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# FOCUS

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## “J” stickers complicate Devon parking

Devon Road is a little piece of cobblestone suburbia nestled between the fraternity quad and Doherty Apartments, across Forbes Avenue from the University Center.

It's become the hottest spot to park on a campus with a big-city parking problem.

A loophole in the Pittsburgh's system of neighborhood parking zones has made Devon Road the closest, cheapest and safest option for student drivers with nowhere else to park. Now the residents are complaining about the volume of traffic they say poses a threat to the safety of the street.

Parked cars line both sides of the street on weekdays. Residents say volume of traffic has increased since summer 2001 when the street switched from a “K” to a “J” parking zone. The new status has led to an influx of students with “J” stickers cruising Devon in search of free all-day parking.

The “K” area takes in central Shadyside and the stretch of Beeler Street and Wilkins Avenue in Squirrel Hill, while the “J” area straddles Oakland and Shadyside, including the end of Ellesworth near Fifth Avenue where many Carnegie Mellon students live.

Larry Walsh, a Devon Road resident who is studying at the Heinz School, said, “Above everything else, my concern is for public safety. I have two young boys and the speed at which some people drive through Devon Road is unacceptable.”

Both the cobblestone and asphalt sections of the street take a lot of abuse.

“The frantic search for a place to park on Devon leads students to regularly encroach on the driveway,” Walsh said. “This forces the residents to drive over sidewalks and lawns to get in and out. A few times a year, cars completely block driveways and a tow truck has to be called.

“Generally, people that use Devon Road as a short cut to Wilkins and Fifth are in a hurry. They are also the same people that park on Devon to go to campus. I have seen the faces and I know the cars,” he says.

The last remaining space, Walsh said, is often the one at the fire hydrant. “Students will also disregard this law to avoid being any later to class.”

Devon Road residents can't find parking for guests. Some homes share driveways, making the street the only real option for parking.

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*A woman scans books at a facility in Hyderabad, India Photo: Denise Troll Covey*

## Universal Library makes an Indian connection

Imagine capturing all of the world's knowledge and cultural heritage online. You have just imagined the Universal Digital Library (UDL), an ambitious project based at Carnegie Mellon that seeks to preserve all significant literary and scientific writings and to make this information accessible and readable to any person, anywhere.

As part of the project, eight Carnegie Mellon faculty and staff members, including Gloriana St. Clair, Denise Troll Covey and Gabrielle Michalek from Hunt Library, traveled to India in early January to meet with their Indian partners and plan the future of a UDL subset called the Million Book Project. The project, now well under way, seeks to scan one million books into digital form in the next three to five years.

“All scanning centers are up and running,” said St. Clair, the university librarian and a director of UDL. The nine facilities have a total of 36 Minolta PS7000 scanners digitizing an average of 50 books a day, including books shipped from the U.S. and books from collections in India. The information is saved to disks, shipped back to the U.S. and uploaded to [www.ulib.org](http://www.ulib.org).

The scanners were supplied by Carnegie Mellon through a National Science Foundation grant. They can not only digitize books, but also the inscriptions on very old palm leaves, which for centuries were more ac-

cessible for writing in India than paper.

The technology that we're using to scan actually does a really good job of capturing all the information on the palm leaves,” said Michalek, who is head of digital library initiatives at Carnegie Mellon as well as workflow developer for the UDL project.

The project “will save the many books on library shelves that are falling apart,” said Covey, associate university librarian and UDL grant writer.

The Carnegie Mellon team has worked hard to see the project progress to where it is today. The U.S. and Indian governments agreed in 1996 that the U.S. would supply India with technology if India would provide labor for a joint project.

The University Digital Library was inspired by the vision of CMU University Professor Raj Reddy, who founded the project and continues to direct it.

Reddy, a member of the United States President's Information Technology Advisory Committee, suggested the Million Book Project could be the joint venture that would fulfill this agreement. The collaboration with India was then established.

Each year, the CMU team and the Indian team will alternate visits. After seeing the centers in action, Michalek said. “It's clear the government of India is fully supporting the project and is really committed to mak-

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## Web e-mail access debuts on Andrew

Ever want to read your Andrew e-mail from home, from a conference, or from a cyber cafe in Tokyo? Now you can with Andrew Webmail.

This semester, Computing Services began supporting Andrew Webmail after testing the system in the fall. As a supplement to the Mulberry e-mail system, Andrew Webmail makes it possible for members of the Carnegie Mellon community to access their Andrew accounts online at <https://webmail.andrew.cmu.edu>

The benefit of Andrew Webmail is accessibility. It does not offer all of the features of Mulberry — such as automatic directory search — but you can check your e-mail in a co-worker's office or keep up with campus announcements while out of town.

“This is a bare bones mail client, nice and lightweight,” explained user services consultant Ryan Eberhard, who led the Webmail project. “The main message we're trying to get out for now is that Webmail is not meant to be the primary way you access your account. It's really there for when you're away from your own campus computer.”

Mulberry still provides easier access to electronic boards, allows users to move messages and organize folders quickly and offers instant notification of incoming mail. Users accustomed to being alerted of new messages will find that Webmail requires a few extra steps.

“I knew it refreshed automatically,” explained graduate student Lisa Remby, “so I was waiting for this important e-mail and couldn't figure out why it wasn't there. I finally logged out and back in again and realized that you have to re-click on the inbox to see your new messages, even when you stay logged in. You just have to be careful to do that and not expect your new messages to pop up automatically like they do in Mulberry.”

The Webmail interface displays inbox messages in a wide column on the right of the screen. To the left, it displays a “folder tree” showing the inbox, drafts and sent mail folders as well as any subscribed boards. It does not include folders, such as “friends” or “office news,” that users may have created in Mulberry or Outlook. To make the interface more useful, the Webmail team added plug-ins, including a directory-

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## How the staff stays grunted at the campus post office

Late last month, I walked by the post office in the Old Student Center and wondered, “Is that a real post office?” and “Are the postal workers disgruntled?”

Because of several well-publicized events in the '80s and early '90s in which letter carriers gunned down their supervisors, the words “disgruntled” and “postal worker” have often been grouped together. “Going postal” has become a catchphrase.

Even before those events, postal work had earned a certain reputation. In 1971, Beat poet and novelist Charles Bukowski wrote “Post Office,” a novel based on his

experiences as a postal worker. The main character, a letter carrier, struggles to get the mail in on time despite malicious dogs, bad weather, crazy women in bathrobes and merciless bosses who write him up for being late as he treks in, dead-tired, finally finished with a day's work. As a result, he often prefers to stay home and drink rather than face another day at the post office.

I thought of these things as I walked into the OSC post office and asked Theresa Henderson, manager of postal services, whether she was aware of the “disgruntled” stigma and, if so, could I ask her some

questions about it. She started laughing but agreed to talk with me.

The Carnegie Mellon post office is a cramped suite of rooms in the front section of the Old Student Center. During the busy hours (lunchtime and the last half-hour before closing), the lobby quickly fills with a line of customers, the scent of Indian food and the discordant tones of student bagpipers — a sound so persistently loud, it would disgruntle anyone.

I asked Theresa how she felt about working to the tune of bagpiping from the office across the hall.

“It's one of the best things about working here,” she said. Though it can be hard because the students are learning and sometimes hold a note for, say, minutes at time, the bagpiping, Henderson said, creates atmosphere.

Bob Houck and Carol Schirano, who work the window, were less enthusiastic about bagpiping. It's the worst thing about working here, they told me. But they joke about it, encourage customers to speak over it and turn up the classic rock station.

The post office is a contract station, a

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## Films explore African diaspora

The Connan Room of the University Center is packed with silent rows of people watching a Haitian man collect plastic bottles for money. Nothing can be heard other than the words of Haitians testifying to their economic deprivation, their words resonating over background drumming.

The 60 viewers are a varied demographic of old and young, black, Indian, white, Asian, gathered on Feb. 10 at the African Diasporic Film Festival, a new addition to Carnegie Mellon's celebration of Black History Month.

This film festival is a new addition to the traditional Black History Month events on campus. Andress Appolon, a fifth year scholar, organized the film festival as an addition to the this year's Black History Month in hopes of making Carnegie Mellon a more globally aware campus.

"My goal was to bring Black History Month to a place where you can explore the global black experience," said Andress.

Appolon opened the festival with "Black Atlantic: On the Orixas Route," a film from Brazil about slaves who escape slavery in Brazil and go back to Africa. Two films from Haiti followed, the seven-minute "Human Rights in Haiti," and "Profit and Nothing But," a documentary about Haiti's failing economy. The last two films were "If Only You Understood," about a Cuban director's search for an actress in Havana; and "Black Is? Black Ain't," a documentary by Marlon Riggs exploring many ideas of "blackness."

"In the past couple of years, I've come to realize that we are isolated in our global perspective. For us to take that American perspective is very limiting," said Appolon.

Appolon has high expectations for this film festival. "I hope that I will instill some awareness into the diversity that we have for all Africans. We think black is black is black," said Appolon. "Black people do share a common history, but they can be distinct with very rich and distinct cultures that need to be given attention."

JEANNIE CHOI

## Writer's career advice: Wing it

Paul Smith, the keynote speaker for this year's H&SS career day Feb. 4, delivered an unorthodox message for such an event: "A brain full of random information is useful to have. If you don't know what you're doing, always act like it. Don't pretend to be a nice



This snow head appeared in February in a planter outside Warner Hall

person — be a nice person. And if you don't have a plan, it's all right, you can just wing it, like I did."

