

# FOCUS online

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One of the colorful plates from E. A. Seguy's *Papillons*, recently acquired by the Special Collections Research Center, NCSU Libraries. See "Special Collections Acquires Elusive Butterfly Portfolio," in Library News.

# Special Collections Acquires Elusive Butterfly Portfolio

BY LOIS FISCHER BLACK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER



[Left to right]: Lew Deitz (NCSU Department of Entomology), Ray Nimocks (NCSU senior, Department of Zoology), and Michelle Trautwein (NCSU doctoral student, Department of Entomology) review the *Papillons* portfolio for the first time.



Thanks to contributions from a number of private donors to a special fund, the NCSU Libraries purchased a copy of E. A. Seguy's *Papillons* for its Special Collections Research Center in spring 2005. The combined fund-raising efforts underscore the good work that can be accomplished through the generosity of library supporters.

*Papillons*, published during the 1920s in Paris, France, contains twenty pochoir plates. Sixteen plates are of butterfly images and four are of stylized textile patterns. Pochoir is an elaborate process by which rich color is applied layer by layer with the aid of stencils, resulting in intense hues similar to those in stained glass windows. These designs have inspired artists and designers

in textiles, wallpapers, and other media. In all, there are eighty-one technical drawings in *Papillons* that feature these winged creatures, followed by sixteen ornamental compositions.

*Papillons* is a companion piece to Seguy's *Insectes*, a similarly structured portfolio of plates published during the same period. The Special Collections Research Center acquired a copy of *Insectes* several years ago, thanks to the generosity of NC State's Department of Entomology, the North Carolina Entomological Society, and the combined efforts of faculty, staff, and students.

Copies of Seguy's works are quite scarce. The NCSU Libraries' copy of *Papillons* was located by a bookseller in a house in Paris. It apparently had not circulated through either public or private hands and remains fresh in its portfolio secured with cotton ties. The newly acquired *Papillons* will be sent to a conservation center in fall 2005, where a team of experienced conservators will construct protective enclosures to ensure

that the plates can withstand handling while maintaining their pristine condition.

Confusion often results when researching the artist E. A. Seguy, as two authors known as E. A. Seguy lived in Paris during the same period. E. A. Seguy was a designer who worked in the textile field, while Eugene A. Seguy (1890–1985) was a renowned entomologist employed as a professor at the National Museum in Paris.

Those who would like to make arrangements to view *Papillons* after the conservation work is completed should call the Special Collections Research Center at (919) 515-2273 or send an electronic-mail message to [special\\_collections@ncsu.edu](mailto:special_collections@ncsu.edu). To contribute to one of the endowments supporting the purchase of historic books and manuscripts for the NCSU Libraries' collections, please call Jim Mulvey at (919) 513-3339. ❖



See also “Team Seguy Brings Butterflies to the Special Collections Research Center” in the *Library Development* section.



# Welcome to the NCSU Libraries' New Web Site

BY KRISTIN ANTELMAN, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In the decade since the NCSU Libraries released its first Web site, it has undergone only two major redesigns. When it became clear that it was time to refresh the look and feel of the site, library staff took the opportunity to rethink the entire site from the ground up.

Over the last eighteen months, multiple teams of librarians and technical staff have worked hard to not only refresh the look of the site, but also to add major new features for library users. The goals for the redesign were ambitious: to enhance access to the entire collection—both print and digital—and to improve the discoverability and usability of library services. The new site went public on August 10, 2005.

One new feature that will surely prove to be popular is the search box that now appears on all library Web pages. The user's query is examined

behind the scenes in an attempt to bring the best link to the top of the search results, an approach similar to popular Internet search engines. A "most-used" list is another way that users can get to popular databases and services with a single click.

The "MyLibrary@NCState" service has also been reconceptualized in the new design. "MyLibrary@NCState," introduced in 1998, was ahead of its time in offering library users the ability to customize their library experience by selecting favorite journals and databases to appear on their "MyLibrary" home page. The new "My Library" does not require users to move into a separate "MyLibrary" space. After logging in with a valid university ID, users can access their "Library Account" at the top of the home page and see electronic reserves for any courses in which they are enrolled by using "My Courses."

"My Links," a bookmark-like service for library resources, and "Alerts," a customizable set of journal tables of contents, will debut later this fall. Another new feature of the site is "Browse Subjects," which lets users browse library resources by subjects customized to NC State's colleges and curriculums. New search features have also been added to the library's catalog. Users can search or browse a "New Titles" list and can easily limit catalog searches to certain types of materials such as electronic books or videos.

The new "Community" section of the Web site provides links to the Friends of the Library, a calendar of events, information about giving to the library, and more. Coming soon to "Community" will be a new tool that will give students, faculty, and staff the ability to create their own

