For the Love of Travel
Librarian keeps vacations on a regular schedule

“Going on a cruise is wonderful. You only have to unpack once and you can totally unplug when you board the ship. If you want to, you can actually disconnect from the rest of the world and really not have any contact with people outside of the ship—you’re at sea.”

Key West and in December we always take a Caribbean cruise. Over the years we’ve been able to travel to several places such as Belize, Antiqua Aruba, Haiti, Colon and the Bahamas,” says Michael Winecoff, the Associate Dean of Collection Services.

Strategy plays a major role in their choice for their destinations. According to Winecoff, timing has a lot to do with when they go away. His job workload, the pace of the university environment and his wallet are all important factors they consider when they plan their trips. “Things tend to calm down around here the second week of December so it is a good time to travel. We like to go before the college kids graduate so it’s not so busy and the cost to travel usually goes up the closer you get to the holidays, says Winecoff.”

Traveling to a new place in the Caribbean every December means experiencing something they have

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I hope you are enjoying your summer. We transitioned from the intense academic year to a (hopefully) more relaxing summer with the picnic at the Hauser Pavilion on May 17th. We all returned to the Library at least a little less stressed after spending the morning with the therapy dogs and games organized by the Staff Development Committee. I can’t believe a month of the summer has already passed, but it is certainly evident that summer is in full swing because of the construction, repairs, and upgrades taking place across campus!

**Personnel Changes**
Please welcome Jenna Rinalducci, our new Arts & Architecture Librarian, on June 30th. You will find her in Sara DeWaay’s former office. Welcome Shelly Hypes as our Director of Access Services. Congratulations to Monika Soler-Correa who increases from part- to full-time in ILL on July 1. Welcome back to Marilyn Elysse! Thank you to Stephanie Otis for agreeing to serve as Interim Head of Research and Instructional Services in addition to her Instruction Coordinator role. We are sad to say goodbye to Alison Bradley, Trang Do, Lula Hart, and Valinda Pierce.

**Employee Relations and Diversity Coordination**
In case you missed the June 8th All-Staff meeting (Marquita promises that Chartwells will bring heartier fare for the next meeting), I announced that Denelle Eads has assumed an expanded role as Personnel and Staff Development Librarian. We all recognize Denelle’s contributions on our behalf as Chair of the Staff Development Committee, library coordinator for the Giving Green Campaign, author of Atkins News, and coordinator/promoter of all webinars, training and development workshops, and seminars. Now she is designing and administering the New Employee Orientation program and leading the Staff Development Committee’s Employee Recognition and Awards Program. According to Denelle, the purpose of the New Employee Orientation Program is “to introduce new employees to their work environment and to acquaint them with the library organization as well as to provide helpful resources to make the orientation process a positive, informative, and comfortable experience.” In addition, she will now serve as both Employee Relations and Diversity Coordinator. In her Employee Relations role, Denelle will serve as a mediator to handle conflict between employees/supervisors and employees/employees (she is a trained mediator with the State of North Carolina), as an advocate for all library employees (including taking concerns and issues to the Dean), and as an informal resource to faculty and staff in “building bridges of tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding.” As Diversity Coordinator, Denelle will help recruit and retain employees from underrepresented groups and serve as the representative to address diversity issues in the workplace, advocate for and promote diversity awareness, and strive to build an inclusive environment in the Library. Denelle maintains an “open door policy” and welcomes staff and faculty alike to stop in to talk with her about anything at any time.

**Committee Update Process**
Thank you to all those who have faithfully served on our library-wide committees this year. Each committee has significantly moved

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**Take Note**

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Collection Services Uses Retreat to Figure it Out

Liz Siler recently organized a retreat to address plans for resizing the general collection. The retreat, which involved Collection Services and Research & Information Services, was held on June 21 from 9:am-2:pm in the Halton Room.

Below, Siler shares information on the purpose of the retreat and how the two groups need to work to accomplish the task.

Atkins News: What was the retreat for and why was it necessary to have it?

Liz Siler: The retreat was convened to discuss upcoming weeding or rightsizing projects we are planning for the general collection. The library collection has never been significantly weeded and we have been using overflow space for the last four years. We need to review our print collection and realign it with current programs to serve our students and faculty effectively.

Atkins News: What challenges are you facing in your area that would suggest resizing (weeding)?

Liz Siler: We have several challenges ahead of us that we will need to overcome to be successful.

a. We are on a rather tight timeline to complete as much work as we can prior to next summer. We plan to hire several student workers to assist with the process of removing titles from the collection.

b. We are planning to do an inventory of the print collection at the same time, so as we work with the collection we are also ensuring what we do have is correctly entered into our catalog and in the right place on the shelf.

c. We need to come up with a way to systematically look at our collection and make informed decisions in a short amount of time. After reviewing several readings about this process we have tentatively formulated a plan to look at several criteria when making decisions including publication date, acquisition date, circulation statistics, scarcity (presence at other libraries locally and nationally), and value of the title.

d. We need to be able to effectively communicate to the campus what our plans are and be prepared to answer questions when the size of the print collection is reduced.

Atkins News: What did you hope to accomplish and were you successful?

Liz Siler: What I really hoped to accomplish from this retreat was to get everyone involved in making these decisions into a room and have frank discussions about the process. I wanted them to relay their fears and misgivings so we could address them and hopefully move past them. A very important part of a project like this is that everyone is on the same page and is comfortable with ultimate goals we are trying to reach and the process we plan to use to get there.

Atkins News: Why did you choose to do a retreat?