Smith graduated from Carnegie Mellon in 1982 with a degree in creative and professional writing. He moved to New York simply because he "thought it was an interesting city." He struggled through a few jobs that he calls "deadly boring," trying to find a career or niche. Along with many others who move to New York, he caught the acting bug for a while and tried performing off-Broadway.

He suddenly ran into a freelance writing gig with a MTV game show called "Remote Control." The job lasted two seasons and he discovered the world of freelance writing with its twists and turns, uncertainties and tangle of networking.

One day he realized that he was finally making it — no more bike messaging or boring odd jobs to make the rent. After "Remote Control" ended, he wrote for another MTV game show called "Turn It Up," which lasted only one season.

After filling in for the head writer, Smith suddenly found himself a head writer of a game show that won an Ace award. (He said it was a slow year and there was not much competition.)

"Suddenly, I thought, I have a career now. I'm writing for a living and that's what I actually majored in," he said.

After several odd writing jobs that included "The Mickey Mouse Club," other gigs at MTV and writing for "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego," he connected with Nickelodeon. He freelanced for them for a while and found a full-time career, complete with benefits, which he said he wasn't used to.

His job title was "head writer and musical content editor" which meant that for five years he wrote and edited the many promos that appeared on the network.

Recently, he's grown bored with his job — by far the longest he's ever worked in a single

place — and moved on to be a head writer for an upcoming show on Nick, Jr. later this year. Where he'll go next, he doesn't know. But he's sure "it'll be fun and that's what is so great about having such a random career."

Smith doesn't say that career plans are bad. He simply says, "My only plan was to have fun, not be bored and have my rent paid."

Solid career plans are good for most, but Smith shows that it is possible to happily go through professional life winging it.

ELSIE LAMPL

## The cradle of a new industrial revolution

On Feb. 3, architect, designer and environmentalist William McDonough spoke to an overflow crowd in McConomy Auditorium. McDonough helped pioneer sustainable development and his company, William McDonough + Partners, is an international design firm working ecologically, socially and economically sound architecture.

McDonough's book, "Cradle to Cradle," published last year, calls for a new industrial revolution to end manufacturing and environmentalism as we know it. McDonough believes recycling eventually makes valuable resources unrecoverable and unusable. He urges eliminating the concept of waste and instead relying on natural energy flows.

The idea that McDonough returned to again and again in the lecture was that a new philosophy in design is critical for the survival of the planet. "We need leadership from students. We are ready for a new dimension."

Most current building designs, McDonough claimed, cause "an astonishing form of cultural amnesia." Most people are confined to windowless buildings all day long where they don't know if the sun is shining, and very few people can locate true South.

If people are hot, McDonough said, they add more fossil fuels to the air conditioner. If people are cold, they add more fossil fuels to the heater. He spoke harshly against this example of the philosophy that if brute force does not work, you are not using enough of it.

"How high tech is modern architecture?" McDonough asked the audience. "How many buildings have you seen that make oxygen?"

McDonough's designs use significantly less energy than the typical building, and they maximize workers' access to fresh air and daylight. The result is a lowered rate of absenteeism and more satisfied employees. The energy of the earth heats and cools the building. If that is not enough, some buildings are designed to be convertible to housing.

The roofs of some of McDonough's buildings mimic the rolling grass that once filled the landscape. Not only is grass planted on the roof, but the roof itself bends to imitate the natural slope of the ground.

McDonough left the audience with this thought: "People need to breathe and see. The design assignment must change."

ANNE DOLLARD

## Poet Susan Stewart in rare reading

Scott Sandage was probably not too thrilled about Susan Stewart's presence on campus Jan. 27. Stewart, the recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, two poetry grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and a Pew Fellowship, was the first speaker in the spring Adamson series. Unfortunately, the room was double-booked for that evening and Sandage's Rock 'n' Roll history class was bumped out in the middle of its usual time.

Anthony Butts, assistant professor of English, introduced Stewart to a crowd of around 50, commenting on the mix-up ("All poets ever want is a space,") before introducing Stewart as an intellectual who "publishes across the spectrum of poetry and criticism."

Stewart took the podium and began the evening with two selections from her last published collection, "The Forest," and then a number of selections from her upcoming collection "Columbarium," both from the University of Chicago Press.

The soft-spoken poet does only two or three readings a year, and hearing her work is very different from reading it. Many of the poems have intricate patterns of rhyme and repetition. The complexity of those patterns can be seen and broken down when the poem is analyzed on paper, but they frequently disappear into the melody when read aloud.

Stewart soon had the audience hypnotized by the rhythms of her work. In the brief Q&A afterward, when asked if she preferred readers to focus on the sound of her poems or their meaning, she explained that was part of the reason she does so few readings; just listening to poems detracts from the emotional importance. "I want people to read my books again and again."

Stewart is a professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. During the reading, she discussed issues of form, structure and theory, directing the information to the poetry students in the crowd, many who have studied "The Forest" as a required text.

ALYSON POPE

## Letter: Homestead article missed the larger picture

Your article on Homestead in the December issue is a good example of why one shouldn't judge by appearances. Communities are always evolving. Homestead is no different.

In the early 1980s, when the steel mills shut down, 17,000 jobs were lost in the Mon Valley. Mill towns like Homestead, Braddock, McKeesport, Duquesne and Monessen are still reeling under the economic impact, not just of massive unemployment, but main streets closing down, plummeting real estate values, loss of tax base and a sense of despair.

Instead of wallowing in tragedy, at the end of the '80s Homestead adopted bold initiatives to create a new future for itself. Realizing that it had three assets — historical heritage, river frontage and a location plum center of a metro region of over a million people — it took the following steps.

1. Through the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation it created a National Registry Historic District that included all of its Main Street, its great Carnegie Library, 12 ethnic churches and the Bost Building, the anchor of an area that will become a National Urban Park devoted to Steel Heritage.

2. Working with the state and county, it encouraged the clearance of the old mills, the remediation of soil pollution for over 300 acres of river frontage, the construction of access ramps off the Homestead Grays Bridge,

and then the multi-use development of the Waterfront.

3. While this was going on, the three municipalities, Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead forged a comprehensive master plan for revitalization — the only example of its kind in the Mon Valley.

The Waterfront is now up and running. Far from being regarded as a separate entity, its purpose as far as the three municipalities are concerned is to be the economic engine that drives revitalization. The first phases of the master plan that are now being implemented are to encourage new investment in the historic commercial and residential districts of the three boroughs.

However, a number of background steps have had to be taken in order to do this. For the sake of brevity I will mention only four. The first has been to establish a fund for public works (new parking areas, streetscapes, etc.) through the county and the state, piloted by Allegheny County's chief executive, Jim Roddey. The second has been to set up a tax increment financing mechanism (TIF) whereby the taxes from the Waterfront will be devoted to the Main Street corridor. The third is to create new consortia with non-profits, the banks and building owners for low interest revolving loan funds for building restoration in the Main Street corridor, taking advantage of new tax incentives. The fourth

is to reinforce the historic residential district with rehabilitation and new infill housing built in historic scale and character.

All of these initiatives, and several others, are ongoing, and more will follow. They speak to the sustained and heroic efforts of the citizens and public officials to turn these boroughs around. Carnegie Mellon has played no small role in all of this. Through the Urban Lab in the School of Architecture, housing studies were done that formed the basis for the residential revitalization now in process.

It is interesting that the one photograph you use to illustrate your article should be of the National Register buildings in the 100 block of the Main Street that were acquired by the Gustine Corporation with the intention of tearing them down and erecting a one-story suburban-type CVS pharmacy with parking areas around it. When the community resisted, the developers left the buildings empty and abandoned while they await a decision by the court.

This unfortunate image is certainly an obstacle to the revitalization of the historic Main Street. But it is an image the community will overcome.

DAVID LEWIS

*Distinguished Professor of Urban Studies, School of Architecture*

**Focus welcomes tips and letters. Contact davidson+ or bc1z @andrew.cmu.edu**

FOCUS — in seven issues a year — is a publication of the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University. Many of the articles in FOCUS express the opinions of individual members of the Carnegie Mellon community; unless so indicated, they should not be construed as reflecting university policy. In the spirit of the fairness doctrine, FOCUS seeks a variety of opinions.

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# “J” stickers complicate Devon Road parking

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In summer 2001, Devon Road residents successfully petitioned the city to join the “J” parking zone. With “J” stickers they could still park on the street for longer than an hour, as they did earlier with “K” stickers. The reasoning was that students with “J” stickers lived closer to campus than “K” residents, so “J” residents were less likely to bother driving such a short distance.

After the change became official, the parking problem remained. Walsh suspects that there are “J” permits that student residents pass along to their commuter friends. Also, a “J” permit holder for an additional dollar [per year can secure a visitor’s pass that is valid for five days per month.

Why go to such lengths to do something as simple as park legally?

Few students can afford to pay for a legal parking space in one of the few lots on campus. The fee for an official campus-parking place ranges from \$575 to \$851 for a full academic year. Obtaining a pass from a friend in the “J” zone is obviously cheaper. Also, people living on main streets like Fifth Avenue are unable to get parking permits from the city, so they too may opt for a friend’s permit or visiting pass.

