ULSAC Students Visit California Libraries

In January, two librarians and four members of the University Libraries Student Advisory Council (ULSAC) went to northern California to visit three academic libraries: San Jose State; Stanford University; and the University of California, Berkeley. In 2018, ULSAC students visited libraries in North Carolina: this was the second ULSAC trip to out-of-state libraries. After the 2018 trip, ULSAC created the Student Vision Project (SVP), a long-range planning document outlining student priorities to improve the student experience through enhanced library services, spaces and collections. Part of the purpose of this year’s trip was to gather information to update the 2018 SVP.

During the trip, all three libraries graciously shared information during tours and Q&A’s; discussions gave students vital insight into the varied ways in which libraries provide for their users in an ever-changing higher education environment, but also ways to demonstrate commonalities between academic libraries. Even Stanford University librarians struggled with budget cuts, outdated spaces and stagnant bureaucracies. All of the librarians were impressed with a program allowing students to visit other campuses to see what might be possible at their own.

For more information about ULSAC and to see the SVP, please visit libraryguides.missouri.edu/ulsac

“The most important lesson, for me, from this trip was the usefulness of open dialogue. The tours and sightseeing of facilities was intriguing, but when we could exchange in honest and open conversation about programs and facilities, the magic of innovation and growth occurred.”

—Lane Cargile

“The opportunity to find out how very different institutions design and manage their libraries was too good for me to pass up! Since ULSAC is about student input for our libraries, it is vital for us to have an understanding of what is possible. I wanted to be a part of experiencing some of those possibilities.”

—Levi Dolan

Students

• Saige Bexten, Junior, History
• Lane Cargile, Junior, Incoming ULSAC Chair
• Levi Dolan, Graduate Student, SISLT
• Mathew Swan, Senior, Political Science, ULSAC Chair
Pryor Elected President-Elect of RUSA

Christina Pryor has been elected the 2020-21 President-Elect of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA). Pryor will serve her Presidential term during 2021-22. “RUSA has been my professional home since I joined ALA as a student in the MLIS program and I’m honored to have the opportunity to continue my service to the Association that has provided me with so much professional growth throughout my career,” said Pryor. Pryor has been back in Missouri since 2018 where she currently works as the Interim Assistant Director of Library Operations for the University of Missouri J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library and the Library Engagement and Missouri Coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Mid-Continental Regional Medical Library. She has also held positions with the University of Washington Health Sciences Library, Amigos Library Services, the St. Louis County Library and Covidien.

Anderson Appointed to MU Restructuring Committee

At the Libraries, we continue to look for new ways to build partnerships across Mizzou. Kate Anderson, head of the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library and Interim Assistant University Librarian for Science Libraries, is a member of the new Program Audit and Restructuring Committee (PARC) which will provide recommendations regarding academic restructuring on campus. Congratulations to Kate on her appointment to this important committee.

Welcome New Librarian

In November, the University Libraries hired John Henry Adams as a research and instruction librarian for Special Collections & Rare Books. John Henry has a PhD in English literature from Arizona State University and a Master of Library Science with a specialization in rare books and manuscripts from Indiana University. He has previously worked as a curatorial assistant and a reference assistant at the Lilly Library. He is especially interested in book culture and people’s relationship to their books and has published on how that relationship is represented in early modern literature.
Greetings from my home office. I hope each of you are finding ways to lift your spirits and remain hopeful. During stressful times it is important to count your blessings. It’s also important to prepare for the future. In this edition of Library Connections we touch on both our blessings and our future.

As Interim University Librarian, I can’t help but think of our dedicated librarians and staff as I consider my blessings. Faced with the likelihood of significant budget cuts and pressure to find innovative ways to maintain access to our physical and electronic collections, we are embracing change and charging ahead. We are actively rethinking our use of space and looking for ways to make our services more user-centered. As the university changes, the Libraries must adapt, aligning with new priorities while still providing information support for our users. Our donors come to mind immediately as a huge blessing. June 30 marked the end of Mizzou’s Our Time to Lead campaign, and I am happy to announce that we have exceeded our goal. There is more on the campaign’s success inside, so I’ll use this space to say THANK YOU! I wish that I could adequately express the excitement that comes with learning that a gift will allow us to accomplish things that we thought were merely aspirational. Your generosity warms our hearts and fuels our work. Thank you.

Even in these challenging times, we are finding ways to improve our facilities today, while planning for facility needs in the years to come. We broke ground on an addition to our off-site depository in March and construction is moving forward. New, purpose-built storage will allow us to move lesser-used items out of Ellis Library, freeing space on campus to deliver library services. We are also thrilled to announce that we are replacing many of the older windows in Ellis Library. We are working with purpose through this pandemic because we know that today’s challenges only elevate the importance of higher education. We are partners with faculty in preparing our students to lead and serve the citizens of tomorrow. We know that our libraries are the heart of campus and critical to academic success.

Enjoy this edition of Library Connections!

