Letter from Ann Campion Riley

Dear Members of the Library Society, Friends of the Libraries, and other library supporters,

As we wrap up the spring semester at MU, I’d like to write a little about all the activities at the Libraries, but I will have to focus on a few highlights that should be of interest to most of you. We had a very eventful centennial year.

First of all, our proposed student fee, that would have been levied per credit hour taken by all MU students, failed in the Missouri Student Association election in November. Another article in this issue of Connections gives more details. All of us at the Libraries are working on alternatives, but it was a disappointing loss.

Many good things have happened, of course, including renewal of the Libraries’ communication ties with student groups and increased visibility of library issues with campus administrators. We have also formed and held the first meeting of a group called the University Library Student Advisory Council, populated with representatives from student groups across campus, to seek more student ideas on library goals and operations.

Building and strengthening relationships with other parts of campus has become a high priority for me. I hope to continue to emphasize our work and communication with faculty groups, administrators and academic departments. The centrality of the Libraries to the academic life of the campus must always be emphasized, and we welcome all ideas on how we can best keep that at the forefront of campus and system priorities.

Some of you may have heard of the plans to build an extension of our offsite library book depository. This continues to be a major issue as staff finish the re-

Archivist of the United States Speaks at Library Society Dinner

David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, was the featured speaker at the Library Society Dinner on April 15 in the Grand Reading Room of Ellis Library. Howard Richards, AB ’88, served as emcee for the evening.

Ferriero, who was appointed the Archivist of the U.S. by President Obama in 2009, gave a talk titled “The Future of the Past: Looking Back and Looking Forward.” He explained to the attendees that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is comprised of forty-six facilities. It was established during the Franklin Roosevelt administration to collect, protect and encourage the use of the records of the government. Ferriero stated, “The records begin with the Oaths of Allegiance signed by George Washington and his troops and go all the way to the tweets that are being created at the White House as I am speaking.”

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Friends of the Libraries Update April 16, 2016

Camilla Crist, the incoming president of the Friends of the Libraries Council, welcomed everyone to the spring FOL Council meeting on April 16, in room 114A of Ellis Library. Sheila Voss, donor relations assistant, reported the winners of this year’s Robert J. Stuckey Essay Contest. Brice Jansen from Leopold High School in Leopold, MO was the first place winner with her essay *The Girl in the Library*, and Andrew Sweeso from Duchesne High School in St. Charles, MO was the second place winner with his essay *On Truth and Literature*. The winners and their families attended the FOL luncheon, which also occurred on April 16.

A new fundraising committee was created. Steve Weinberg, Tootie Burns, Bill Carner, Robin Wemmer, Jody Feldman, Petch Peslen and June DeWeese all volunteered to be on the committee. The first priority for the committee will be to decide on the annual FOL fundraiser. June reported that the Country Gold FOL fundraiser has been rescheduled from this spring to March 2017. The exact date has not been confirmed yet, but it will be on a Sunday afternoon. The concert will now be held in Jesse Auditorium instead of the Missouri Theatre.

Camilla asked for volunteers to serve on the FOL Nominations Committee. Gary Smith and Tootie Burns volunteered to be on the committee. The FOL Council will be seeking additional volunteers. Jim Cogswell, the library director, gave an update to the Council. He announced that the Libraries’ Centennial Art Contest had concluded and the final pieces were displayed in the Bookmark Café. Because the Libraries found out recently that there are a lot of barriers to paying students directly for a contest prize, June offered to pay the $500 for the artwork and donate it to the Libraries on the occasion of Jim’s retirement.

Jim announced that this would be his last Friends’ board meeting since he is retiring in June. He thanked the board for their friendship and support. He was deeply touched by the creation of the James A. Cogswell Librarian and Staff Professional Development Endowment in his honor. The endowment was announced at the Libraries’ centennial book, *A Place of Visions: One Hundred Years of the University of Missouri Libraries*, will be available at the Friends of the Libraries Luncheon. Written by Friends’ board member, Steve Weinberg, the book is a history of the MU Libraries as well as a bibliographic essay on Missouri authors of the past century. Copies are available to current FOL members for donations of $25, and to non-members for $50. Non-members also will receive an annual Friends membership with their $50 donation.

Meet the Librarian: Federico Martinez-Garcia, Head, Access Services

Federico “Freddy” Martinez-Garcia is the head of Access Services at Ellis Library. Photo by Gene Royer.

