The Duquesne University Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center will sponsor its 18th annual symposium, *The Philosophy of Edith Stein*, which will be held March 10-11, 2000. This year’s symposium will help to celebrate the Phenomenology Center’s 20th anniversary. The symposium is free and open to the public. For further information contact Rev. David L. Smith, C.S.Sp., Ph.D. at 412-396-6038 or at smithdavid@duq.edu.

Edith Stein

Edith Stein was born on October 12, 1891, The Jewish Feast of Expiation, called the Atonement, in Breslau, Silesia. At the age of twenty, she entered the University of Breslau to pursue courses in philosophy, history, and experimental psychology (1911). While at Breslau she read Edmund Husserl’s *Logical Investigations*. Inspired by his original thought, she transferred to the University of Gottingen where Husserl taught. Of this particular time, Edith wrote, “I was twenty-one and full of eager anticipation… the little I knew of phenomenology delighted me, particularly the objective method of investigation.”

In 1914, at his request, she accompanied Husserl to his new position at the University of Freiburg as his graduate assistant. Under his direction in 1916 she completed her dissertation on Empathy summa cum laude.

Edith was received into the Catholic Church on January 1, 1922, and in the spring of that year accepted a lectureship at the Institute of Educational Theory at Munster. She became a renowned philosopher and feminist lecturer. In 1934 she entered the Carmelites convent in Cologne. On December 31, 1938, she took refuge at the Carmel in Ect, Holland, lest the Nazis harm her fellow Carmelites in Cologne. In August of 1942, she was murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz. In his homily at her canonization Mass on October 11, 1998, Pope John Paul II said of her (Sr. Benedicta of the Cross):

“Because she was Jewish, Edith Stein was taken with her sister Rosa and many other Catholic Jews from the Netherlands to the concentration camp in Auschwitz, where she died with them in the gas chambers. Today we remember them all with deep respect. From now on, as we celebrate the memory of this new saint from year to year, we must remember the Shoah, that cruel plan to exterminate a people – a plan to which millions of our Jewish brothers and sisters fell victim.”

(L’Osservatore Romano, 10/14/98, p. 10).
The Justice Michael A. Musmanno Collection is a separate collection of the Gumberg Library that became the responsibility of the University Archivist in January 1998. It is a fascinating collection of primary source material for many historical events of the first half of the 20th century. Musmanno was from Pittsburgh and became a lawyer, and later judge, rising to the position of Pennsylvania State Supreme Court Justice. He died in 1968 and his family donated his papers to Duquesne University.

During his life he took part in many local, national, and international events and his papers help document these events. Some of the major events include the Sacco and Vanzetti Case, in which the two defendants were convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1927. Many believed they were innocent and that they were found guilty because of their political beliefs—they were both anarchists. Musmanno volunteered his services as part of the defense team to have the death penalty overturned. His papers help reflect the defense team’s desperate, and ultimately, unsuccessful attempt to spare the two defendants.

Another collection is Musmanno’s fight to abolish the Coal and Iron Police. Musmanno served two terms as a Pennsylvania state legislator and during his tenure he rallied opposition to this private police force. The large coal and steel companies hired the Coal and Iron Police for the purpose of strike breaking. They were very strong in Western Pennsylvania and often imposed their brutal force on the company workers. Musmanno eventually won and the Coal and Iron Police were dissolved. His papers help to document this period of Pennsylvania labor history.

During World War II, Musmanno served as a naval aide to General Mark Clark. After the war he was appointed by President Truman to serve as one of the judges in the historic Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. He served on three different cases and was the presiding judge in the Einsatzgruppen Case. The transcripts of the entire Nuremberg Trials are part of the Musmanno Collection along with his personal writings, correspondence and films of the trials. While he was in Europe, Musmanno conducted research on behalf of the United States to investigate whether Adolf Hitler had really died. His investigations consisted of interviews with many people who intimately knew Hitler or were with him during his final days. The interviews ranged from high-ranking Nazi officers to Hitler’s driver, secretaries, and dentist. This is not only the most unique collection in the Musmanno papers, but also probably the only one of its kind in the world.

Another interesting part of the collection comes from Musmanno’s fight against the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania. During the Red Scare of the 1950s, Musmanno led the fight in Pittsburgh to outlaw the Communist Party. His actions led to the indictment of the
three highest-ranking Party members in Western Pennsylvania and their eventual trial. He also helped author State and Federal Bills to have the Communist Party outlawed. A large collection of records, including material published by the Communist Party and seized by Musmanno, are part of the Musmanno Collection and help to document this whole event.

