Divided Loyalties: Missouri’s Civil War Exhibit at Ellis Library This Fall

Ellis Library is organizing several events for this fall related to the anniversary of the American Civil War. The centerpiece of the project will be the exhibit “Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives,” which will be on display in the Ellis Colonnade from Aug. 12 through Oct. 26.

Drawing on official documents and court cases, “Divided Loyalties” examines the upheaval and uncertainty that characterized Missouri during the Civil War era. The exhibit goes beyond the stories of battles and military strategy to consider the social conflict that permeated the state for the two decades that followed the Kansas Border Wars of the mid-1850s.

“Divided Loyalties” shows how the issue of slavery split Missouri’s white population. Although an 1861 state convention determined that the state would not leave the Union, federal troops advanced on Jefferson City, forcing Gov. Claiborne Fox Jackson, a Confederate sympathizer, and the Missouri State Guard to abandon the state capitol. The exhibit includes documents from both Missouri’s pro-Southern, elected state “government in exile” and the federally backed provisional government that took its place in June 1861.

“Divided Loyalties” also recognizes the active role of African-Americans in the struggle for their freedom, as well as their participation as Union combat troops. The exhibit examines, for example, the Dred Scott case, the most famous of the “freedom suits,”

(continued on Page 7)

Gearing Up for the Next Campaign

The University of Missouri is in the silent phase of a comprehensive campaign that will have great significance for MU Libraries. With the belief that our library system will continue to benefit from generous private support, faculty and staff are at work planning for the wise use of these valuable resources. Their vision will drive our fundraising efforts and ensure that the gifts given will have a lasting impact on education at Mizzou.

The MU Libraries campaign committee will be co-chaired by Beth Knisley, BJ ’71, who also will serve

(continued on Page 7)
Columbia public school teachers of Chinese language and culture and MU students studying East Asian culture will benefit from the donation of 1,000 rare and modern Chinese books to MU — the latest evidence of the growing bond between the university and China. On April 19, the Office of the Vice Provost for International Programs and the MU Confucius Institute presented MU Libraries with the gift on behalf of Shanghai Normal University, the Chinese government and the Office of Chinese Language Council.

The gift is both a physical and symbolic representation of MU’s long history with China, says Handy Williamson, MS ’71, PhD ’74, vice provost for international programs. The relationship dates back to the early 1900s when Walter Williams founded the Missouri School of Journalism. There were two Chinese students among the 64 students in the J-School’s inaugural class in 1908. By 1920, Williams had helped establish the first journalism school in China at St. John University in Shanghai.

Since then, Mizzou has continued to build partnerships with China. MU researchers have provided training in soybean transformation for crop breeding and genetics at the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences, and Trulaske College of Business students have interned in China. The Chongqing University of Technology has sent faculty to Columbia to study English, and students at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and Trade have traveled to MU for a three-week intensive business and trade program.

That means there is a growing need in Columbia for Chinese language and culture resources, says Wen Ouyang, PhD ’06, co-director of the MU Confucius Institute. Twenty years ago, about 100 Chinese students attended MU, Ouyang says. By fall 2012, that number had grown to 1,021.

“The books will benefit the students of all ages who seek to learn Chinese and about Chinese culture,” Williamson says. “They will benefit the teachers in Columbia Public Schools who are in the process of being trained to teach language and culture beginning in the 2013 school year. They will benefit all who use Ellis Library. They will benefit the entire community.”

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MU Alumnus Donates MLK Jr. Statue

University of Missouri alumnus Ty Christian, chief marketing strategist for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, presented MU with a miniature replica statue of the MLK Memorial Monument this past January. The statue is housed in Ellis Library.

Christian, BA ’77, received the replica for his work with the foundation, which raised $115 million to finance the statue during his tenure. Christian believes the issues that King fought for are still alive today, and he hopes that the statue will serve as a daily reminder to students of King’s work. Because King’s teachings and MU have done so much for Christian, he said he hopes the statue can inspire people in its new home at Ellis Library.

After the ribbon-cutting, the library hosted a reception with displays of photos of King and the memorial in Washington, D.C., as well as the library’s collection of books about King. Pat Jones, safety and security coordinator in Ellis Library, displayed artwork and responses to King’s teachings by fifth-grade students from Blue Ridge Elementary School. Along with Christian, Chancellor Brady J. Deaton and Chief Diversity Officer Noor Azzan-Gardner, BS BA ’85, MBA ’93, spoke at the reception.