The screenshot displays the NCSU Libraries website interface. At the top left is the NCSU Libraries logo. Below it is a navigation menu with links: SEARCH THE COLLECTION, BROWSE SUBJECTS, SERVICES, LIBRARY INFORMATION, COMMUNITY, and NEWS & EVENTS. A central banner features a photo of students studying and a building at night, with the text "MY LIBRARY: Library Account | My Courses". Below the banner is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to "Most Used" and a "Search" button. The main content area is divided into three columns: "Search the Collection" (with links to Catalog, Find Articles, Journal List, Databases, and Special Collections Research Center), "Browse Subjects" (with a list of subjects including Agriculture, Design, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Life Sciences, and Management), and "Services" (with links to Reserves, Tripsaver, Borrow | Renew, Ask a Librarian, Computing, Copyright Guidance, and Instruction | LOBO). A "RefWorks Featured Service" logo is also present. Below the main content are three sections: "Library Information" (with links to Hours, Directions, Branch Libraries, Directories, Visitors, and Jobs), "Community" (with links to Support the Libraries, Friends of the Library, Exhibits, and Calendar), and "News & Events" (with links to Visual Resources Librarian, Special Collections Research Center, and Renovations Underway). The footer contains the NCSU Libraries address and phone number, and a navigation bar with links to Search the Collection, Browse Subjects, Services, Library Information, Community, and News & Events.

blogs. By offering online collaborative tools such as blogs, the NCSU Libraries can provide students with the technology tools they want to use and help them to be successful in integrating use of library and information resources with personal study and learning styles.

With the Web now recognized as the medium of choice for accessing information—including library resources and services—the importance of

the library's electronic "front door" has grown. The redesigned Web site was built with the ambitious goal of welcoming users to the library virtually and getting them quickly to the information resources they need (see <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu>). To send comments or questions about the new Web site, please go to <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/contactus/>. ❖

## Special Collections To Digitize Historic Tobacco and Crop Science Materials

BY LOIS FISCHER BLACK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER



*This 1916 photograph shows the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, which was located on Vanderbilt Avenue in Raleigh. All article photos courtesy Special Collections Research Center.*

Thanks to support from the North Carolina Farm Bureau, the North Carolina Tobacco Foundation, and the North Carolina Research Commission, the NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Research Center will construct, enhance, and maintain the "Living Off the Land" Web site. The site will provide digital access to collections of rare and unique items on tobacco and crop science history in North Carolina dating from 1850 through 1950. Tobacco has figured prominently not only in

the economy of the state, but also in its culture, from colonial times to the present. Agricultural history is a frequent area of interest for researchers and visitors alike to North Carolina's cultural repositories. Completion of this project will result in expanded access to the resources available for the study of the state's tobacco and crop science history.

The principal goal of "Living Off the Land," will be to digitize primary source research materials on tobacco and crop science and subse-



*This 1919 image shows men and women curing tobacco on W. P. Joyner's farm in Zebulon, North Carolina. The photographer was F. H. Jeter.*

quently synthesize them into an educational resource emphasizing the rise of the agricultural economy in North Carolina. The primary activities of the project will be to produce digital photographs of tobacco farms, plants, barns, warehouses, and agricultural equipment. Historical documents and publications relating to tobacco and crop science research and cultivation will also be digitized, including scarce printed pamphlets, such as those from the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. In addition to featuring primary source materials, the centralized Web site will provide information about and links to other noteworthy informational sites.

Among the topics represented in this digital collection will be education, history, economics, entomology, cultivation, and the literature of tobacco. The Web site will have sufficient breadth to be of interest to K-12 students; NCSU faculty, staff, and students; and the

general public. It will contain seminal printed works, as well as key manuscript and archival collections represented by digital images and by finding aids to facilitate research. Printed texts will include some of the earliest agricultural textbooks assigned to the first classes at the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, as well as reports produced by the college. The subject of tobacco and crop science history is of statewide

significance. As the research site is developed, it is expected to become an invaluable resource for researchers.

The project will be made possible by a donation of \$10,000 from the North Carolina Farm Bureau and from grants made by the North Carolina Tobacco Research Commission and the North Carolina Tobacco Foundation of \$15,000 and \$4,867, respectively. The NCSU Libraries also wishes to thank Bill Collins, coordinator of NCSU's Tobacco Program, for his assistance in planning this project. ❖

*A Wake County tobacco field owned by J. M. Whitley of Zebulon, North Carolina. The individual in the field is county agent Chamblee. Photograph by F. H. Jeter, 1919.*



## ICPSR Stipends Awarded

By MICHELLE HAYSLETT, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Two NC State University graduate students received stipends to attend a week-long course on structural equation modeling offered by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in July 2005. Each year, ICPSR makes available to its member institutions a small amount of money to encourage researchers to attend the summer program. The librarian serving as the university's official representative to ICPSR solicits funding requests and manages the award process. This year, Gretchen Thompson and Robert "R. V." Rikard split

NC State's allocation. Both are in the Department of Sociology's doctoral program.

Thompson is a native of Greenville, North Carolina, and an NC State alumna, having earned a bachelor's degree in animal science as well as a master's degree in liberal studies. Her research interests include global social change and development and rural and community sociology. She is interested in studying the relationship between agricultural development

and infant mortality in different nations for her dissertation.

Rikard, also a North Carolina native, grew up in Black Mountain near Asheville and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Appalachian State University. His research interests include social control, sentencing, corrections, quantitative methodology, research methods, the intersection of mental health and the law, and the provision of health care to special needs populations. For his dissertation, he hopes to evaluate an intervention program diverting people needing mental health treatment from the criminal justice system into social services. He says, "Given my interest in quantitative methods, I want to have a diverse set of skills to move beyond one level of analysis into multiple areas of research. The ICPSR course will add one more resource to my quantitative tool-belt." ♦

*[Left to right]  
Gretchen Thompson and  
Robert "R. V." Rikard.*





*Focus*, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

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NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>