This is the case with Richard Gasperini, a business major at Carnegie Mellon. When asked why he had a friend get him a visitor’s pass, he said, “I live on Fifth Avenue and the university parking facilities are inadequate, overpriced and highly competitive.” This is the first year he has even tried to have a car at school, and he is a senior.

When asked how it has worked out, he replied, “Presently, my car is sitting in my parent’s driveway.”

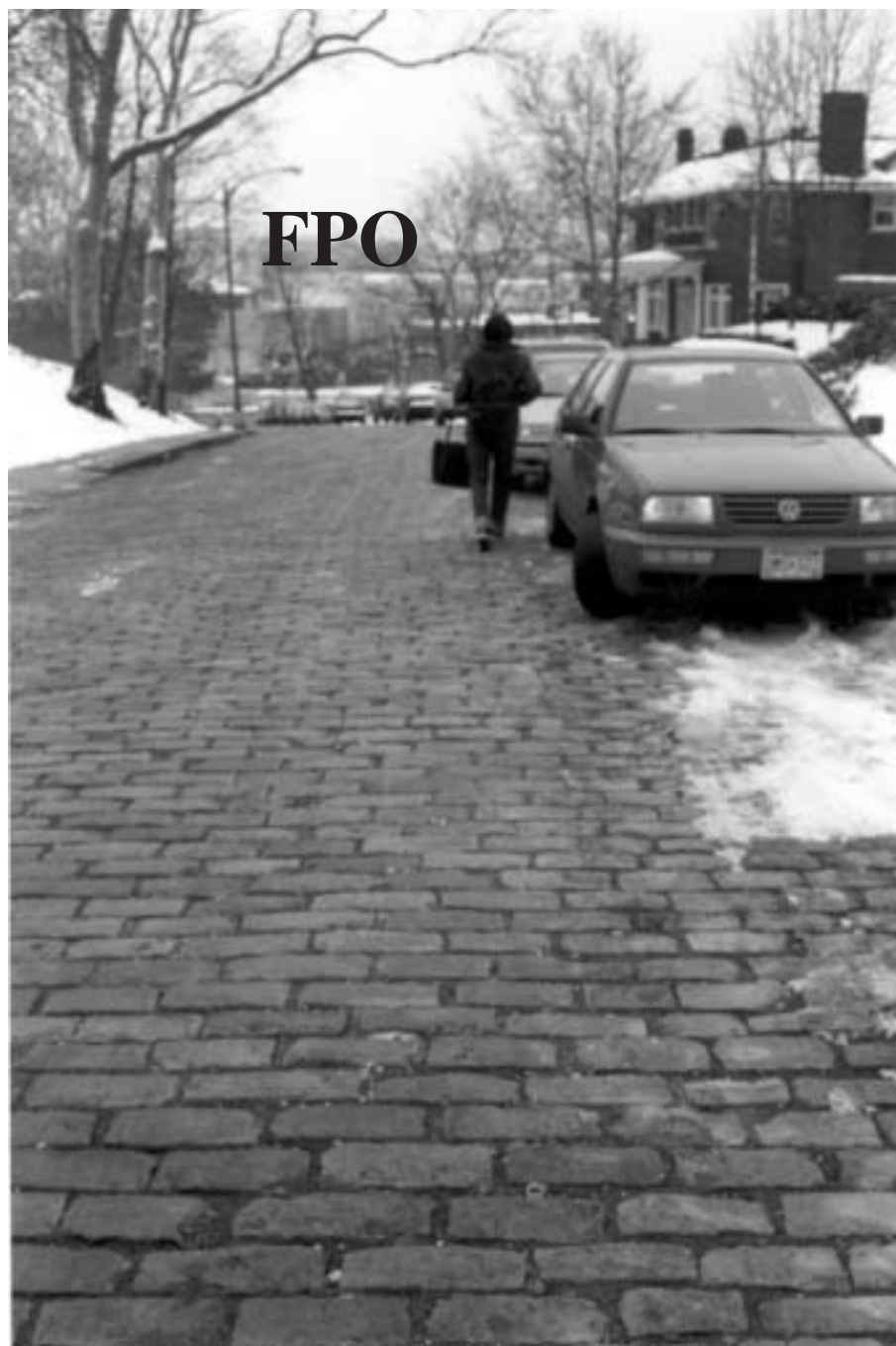
Erin Morgan, the student who shared her visitor’s pass with Gasperini, said, “I felt bad. He was going to be charged an arm and a leg to park through Carnegie Mellon. I hope someone would do the same for me.”

But the residents of Devon Road have a hard time sympathizing with the students, now that the traffic has become hazardous.

The Devon Road neighborhood has tri-annual meetings and publishes its own monthly newsletter. Residents asked the city to send out parking monitors, but the plea went unanswered. So last fall Walsh began recording the cars that were parking on his street and with what kind of pass.

He found many cars were using visitor’s passes illegally by parking for more than five days in a given month. Some of the cars, he said, were parked five days a week for the entire month.

Walsh kept full records from Sept. 6-13, when the number of parked cars ranged from nine to 39. On Sept. 9 there were 39 cars parked at 1 p.m., and only 12 had J permits.



*Devon Road could enter campus permit system*

*Photo: Brian Connelly*

The other 27 cars had either a visitor’s pass or no pass at all.

He investigated the surrounding J neighborhoods on nights and weekends, and found many cars he recognized from Devon Road during the day. Walsh said when he began to ask students directly how they obtained their passes, he discovered that many were going to great lengths — filling out proof of residence forms for buildings in which they do not live, just to qualify for a “J” permit.

He said the situation all goes back to safety. With the fraternity quad at the bottom of their street, there is the possibility of unsafe drivers leaving parties. Walsh asks, “Should Devon Road be used as a parking lot for fraternity parties on Friday and Saturday nights?”

Only to then have the residents be asked to clean up the trash left behind on their lawns?”

But where else can students park? The campus parking facilities are hardly able to support the number of student drivers. Given the 3,000 graduate students who do not live on campus, plus a large number of out-of-state students who keep a car in Pittsburgh to use during breaks, there are few spaces available. Some commuters leave their cars in non-permit areas of Squirrel Hill and take the PAT bus. Others park in Schenley Park, thus taking away spaces from the public, and also risking danger if parking at night.

“Parking is horrible,” says Jane McCafferty, associate professor of English. “I can never find a parking place here.” Even if she comes

to campus only to run into Baker Hall and check on a few things, McCafferty, unable to find a parking place has left her car parked at the curb with her flashers blinking and has wound up with \$45 parking tickets. She now tries to take the bus, but with two small children she does not like the vulnerability of being without a car in case of an emergency.

One partial solution — at least for Devon Road — might be to become part of the campus permit program. Walsh has discussed the idea with various university officials.

Kevin Lamb, director of Planning Services, acknowledged the discussions and said, “I believe this is an innovative idea worth considering.”

Lamb explained, “The master plan calls for improving the quality of the campus by removing most surface parking and putting the cars in parking structures. This would make space for new buildings, help to green the campus and make it more pedestrian oriented. The plan recognizes, however, that parking is important to the life of the campus and it allows for some 400 additional spaces on campus if needed.”

The master plan may call for an additional 400 parking places to be installed, but it is after all only a plan. What happens if the budget gets tight after the Morewood lot becomes a grassy area?

“Early in the planning process,” Lamb said, “it became clear that building parking structures could get very expensive. Parkers would likely not be able to afford the full cost of parking and some form of parking subsidy would be needed. So, the plan also recommended development of a transportation plan that would reduce the number of cars that come to campus everyday and utilize existing spaces on campus as effectively as possible.”

Many ideas have surfaced to reduce the number of vehicle trips to campus, including promoting commuting by bus; flexible parking arrangements with rebates for not bringing a car to campus; ride sharing, walking and bicycling; guaranteed evening rides home for users of transit or car pools; telecommuting; and encouraging students, faculty and staff to find housing near campus, on transit lines or within easy walking distance.

But don’t many of the drivers parking on Devon Road live just a few blocks away already? And in the winter, are people really going to opt to wait for a bus in the cold over driving themselves? Students are encouraged to use the PAT system, but PAT has been included with student’s tuition for almost four years and the parking problems have not lessened. It is still cheaper and easier to park on Devon Road.

The first choice for drivers, in other words, will still be to drive to campus and look for a parking space.

ELIZABETH WEISS

## Fitness center stays put; campus post office set to move in spring

The University Center’s aerobics and weight rooms as we know them — voyeur-friendly glass walls and floor-to-ceiling windows — were recently threatened by an idea to move them to the basement of the UC.

At a December town meeting, students, staff and some faculty voiced opposition to relocating the aerobics and weight rooms. Michael Murphy, dean of Student Affairs, addressed their concerns by rethinking the original proposal.

The revised plan leaves the fitness buffs behind glass. The Career Center and the university post office are moving into the UC basement, which will have room left over for a student lounge.

The idea of relocating the aerobics and weight rooms was prompted by several unrelated issues. The Career Center now housed in Warner Hall needs a larger space, that is available in the UC basement. The additional space in the basement will be filled by the post office in the Old Student Center, which is scheduled to move there this summer, along with the student mailboxes that are currently in the residence halls.

The UC was built to be a community center where students would come together for food,

recreation, and lectures. By adding the post office, mailboxes, the Career Center, and a game room, the UC can function better as a center of student activity.

