

Kevin McFillen, 5 years

I cannot believe it has only been 5 years that Kevin has been a part of our team. I cannot imagine MU without him. The migration of U2 to the new expansion was a success in large part due to his calm demeanor, hard work ethic, problem solving abilities, interpersonal skills, patron focus, and devotion to the mission of the University Libraries. I honestly cannot say enough good things about him.

Congratulations and thank you on behalf of the ACTS team.

--Corrie Hutchinson

Kelli Hansen, 10 years

Kelli Hansen is an extraordinary special collections librarian. During the past ten years she has conducted successful outreach with faculty that has resulted in high numbers of instructional sessions and student assignments using special collections materials. She has also supported many interns and practicum students and worked collaboratively with students, faculty, and library colleagues on numerous exhibits. Kelli has conducted many collection management projects, resulting in better access to our special collections and deeper knowledge of our collections holdings. A passionate advocate for the care of rare materials, Kelli has been crucial to planning for improved collections spaces in Ellis. Matt Gaunt considers Kelli an excellent partner in advancement, crediting her with helping to create strong donor relationships. Thank you, Kelli, for all that you do to make our Libraries' special collections truly special.

--Jeannette Pierce

Dana Houston, 10 years

In her time with the Libraries, Dana has worked hard and truly earned her place as the Head of the Safety Team. She is a dedicated and skilled professional that keeps our library safe by demonstrating that she genuinely cares about the patrons we serve. As she trains and serves with the Safety Team officers, she passes her positive attitude and compassionate nature to the entire team. The University Libraries are lucky to have Dana Houston as an employee!

--Kathy Peters

Abbie Brown, 15 years

Abbie has been a devoted colleague to our librarians and staff over these past 15 years. She has played a key role in helping our librarians gain NTT status and proudly represents the Libraries in her service on campus committees. In her new role within the RAIS Division, she approaches her reference interactions and classroom teaching with energy, enthusiasm, and empathy. Thank you for your service, Abbie!

--Joe Askins

Sharon Gaughan, 15 years

It is tough to sum up Sharon Gaughan's contribution to MU Libraries in a few short sentences. In addition to her talent at book preservation she is extremely creative. She helped produce the miniature examples for our book preservation dioramas, collaborated with others in the unit to create preservation displays, and suggested improvements in our enclosure production and book repair techniques. She produces and maintains databases that have increased our efficiency in Physical Processing/Preservation. She is a valued member of our team and our unit wouldn't be the same without Sharon. Congratulations Sharon on fifteen years at MU Libraries!

--Michaelle Dorsey

Stara Herron, 15 years

I couldn't ask for a better partner than Stara to keep the Library's Electronic Resource Unit running smoothly. Side by side we work as one, each anticipating the other's thoughts, tackling problems with like minds. But most of all I know when I retire I can rest easy, Stara won't miss a beat :-). The Libraries couldn't be in better hands.

--Dave Walsh

Mara Inge, 15 years

Mara hit the ground running when she arrived at the Engineering Library and proved herself an essential part of our team in short order. Though she hadn't worked in library before, she quickly became an expert in her Access Services duties and now is our expert in locating hard-to-find requested items for interlibrary loan. She also acquired Harold, who is now our mascot, ran a voting contest to determine his name, and changes up his outfits for the season, holiday, or special Engineering occasion. She posts pics of Harold and intriguing engineering-related items on Facebook and Instagram, as she also serves as our social media manager. Most impressively, Mara has leveraged her extensive knowledge of nuclear engineering to help patrons who do research in this area; most recently, she has created a spreadsheet of nearly 37,000 titles from the uncatalogued Department of Energy microfiche located in the Engineering Library, which should greatly increase discovery of this valuable hidden collection.

--Noel Kopriva

Ralph Sieli, 15 years

The best thing about Ralph is he is a kind and caring soul who genuinely likes to help people. He has a pleasant way of offering instruction without making the customer or coworker feel embarrassed for their lack of knowledge. He looks out for our users so that they can have the best possible library experience. He is a favorite with our nursing instructors due to the work he does for them with EReserve. Ralph is very easy to work with and we depend on him for so many things. He has been a great asset to our department during his 15 years with us!

--Terri Hall

Colleen Smith, 15 years

I greatly appreciate Colleen's attention to detail and her commitment to our student workers. I've found her to be a thoughtful cataloger and a conscientious communicator; the questions she asks, whether they're about workflows or details in her own work, almost always lead to better outcomes. I've also appreciated her willingness to take on new responsibilities over the past year to help the cataloging unit continue to be an effective contributor to the mission of the library. Colleen is a real asset to the cataloging unit and I'm grateful for all that she does.