— Deb Ward

Library Depository Expansion

PROJECT UPDATE

The University of Missouri Libraries Depository (UMLD) is an off-campus storage facility, established in 1997, for important but infrequently used materials. Currently UMLD is at max capacity, housing over 1 million items. The Libraries rent space for around 400,000 additional materials, but another approximate 600,000 items need to be transferred from the campus libraries. To accommodate these materials, the UM Board of Curators approved an expansion of UMLD.

Improved conditions in the new UMLD module push material life to last an additional 150 years, on average. The expansion includes new receiving, processing and storage areas to support additional collections. An emergency generator, to be installed, will maintain conditions inside the new module even during an extended power outage. Utilities updates also include significant upgrades to technology infrastructure: connecting the local security system to the campus system, adding security cameras and installing WiFi.

The expansion of UMLD allows libraries on campus to recover some much needed space. A space-planning project, currently underway, will allocate space for distributing materials. Users will continue to have access to these materials by requesting them through the library catalog.

On March 12, the first fence was put up at UMLD, marking the beginning of construction. The expansion is scheduled for completion on February 1, 2021.
Sue Giger in the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library has not only been supporting MU researchers and clinicians, but she’s also been working closely with the librarian at the St. Louis Zoo to make sure zoo researchers and veterinarians have what they need during this time.

—IKE Anderson

I’m a cataloger, so really my work hasn’t changed all that much. I work all day on the library’s database, adding records for recent purchases and working on backlogs of items. I do the same from home, the only difference being I brought home 11 boxes of materials to work on which are now lined up in my bedroom/office space. The one thing I can’t do is work on materials from our Special Collections and Rare Books, and I do miss that. Otherwise I’m enjoying my office at home, with an actual window!

—Amanda Sprochi

Health Sciences librarians have been supporting on-air frontline clinicians and doctors with daily PubMed updates. MU Health Care is issuing daily COVID-19 alerts. In addition to the infectious disease doctors and the response team, about 50 other people from various parts of MU Health Care signed up for alerts. Articles are being sent seven days a week. Readers are encouraged to ask us specific questions. We’re being asked for literature searches by people who are trying to set guidelines. We’ve helped with several article submissions including pulling medical records data from past cases of other coronavirus infections among MU Health patients. The Health Science Library staff is also hampered by the closure of the physical library, but have managed to find other sources for most of the requested articles.

—Diane Johnson

During these uncertain times many things have changed, been added or restructured. We at the MU Libraries are continuing to do our part in making sure that students, faculty and staff still have the resources that they need.
I used to teach students how to look up books in the catalog and find them in our buildings; now I teach them how to use the National Emergency Library and Hathi Trust and other temporary resources that the librarians have gathered to find ebooks to support their research and learning. I’ve also spent more book purchase funds on ebooks that will be permanently available to our scholars.

—Rachel Brekhus

For me, working from home has been the same as when I am home from work and answer questions at any time during the day or night. I’ve had to do some creative thinking on where to find online books, articles and other things. I’ve found full-text textbooks for students who left without their textbooks, articles that weren’t in our databases in old e-reserves or other places online like ResearchGate. Many things are online, but you have to do a bit more digging to find them. My cat has become my new supervisor at home!

—Sue Schuermann
It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we announce University Libraries completed MU’s Our Time To Lead campaign with a total of $12,515,032! Thank you! Roughly $9 million of the total came in the form of bequest commitments and estate gifts. We are thankful that so many alumni and friends think of the University Libraries when they are considering their estate plans and finalizing wills. The vast majority of campaign giving was directed to endowments, providing steady, dependable support for library collections and services for years to come.

Campaign gifts have also helped with renovations in Special Collections, provided equipment and staff to enhance digital services, afforded improvements to unique archives and added substantially to our collections. We are exceedingly grateful to our donors, whose support has made a real difference in our ability to serve our students, faculty and the campus community.

O America Launch and Golden Quill Award

Among the opportunities lost to Covid-19 were two chances to celebrate one of the libraries most passionate patrons, William Trogdon. Known to his loyal readers as William Least Heat-Moon, he just released his tenth book, O America, as the country began to address the burgeoning pandemic.

University Libraries planned a reception in the Grand Reading Room of Ellis Library, but like so many events this spring, it was not to be. While the book is a work of fiction, it firmly roots itself in the realities of mid-nineteenth century America. Like other works by Heat-Moon, it is a travelogue offering the reader historical insights while examining themes of identity.

O America brings to life the midwestern frontier of 1848 as it spins a tale of two unlikely travel companions hounded by a vindictive slave hunter. A great read, University Libraries is saddened to not be part of its launch.