Some students feel that there is not enough lounge space or alternatives on campus for those who do not take part in the fraternity parties on weekends. One proposed solution was moving the fitness rooms to the basement and refurbishing the glass rooms with the pool tables, video games, and ping pong tables that are now slated for the basement.

Sophomore Luke Meeken advocated the plan. “I think it’s a good idea because we’re no longer freshmen and it seems like the UC is no longer a central part of campus living, so putting a game room there would make it more central to both freshmen and upperclassmen.”

The addition of a game room is not only expected to provide the desired space for students to hang out, but to boost lagging sales by the UC vendors.

Sophomore Laura Cerully would have welcomed the relocation of the fitness rooms to the basement. “Many people feel self-conscious working out in front of other students upstairs. The basement is a much more

suitable place for an aerobics room.”

The fitness rooms in the UC include a basketball court, a weight room with cardiovascular machines and body building machines, an aerobics room where classes are held daily, a bike room and five racquetball courts.

Donna Morosky, the director of health and fitness who has taught fitness classes here for the past 28 years, worries about hiding the fitness facilities at a time when CMU has been trying to promote wellness.

Senior Emily Steck agrees. “When I walk through the UC and see people working out, I get inspired.”

Junior Lisa Auslander works out every day in the UC fitness rooms and says she “likes the flow of them. I like that when I’m running on the treadmill I can people-watch.”

Morosky adds, “They could not duplicate the same thing in the basement because of the giant pillars in the middle of the room.” The pillars, she explains, would pose a problem with movement classes like aerobics and African Caribbean dance because people would be likely to crash into them.

So Student Affairs had to decide to stay with the original purpose of the glass rooms

and side with the people who cannot imagine aerobicizing, jogging or lifting without the natural light from the huge windows, or should they side with students who are seeking to socialize in a sober setting with food nearby?

As it turned out, everyone got what they wanted.

Under the new plan, the UC fitness areas will stay put and the dining areas will be clustered in a remodeled poolside space next to and above the Original Hot Dog Shop.

Brian Namey, student body president, says, “The current plan is not the best plan in my opinion, but it is better than the first plan.” The dining area renovations will be made after new chairs and couches are selected, and the basement relocations and renovations are expected to be done by this summer.

Now Morosky and the other fitness instructors will not have to worry about losing the unique space that they worked so hard to get more than six years ago, and students looking for a place to hang out on a Saturday night will be able to settle into a basement packed with couches, chairs, ping pong, pool and video games.

SYLVIA MOSSER

# Chemistry seminar goes to scene of the crime

"One of you asked a question about rigor mortis last week," Susan Graul begins the class. "Well, I did some research into it," she says, proceeding to discuss the subject in graphic biological detail.

I feel my stomach turn as Graul explains that the process begins in the jaw and moves down the body. The course's title is "Who Dunnit? Forensic Chemistry in the Criminal Justice System," and its purpose is to provide an introduction to the role of forensics in the criminal justice system. Various topics in forensic science such as trace evidence, ballistics, firearms, DNA analysis, explosives and pathology are addressed through the use of weekly case studies. Because I am successfully tuning out the unnerving discussion of rigor mortis, I begin to look around the conference table where the 10 students in the course, a freshman seminar, meet every Wednesday. They all seem excited and interested and not the least bit disturbed by the subject matter.

Graul is a lecturer in the Chemistry department. In her own research she focuses on topics in physical organic chemistry. It turns out Graul has wanted to teach this freshman seminar course for a couple of years before getting a chance this spring. She is quick to point out, however, that because of the small class size and atmosphere she feels less like she is teaching than exploring the subject matter with the students.

The seminar is one of the few science classes at Carnegie Mellon that make it a point to explain the concrete, real-world applications of the science at hand. This is one reason that Grisel Perez and Kakia Moto enjoy it so much. After only two classes Perez says, "I am very excited about this class. I look forward to it every week and the material is so interesting and intriguing that I am almost sure I want to become a forensic expert."

After the discussion of rigor mortis, Graul moves on to the week's material. Using a case study detailing the kidnapping and subsequent murder of Enrique Camarena, a special agent of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Graul is able to address several important issues in forensic chemistry. The concept of trace evidence is key for today's class. According to the American Board of



Susan Graul makes comparison of hair follicles

Photo: Brian Connelly

Criminalistics, the term trace evidence "applies to all types of physical evidence that may be circumstantial evidence in the trial of a case." Things like fingerprints, impressions, hair, soil, fibers, blood samples and so on are considered trace evidence.

In the Camarena case, police collected hair, fibers from a rug and fabric from a sheet or pillowcase. When Graul says the hair became useful to investigators because it was obviously removed, Kakia Moto raises her hand and asks, "How do you know it was pulled out?"

Graul explains that hair goes through several phases of growth. The first is the anagenic or active growth phase. Then there is the catagenic phase, when the hair follicle shrinks. The final stage is the telogen phase where new hair begins to grow. Then the cycle repeats. There is always some percentage of hair in each of these phases.

In the anagenic phase, the root is tightly attached to the hair follicle. If the hair is forcibly removed in the anagenic phase, there is a good chance some follicular tissue will remain attached to the root. From this tissue, technicians extract DNA and attempt to match it to an owner. When the hair falls out naturally, no tissue is attached.

"The actual hair is not all that useful in terms of DNA evidence," Graul says. When

investigators recovered a Mercury Grand Marquis which they believed had transported Camarena's body, they found hair samples that matched Camarena.

Carpet fibers recovered by investigators helped establish locations where Camarena was held. Camarena's kidnappers utilized a "guestroom" as well as a bedroom in a main house. Fibers from the tan guestroom carpet were recovered from Camarena's body as well as rose fibers from the bedroom carpet. The fiber match suggested that Camarena indeed spent time in each room.

The guestroom door provided additional evidence.

"Most guestrooms do not have steel reinforced doors, so had obviously been used to restrain people in the past," Graul said. She continued, "Bits of evidence have to come together to find out what has gone on. Lots of corroborative evidence is needed. Nothing can stand on its own. You have to pull the pieces together until it begins to become a case."

Graul points out that forensic evidence can exonerate as well as convict a person. Forensic experts do go to crime scenes, collect evidence and testify in court, yet they also work on cases where the physical evidence does not implicate a suspect. Recently, forensic scientists have used ad-

vanced DNA testing to exonerate prisoners who were wrongly convicted.

Soon the 80 minutes of class time are over, but I still have questions. Apparently, so do other members of the class because Graul has a line of three or four students waiting to speak with her. She answers their questions with more patience than I have for waiting in line. Finally, it's my turn.

Graul would like to bring forensic techniques to life by demonstrating latent fingerprinting, which is "lifting fingerprints from surfaces where they are not visible," Graul says, pointing at the table. Many people, have touched that exact spot on the table, but I can see nothing there. "There are fingerprints all over this room," Graul tells me, and she wants her students to get the experience of looking for them by using real forensic skills.

Freshman seminars in the Mellon College of Science are non-required mini-courses designed to introduce first-year students to topics to a scientific field. Enrollment is limited to first-year MCS students.

Graul's course is designed to give students hands-on experience with a microscope as well as gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS), which is often used for toxicology analyses.

GC/MS can be used to test for the presence of drugs and other controlled substances in either the victim or the suspect. Graul would like students to see the exact spectrum that would be produced in the field, but there's an obvious problem. "I can't get heroin to inject into the test."

This may seem like complicated stuff to be teaching a group of freshmen with limited scientific backgrounds. Graul says it is not a problem because of the way she is explaining concepts such as DNA fingerprinting and other complex chemical and biological processes.

As Graul points out, members of a jury are not necessarily educated in the sciences but they are still expected to make a decision on guilt or innocence based on the information presented by the lawyers.

"You don't need to know chemistry, physics or biology to understand these things," Graul says, "All you need is logic."

ANNE DOLLARD

## Alcohol programs available for students, faculty and staff

If a Carnegie Mellon student receives a state citation for an alcohol-related offense, chances are he or she will be going to see Nancy Schmidt.

Schmidt, who has been Carnegie Mellon's health educator for the past three years, is the facilitator of an alcohol education class primarily attended by students who are either under the orders of a local magistrate, the housefellow of their residence hall or their college liaison, who serves as an intermediary between them and their college's associate dean.

The two-hour class, dubbed LEARN (Leading Each Adult to the Right Next Decision), is a seminar in which Schmidt encourages students to talk openly about their experiences with alcohol.

"I ask them to tell me what they're doing, how much they're doing, how long they've been doing it and under what circumstances."

Schmidt says that the class, which is offered up to six times a year and is attended by 25 to 50 students a semester, is a great way to get students thinking about the choices that they're making and whether or not those choices are beneficial to their lives.

"I don't use a lot of scare tactics," Schmidt says, "I believe this is a process. I look at it as planting the seed."

But is it effective?

Wendy Hermann, assistant dean of Student Affairs and housefellow of the Morewood Gardens dormitory, isn't sure.

"I'm comfortable with using it," she says, "but I don't know if it's effective." Hermann's skepticism however, has less to do with the content of the class than it does

with the students' willingness to take it to heart. "We have a portion of students who are in denial that they may need to get some help," she says.

Michael Makal, a psychotherapist employed by Carnegie Mellon's Counseling and Psychological Services, believes that the class is effective but agrees with Hermann that its usefulness depends on how receptive students are to its message.