What led you to MU Libraries?
I was born in Sonora, Mexico, in a small border town next to Arizona’s southwest corner. I have lived in desert, arid areas all of my life (Sonora, Arizona and Nevada), and I wanted to experience something different. This idea started after having the opportunity to study abroad in Paris and notice how great it was to live in a place with green vegetation and rain.

After I earned a master’s degree in library and information sciences, my priority was to relocate to an area with four seasons. I was drafted by the University of Missouri Libraries to hire. Besides having the four seasons, it’s an institution where I can offer assistance to increase diversity.

Describe some of the changes that are going on in access services in Ellis Library and at libraries everywhere.
Access Services is a department that is currently reevaluating many of its services to satisfy the current and future needs of all library users. Some changes that are already taking place include the increase of renewals for faculty, graduate students and staff from two to five; allowing users to possibly keep traditionally checked out MU Library materials for up to four months; and extending our interlibrary loan services to visiting scholars. We are also working on taking the library check out system from the days of tabulating to print receipts; installing self-checkout machines to avoid waiting in line; and searching for the best ways to advertise services and equipment that can be checked out from the library.

What vision do you bring to your position?
My vision is to create a collaborative working environment among the different library departments, as well as university departments, with the purpose of facilitating access to information for all library users. Just like the MU Libraries and university administration, I am pro-inclusion. I believe that the key to success is to work together to create a stronger institution. I always welcome faculty, staff and students’ feedback.

Where in the MU Libraries?
Do you know where in the MU Libraries this picture was taken? Find the answer at the bottom of Page 8. Photo by Sharon Gaughan.

IN MEMORIAM

Mel George, 80, died on April 25, 2016, at his home in Columbia. Mel served as interim president of the University of Missouri from 1984 to 1985 and again from 1996 to 1997. He came to the MU in 1960 as a mathematics professor after receiving his doctorate from Princeton. In 1930 he became the dean of arts and sciences at the University of Nebraska. He returned to MU in 1975 to become vice president for academic affairs. In 1984, Mel was appointed president of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. When he retired from the position he moved back to Columbia. He was a strong supporter of the Libraries, as a member of the Library Society and the campaign planning committee. He is survived by his wife, Meta, two daughters and one granddaughter.

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Stauffer, 85, died on Nov. 25, 2015, at Deerfield Retirement Community in Urbandale, Iowa. Bill attended MU from 1948 to 1952 on a basketball scholarship and majored in advertising and newspaper organization and management. He was an All-American basketball player while at MU, and he still holds three MU rebounding records. He was inducted into the Missouri Athletics Hall of Fame in 1981 and MU’s All-Century Basketball Team in 2007. He was played with the Boston Celtics but instead served in the Air Force and pursued a career in journalism. After serving as the general manager of daily newspapers in Nebraska, he was CEO for Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. and then COO of Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Iowa. He retired in 1992. Bill was the head of the MU Libraries Campaign Steering Committee during the For All We Call Mizzou campaign. He and his wife were members of the Library Society, and Bill emceed several of the Library Society dinners. Bill is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jean Shandley Stauffer, three children, and three grandchildren.

The family requested memorial gifts be sent to Ellis Library. Many nice gifts were received. In addition, Bill’s niece, Dr. Anne L. Peters, established an endowment in honor of her mother, Virginia Stauffer Peters, and her uncle, William A. Stauffer. The fund, which is called the Stauffer Family Library Events Endowment, will provide support for events at MU Libraries.
Prior to 1915, the University of Missouri did not have a dedicated library building. In the mid-1800s, the University of Missouri’s books and journals were housed in Academic Hall. After Academic Hall burned down in 1892, Jesse Hall was built and the library collections were moved there. Because almost all of the books had been destroyed in the Academic Hall fire, the library’s collection was relatively small. In addition, there was only seating for about 100 students. As the collection grew, and as more students began to enroll at MU, Jesse Hall soon ran out of space.

The History of Ellis Library

In 1958, when the East Addition was added, the General Reading Room was turned into the Education Library. Here, students study near a bust of James Rollins.
In the early 1900s, James Thayer Gerould, MU’s first professionally trained librarian, campaigned for a library building. In the December 1905 issue of the Missouri Alumni, he wrote about his vision for a building where people could not only access necessary textbooks and literature but also work in comfort — a place with study rooms and reading rooms, offices and auditoriums. It would take more than a decade for this dream to become a reality.