Christian grew up in St. Louis and attended Christian Brothers College High School. In 2004, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Mizzou Alumni Association. Along with his work for the foundation, Christian is managing partner of TRC Consulting Group in Orlando, Fla.

Mizzou alumnus Ty Christian gave his alma mater an 18-inch bronze replica of the 30-foot statue of Martin Luther King Jr. that stands in Washington, D.C. Photo by Shannon Cary.

Meet the Librarian: Diane Johnson, Assistant Director of Information Services and Resources, Health Sciences Library

Can you tell us a little about your background and experience and what led you to MU Libraries?

I made up my mind to become a librarian when I was just a kid after seeing my hometown librarian, Anna Detjen, walk to a shelf, pull off a book, open it to a page and say, “There’s the answer to your question.” How did she do that? How could I learn to do that?

I wanted to be a public librarian — I didn’t even know medical libraries existed — but when I tried to set up an internship in college, none were available in public libraries. I was given the choice between an internship in a patient library in a hospital for the criminally insane or in a nursing school library, so I chose the latter. Once there, I found out about the Medical Subject Headings vocabulary, which is used for organizing medical journal articles and books. It made so much sense, I opted for medical librarianship and never looked back.

I interviewed at MU back in 1980 when I was finishing library school at the University of Minnesota. It was a beautiful spring day, and I fell in love with Columbus and knew right away I wanted to come here.

What are some of the unique aspects of your job?

Here in the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, we spend a lot of time and effort trying to bring our services and collections to our users as part of their normal workflow. Some of us work with clinical teams, answering questions as they arise. In that context, we go beyond simply supplying bibliographies and reference lists to providing summary and synthesis of results.

I’ve also served as co-investigator on systematic reviews, a research method in which you search for, analyze and summarize all of the studies addressing a specific clinical question and then present the results and document the search strategies for the research protocol. Librarians are uniquely qualified for this role since it is our business to be familiar with the history, quirks and vagaries of different databases and search engines.

What are some of the ways technology has changed the way your library offers reference services?

Two recent exciting developments have really helped us amp up our level of service: proactive chat and co-browsing. With proactive chat, if somebody sits on one of our Web pages for more than a minute, a window pops up to ask them if they need any help. Another recent addition is co-browsing. When someone comes into the chat room and needs help doing a search, we can share our screen and talk them through each step in the search. At the conclusion of one recent session, a user told me, “This might have been the most helpful customer service experience in my life.”

It’s fun to look back at how far we’ve come. When I started in 1980, our library had two computers. Even though the tools have changed dramatically, our core service of helping people get answers to their questions is still much the same.

What types of renovation are needed in the Health Sciences Library in order to better serve your patrons?

It will come as no surprise to anyone who has visited the Health Sciences Library that much of our carpeting and many of our chairs are older than most of our students! Because the medical and health profession and training is so tightly focused on small-group learning, we need collaborative spaces where our students can work together without disturbing those studying around them.

I would like to have white noise machines installed so that people on the third floor can’t hear conversations from two floors below. We’ve had heating and cooling issues in this building ever since it opened. It’s my fervent hope that we can address these issues in the renovations.

I also think a renovation of the Health Sciences Library would provide an opportunity to retrofit an aging building to make it more energy-efficient. Library buildings much older than ours have achieved LEED gold certification by installing energy-efficient lighting, heating, cooling and plumbing, and by choosing furnishings that make use of recycled content.

In this age of mobile computing, we are returning to an era when we can focus on designing spaces to meet the needs of people rather than machines. People will be bringing their portable computers with them, so we don’t need to have as many computer desks. Instead, we can focus on an inviting mixture of desks for individual study, small-group study areas and soft seating where people can put their feet up.

Where in the MU Libraries?

Do you know where this picture was taken in the MU Libraries? Find the answer at the bottom of Page 7. Photo by Shannon Cary.

Where in the MU Libraries?

"Renew Mizzou" project will come from various campus funding sources. The faculty and staff from these buildings will be temporarily relocated to the former Ellis Fischel building (Mizzou North), Reynolds Alumni Center and Ellis Library. Staff members from admissions and financial aid will be housed in rooms 202 and 114 of Ellis Library from approximately spring of 2014 to spring of 2015.