"It's a tough crowd," he says. "You've got young people who are somewhat reluctant to see that drinking can be dangerous or be a problem. We just try to get them to look more carefully at their actions."

And just how many students on Carnegie Mellon's campus have alcohol dependency issues? About 10 to 13 percent of the United States' general population struggle with dependency issues and Schmidt reckons that the same numbers apply to the student population here at Carnegie Mellon.

"Now whether they know it or not," she says, "is something else."

Schmidt has some ideas about ways the university could help students deal with dependency issues. "I would like to see us be more proactive in preventing pent-up stress and perfectionism," she says.

Stress, according to Schmidt, can play a significant role in a student's substance abuse. "I think it's sad, and it says where we are as a culture — not just at CMU but everywhere — that a lot of students tell me that they drink to escape. What's so wrong with life that you need to escape from it?" Schmidt suggests that the university help students develop coping techniques but

recognizes this might be difficult because of students' intense focus on academics.

Makal agrees. "I think we have a particular challenge here at CMU. Students are very driven and sometimes don't allow themselves to take advantage of the full college experience. Students often neglect their total well-being in favor of academic success or survival and forget that they are a whole person, and a human being, and a body, not just an intellect."

Schmidt does think that students would start taking better advantage of the stress relief and wellness programs that the university currently offers if the university

started reminding students of the programs' existence. "We give students so much information about how to deal with stress and alcohol when they come at Orientation. We need to let them know that we're still here."

Schmidt is still hopeful that students who are struggling with an alcohol dependency will get something out of LEARN. "It's not just about drinking, it's about healthy decision making. My door is open. If students are stressed, come talk to me. It's not always that bad. Sometimes it's just a matter of reprioritizing."

GILLIAN BRIGHAM

If you have questions about LEARN or any of the other wellness education classes available to students call Nancy Schmidt, Carnegie Mellon's health educator at 412-268-8888.

There are alcohol dependency programs available for Carnegie Mellon faculty and staff. The Employee Assistance Program offers alcohol assessment and referral services as well as short-term counseling. Call 412-373-7080 to schedule an appointment.

Carnegie Mellon's Department of Human Resources also offers access to LifeWorks, a workplace effectiveness services provider that offers referral and counseling services for people struggling with dependencies. Call 888-267-8126 or visit online at [www.lifeworks.com](http://www.lifeworks.com).

If you know a student suffering from an alcohol dependency, get in touch with that student's college liaison, who is a Student Affairs staff member who serves as the link between students, their professors, college deans and the housefellow of their dormitory. The six college liaisons are:

Business Administration: Renee Camerlengo 412-268-2142

Fine Arts: Anne Witchner 412-268-4886

Humanities and Social Sciences: Jennifer Church 412-268-2075

Mellon College of Science: John Hannon 412-268-8704

School of Engineering: Paul Fowler 412-268-2064

School of Computer Science: Wendy Hermann 412-268-2075

# How the staff stays grunted at campus post office

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substation of the U.S. Postal Service. It is regulated by USPS policies but run and staffed by Carnegie Mellon employees. Carnegie Mellon employees who staff the post office are trained in postal work but not required to take the postal exam and are, therefore, not “real” postal workers.

When I asked Theresa about her reaction to the events in the early '80s and '90s and whether worker contentment has improved since then, she drew a line between the OSC post office and the U.S. Postal Service. She and her co-workers do not work for the USPS. They work for Carnegie Mellon.

Although those incidents have colored the national reputation of postal workers, the people who caused them account for a very small percentage of postal employees. Neal Binstock, assistant vice president of business services, said that the reason why postal workers have earned a bad reputation is because they're a government agency and when they have problems, those problems make headline news.

Carol has worked at the Carnegie Mellon post office 20 years and Bob has worked here 16. Though Theresa has only worked at CMU for the past year and a half, she has 20 years in the business.

I asked them each if they were disgruntled and all of them laughed at the question.

Bob and Carol agreed that sometimes it gets repetitive answering the same questions hundreds of times a day, but that's just part of the job. Sometimes customers ask ridiculous questions. Bob and Carol recounted the most memorable ones:

“How much is a 37 cent stamp?”

“Do I have to address all my packages or can I do just one?”

“Where do I get my mail?” to which Carol replied, “Where do you live?”

The customer said, “I don't know.”

Commenting on the nature of these questions, Bob joked, “Although we are not postal employees, we can go postal.”

One of the worst parts of the job, Theresa said, is working during the Christmas season. “Students, faculty, staff, everybody comes here to mail their packages out,” she said. Lines run out the door.

The best part of the job, Theresa said, is that “It's always something different. There's something new happening all the time.”

The newest thing at the post office is the tracking system, which Carnegie Mellon is the first university in the country to install. Under the old method, post office staff had to hand-deliver package slips to the student



Carol Schirano handles a student's package during a Friday lunchtime crush

Photo: Brian Connelly

**During a visit from the Children's School, the postal workers weighed the children on the package scale to see how much it would cost to mail them back home. Most children weighed between 20 and 30 pounds. Shipping would be about \$12 each.**

mailboxes. Under the new system, the staff simply scans the package barcode and — presto — the computer sends the student an e-mail to say the package has arrived and where and when it can be picked up. Now a student can pick up a package within hours or minutes of its arrival, instead of days.

At the pickup window, Theresa asked each person who picked up a package whether he or she got an e-mail and whether it was a good e-mail.

“It was a good e-mail,” one student said, smiling.

“Better than that package slip in your box?”

He nodded yes.

Hanging on the wall in the post office lobby is a large thank you note from the Carnegie Mellon Children's School. Last February, after the children toured the post office, they sent a 3-foot-tall letter, thanking Theresa, Bob, Carol and former employee Caitlin Zuric for showing them the big bags of mail, giving them Porky Pig stamps, and weighing them on the green scale.

During the visit, Theresa weighed the children on the package scale and then told each of them how much it would cost to mail them back home. The pre-schoolers only weighed 20 or 30 pounds. To be shipped home, she told them, would cost about \$12. The pre-schoolers had such a good time that another tour is being planned.

About half of the customers at the post

office are international students and half of the outgoing packages are mailed overseas. Many of these students struggle to ask the cost of a package or a stamp in English. For some of them, it is their first time.

Last year, Theresa organized a contest to bridge the language gap. She asked each of her employees to collect words for “stamp” in different languages and promised a prize to the employee who collected the most. She called the contest, “A Stamp by Any Other Name.” Word of it circulated to other offices around campus. People would lean through the door and yell, “Have you gotten France yet?”

The contest became so popular that it expanded to include “A Package by Any Other Name,” “A Letter,” etc. The winner, Bob Houck, received a gift certificate to Home Depot. Second prize was a gift certificate to a restaurant.

“You have to make it fun.” Theresa told me, explaining that she has chosen this line of work and has chosen to like it. She finds new things to do every day.

“Happiness is a choice,” she says.

AMANDA INNIS

## Universal Library makes an Indian connection

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ing it successful.”

“A highlight of the trip was seeing the workflow and quality control process—people actually scanning the books and cropping black edges,” Covey said.

The efficiency of the operations proves that “India is really working hard to get information in the hands of those who would never otherwise have it.”

It took multiple buses to get the group everywhere they went on the trip. The group, 52 people total, included the three librarians, Reddy, Provost Mark Kamlet, UDL directors Michael Shamos and Jaime Carbonell and UDL programmer Eric Burns. The others in the group came from China, Australia, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Canada and several U.S. universities.

In addition to seeing the facilities and having the opportunity to interact with their overseas colleagues, St. Clair, Covey and Michalek unexpectedly wound up having tea with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the presidential palace in New Delhi. St. Clair explained that Dr. N. Balakrishnan, head of the project in India, is a close friend of the president and was able to arrange the surprise meeting.

“The president began by telling a long story about a rural physician who had used the knowledge that he learned in India inscribed on palm leaves in conjunction with



Photo: Denise Troll Covey

Fifty books are scanned every day at Indian facilities like this one in Hyderabad

another physician who was interested in biotechnology to come up with a new cure. This underlined the importance of preserving India's cultural heritage,” St. Clair said.

Kalam went on to express his interest in pieces of the Universal Library project now under way at Carnegie Mellon: the Universal Dictionary and advancements in language translation software and optimum

character recognition (OCR) software.

Kalam spoke of his own native language, Telugu, one of India's 18 constitutional languages, and the need for it not only to be preserved, but to be translated, used and understood.

The languages spoken in India have been evolving separately for centuries and while research is taking place to improve OCR

capabilities in English and other languages of European origin, there has been limited work so far on Indian languages. The Million Book Project presents a significant “test bed on which different kinds of computer science work can be done,” St. Clair said.

The depth and vision of this project is potentially vast.

Covey said, “It really can mean something different to everyone.” One goal is to make all information on the UDL website available in any language or script the reader requests. Research to make that possible is underway at Carnegie Mellon's Language Technologies Institute, yet the partners recognize that the translations may not be accomplished in their lifetimes.

Michalek said, “This project is going to bring education to the masses to help people with limited resources have the same access to information as people who are privileged.” As the project and the collaboration with India continues, the UDL team will continue to pursue the idealistic goals on which it was created. The goals, Michalek said, are what make the project so exciting.

After talking with President Kalam, St. Clair, Covey and Michalek toured the palace rose garden, where they posed for a photo with the president, a priceless souvenir from a memorable trip to India.

