



# Creighton Cornerstone

Number 29

Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library

Spring 1995

## Our Commitment to a Quality Library

I am pleased to serve as your new director of the Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library. I begin this semester with great eagerness and look forward to becoming acquainted with the students, faculty and staff at Creighton.

I believe that the library serves a pivotal role in the educational process, especially as we move into a transitional information environment. The staff is working actively to meet the ever increasing expectations of users and to keep pace with the introduction of new technologies to gain access to information. Within the constraints of staff and budgets, we will continue to expand our utilization of bibliographic indexes and full-text databases through CD-ROMs and online services. At the same time, we need to develop and manage our print collections of books and journals. They will continue to be important means of information distribution because they are appropriate technologies for many applications. They are cost effective, permit random access, are relatively compact, can be browsed, and are portable. As an example, note how many dozens of books and hundreds of articles have been printed about the Internet, even though it is held a model of the changing electronic environment. In addition, audiovisual materials such as videocassettes, audio compact disks, interactive CD-ROMs, and multimedia reference tools will continue to proliferate.

As our students become more sophisticated in their use of electronic materials through their schools and at home, it is important for the library to maintain its momentum so it continues to be perceived as a high quality, contemporary library that is an important part of the teaching and learning process at Creighton University.

~ Michael LaCroix

*Michael LaCroix, Library Director*

### *Gallagher Endowed Book Fund Established*

The university and Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library are pleased to announce a gift of \$50,000 from the Gallagher Foundation. This gift establishes the Gallagher Endowed Book Fund, and it is the first major gift designated for the \$5,000,000 Creighton 2000 Campaign library endowment fund. Proceeds from this fund will be used to enhance the collections of the Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library. The university is deeply grateful to the Gallagher Foundation for its generosity.

## Meet Michael LaCroix

The library staff welcomes Michael J. LaCroix as Director of the Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library. Mr. LaCroix, who received his MLS from the University of Kentucky and his MBA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, brings many years of academic library experience to campus. Previous positions include technical services and acquisitions librarianship at Wake Forest and Wright State Universities, directorships at Greensboro and Wingate Colleges, and most recently, Director of Library Services and Associate Professor at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. At Albright, Mr. LaCroix also served on the Curriculum Committee and the College Assembly.

During the interview process, which included 39 applicants for the position, Michael LaCroix's outgoing personality revealed great enthusiasm and dedication towards providing excellent library service. The new director is professionally active in the American Library Association. He is also a member of the North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Southeastern Library Associations.

Mr. LaCroix's contributions to the profession include numerous publications and presentations.

"The Best of Times; the Worst of Times: Dealing with Declining Budgets" was his theme at the 1992 Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference. He is not one to forget the importance of humor in the workplace as evidenced by his article, "Librarians DO Have a Sense of Humor!" in *North Carolina Libraries*, Spring 1990.

Michael LaCroix is a native of Illinois, raised on a dairy farm, but he has eagerly anticipated his westward move to Nebraska. His wife, Carol, soon will be with the Department of Family Practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. They have a son, Andrew, 12, and a daughter, Rachel, 9, both of whom are very musical. The LaCroixs share their home with six pets, including two special cats. They enjoy travel, gardening, reading, and are committed environmentalists and preservationists.

As the spring semester begins with new library leadership, the staff looks forward to increased levels of service under Mr. LaCroix's direction. The library staff welcomes the LaCroix family to Creighton University and encourages faculty, staff, and students to introduce themselves to the new director.

~ *Lauralee Grabe*

## Financial Aid Directory Available to Students

Through the generosity of the Creighton Financial Aid office, we are pleased to introduce the *College Cost Explorer FUND FINDER*. This computer software database, produced by the College Board, lists more than 3,000 national and state grants, private and public scholarships, fellowships, loans, and internships. It is available on a workstation in the reference area.

Students enter a personal profile, including their academic interests and minority status, into the system through user-friendly screens and pop-up windows. This profile is then matched against funding programs for which students are eligible.

The database also includes general information on college costs and the financial aid system; a separate database of financial aid available at 2,800 academic institutions (including Creighton); and a section that calculates expected family contribution (EFC) for both dependent and independent students.

Therese McGrath, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, emphasizes that students must still follow standard application procedures to receive financial aid from Creighton. Additional scholarship information is available in printed form in the library's reference collection.

~ *Mary Nash*

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## New CD-ROM Network Greet Students

January 1995 continues to roll in with great tidings, and the CD-ROM network is one more bit of evidence. Culminating four years of planning, we proudly announce our new network which was installed over the Christmas break.

The CD-ROM network is a joint project between the Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library and the Computer Center. A special thanks goes to Kevin Zielstra from the Computer Center for hours of installation work.

So how will this new type of network enhance one's work? It will permit multiple users simultaneous access to many of our CD-ROM databases. Logjams of students waiting to use the same database should become a distant memory. The grouping of multiple databases also facilitates interdisciplinary research.

Eight CD-ROM databases have been selected for inclusion based on their high usage. **Books in Print** will be added within a few weeks. The menu also provides entrée to the FirstSearch service of forty online databases, **MEDLINE**, **CINAHL**, **LEGALTRAC**, Bluejay, the Internet via **MOSAIC**, and to

the catalogs of Creighton (**PALS**), UNO (**GENISYS**) and UNL (**IRIS**).

The logistics of the Reference area have changed slightly to accommodate the network. Six public stations have been grouped under signage reading "Networked Electronic Databases." In addition to the networked databases, there will continue to be some non-networked databases, such as the **MLA Bibliography**, and **Computer Select**, which are loaded on computer stations designated by "Other Resources." One station is dedicated to CDs issued by the U.S. government. Menus clearly indicate which station to use.

The CD-ROM network will develop in stages. The current stage limits access to stations within the library. For instructional purposes, the library classroom has been configured. The next stage will extend access campus wide to faculty and staff offices. Off-campus access is a possible future goal, but requires extra hardware and significantly higher funding for licensing fees.

For now, students are reacting very favorably to the improved access. Every station is in use most hours of the day. The consensus is that this money was very well spent.

~ Chris Le Beau

### Reinert/Alumni Library Networked Electronic Databases

Highlight Selection and Press "Enter"

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A) ATLA Religion Database     | K) CINAHL                  |
| B) Business Periodicals Index | L) MEDLINE                 |
| C) Readers' Guide             | M) Nat'l Trade Data Bank 1 |
| D) Disclosure                 | N) Non-Networked Databases |
| E) ERIC                       | O) PALS                    |
| F) FirstSearch Service        | P) PSYCLIT - CURRENT       |
| G) Internet VIA Bluejay       | Q) PSYCLIT - 1974 to 1986  |
| H) Internet VIA Mosaic        | R) UNO Library System      |
| I) Catalog of U.S. Gov Pub    | S) UNL Library System      |
| J) LEGALTRAC                  |                            |

*Reproduction of the main menu of the Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library network.*