There are many other interesting items in this collection and much work is being done to have all of these papers cataloged and readily available for researchers. This collection must be preserved and finding aids must be created to help guide the researcher. Most of the material is now cataloged and copies of the finding aids are available in the Musmanno Collection. All of the above mentioned collections have been processed or are being processed. One of the major projects is to have significant parts of the collection digitally scanned so that these records will be available on optical disk. Scanning has already begun on the collection of interrogations Musmanno conducted of Hitler’s associates. This is the most used part of the Musmanno Collection and not only will this make these documents more readily available, it will also help to preserve them. The Musmanno Collection is open for research and scholars from around the world have utilized it.

A Web page was created for the collection that gives a brief summary of its contents. One of the goals is to expand this Web page to also include all the finding aids. This will enable researchers to explore the collection via the Internet. The Web page is part of the Gumberg Library site and can be accessed directly at <http://www.duq.edu/library/musmanno.htm>. The Musmanno Collection is located next to the University Archives in the Special Collections area on the 1st floor of the Gumberg Library.
Technology Enhancements Continue at the Gumberg Library

By Bruno Mastroianni, Director of Information Technology

During the current academic year, Gumberg Library has continued to implement numerous enhancements to its technological infrastructure, hardware, software and services. These changes give Duquesne University faculty and students improved access from within the Library, on campus and at home. With access to over 100 online databases, 2000 electronic journals and 3,000 electronic books, the need for change continues to increase.

DuCat Improvements

The Library purchased and installed a Digital Alpha Server to replace its Digital VAX. This upgrade gave researchers increased performance in the current system and allowed the Library to upgrade to a new interface called DuCat Web. DuCat Web allows users to search the Gumberg Library catalog from any system that has a current Web browser (for example, Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.). It also allows us to provide online access to reserve room listings and to your Library account information (available in the future). These upgrades lay the foundation for numerous additional features to be implemented throughout the year and will revolutionize the way you use DuCat.

Hardware Upgrades

In order to make these resources available and to allow for more reliable upgrades, a number of changes were made to the Library’s computer room. Three IBM Netfinity Servers were purchased to improve access to the CD-ROM databases, to host DuCat Web, and to replace outdated servers. In this process the Library moved its CD-ROM databases from two CD-ROM servers to the hard drives of one of these high-end servers. This change increases access times, reliability, and turn around on upgrades. These servers have also allowed the Library to move some of the databases from a proprietary “front end” to universally accessible Web databases. Having a Web server at the Library also makes updates timelier for the databases and other Library Web pages.

Workstation Upgrades

The next upgrade completed was the Electronic Classroom – 41 student stations and an instructor station were purchased on a 3-year lease. The Gumberg Library implemented a leasing program for desktop computers in 1996. This program allows the Library to continue to provide current technology in its Public Access area. The equipment that was replaced in the classroom was moved to the Public Access area to replace older equipment. The equipment from the Public Access area was then moved to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors in order to allow access to DuCat in the stacks. These upgrades will continue to provide Duquesne researchers with the newest possible equipment on an annual basis.

Electronic Resources

The Library has experienced increased demand for remote access to its electronic resources. In the past the only method to access the Library’s databases outside of the building was with PASS (Password Access Software System). Using this system was time-consuming for researchers as well as the Library staff.

We have implemented a new system that allows you to connect directly from the Library’s homepage to most of our databases without having to install additional software on your computer. If you are using a Duquesne IP address (on campus, Stargate or annex account) our system automatically connects you to a database. If not, the system prompts you to enter your Duquesne ID number. Now only seven of the 119 databases require PASS. We have improved PASS to enable you to connect directly to a database and our system will guide you through a simplified process.

Infrastructure Enhancements

Access to all of the electronic resources requires larger network bandwidth, increased management and network
segmentation. In order to accomplish this the Library has made some significant changes to its network infrastructure. A dedicated T1 Internet connection was installed last November to improve remote access to the Library and to deal with the increased number of Web databases now available. A firewall was also installed to reduce the risk of unauthorized access to Library resources. The firewall also allows us to control the type of traffic in and out of the building. The next step was to segment administrative traffic from academic traffic. This segmentation allows for better performance and increased security. A switch was installed to provide the segmentation and to provide a gigabit connection between network closets. All wiring has been upgraded to gigabit with a 100-Mb connection to each workstation.

Increased Efficiencies

Another positive benefit of these changes is that the Library can better manage its internal resources. The Information Technology staff is now able to reinstall an entire classroom image in four hours – a process that in the past took days to complete. In the past when an update was received someone had to visit each machine to install it. We are now able to update the configuration on one system and push the changes to the other systems that need the change. Additional improvements have been made on the administrative side of the organization to improve access and efficiencies. A Microsoft Exchange Server was installed to allow the staff to share calendars, task lists and documents.

