

A Note from the Interim Dean

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reports that the North Central Association has accredited Jones International University of Englewood, Colorado, making it the first online university to gain such accreditation. Jones began offering courses in 1995 and now has a bachelor's and a master's degree program in business communications and a number of certificate programs. While it has no precise numbers as to how many students it has, it does report almost 1,000 course registrations. Jones employs 56 faculty, only two of whom work full-time for the university. It also boasts an electronic library with a "research librarian" who is available via e-mail to work with students. The online university is a subsidiary of Jones International, a company owned by Glenn R. Jones, a cable television executive. While the institution is currently losing money, its president, Pamela Pease, indicated that after 2001, she hopes that Jones will be able to support itself.

Jones International University and others like it raise a number of questions for comprehensive public universities such as Kent. For example, how should we serve users of our library who are students at private, for-profit universities such as Jones? Since most of the online universities do not have library facilities, it is logical to expect their students to approach traditional university libraries and request service. The *Chronicle* article reports that most of the Jones faculty are "adjuncts who also hold academic posts at other universities and work for Jones, either teaching or working as 'content experts'." Since many universities are now offering distance education courses, the fact that online universities readily use the faculty of these institutions is an issue that will undoubtedly receive some attention in the future. Certainly, the accreditation of Jones International University is a new challenge to comprehensive public universities and their libraries.

Mark Weber
Interim Dean, Libraries & Media Services

MyKent: A Student Web Aid

New Media Services has created the *MyKent* Web site as an online University resource for students. As more and more content is added to the University's Web site, it can be increasingly difficult for students to find what they need. *MyKent* is an effort to provide meaningful links to University information through a centralized starting point to help students find what they need to know.

The site is available at: <http://www.kent.edu/mykent>. Link categories include: academics, the necessities, health and well-being, entertainment, student community, money, free stuff, and Kent State University.

A corollary Web site, designed to provide current information for students, faculty, and staff, is an online bulletin board. Located at <http://act.kent.edu/bbs>, the bulletin board provides weekly announcements. At present, faculty are the only group receiving an e-mail notice of new weekly postings. Complete information for any item is then accessible through a Web link.

Friends Annual Dinner

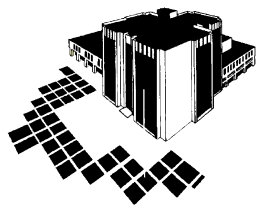


The Friends of the Libraries annual dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th, in Room 306 of the Kent Student Center. Ben Bassham, Professor of Art History at Kent State University, will be speak on the subject of his recently published book *Conrad Wise Chapman: Artist and Soldier of the Confederacy* (Kent State University

Press, 1998).

Chapman painted and sketched while serving as a Confederate soldier, completing a unique pictorial record of the War. This includes 31 paintings of the Confederate Army's defense of Charleston Harbor. Professor Bassham's presentation will include slides of selected images from the array of more than 150 photographs included in his book.

An informal cocktail hour from 6 - 7 p.m. will be followed by the dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$16 per person. For reservations, call Special Collections & Archives (x.2270).



Footnotes

News from the Kent State University Libraries & Media Services
<http://www.library.kent.edu>

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Research Collection Awards Announced

Consistent with the academic mission of Kent State University, the Libraries provide Research Collection Awards for the acquisition of significant collections in support of student and faculty research across the disciplines. This year the Award program was conducted in coordination with the University Research Council.

A three-member faculty committee advises the Coordinator of Collection Development and Liaison Program on which proposals are considered to be the strongest purchases for that academic year. Among the factors taken into account are the merits of the proposal, whether a collection will add to existing strengths, and whether it is needed to support new research interests.

Following are the 1998/99 LMS Research Collection Awards and the faculty members who submitted the proposals:

**Historic American Engineering Record*: Professors Thomas Gates, Architecture Library and Elwin Robison, School of Architecture

**Modern Art, Practices and Debates*: Professor Martin W. Ball, School of Art

**New England Women & Their Families in the 18th & 19th Centuries—Personal Papers, & Diaries*: Professor Shirley Teresa Wajda, History Department

**Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*: Professor David Odell-Scott, Philosophy Department & Religious Studies Program

**The Video Library of Philosophy—Davidson & Quine Series*: Professor Brian Rosmaita, Philosophy Department

**Roster of Union Soldiers*: Professor Leonne M. Hudson, History Department

New on the Reference Shelves

Encyclopedia of Contemporary French Culture (REF DC33.7 .E53 1998)

This new reference volume is designed to bring together material relating to French (and francophone) culture defined in the broadest sense. Coverage is from the end of World War II in 1945 to the present. Areas covered include: art, cinema, economics, education, food and wine, literature, performing arts, transport, and technology.

Database News

MarciveWeb DOCS

This is a newly available Web catalog of U.S. government publications, covering July 1976 - present. Searching is possible by author, title, subject, as well as by various number indices. Library holdings information is presented for specific items. This includes the holdings of area public libraries (i.e., Akron-Summit County Public Library and Cleveland Public Library), which are not included in the OhioLINK Central Catalog.

MarciveWeb can be accessed on the Web through the Libraries' Web site or at <http://www.marcive.com/scripts/webdocs.dll>. Availability is limited to users on any of the eight campuses or to valid offsite users through the University proxy server (directions for the latter are available at <http://www.library.kent.edu/internet/proxy.html>).

Dataware Interface Transition Completed

The planned move of the databases running under the OVID software to the Dataware interface was completed on March 29. The affected databases include: *AIDSline*, *BioethicsLine*, *CINAHL*, *ERIC*, *HealthStar*, *MEDLINE*, *PsycINFO*. It was not possible to move *CancerLit* at this time, so the database access provided for this resource is that from the National Cancer Institute. Users with any questions should contact the Reference Department (x.3045, library@kent.edu).

New From Documents

CensusCD+Maps:

GeoLyctics recently released *CensusCD+Maps* to supplement its *CensusCD*. The CD-ROM offers access to the 1990 census, as well as estimates and projections to allow comparisons. Users can search by geographic areas, ranging from the entire U.S. to block groups. *CensusCD+Maps* can also provide data for the radius around a chosen area. Once an area is defined and the search is performed, it is possible to receive a report or map. Thanks to compression technology, the CD-ROM runs quickly and smoothly.

Government Documents staff is available to assist users with *CensusCD+Maps* 10-5, Monday through Friday.