In 1913, the General Assembly of Missouri appropriated funding for a library building at MU, and construction began. Designs were drawn; however, the funding was not enough to build the library that the university envisioned. Construction moved forward on the central part of the building, with plans to make future additions. The head librarian at the time of construction, Henry Ormal Severance, worked with the architectural firm Jamieson & Spearl to create a building with strategically placed windows, which could eventually become doors to east and west wings.

By fall 1915, the partial building opened with enough space for 520,000 volumes. But it would be two decades before any additions were added to the building. In fact, the building was never completed as originally designed. Three major additions were made...
over the course of a century, which resulted in a building much larger than the 1915 blueprints. The northwest wing addition opened in 1936, and the northeast wing in 1958. By 1987, when the south addition opened, the collection had exceeded 2 million volumes.

In 1972, the Library Building was renamed Elmer Ellis Library Building after the administrator who served as university president from 1955 to 1966 and became the first president of the University of Missouri System.

Over the past 100 years, the area around Ellis Library has changed quite a bit too. What was once an unfinished building on the edge of campus is now a major research center in the heart of campus.

Although the building itself no longer looks like the original plan, the original vision of the campus’ main library has been alive and well for more than a century. Not merely a place of books, the library receives scholars and researchers from all over campus and all over the world who visit Ellis Library and nine specialized libraries. In 2014, there were more than 1.5 million in-person visits to the MU Libraries.

You can still see remnants of the original library building today. If you walk through the north entrance of Ellis Library, or if you study in the grand reading room, you’ll be where scholars and researchers have been studying and advancing knowledge for the past century.
Moving Forward After the Student Library Fee Proposal

Thanks to leadership in the Missouri Student Association and Graduate Professional Council, a student fee for MU Libraries was put to a vote in November. While the measure didn’t reach the 60% approval necessary to pass, we did get a yes vote from 46% of those that turned out. Students were concerned to learn that our staff levels, total funding and collections budget, were all roughly half of the average for institutions in the Association of American Universities. That message also reached our faculty and administrators. Many of the Libraries’ users have wondered how we move forward without a much needed increase in revenue. In the short term we are committed to utilizing current resources as efficiently as possible. Difficult decisions will not be made in a vacuum, as we know that strong relationships with the campus community are more important than ever. We recently formed a University Libraries Student Advisory Council, which consists of 25 students from 10 leading student organizations. Rabia Gregory is doing a great job as chair of the Library Committee, and our relationship with the Faculty Council is stronger than it has been in years. We are also encouraged by conversations with Gary Ward and campus facilities, as well as our excellent relationship with the provost’s office.

However, there is no magic formula for moving forward. Cost cutting measures will impact our journal subscriptions, library positions and proposed facility improvements. The support of donors, not only financially but as advocates of the MU Libraries, is paramount as we seek to elevate scholarship across campus. I hope you will contact our MU Libraries Office of Advancement if you are interested in learning more about how your gift can support MU Libraries. We certainly need and appreciate your support.

Archivist of the United States Speaks at Library Society Dinner (continued from Page 1)

Ferriero also thanked the library donors attending the event for their “faith in the centrality of the library to the university mission.” As a small token of appreciation, each Library Society member attending the event, received a copy of Steve Weinberg’s new book “A Place of Visions: One Hundred Years of the University of Missouri Libraries, 1915-2015.” This book was commissioned in commemoration of the centennial celebration of Ellis Library. For more information, see page 11. Several donors were able to demonstrate their appreciation for Jim Cogswell’s fourteen years of service to the Libraries, by creating the James A. Cogswell Librarian and Staff Professional Development Endowment. Anne Riley announced the new endowment towards the end of the evening. Jim had announced last year that he would retire from his position as director of libraries on June 1, 2016. The evening ended with a toast by Provost Garnet Stokes marking 100 years of the MU Libraries. Photo by Grace Atkins.

Where in the MU Libraries?

Answer: This photo was taken in the physical processing/preservation unit of MU Libraries, which is located on the ground floor of Ellis Library. Two student workers, Lauren Rau and Kurtis Dunlap, are putting button/tie fasteners onto phase boxes that will be used to store unique items from Special Collections.

Students line up for pizza outside of Ellis Library during the Centennial Kickoff on Aug. 23. Photo by Marie Concannon.