ERIN REILEY

# Keeping up morale with lunch, newsletters, FISH

Staying motivated in the workplace can be difficult because of the constant pressures of deadlines, customer expectations, performance evaluations, etc. A number of university divisions are finding creative ways to address staff morale and motivation.

Here is a quick look at how four divisions — the Heinz School, University Libraries, Computing Services and the Software Engineering Institute — are successfully handling these issues.

## Heinz School

For the past several years, the Heinz School has hosted a staff development week during spring break with activities for both professional and personal development. There are morning and afternoon sessions each day that supervisors encourage staff to attend. Throughout the week, skills exchanges give staff an opportunity to teach their co-workers a new non-work skill. The Heinz School's morale and motivation committee, which won an Andy Award for Innovation last fall, plans the event.

The committee coordinated a morale survey last January that generated many ideas not only from the survey itself but also from three locked suggestion boxes.

The group organizes about one event a month and three times a year they host a lunch and a film for staff. Last fall, they distributed potted plants to all staff.

The committee has helped to set up a



## On the Job

small kitchen area with free tea, hot chocolate, coffee, espresso and cappuccino.

The monthly events and the kitchen area have helped staff to interact more and to exchange information informally.

For more information on the activities of the Morale and Motivation Committee, contact Dorothy Bassett at [bassett@cmu.edu](mailto:bassett@cmu.edu)

## University Libraries

The esprit de corps and employee development committees in the Libraries are working to address morale and motivation issues. Several times each year the committees join efforts for a staff roundtable discussion.

The discussions are held at lunchtime. Staff bring their lunches and the Libraries provide dessert and drinks. The committee leaders take issues raised during the discussion to the Libraries administration.

Another mechanism for voicing concerns is the anonymous suggestion box on the Libraries intranet. The suggestion box web page encourages "Positive or negative comments, concerns, opinions, and suggestions on any topic relevant to the University Libraries are welcome." Comments are e-mailed directly to University Librarian Gloriana St. Clair.

The Libraries has resurrected an online newsletter that focuses primarily on non-work issues. The newsletter's mission statement explains that, "By welcoming story ideas from all staff, maintaining a fun, light-hearted style and focusing on staff members' achievements, goals and interests, the online staff newsletter's main focus is to build staff morale at all levels."

For information on the Libraries Staff Roundtables contact Angel Morris at [amorris@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:amorris@andrew.cmu.edu). For information on the online newsletter, contact Jason Bugg at [jbugg@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jbugg@andrew.cmu.edu)

## Computing Services, User and Educational Services

With the assistance of Ron Placone, director of learning and development at Human Resources, this group conducted meetings based on the FISH! philosophy of work, which originated in the day-to-day work practices of the Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle. FISH! is based on four principles: Play, Make Their Day, Be There and Choose

Your Attitude.

Lisa Zirngibl created an interactive website with color graphics and sound effects, where participants in the program could honor their co-workers and share ideas. You can learn more about the philosophy at [www.cmu.edu/computing/education/Fish/](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/education/Fish/).

For more information on how this program has been implemented at Computing Services, contact Corrine Harkins at [corrine@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:corrine@andrew.cmu.edu)

## Software Engineering Institute

In May 2000 and again in November, all the SEI staff were asked to complete a two-part online survey focusing on staff satisfaction at SEI and staff satisfaction with internal services.

Based on the results of the first survey, a website was built in an effort to improve the SEI's business and financial services department that assists staff in all areas of the SEI. The survey also spurred work in internal communications. The SEI's director scheduled bi-annual open forums with staff. Morning sessions were advertised as bagel brunches and afternoon sessions as cookie breaks. The second survey identified two areas — respect and teamwork — to be addressed. For information about the SEI surveys, contact Ray Obenza at [ryo@sei.cmu.edu](mailto:ryo@sei.cmu.edu)

JASON BUGG

## Andrew e-mail now on web

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search and a graphic display of each user's available account space.

"Any Webmail system is going to feel clunky no matter how good it is," said Dave Decker, associate web developer in Electrical and Computer Engineering who previously worked setting up Webmail at Juniata College. "But when regular e-mail programs like Mulberry or Outlook aren't an option, Webmail's really handy and the security risks are pretty small if the user is educated in its use. With the diversity of users on and off campus, it makes a lot of sense for CMU to offer Webmail."

It makes so much sense that some are wondering what's taken so long. Other organizations have been offering Webmail for years and Carnegie Mellon is, after all, America's most wired university.

Eberhard explained that this very focus on technology kept CMU from seriously considering Webmail earlier.

The Webmail project, he said, indicates "a growing sense of focus on the Internet. We've traditionally had more of a focus on really heavy duty I.S. [Information Systems] infrastructures. In the past year or two we've shifted our focus to take the Web a lot more seriously."

Once the decision to launch Webmail was made, the project team had to decide whether to use an existing application or build one from scratch.

To get the program fully functioning as quickly as possible, they used the open-source Webmail package SquirrelMail and configured it to work with Carnegie Mellon's server and security programs. They chose SquirrelMail for its structure and capabilities, and also for the active community that

created it. SquirrelMail developers and translators from 31 countries work together to maintain the quality and accessibility of the program. Members of the rather nebulous group, Eberhard explained, update the program about four times a year and are eager to repair bugs. They also seem eager to welcome new users (that means us) into their community.

"As far as I'm concerned, the community of SquirrelMail itself is worth much more than just the sum of the developers," writes a project leader on the official SquirrelMail website ([www.squirrelmail.org](http://www.squirrelmail.org)). "Just like a bright flashlight is dwarfed by the brightness of the sun, the SquirrelMail community must shine much brighter than the SquirrelMail development team itself."

After selecting and configuring the program, the CMU project team offered Andrew Webmail for preliminary use and beta testing last semester.

During that time, Help Desk employees could not officially answer questions about the service and users were asked to report any bugs so that Computing Services could correct them before fully supporting the Webmail service. The team also conducted user testing with focus groups of students and system administrators.

So, if you are ready to read your e-mail from a far-flung computer kiosk — or your neighbor's computer — visit <https://webmail.andrew.cmu.edu> and enter your Andrew user ID and password.

The Computing Services Help Center can answer questions about Webmail, and detailed information is available at <http://www.cmu.edu/computing/documentation/webmail/webmail.html>

TARA KENNON

## Remembering Columbia

Eight-fifty a.m. I turned on the TV.

I wanted to watch your landing.

I was a bit early — you won't be in visual range for a while.

Everything was normal — just like always.

But soon, soon something was different.

"Columbia, Houston, comm check."

"Columbia, Houston, comm check."

Again and again.

Silence has never been so loud.

Witnessing a non-event live.

Your crew — Rick, Willie, Kalpana, Dave, Mike, Laurel, Ilan.

They were among the best and brightest of all of us.

Their faces radiated joy

While they floated above our earth.

They labored in obscurity, leaving the front page

To the Winonas and Michaels of the world.

Only by their deaths do people know their names.

But they didn't do it for the fame, or the money.

They did it because they believed in what they were doing.

Can the rest of us say the same about our own lives? Can I?

And you, O beautiful flagship

You were the first, a dream renewed.

Your missions varied and wondrous,

Your launches and landings magnificent to watch,

Your profile unmistakable,

Now in pieces.

You were more than a ship; you are a symbol

And it hurts to see you like this.

And I will carry you and yours in my heart always.

MEG PAPA

## New Miller Gallery director seeking a diverse audience

She's a petite energetic woman with short hair. She's a smart dresser — it's obvious that she's got a good eye and is all about business. She maintains that difficult balance between being confident and humble.

Jenny Strayer is just what the Regina Gouger Miller Gallery was looking for in a new full-time director. She says that she wants to make future exhibitions collaborative and more visible.

Strayer arrived here in January from St. Louis, where she worked for almost three years on a program called "Arts in Transit." As a graduate student, she worked in the University of Illinois at Chicago's experi-

mental Gallery 400 where she describes her work as "testing what we think of as an exhibition." That experience will carry over to her work at Carnegie Mellon.

The Miller Gallery occupies three floors of white walls and track lighting at the north end of the Purnell Center for the Arts. Strayer hopes to spread the word about the gallery as one of the university's best-kept secrets. Now when she mentions it to most people, "They think I mean the Carnegie Museum." Strayer hopes to reach beyond the campus and into the city to attract diverse audiences that include art specialists, novices and even people hostile to art.

That goal is apparent in "Comic Release," the current exhibition that involves work by 300 artists. "It speaks to different audiences," Strayer says. Visitors include big-name Pittsburgh curators as well as "16-year-olds with body piercings."

Strayer believes the gallery must also serve student needs. "Comic Release" will be followed by an exhibition of work by Master of Fine Arts students, and in spring a display of work by graduating seniors. Strayer hopes to make gallery exhibitions coincide with artists' visits and other events.

This semester, Strayer will be working on programming and proposals for the next

two years. She says she wants to bring an element of surprise into the gallery, especially with interactive programs.

Fundraising is also a goal. Alumna Regina Gouger Miller is a major donor, but the Strayer will seek out donations and contributions from corporations and individuals.

Strayer replaced Petra Fallaux, who was director of the Hewlett Gallery in the College of Fine Arts for 10 years and then director of the Miller Gallery after its 1999 opening. Fallaux left the gallery to work with her husband at Springboard, a South Side architectural firm.

