Library Bids Farewell to Susan Kraat

In the midst of many comings and goings on campus, Sojourner Truth Library (STL) has its own goodbye to share with you. Librarian Susan Kraat has announced she will retire at the end of this semester.

A member of the New Paltz community for many years, Susan’s first position here was in STL as a temporary secretary in 1994. Realizing how much she enjoyed the work of the library Susan pursued an MLS degree at the University at Albany. By the time she graduated Susan had formed her own reference credo “Give a man a fish, but if you can show him how you came by it that is fine too.”

Hired in 1998 as a full-time Assistant Librarian, Susan hit the ground running, spinning and dancing her way through countless hours of instruction, projects and committees. Promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian in 2001 and Associate Librarian in 2005 she went on to receive the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 2011-2012.

In addition to her many hours at the Information Desk, Susan has been the Coordinator of Information Literacy since 2003. In that role, besides organizing a complicated full instruction schedule, she has taken on the lion’s share of teaching in the library’s computer classroom and beyond. Hundreds of students have benefitted from her instruction in research methods, literacy skills and library use. Professor Tom Olsen writes, “I have found her a consummate professional: clear and helpful to student learners, up-to-date in her command of library research resources, and innovative in her delivery methods.”

Susan has served as an energetic, involved member of various campus committees including the 175th Anniversary Steering Committee (co-chair), the Committee on Research Awards and Leaves (chair, 2001-02), The Middle States Steering Committee and a Presidential Search Committee. She has also been the guiding light for the University Writing Board, serving as chair since 2006. Professor Jan Schmidt who served on the Writing Board with Susan says, “...she has done an outstanding job as chair... coordinating such activities as review and approval of numerous writing-intensive courses; planning for such events as the annual fall retreat, spring symposium, and Celebration of Writing Day; and fielding queries and questions about the program and criteria for writing-intensive course.”

Susan has also been active on the regional and state level, serving as a member of the SUNY Librarians Association and the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council. Along with a long list of presentations and workshops Susan also edited a monograph entitled Relationships Between Teaching Faculty and Teaching Librarians (Haworth Press, 2004).

Asked to reflect on her time at New Paltz Susan writes: “I love teaching. I love working with students. I love being around really smart people. I love learning new things every day. I love the academy! Librarianship and the folks I have worked with have been extremely generous. Receiving the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship last year was an unexpected honor, and one that so many of my colleagues deserve as well. I dare not mention them, for fear of leaving someone out, but I thank you all.

I look forward to new challenges. There will be new things to learn. I would like to see a bit more of my home, my family, and the world, but I will always be an enthusiastic advocate for this library and for SUNY New Paltz.”

Though we’ll miss seeing Susan on a daily basis we know our paths will continue to cross. We wish Susan all happiness as she starts a new adventure.
AVRover Purchased For STL

The AVRover is a self contained portable AV cart with all components secured in a steel case. The unit comes with a built-in PC to connect to wired or wireless network, a 3-D short throw projector, an Apple TV device for iPad mirroring/projection, a DVD player, audio console with built-in speakers and microphone input/output, and an onboard interactive whiteboard program to turn any projection surface into an interactive ‘smartboard’.

The AVRover makes an ideal, quick and easy setup for presentations and special events. The short throw projector needs only a short distance (less than three feet) to project a large image, so potentially, any small area with a blank wall and a power outlet can be turned into a teaching, collaborating and demonstration space, maybe even a make-shift cinema. This flexible, portable piece of equipment is a perfect match for our shifting environment in the library as we move through our renovation process.

The AVRover had a successful premier for the “Embroidering for Peace” presentation in the STL lobby in April. It will return to support the “Minds at Work” events happening in the Library on May 3rd.

This equipment is for Library use only. Advance booking for group use in the library can be made with the Information Desk. Instructions and tech support are available on site.

STL Welcomes New Catalog and Metadata Librarian Madeline Veitch

Sojourner Truth Library is happy to introduce Madeline Veitch, the newest member of the library faculty.

Madeline comes to us from Chapel Hill, where she recently completed her MSLS at the University of North Carolina. During her time at UNC, she created catalog records at the Journalism and Mass Communication Library and provided cataloging, reference, and instructional support at the Art Library. She has also worked as a freelance metadata consultant for Chelsea Green, an independent publisher of environmental texts. Prior to entering the library world, Madeline studied Art and Art History at the University of Vermont, and worked with elementary and middle school students in Burlington.

Madeline is excited to be joining the New Paltz community. She enjoys making resources more easily accessible by adding nifty subject heading and descriptions, and looks forward to working with faculty and students alike at the reference desk. When she’s not at STL, you might find Madeline tending her vegetable garden, attending art events, or running on the rail trail.

STL celebrated Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 18 by sharing over 500 poems on recycled library cards with the campus community. Due to their popularity poems will remain available at the Information Desk for the rest of the semester. Please come by and pick up a poem.