Conclusion

With all of these improvements the Library can now focus on adding additional resources. The first change that researchers will notice is the addition of the Web interface to DuCat. You will also see continued changes and improvements to Library Web pages. These changes should allow better access to the electronic resources from the Library. You can visit the Gumberg Library homepage at <http://www.duq.edu/library> to see these changes and any future updates to our systems.

The way that we store and access information is changing on a daily basis. The recent enhancements to the Gumberg Library’s information technology will prepare Duquesne University researchers to take full advantage of the increasing amount of information available in electronic formats. More importantly, we are striving to continue to make this process more seamless, more user friendly, and less stressful. 2000 promises to be an exciting year, with many new improvements for the Gumberg Library and all Duquesne University researchers. We look forward to working with you!

Western Pennsylvania Symposium on World Literatures

The 27th annual Western Pennsylvania Symposium on World Literatures (WPSWL) will take place on April 17, 2000. The topic, “Shakespeare and Verdi,” is planned as a farewell salute to Mr. Tito Capobianco, outgoing Artistic Director of the Pittsburgh Opera.

The Director of WPSWL is Dr. Carla E. Lucente, Professor and Chair of the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures at Duquesne. The honorary chairperson for the event will be Ms. Dolores Smith, a member of the Board of the Pittsburgh Opera Center at Duquesne. The co-chairs for the event are Dr. Richard C. Frushell, Associate Professor of English & Comparative Literature at Penn State University (McKeesport Campus), and Dr. Stephen Newmyer, Professor of Classics at Duquesne.

The day’s activities will include a lecture on Verdi’s operatic adaptation of Shakespeare’s Othello by Dr. Daniela Bini, Professor, French & Italian, at the University of Texas at Austin. She has authored five books on Comparative Literature.

There will be a roundtable discussion involving academicians who will discuss the characters of Othello and Falstaff in Shakespeare’s plays and Verdi’s operas.

Operatic performances will be the featured entertainment; there will be a review of Mr. Capobianco’s illustrious career; and a banquet will be held in his honor.

For more information, please contact the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures at Duquesne (412-396-6415).
Harold Bloom’s Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human

By Dr. Albert C. Labriola, Professor of English & Distinguished University Professor

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Weighing in at almost 750 pages, *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human* is the twenty-third book by Professor Harold Bloom. It garnered for its author a nomination, as well as status as a finalist, in non-fiction during recent competition for the National Book Awards. Bloom’s remarkable academic credentials include joint appointments as Sterling Professor of Humanities at Yale and as Berg Professor of English at New York University, former Charles Eliot Norton Professor at Harvard, one of the first MacArthur Prize Fellows, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Despite his academic pedigree, Bloom has composed a book in clear and straightforward language, devoid of critical jargon, and aimed at general readers and theatergoers. Furthermore, the book lacks documentation, a bibliography, and an index. In no way do these features of the book reflect a condescending attitude by the author toward his audience. Rather, by his study of Shakespeare, Bloom serves two purposes: to rescue the playwright and his dramas from postmodern trends in criticism and to reaffirm the value and validity of approaching literature from a humanistic point of view, which is understandable inside and outside the academic community.

In line with his first purpose, Bloom identifies several movements in postmodern criticism that have ideological fixations, if not social and political agendas. These movements and their offshoots—Deconstruction, Feminism, Marxism, the New Historicism, and the like—translate their fixations and agendas into so-called theoretical perspectives or operating principles for engaging “texts.” The ideologues who pursue these perspectives or principles value them above the “texts” or “literature” that they (mis)interpret. To demonstrate Bloom’s point in verbal shorthand, one may highlight the contrast between “texts” and “literature”: the former term is used by postmodernists, the latter by Bloom and other advocates of the Western Canon.

In line with his second purpose—that Shakespeare wrote “literature”—Bloom does not feather his touch against postmodernists. By using the term “texts” to describe the plays, postmodernists overlook the “Shakespearean difference” or the “universalism” of the playwright. In using these words—“Shakespearean difference” and “universalism”—Bloom hoists his colors for all to see. The “universalism” of Shakespeare accounts for his qualitative “difference” from, and superiority over, other playwrights of his era. Whereas other playwrights may have written texts, Shakespeare wrote literature of universal significance—that is, of paramount significance to humankind in his own era and thereafter. That assertion, as reactionary as it seems, is Bloom’s thesis.

