New Staff
The Library welcomes staff members Becca Brody, Lori Carrier, and Heather Dunfee. Read more on page 2.

In the Old Times...

Discover the ERC
The Educational Resources Center (ERC) supports teacher candidates and students focusing on Education (page 4).

University Authors Series: Dr. Imo Nse Imeh
Daughters of Seclusion: The Ibibio Fattened Bride as the Icon of Beauty and Power

On Thursday October 18, Dr. Imo Nse Imeh inaugurated the new University Authors Series with a discussion about his recent book Daughters of Seclusion: The Ibibio Fattened Bride as the Icon of Beauty and Power.

Dr. Imeh is uniquely placed to provide both scholarly and artistic perspectives on the traditions of Nigeria’s Ibibio people. He was born in the United States to Nigerian immigrants, and has a PhD in Art History from Yale University, where his work focused on the art and aesthetics of the African Diaspora. He is both an artist and a researcher, and his work is both intimate and objective. Dr. Imeh presented his work in the context of his heritage, his research in Nigeria, and his training and experience as an artist. His presentation included photos of ceremonies and his artwork. Attendees, including students, faculty, staff, and community members, participated in the discussion that followed, asking questions about Dr. Imeh’s experiences in Nigeria, as well as his artistic style and collaborative projects.

Thanks to Dr. Imeh for presenting his work, and Head of Access Services Carolyn Schwartz and library intern Crystal Lanucha for making the event a success. The session was so well attended that Library staff scrambled to get extra seating in place!

http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/
Becca Brody joined Westfield State as a part-time librarian. She received her Master of Science in Library Science from UNC Chapel Hill. She has worked in several academic libraries, most recently Franklin Pierce University. She taught high school English at a boarding school in upstate New York, as well as University Level English and American Culture courses in Guizhou, China as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Here at Westfield State she has been enjoying the diversity of the student body and the variety of questions she receives. She says “The best part of being a reference librarian is the challenge of the search.” When not in the library, Becca occupies her time reading post-apocalyptic fiction, writing, and practicing the banjo.

Heather Dunfee works at the circulation desk, assisting students, faculty, and staff. Heather has a BA degree in English and French from Bates College in Maine, and a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Kings’ College, University of London in England. She also has a Postgraduate Certificate of Education from the University of London and spent several years teaching English in England and Scotland. Heather has worked for the Bates College audio library and the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew. Besides Heather’s love of travel and the culture of the British Isles, she manages the family life of four small children and the repair of an antique house along with her husband George Layng in the English Department.

Lori Carrier also works at the circulation desk, and has a B.A. in English with a concentration in writing and Literature. Lori says “I love reading, and I enjoy introducing that love to others. I volunteered in my school libraries from 5th grade through 12th and always wanted to work in a library. I ran out of money, though, so more school was not in the cards. Which brings me to my second passion – helping people. I’ve worked in customer service my whole life, and I love doing a job that helps people get what they need to be successful, manage their lives, or just have a good day.” The students, staff, and faculty of Westfield State are lucky to have Lori watching over the Library in the evenings!

Students, staff, and faculty can get help by phone, online chat, e-mail, and yes, even in person! To keep up on library hours, events, and updates, you can follow us on Facebook. See our website for more info!

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The New York Times Historical Collection helps students understand how issues have evolved over time.

The New York Times Historical Collection from ProQuest Historical Newspapers contains the content of the New York Times from 1851 to 2009. Pages are presented in full-image pdf format, displaying typography, photographs, graphs, charts, and maps. Articles can be searched by date, title, abstract, and more. Searches can be limited to front page articles, obituaries, advertisement, and even comics and editorial cartoons. The “advanced search” gives the user the ability to effectively sort through this large amount of data to locate relevant information.

By tracing topics through time, students can see how issues have evolved in the national consciousness. It is a great database for students exploring topics and issues: How did editorials on civil rights change over time? When and how was the Holocaust first reported? How do advertisements show changing attitudes toward women and minorities? How was Pablo Picasso’s art first described in the Times?

While this is a very rich source of information, no database is perfect. The page quality is extremely varied, and picking detailed information from a large page can be difficult. Browsing is also not easy; this database is designed to be navigated through search forms. Overall, this is a very useful database and can enhance almost any research project. It is a great place to find source material that provides a contemporaneous context to a wide range of events and issues.

To try out the New York Times Historical Collection, go to the Library’s website and click “Databases A-Z”. You’ll find it in this list under “N”. If you are off campus, you will be asked to log in to gain access with your Westfield State username and password.

If you need help with the database, contact the Library’s Reference Desk at (413) 572-5234

Forget your computer? Can’t find an available workstation on campus? Students can check out laptop computers for use in the Library! Just ask at the Circulation Desk.

http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/
Welcome to the ERC – Educational Resources Center

The ERC provides curriculum and assessment materials in many formats to teacher candidates, graduate students, and faculty doing work in Education

What formats are in the ERC?

Anything that helps with teaching and learning: Books, big books, games, unit plans, textbooks, lesson plans, activity books, kits, and educational software packages are all included in the ERC’s collections.

What is the Test Collection?

This collection of standardized tests includes measures for development, intelligence, and reading, as well as culture-fair tests and other classroom measurement instruments. Tests do not normally circulate outside of the Library due to the cost of replacement and licensing restrictions. They are similar to Reserve Items except that you must sign out each test at the ERC desk in order to use it.

Who can use the ERC?

Anyone affiliated with Westfield State University as students, faculty, or staff, can use and borrow materials. Visitors from the community may use materials within the library but may not check them out.

When is the ERC open?

The ERC collection is available whenever the Library is open. However, it is usually staffed in the daytime and some evening hours. ERC staff and student employees can help you find items in the collection. If you need more in-depth help with a research project or would like a more comprehensive overview of the ERC, please contact Corinne Ebbs, the Head of the ERC, at cebbs@westfield.ma.edu or call (413) 572-5235.

What was your favorite children’s book when you were young? What do you think children in elementary and secondary school are reading today? Come visit the Educational Resources Center (ERC) on the first floor and you will find many of your favorites and new award winning books for children.

You may be surprised to know that the ERC has books featuring classroom activities, children’s poetry and drama (if you ever babysit, stage a play!), selections of textbooks in all subject areas, and numerous fiction and non-fiction children’s books. The fiction spans reading levels from pre-K to high school, and you will find non-fiction children's books related to art, biography, geography, math, music, politics (even presidential elections), science, and more.

While you are here, look for kits that are integrated in the collection and often located on the bottom shelves. These include Rubik’s Cubes, counters, relief maps, photos and documents from various historical periods, and many more hands-on materials! Everything in the ERC Stack can be checked out at the Circulation Desk.