MU recognized author and former Library Society dinner co-benefactor Ty Christian, chief marketing strategist for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, presented MU with a miniature replica of the MLK Memorial Monument this past January. The statue is housed in Ellis Library.

A fake jury found Christopher Kelley guilty of arson April 24 for setting fires in MU’s Ellis Library and a Stephens College building in 2011. Kelley, 27, was found guilty on two federal counts and financial aid will be housed in rooms 202 and 114 of Ellis Library. Staff members from admissions and financial aid will be housed in rooms 202 and 114 of Ellis Library from approximately spring of 2014 to spring of 2015.

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Spring Events at MU Libraries

IN MEMORIAM

Avarh Strickland, 82, born in 1930 in Hattiesburg, Miss., died April 30, 2013. Strickland, a historian and author, made history in 1969 when he became the first African-American to hold a tenure-track position at the University of Missouri. He served with distinction in various capacities as a faculty member and chair of the Department of History; principal architect of the MU Black Studies Program; associate vice president of academic affairs, University of Missouri System; and special assistant to the MU chancellor. Strickland was a strong supporter of the MU Libraries and an early Library Society member. He is survived by his wife, Willie Pearl, their two sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Roger Mitchell, 80, died at home in Columbia June 4, 2013. He was born in 1932 in Grinnell, Iowa, and grew up on a farm on the edge of town. He was the first member of his family to attend college. Mitchell came to Columbia in 1969 to become chair of agronomy at MU, then dean of MU Extension in 1972. He left in 1975 to serve as vice president for agriculture at Kansas State University, then returned to MU to fill the chair of agronomy in 1981. In 1983, he was asked to be MU’s dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, a role in which he served until his retirement in September 1998. Mitchell was a member of the Friends of the Libraries and the Library Society, and his wife, Joyce, serves on the Friends of the Libraries Council. He is survived by his wife, their four daughters and seven grandchildren.

Where in the MU Libraries?

Answer: This bust of John Gneisenau Neihardt (1881–1973) is located in the Ellis Library Special Collections Reading Room. He became involved with Native Americans in 1900 at the Omaha Indian Reservation; he later became closely associated with the Sioux holy man Black Elk. Through his narrative, Black Elk Speaks, Neihardt shared the holy man’s vision with the world.

Neihardt accepted a position with the University of Missouri Department of English in 1949. In 1961, Neihardt gave his entire private library to the MU Libraries. His personal papers also were donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia. He retired in 1965 after 16 years with the university.

Librarians Around the World

MU librarian Kate Anderson (center) with public services librarians from the University of the Western Cape. Photo provided by Kate Anderson.

In 1998, the MU Council on International Initiatives launched the Global Scholars Program to support MU faculty members who seek to internationalize their teaching and research. Since its inception, more than 100 MU faculty members have participated. The program seeks to expand faculty involvement in MU’s strategic international relationships and foster new international collaborations, including research grants, papers and teaching innovations.

MU librarians have participated in the Global Scholars Program since it began. Overseas experience allows Missouri librarians to better understand and serve their international students, faculty and staff.

In 2011, Global Scholars traveled to South Africa to celebrate the University of Missouri’s 25th year of academic partnership with the University of the Western Cape. MU librarian Kate Anderson, head of Zalk Veterinary Medical Library, participated in a two-day information exchange with UWC librarians, discussing the variety of library services offered at their institutions.

They also discussed how trends in Open Access publishing affect U.S. and African libraries differently.

Divided Loyalties

(continued from Page 1)

as the libraries’ representative on the campuswide Campaign Cabinet. Ken Mares, BA ’65, whose intellect and energy are already paying dividends in our campaign preparation, will be the other Campaign Cabinet chair. Through the summer and into the fall, Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell and I will visit with donors about participating on the campaign committee and will be putting the final touches on our campaign case statement. When the “silence” is broken and the public phase of the campaign begins, we will have a team of volunteers in place to help us share our vision for the future of MU Libraries with our alumni and friends.

Comprehensive campaigns do make a difference. They have a lasting impact on the institution, which translates to the student experience. During our last campaign, student use of Ellis Library was transformed with the support of James B. Nutter Sr., BS BA ’49, and his family. Their generosity allowed us to renovate space for students to study and collaborate, increasing our traffic count by almost 40 percent and changing the way students study and interact. I look forward to working with our faculty, staff and volunteers as we build on the success of our last campaign to achieve great things for Mizzou.

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Matt Gaunt
Director of Development
MU Libraries

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