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Shelly Hypes Hired as Director of Access Services

This new position is an awesome opportunity to experience Atkins from a different perspective. I learned so much about Atkins during my previous role in Collection Services and I am confident that my time in Access Services will be just as educational.

I’m very excited to work with this great team! It’s great to already be familiar with my colleagues in Access Services, so there’s no hiding the fact that they are all amazing people.

So far, this new position has offered me the opportunity to have a very busy schedule; I am appreciative of busy schedules and days that don’t repeat themselves. It keeps me on my toes! I’m also really excited for the opportunity to learn and grow as a leader at Atkins. I enjoy being up to big things in my life.

I am from Martinsville, Virginia. I have an Undergraduate Degree in English and Music, and a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Studies. I spent several years performing as an oboist, and one year teaching Elementary Music before I decided that I wanted to be a librarian. Prior to working at Atkins Library, I worked in public libraries in Virginia and North Carolina. I have driven a bookmobile, taught writing at the community college level, and served as a Youth Services Coordinator, Circulation Librarian, and Library Director.

The most important challenge I’m anticipating is learning everything. When I say that, I mean that I want to be very comfortable with the details of what has happened in the past and what is happening now, so I can communicate effectively and make informed decisions about what will be happening in our future.

I have a lot of meetings scheduled! Right now, I’m in the process of scheduling one-on-one meetings with everyone in Access Services. These meetings will give me a chance to connect with everyone in Access Services and learn about them, their job here at Atkins, and other items of interest that will allow us to work together to make Atkins an amazing place. After the one-on-ones, I’ll be scheduling meetings that will allow me to shadow people in Access Services while they do their job. It’s important to me to learn the workflows, how they impact other workflows in Access Services, and throughout Atkins Library.

I plan to listen and observe a lot! I also plan to smile and laugh often, see all glasses as half full, and continue to express my gratitude for this opportunity!
Liz Siler: I wanted to actually spend the time to have tough conversations and work through some issues. We had previously broached this project and other similar projects during meetings in the past and we never really had enough time to hash everything out and everyone left with questions. I thought this would be an opportunity to put everything out there and get everyone on board with the process.
Staff share comments about Library-Wide Committees

"I've enjoyed being a member of the Staff Development and Activities Committee. I've gotten a chance to work with staff members that I normally wouldn't work with and we have worked on some great projects to bring everyone within the library closer together."

—Sophia Timberlake

“This year, I was active in the Communications, Marketing and Signage Committee, the Public Services Committee, and the Search Committee for the Associate Dean of Public Services. I really enjoyed getting to know people from other departments, hearing different views, and working on new projects.”

—Barry Falls

"I really enjoyed working on the committees. I think our work on the Popular Reading and DVD committee has made the collection much more accessible to our patrons."

—Abby Moore
never experienced before, something, Winecoff points out, that is a huge benefit of cruising. “Going on a cruise is wonderful. You only have to unpack once and you can totally unplug when you board the ship. If you want to, you can actually disconnect from the rest of the world and really not have any contact with people outside of the ship—you’re at sea. Typically, on a cruise, internet service is not free and it costs quite a bit to make a phone call to the states. So when I say you can totally unplug, you really can on a cruise,” says Winecoff.

If one enjoys having an opportunity to wake up every day at a new destination and meeting different people along the way, cruising may be something to consider. According to Winecoff, “you get to meet new people each time you travel and if you do any of the excursions, there are even more benefits such as walking through the streets of other countries and interacting with the people who live there. It’s such a unique experience to actually be embedded in different cultures and hear their native languages and accents,” says Winecoff.

Although all of their vacations have been memorable, Winecoff puts one in the possible “best” category—a memory he recalls when he truly unplugged and was in a state of total relaxation. “I think it was cruise number five when we travelled to Costa Maya, Mexico. I remember the ship docking and us getting off right away and strolling to the beach. The area where we walked to was kind of secluded with only about three or four hammocks on the sand. Todd and I both took a hammock, ordered drinks and just relaxed. It was a wonderful feeling. We took everything in as we lay on those hammocks overlooking the beach. Such an amazing experience,” he says.

Keeping up with every detail of each vacation spot doesn’t seem to be a priority for Winecoff. Each vacation they’ve taken has set stepping stones to discovering something new, making their next vacation even better than the one before. One could say that he and Todd are well seasoned vacationers, armed with information and expertise as they are approaching their 19th cruise this December. “All of our cruises have been with Royal Caribbean except for one with Celebrity. I can still vividly remember our very first cruise. It was a seven night Western Caribbean to Cozumel, Mexico. We weren’t celebrating anything special. We went in March and the weather was good there and terrible here in Charlotte. We didn’t really know what to expect and we didn’t realize how big cruise ships were. Usually there are at least 15 decks on cruise ships each with bars and restaurants and there is always something to do,” says Winecoff.

Experienced travelers, these two have learned a great deal since being first-timers in 2002. They know how to get better deals and what the average temperature will be depending on which part of the Caribbean you choose to visit. “Since our first cruise, we’ve discovered a lot of helpful information like how you can get your trips cheaper. We learned that the cruise lines give

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discounts throughout the year. Sometimes if you have booked your cruise and you check back with them, they can get you a better price. We also learned that in the Southern Caribbean, the temperature will always be in the 80s regardless of the time of year. When booking our cruise, we are always aware of hurricane season. Although you’ll get cheaper rates during hurricane season, we choose not to book then because you never know when you could run into problems during your vacation.”

Test Your Knowledge Answers:

- Campus Activities Board
- The UNC Charlotte System President
- Fred Alexander