In his periodic bouts with postmodernists, however, Bloom does not wield a bludgeon but a stiletto. Accordingly, he contends that they are beyond parody because they have already become self-fashioned caricatures, whom he labels “gender-and-power freaks.” When one recalls that the faculty at Yale at one time included J. Hillis Miller, the foremost American deconstructionist, and Jacques Derrida, the French philosopher who became the most renowned proponent of deconstruction in the USA and abroad, one knows that Bloom has forged his
polemical tactics by encountering firsthand some theorists in the vanguard of postmodernism.

While Bloom’s book may be described as contra postmodernism, the polemical tone recurs only periodically as he expounds his thesis. Unabashed in his proclamation of Shakespeare’s superiority and universalism, Bloom vindicates previous humanistic approaches to the playwright’s works by critics such as Samuel Johnson, William Hazlitt, A. C. Bradley, and Harold Goddard. Of the foregoing critics, Bloom is most akin to Goddard. Like Goddard, Bloom systematically analyzes all thirty-seven of Shakespeare’s plays, as well as The Two Noble Kinsmen, a collaboration with John Fletcher. More than his predecessors, however, Bloom explores the concept of characterization as the key to Shakespeare’s superiority and universalism. While it is axiomatic to assert that Shakespeare supremely represented cognition, character, and personality, it is bolder, though more apt, to affirm that he created or invented them. Here, in effect, the curious subtitle of Bloom’s book comes to the fore: “The Invention of the Human.” Shakespeare, in short, exceeded even the lifelike representation of humankind in order to invent or create new modes of being and consciousness.

If postmodernism has affected Bloom in a salutary way, it is because of its emphasis on subjectivity, which he uses to advantage in defining and explicating Shakespeare’s triumph. In an ironic tour de force, Bloom adapts one of the fundamental principles of postmodernism, subjectivity, in order to plumb the depths of Shakespeare’s triumphant universalism. Of the 300 major characters that populate the plays, Bloom cites at least six—Falstaff, Hamlet, Iago, Cleopatra, Macbeth, and Lear—as unrivalled exemplars of subjectivity, so much so that they, though fictive characters, have exercised enormous impact on our own self-perception. Therein lies the key to Shakespeare’s triumphant universalism and unbounded influence: the characters in his plays teach us profoundly about ourselves. After Shakespeare, humankind perceives itself differently. Shakespeare’s characters do not unfold, but develop. They, like us, have a sensitive, psychic, and cognitive life; exercise their will; are affected by the outcomes of their decisions and actions; and generate thereby a context of rich experience that constitutes memory, which becomes, in turn, an integral part of their perception.

If anything, Shakespeare’s achievement is to have invented or created, then canonized through his dramas, the interior life of humankind. In Hamlet alone, the protagonist has seven major soliloquies, which disclose the multi-layered being and consciousness of the human mind, a very refined sensitivity and sensibility that transcend the historical and cultural circumstances of one’s situation because they constitute the prerequisites of human nature. The penchant of Hamlet for interior verbalization so strikes a responsive chord in us that he echoes—“anticipates” is the more accurate word—our own dialogues with and within ourselves. Each and every observation, which simultaneously admits the possibility of its opposite, travels in and through Hamlet’s cognitive and psychic life in an unremitting ebb-and-flow that we oversee and overhear. Finally, we come to realize that the protagonist does not think too much, but too well, the basis for his so-called irresolute conduct.

While Bloom cannot account for the origin of Shakespeare’s concept of interiority or the internalization of self, one suspects that the twofold, interrelated influences of the Renaissance and the Reformation, as well as their philosophical, psychological, religious, scientific, sociological, and political undercurrents, came to bear on the playwright. Whatever the origin of Shakespeare’s invention of the human, Bloom argues persuasively that not even postmodernism has managed to become post-Shakespearean. After all, Shakespeare has invented or created both early modern, modern, and postmodern humankind. To restate the case in the language of Ben Jonson, a contemporary of Shakespeare and a rival playwright and poet, he was not of an age but for all time, a concise but complete description of human immortality and a veritable epitaph second to none for an author.
Women’s Guild Raising Funds for Library

The Gumberg Library will be the recipient of the Duquesne Women’s Guild annual fundraiser, The Pink Geranium Luncheon Card Party. Parents, alumni, faculty, and friends are always welcome, so come join in the tradition. Enjoy a wonderful served lunch, fashion show, door prizes, cash raffle, Chinese auction, and more. The event will be held in the Student Union Ballroom on Saturday, April 29. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Cost is $15 per person or $55 for a table of four. Your support is greatly appreciated.

For more information call President Doris Jones 412-241-5418. For reservations contact Lynn L. Fezza, 1509 Burchfield Road., Allison Park, PA 15101, 412-487-3783.