--Seth Huber

Jack Stone, 20 years

Jack has worked with me in Interlibrary Loan for the last three years. During that time, I have found Jack doing a great job finding obscure or rare books especially in foreign languages. He goes the extra mile to write to users about how to access particular information, explain to users about unusual ILL circumstances, or extract a couple of pages from a volume of several hundred pages for the user. Jack has exceptional knowledge finding musical scores. This is an intellectually demanding task, and Jack takes up the challenge every time. I am glad to have Jack on the ILL team.

--Ivy Hui

Rebecca Graves, 25 years

Rebecca is such a wonderful colleague. Her positive outlook has improved the culture of our entire library since her first day of work in January 1996. (In the midst of an epic ice storm!)

Rebecca is a natural teacher. Recently one of our faculty told her that she got higher marks than he did on the course evaluations! Whether it's a first-generation college student or someone returning to school for the first time after many years to get an advanced degree, they seek her out and she helps shepherd them through. (Private joke: Even that impossible physical therapy assignment.)

It's hard to believe it's been 25 years. Here's to many more.

--Diane Johnson

Libby Myre, 25 years

Libby is my serials rock. Her 25 years of institutional and serials knowledge cannot be measured nor appreciated enough. She is what helps make ACTS so successful as we face budget crisis after crisis. She steps up and willingly helps with anything serials related, which is a high honor if you understand how crazy serials can be. I am lucky to have her on the ACTS team and offer my most sincere thanks.

--Corrie Hutchinson

Gwen Gray, 30 years

Gwen is fundamental to the success of many of our endeavors over the last 30 years. She is committed to the libraries, our users and her colleagues. She demonstrates kindness, creativity, problem-solving and excellence daily. Gwen is the first person to volunteer to assist a colleague, help with a project or take on a new task. Gwen helped to train me when I first started here, and it's been a privilege to work with her.

--Rhonda Whithaus

Mike Muchow, 30 years

I don't have the space to share all of the fun stories kind comments that Mike's colleagues have shared with me over these past few weeks. Suffice it to say, he is a beloved figure in our library, a supportive and encouraging person who genuinely cares for the wellbeing of his coworkers. Mike is always willing to try new things and explore new ways of doing things. He urges his peers to question their assumptions about what they can and should do as librarians, and to consider our services and resources from different angles. The resident expert on Ellis Library, he has helped us share the rich history of our building with the MU community, and his maps and video tours have certainly made its byzantine wings less intimidating for many a student. Thanks for 30 years of service, Mike!

--Joe Askins

Duane Bittle, 35 years

I feel like everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Duane over the years knows full well his value to the organization. He is extremely dependable, a great work ethic, and with an energy level that makes me tired just thinking about it. I usually don't even get the chance to ask him to help someone, because he has already taken care of it before I can. He knows his job inside and out and can always provide me with valuable insight into how things can be done better. I think I speak for everyone when I say that Duane is a great asset to the Libraries and a joy to work with.

--Sheila Voss

Paula Roper, 35 years

Paula excels in the level of service she provides to our users. She will track down every possible source of information to assist a student; every student's research need is of the highest importance to her. Paula has been integral in developing successful, dynamic and amazing programming for Black History Month and she has continually increased visibility and participation from the campus and the Central Missouri community. Paula was my supervisor when I started as a librarian here. I learned so much from her then and over the years since, especially in how committed a librarian can be to ensuring students' success.

--Rhonda Whithaus

Janice Dysart, 40 years

We constantly rely on Janice for her thoughtful approach and insights into the issues affecting the libraries and our users. She is fundamental in so many vital aspects of the libraries' services: her work developing and maintaining our general use LibGuides, her in-depth analyses and work in collections and her highly popular research workshops. She has guided numerous graduate assistants in the creation of LibGuides, teaching them a great deal about design and usability issues in a supportive way. Janice identifies needs and works to address them, always with an eye towards providing the best for our users. Janice's excellent attitude, work ethic and commitment serve as a high standard for us all.

--Rhonda Whithaus

Terri Hall, 40 years

Although I've only worked with Terri for a few years out of her total 40 years of service to the MU Libraries, I'm in complete awe and so appreciative of her dedication to supporting our users at the Health Sciences Library. Since I have only worked with Terri for a relatively short time of her extensive career, I did do a little digging and as many of you already know, it's clear that Terri has always been a strong contributor to our libraries since joining the Ellis Library Circulation Department from the Law Library. Terri's collaborative style and cheerful disposition can really help us keep moving even through some arduous tasks like the continuously changing landscape of library operations during a pandemic. She is always thinking about our library users and how our decisions will impact their access to what they need and their success. In her current role as the Head of Circulation at HSL, she sets an amazing example for the department by striving to provide excellent service, searching for creative solutions, and always looking for ways to improve the department's performance. We are so lucky to have Terri as a part of the team at HSL. Terri, thank you so much and congratulations for 40 years of service.

--Chris Pryor