ALICIA SANDERMAN

# Snow or no snow, salt outlasts the winter

Comedian Lewis Black once uttered the following proverb in the hopes it would get a laugh; "What does the word meteorologist mean in English? It means liar."

I can't say that I completely disagree with Mr. Black.

When in all of my life have I been able to depend on the weatherman's predictions? He says evening showers and I get drenched coming home from class at 3:30. He says partly cloudy and I have a splitting headache by 2 because I've been squinting all day. But the tiny tortures do not end there.

In the morning of Dec. 25, a fine Christmas day, I listened intently to the weatherman on my favorite New York radio station. He assured me that I would have no trouble walking to my grandmother's party that evening. Well, to no surprise of mine the skies opened up and deposited approximately five inches of fresh powder on New York City in under four hours.

One can imagine the thrill I had walking down snow-blanketed streets, dressed to the nines with a fine tuft of snow in my hair. Take a taxi, one might say. Now, I imagine most people have not been so unfortunate to have seen a New York cabbie drive in the freshly fallen snow, but allow me state clearly that it is a sight frightening enough to get even the greenest of activists champing at the bit for an SUV.

Snow is a complicated thing. I'd wager that all people have had mixed feelings about it at some point in their lives. No one is immune to the childish glee of a snowball fight or a romp in a snowdrift with a favorite nephew. Snow holds the wonderful promise of irresponsibility because it covers up our world temporarily. Not to mention the nostalgic sensations of getting snow-days off from grade school.

But snow can also be a righteous pain in rear. Snow can make everyone late for work. Snow can do damage to a house and cause expensive repairs. Snow clogs the gutters and covers windshields. And snow brings perhaps one of the most wretched things of all. SALT!

It is my opinion that the newscasters of my fair Pittsburgh should change the parlance of their weather reports. They should try this one on for size, "Tomorrow, partly cloudy with a 56 percent chance of snow. We'll be expect-



Salt-stained sidewalk

Photo: Brian Connelly

ing a two to three inch accumulation in the morning with continuing salting until the evening hours."

Just think about it folks. Pittsburgh snow has a shorter life span than a Twinkie at an O.A. meeting. Sure all the grass is covered but anything that could even be considered a walk or roadway is drowned in heaping piles and chunks of that white crystalline beauty that ruins our shoes cars, and just about anything else it encounters.

Salt is the great destroyer of life. Salt eats everything away and leaves junk in its wake. I'm not saying there is anything better for clearing steps and driveways but the PennDOT people have got to take a deep breath and think

outside the box. I'm no big fan of being woken up by angry plow trucks, but this cavalier salting is getting ridiculous. I'd never seen white highway before this season. Forbes Avenue looks like something resembling a powdered sugar paradise right out of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory.

Let's face it: over-salting is obnoxious. Three years ago I took a mighty fine spill in a restaurant kitchen where an overzealous dishwasher decided to lay out three cups of granulated salt instead of cleaning up a grease spill. I'll not go into the specifics of the injuries, but let's say that they were more of the bruised and winded nature. I will always hold a special place in my heart, and lower back, for that small patch of tiled floor. Perhaps, one day, even my back will learn to forgive as well.

Perhaps my problem is with the cold and not just the snow. I've never complained about it being too hot, even if my back does stick to every chair or chair resembling apparatus in the civilized world. The snow slows people down. It makes everyone feel isolated and lethargic. There are no people in the world who wake up, get out of bed and feel invigorated by their feet freezing to the floor of their bathroom.

Cold weather and snow stink, skiing or not. Winter winds hurt the face and dry out everything. There is a reason that plants die in the winter and birds fly south. The winter is Mother Nature's eviction notice. At about the same time every year, in certain locations of her body, mother earth is politely telling every well mannered beast to pick up and get lost.

There is something phenomenally dreary about the cold and what it brings along with it. So, maybe, man should seek out more enjoyable climates and create sports and vacation spots to complement it.

Let's not forget about the salt. Salt is just another wonderful annoyance we could put to bed if we simply avoided cold weather and snow. And how wonderful our world would be if it didn't look as though it had been frosted with chalk. Let's keep the salt on the glass rim of our margaritas and keep the snow in wonderful comfort of a blended daiquiri. This way everyone can enjoy the two most noticeable aspects of winter along side a pool or ocean. Cheers!

SEBASTIAN HABR

## Chinese ancestors meet pop icons at the Warhol

In immortalizing the Campbell's soup can and a variety of movie stars on canvas, Andy Warhol perpetuated the cult of celebrity. He cemented many celebrities' stardom and left an iconic imprint on the art world that stretched his subjects' "fifteen minutes of fame" into hours, days and years.

The Andy Warhol Museum's latest exhibit features pop art in the very different context of Chinese portraiture. Entitled, "Chinese Commemorative Portraits/Warhol Icons," the exhibit houses an array of ink on silk scrolls venerating important dynastic leaders and other figures of China's past.

On Feb. 1, the Warhol celebrated Chinese New Year with a jubilant opening reception for the exhibit. Festivities for museum-goers include creating Polaroid self-portraits and decorating their own Chinese birth-year animals. There was a symposium and a screening of the Chinese film, "Farewell My Concubine," and visitors indulged in

authentic Chinese hors d'oeuvres and tea.

Organized by the Smithsonian Institution, "Worshipping the Ancestors" displays hand-painted scrolls dating as far back as 1451. The scrolls are covered with infinitesimal brushstrokes in lush blue-green and deep red colors, making each a piece of captivating eye candy. Many scrolls feature emperors and princes seated in majestic chairs, their feet peeking out beneath their robes to signify political power and surefootedness.

Signs accompanying the portraits explain the subtle significance of the Manchus' tight-fitting robes compared to traditional Chinese garb and the importance of peacock feathers in a subject's hat as a sign of honor and status.

Following with Chinese New Year tradition, the exhibit includes portraits of emperor and empress side by side, hung as they were in Peking's imperial palace for New Year's rituals and ceremony.

Emperors are not the only women de-

picted on scrolls. One portrait, entitled "Beauty Holding an Orchid," features Lady Liu, concubine of an 18th-century emperor, clutching an orchid in a gesture symbolizing lustful desire.

Famous army commanders are memorialized on immense memorial scrolls. One portrait presents a general from the Ming Dynasty with his attendants at his side and an inscription overhead commending him for his "intestinal fortitude of iron and stone."

While the portraiture uses a purely Chinese painting style, some scrolls exhibit Western perspective tricks like the receding horizon. Foreign influence is also apparent in background architecture depicting emperors' palaces built in the Italian style.

The most fascinating segment of the exhibit is the anteroom featuring Chinese scrolls positioned alongside Andy Warhol's pop-art portraiture.

The wall space between Warhol's color-

ful prints and the Chinese portraits serves as the middle of an artistic Venn diagram, where parallels and inferences of influence can be drawn between two seemingly unconnected styles.

The room's thematic centerpiece is a flashy canvas screen-print of Dolly Parton sandwiched between portraits of stoic Chinese princes.

More thought-provoking than amusing, the odd arrangement serves as the ultimate testament to the exhibit's commingling of Eastern and Western cultures and the "intestinal fortitude" of the iconic artform.

ANDREW MCKEON

"Worshipping the Ancestors" runs through April 27 at the Andy Warhol Museum on the North Side. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday, with evening hours until 10 p.m. Fridays.

## Sales receipt plan targets bookstore return policy

On Jan 20, a person using a Carnegie Mellon senior's e-mail account, posted the following message on the cmu.misc.market bulletin board: "New, Shrink Wrapped Copies of the 15-211 Textbook (Latest Edition) for sale. CMU Bookstore price: USED \$68.75 NEW \$91.50. I am Selling my NEW copies at \$65 !!!!! Books are guaranteed new / unopened / hardcover / correct book for 15-211, or your money back."

On Jan 22, the same person posted yet another message on the same bulletin board:

"If you have the receipts for the 15-211 Textbook purchased at the bookstore and are willing to go down to the bookstore with me to do a return for my book using your receipt, I will pay you \$40."

The course, 15-21, is a sophomore-level CS class called "Fundamental Data Structures & Algorithms." The student also posted the same messages for 33-112 (Physics for Science Students II) textbooks.

At first glance, the student's posts seem

**Offering to buy receipts of university textbooks, the cmu.misc.market user planned to return his textbooks to the bookstore using those receipts. He stood to make a tidy profit.**

innocuous. Here's another college student trying to make a buck by returning textbooks that came from another source.

Now, the senior's second post suggested that he acquired textbooks at a lower price than the university bookstore was charging. His postings suggest that he then tried selling the textbooks to students taking those classes. Whether he was able to sell any textbooks to students is unknown.

In any case, he decided to get rid of them

by devising a rather clever plan. He offered students money for their receipts of 15-211 and 33-112 textbooks they had bought from the bookstore and planned to return his textbooks to the bookstore using those receipts. He stood to make a tidy profit from this venture. The bookstore would have to honor the return since he had the receipts.

John Lerchey, computer and network security coordinator, said that the cmu.misc.market bboard was a public forum and there was no "actual policy set in stone" as to what could be posted on it short of clearly illegal posts involving child pornography or drugs.

Lerchey added that a student could be barred from posting messages on the bboard in exceptional conditions where he/she breaks a university policy such as openly cheating on an assignment or posting answers to a take-home exam on the bboard.

