romantic awakening.”—Amazon.