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The Rockefeller University

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Librarian arrives at Rockefeller

David Man, former medical reference librarian at the New York Academy of Medicine, arrived at The Rockefeller University library last month to work in a newly created position, educational services librarian.

"My goal will be to help faculty and students access information about their subjects of study," said Man. "Ironically, information is so well organized these days that getting to it can be a complex and intimidating process."

A native of London, Man came to this country 12 years ago to study linguistics and received a Ph.D. in this subject from the Graduate School of the City University of New York. Shortly thereafter, however, Man's aspirations changed. Increasingly drawn toward library work, he obtained a master's degree in library science from Columbia University and then joined the staff of the New York Academy of Medicine, where he worked for almost two years.

"Most people think there is a logical connection between the way language is structured and the way information is organized, but the two are very different. I think the career transition was made easier for me simply because I'd had research and teaching experience," said Man, who once taught linguistics at Queens College and has taught English at Hunter



David Man is the new educational services librarian.

College since 1987.

Already, Man is exploring ways to electronically link the Rockefeller library with other library systems. He hopes to upgrade the current database service and tailor the library's book and reference collections to better serve researchers' needs. In addition, Man is planning workshops for faculty, students and staff on a variety of topics, including how to conduct electronic searches using different databases. "I don't want to be a gatekeeper," said Man. "I want to share my knowledge about databases and encourage people to approach me with questions."

Man can be reached at x8907.

Food Service comes under new direction

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food and more upscale items, such as cappuccino and espresso, without a dramatic increase in price. Current renovations, which include painting and carpeting, will make the cafeteria lighter, brighter and more open. (A limited lunch is temporarily being offered in the Faculty Club from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.). When the cafeteria reopens Tues., Sept. 7, its hours will be 7:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. without closing for breaks, every Monday through Friday.

Luncheon service will move from the 17th floor of Tower to the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall dining room—which, as many will remember, was used to serve meals years ago. Luncheon service in the dining room will begin Mon., Sept. 20. Further details will be announced. From now on, the 17th floor of Tower will be available for special events, meetings and conferences. Contact Sandi Walsh, x8072, to make room reservations.

Restaurant Associates will cater

a variety of events on campus. "We will customize our food and service according to each catering request, large and small," said Newman. "For large events, we have access to the many servers who work for Restaurant Associates across the city."

Newman's experience in restaurant management is extensive. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1982, he worked for the Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles and the Sheraton Corporation in Manhattan. He has worked with Restaurant Associates for nine years at Princeton University, Longwood Gardens and Chemical Bank locations. Newman can be reached at x8890 or Box 83.

Others on the new Food Service management team include: Paul Carroll, executive chef; Rita Kuchlewind, sous-chef; Rachel Berns, cafeteria manager; Jennifer Pagett, office manager; Neelu Bhatia, controller; and Alzatta Fogg, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall dining room supervisor.

New law addresses family leave

A new Family and Medical Leave Act now entitles all Rockefeller University employees with at least one year of service to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave. Employees will be guaranteed the right to return to their position or an equivalent position with no loss of benefits and will not be required to seek prior approval from a department or laboratory supervisor.

Under the new legislation, signed by President Bill Clinton in February and taking effect this month, employees may request a leave of absence without pay for the birth and care of a newborn (under 12 months old; placement of a child for adoption or foster care; or care of an immediate family member (spouse, domestic partner, child or parent) with a serious health condition. A leave of absence for an employee's own health condition is covered by the university's short-term disability policy. Women giving birth will be eligible for standard paid disability leave.

Employees taking a leave of up to 12 weeks will receive accrual of length of service during their absence and, so long as they continue to pay employee premium contributions for health insurance, health benefits as well.

"The university's leave of absence policy has always been generous and responsive to the needs of employees," said Virginia Huffman, director of Personnel. "I think President Clinton's initiative will help to ensure that all institutions create a supportive environment for employees confronting family issues."

While approval from a supervisor

is no longer necessary under the new act, the university will have the right to require proof of any relevant health condition. In addition, employees will be required to include all paid disability leave, remaining paid vacation and floating holiday time in the leave. The highest-paid 10 percent of the work force will not be guaranteed their original position if this would cause "substantial and grievous economic injury" to the university.

The new act allows for intermittent leave as well as reduced leave (during which an employee works partial days). Intermittent or reduced leave to care for a newborn or adopted child will require prior approval from the employee's laboratory or department head. If intermittent leave is foreseeable for planned medical treatment, the university may require a temporary transfer to a position with equivalent pay and benefits which better accommodates this schedule. In addition, employees will be required to make a reasonable effort to minimize the disruption of department or lab operations.

For all leaves of absence, employees should provide 30 days advance notice if possible. "I think most employees here do their best not to inconvenience their department or laboratory," said Huffman. "However, laboratories may be more vulnerable than departments under the new act, since few lab personnel are cross-trained in some highly specialized procedures. I encourage heads of laboratories to focus on cross-training their staff to ensure continued productivity."

For more information, contact the Office of Personnel, x8300.

Letter to the editor:

Venezuela, anyone?

An intruder with keys opened my locked office in the Rockefeller Hospital on Sunday evening, June 6th, and made two international calls for 30, then 28 minutes.

Since the episode may be repeated, it is suggested that each department examine its international calls each month. If Venezuela turns up, the numbers called can be compared. My office can no longer be used.

Merrill W. Chase
Professor Emeritus

Editor's Note: Suspicious telephone calls should be reported to the Security Department, x8506.

News&Notes is published each Friday throughout the academic year by The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Phone: 212-327-8967.

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