So the student is able to post messages soliciting receipts. What does the university

bookstore have to say about this?

James Kownacki, assistant bookstore manager, and Kunta Fossett, textbook assistant, were both appalled when they were notified of the student's posts. Asked if such incidents had occurred previously, Kownacki said "Students try to scam the bookstore every semester. They return textbooks using somebody else's receipts."

Kownacki added that the store really had no way of knowing when a book was returned using someone else's receipt, and said students making false returns were generally caught by chance. Kownacki also acknowledged the possibility of the return policy being canceled in response to the growing problem of false returns.

Meanwhile, the student who solicited the book receipts did not respond to attempts to contact him.

Did he really think he could've gotten away with it? Not this time.

BATUL MERCHANT

# Antiwar protest echoes through Oakland

Surrounded by thousands of people, Deborah Beecher, an aspiring actress and Pittsburgh native, lay down in the middle of Fifth Avenue and died — or at least, she pretended to. She is just one of a hundred odd “corpses” that are strewn haphazardly in a circle, as if they had been piled there in the wake of a great calamity. Around them stand the thousands of onlookers that one would expect to bear witness to a tragedy of this magnitude. However, instead of grieving, these people smile and sing and chant — even the dead are joyful.

On the last weekend in January, the temperature never rose above freezing, yet police estimate that around 3,000 people chose to spend the weekend outdoors to protest against a war with Iraq. They came, many from outside of Pittsburgh, to participate in the Regional Convergence Against War, a rally organized by numerous local groups including the Thomas Merton Center and the Pittsburgh Organizing Group. Planned events, including demonstrations, parades, street theatre, speeches, lectures and vigils, went on throughout the entire weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, those playing dead in the middle of Fifth Avenue were participating in one of the penultimate events of the convergence, the “die in,” a dramatization designed to illustrate “the true cost of war.” The “dead” and the uncountable many protesters and onlookers surrounding them braved the cold to be heard, to make a difference, to seek the camaraderie with those who share a common cause, or just to satisfy their own curiosity.

Like an artifact of another time, a man milled through the crowd at the “die in” wearing a Nixon mask. There were many here who remembered the inauguration of 1972. Some were veteran campaigners who have continued to fight the “war machine” since Vietnam, but many were locals who came out of curiosity, perhaps drawn by the dusty nugget of their 30-year-old idealism. Also prominent among the crowd were the young, most of whom have never seen an anti-war rally before. Their youth, however, did not diminish their conviction nor discourage their expression.

Beecher, age 20, lay in front of commuters with a resolve that would have stopped tanks at Tiananmen Square. She believes that if she yells loud enough, her voice will carry all the way to Washington. “I’m here for all of the victims of the American war machine,” she said, “because we cannot let this country make war on the world.”

One man started to chant. His neighbors chime in. Soon the street echoed with the slogans “Drop Bush, not bombs!” and “No Blood for Oil!” the marchers feeling a little warmer for exercising their vocal chords —



“Corpses” piled on Fifth Avenue

Photo: Gregory Pennington

for making themselves heard. People who have never met talked easily about their common views and about their efforts to make the world a little better. Volunteers stepped among the “corpses,” making sure that people aren’t getting too cold.

Despite the harmony of this impromptu community, there is sadness here. In their number, there is a sense that the protesters are, at the same time, too many and too few. The fear of human tragedy looms in painfully many signs and faces. “We’re here to try to stop people from dying,” said Nigel Millman, who felt strongly enough to make the drive from Ohio.

Yet the protesters shared another more silent fear that on this Super Bowl weekend,

that their voices will not be loud enough. The streets on which they gathered are surprisingly bare; cars are diverted, and the cold keeps most pedestrians indoors. It’s not hard to imagine their hand-painted signs going unnoticed, their speeches going unheeded. They fear the fate of Cassandra, that even if Washington hears them, it will not listen — at least, not until it is too late.

It was the signs the protesters carried that were the most striking; they hung over the crowd as ominous reminders of the tragedies that are being acted out by those “playing dead.” One asked, “Who would Jesus bomb?” Another questioned why a pro-life President would declare a war that could easily kill thousands. They were a reminder

that every casualty was a baby some time before he became a statistic. But they asked their questions in a void; there are no answers for war.

A man standing on the embankment raised a Tibetan singing bowl above his head and began to play. As the bronze pestle circled the outer rim of the metal bowl, a deep mournful tone permeated the air. Near him, people listened — some closed their eyes.

Not everyone at Carnegie Mellon shared the ideals and idealism of the crowd. One protester carried a sign that read “Freedom has no value, if violence is the price.” However, there are students who have committed themselves to defending American freedom — whatever the price.

Speaking after the protest, NROTC Midshipman Timothy O’Dowd expressed his opinion that, “Even those [midshipmen] who don’t favor going to war would do so at a moment’s notice if the commander-in-chief told them to.” ROTC students will be among the most directly affected by the precedent this conflict sets, yet they often find their views in the minority. “The prevailing attitude [about the war at Carnegie Mellon] is absolutely negative,” said O’Dowd. “I don’t think I know anyone outside of ROTC who is in favor of it.”

For the most part, reactions against the military by anti-war advocates have been tempered. Most of the protesters would say they are fighting for America’s soldiers, rather than against them. However, on Saturday a masked protester threw a brick through the glass door of a Marine recruiting station on Meyran Avenue in Oakland.

Midshipman Matt Osius responded, “There’s always going to be people who don’t like you because you’re in uniform, but there’s always going to those who do, and more often that not it’s the first that’s louder and the second that more numerous, so I don’t ever let it bother me.”

It is the right, and maybe even the responsibility, of every American to express his views, but protesters should be cautious of isolating the very people on whose behalf they speak. “Activists should be more careful to distinguish between those who make policy and those who follow it,” said Carnegie Mellon student Julie McMillan. This is a lesson that America has learned, but seems never to have mastered.

Those who converged in Pittsburgh did so peacefully. They conveyed their message to all who would listen, and ultimately that message was relayed by CNN to every corner of the globe. The organizers, participants and police all had reason to feel proud of the way the event unfolded. Now it just remains to see who will listen.

GREGORY PENNINGTON

## French professor fills a void with afternoon films

“I want to share with all what I believe are the treasures, values and ideas from France and the Francophone world. In a world where English seems to dominate, I try to offer another voice, another language, another way to look at things,” says Sylvie Rockmore, senior lecturer in French.

Rockmore is the founder and organizer of the “French in the Afternoon” film series that began in Spring 2001 to show foreign films for which, Rockmore says, there was an urgent need on campus. On select Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in McConomy Auditorium in the University Center, “La Festival du Film Français” shows movies made as early as 1933 and as recently as last year. The series, now in its fourth year, is on temporary hiatus while Rockmore is on leave this semester.

In addition to films from France, the series usually presents a film from Francophone Africa to coincide with Black History Month. Last year the film was “Faat Kine,” a light comedy about the new role of women in Senegalese society.

With the Carnegie Museum closing its Film and Video section, fewer foreign films will be shown in Pittsburgh. Programs like “French in the Afternoon” may take up the slack. Rockmore says the Modern Languages



A still from “Faat Kine,” a film by Senegalese director Ousmane Sembene, part of “French in the Afternoon”

department is considering a foreign film series for fall that would include films in the languages taught here, but not limited to those languages. Films from India and Iran might be shown in a larger series.

“Students always ask for more,” says Rockmore. While on leave in France this term, she is scouting for scholarships and opportunities for students. In recent summers, her students have secured positions as language assistants in French schools and have worked in French businesses.

Since coming to Carnegie Mellon in 1996, Rockmore has organized a French table that meets Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Skibo Coffee-

house. Among the regular attendees are students, faculty and staff from Carnegie Mellon and other universities.

Mathilde Pignol, a graduate student, has run the table for four years. This year, the table was extended to participants’ apartments, and the group is considering a trip to Quebec. Rockmore observed via e-mail, “We have created a community of people, united through the language; people who might not have met and enjoyed each other otherwise.”

Rockmore continued, “While we are supposed to teach ‘language,’ we cannot teach it outside of the context it comes from, outside of the reality it expresses. Hence the two are intimately linked and I cannot teach mere words without opening a new window to the outside world.”

Rockmore and her students have recently benefited from initiatives to promote internationalization at Carnegie Mellon. Her third-year class on the “Francophone World” participated in a virtual world exchange with a third-year class at the University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, Senegal.

Students at UCAD and at Carnegie Mellon read the same text, discussed it over the

Internet and were able to ask questions directly to the author of the novel. Rockmore finds it wonderful that Carnegie Mellon, through a grant, provided an Apple iBook and Internet training to students in Senegal, where computers are not yet part of daily academic life.

“We helped them and provided an enriching experience for our students. It was never a one-way street,” she said. The project led the Modern Languages Honors Society to recently collect and ship more than 600 books to the UCAD library in Dakar.

Rockmore travels throughout France and French-speaking regions of Belgium, Switzerland and Italy, as well as Quebec and Louisiana. She has visited Senegal many times and presented a paper at a conference in the Ivory Coast. She is active in local, national and international communities of French speakers, serving as the vice president of the local chapter of the Alliance Française and as president of the local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French.

“I am French, and American as well. But France is my ‘patrie,’ the country I consider my motherland,” Rockmore said.

VIJAY PALAPARTY