Also lost to the schedule reshuffle of 2020 was recognizing Mr. William Trogdon as a Golden Quill Award winner. In May of 2006, the Jesse Hall Notable Alumni Wall was dedicated, and in 2017, the Jefferson Club Board of Trustees refreshed the criteria for consideration and gave the recognition a new name—the Jefferson Club Golden Quill Alumni Excellence Award. Honorees demonstrate outstanding achievement in their chosen field and reflect the university’s core values of respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence. If you know William, please reach out with a congratulations!
Our Time to Lead Campaign, continued

We have been absolutely thrilled – and occasionally overwhelmed – by the many gifts of photos, film, maps, manuscripts, playbills and rare books. These are the sort of items we could never purchase on our own, but they bring significant value to the classroom and offer wonderful research opportunities.

The campaign also brought some touching surprises, none bigger than the recent gift from the estate of Noble E. Cunningham, Jr. As a professor of history, Dr. Cunningham was an avid library user and maintained great relationships with many of the librarians. He was a regular patron of interlibrary loan services and kept an office in Ellis. Retired librarian and history subject specialist, Anne Edwards, remembered him as a renowned scholar and author who was humble, gracious and welcoming. Dr. Cunningham passed in 2007, without sharing the extent of his generosity with University Libraries. When his wife, Dana, passed away in 2019, we were notified by his attorney that he had left a gift for his existing endowment. We knew last fall that it would be at least $10,000. This spring we received his gift of $3,026,457.46! Dr. Cunningham also left $500,000 for the Noble E. Cunningham, Jr. Professorship in History. His gift to the University Libraries carried us to our goal and beyond, and was a fitting way to close out the campaign – with a gift from one of Mizzou's great scholars, in recognition of the professional library services which he valued so deeply.

From our faculty, staff, students and the many patrons of Ellis and our incredible specialized libraries, we say THANK YOU!!!

A newly renovated classroom allows Special Collections to share their resources with a variety of MU classes.

This statistical map of Missouri showing manufacturing and mechanical industries by counties is part of the map collection donated by Gary and Janet Venable.

We are proud to announce this year’s campaign total was:

$12,515,032

Dr. Noble Cunningham, an MU professor of history, passed away in 2007. The Libraries recently received an estate gift from him worth over $3 million dollars.
The Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries have been affiliated with the University Libraries and the University of Missouri since 1960. Over the last several years, the Friends of the Libraries have administered the Robert J. Stuckey Essay Contest for the university.

This annual contest is presented in memory of Robert J. Stuckey, who was a member of the 1963 junior class of Farmington High School and planned to attend college. He was vitally interested in current events and enjoyed reading. This contest is open to Missouri High School students in grades 9-12 — only one entry is accepted from each school. The Friends of the Libraries is proud to announce the winners of the 2020 Robert J. Stuckey Essay Contest. The first-place winner will be awarded a $1,500 scholarship and the second-place winner is awarded a $750 scholarship. The first-place winner is Addison Rinehart of West Platte High School in Weston for her essay entitled “A Pessimist’s Reading List.” The second-place winner is Marina Firman of Boonville High School in Boonville for her essay entitled “Growing Up With Books.” The students’ teachers, Helen Penrod and Marjorie Brimer, will also receive a $250 award.

Each year members of our Friends of the Libraries council volunteer to be essay judges. We would like to thank our judges who gave us their time and talents this year and went through each of our 26 submissions. The judges were Anne Edwards, Jody Feldman, Mary Grigsby, Laurie Tourtellot and Steve Weinberg.

“We are delighted to offer this scholarship opportunity to smart, ambitious, and creative high school students as a way to support their college education.

Mizzou is a world class institution and we hope all high school students consider continuing their education here.”

—Kelsey Thompson
Former president of the Friends of University of Missouri Libraries
The University Libraries Undergraduate Research Contest seeks to recognize and reward outstanding research conducted by any undergraduate students at the University of Missouri. This year the winner of the first-place prize of a $500 scholarship is Abby West, a junior studying political science. Her paper, “Saratoga Spells British Defeat,” was written for Dr. Al Zuercher Reichardt’s constitutional democracy course. The second-place winner and recipient of a $250 scholarship is Devon Terry, a sophomore in anthropology and psychology. Her paper, “Arno Breker’s Wounded Man: Capturing the Essence of Totalitarianism,” was written for an upper-level German class taught by Dr. Seth Howes and Dr. Nicole Monnier. Special thanks to our panel of judges, which consists of librarians, members of the Friends of the Libraries, and MU faculty members.

“My co-professor and I both thought it was an excellent paper, and excellent project, and I am thrilled to hear the committee’s in agreement with us on that front.”

— Dr. Seth Howes on “Arno Breker’s Wounded Man”

In 1960, a group of alumni and friends met in the Student Union with an idea to make our university stronger. They recognized how a gift to the University Libraries impacts each student and every program. From here, the Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries began. Their mission is to build a broad base of engaged support and advocate for the University Libraries in the preservation, creation and use of knowledge.

Get social and stay connected by being a part of the Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries Facebook page!

@FriendsofMizzouLibraries

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LIBRARY SOCIETY RECEPTION

The pandemic has caused a lot of cancellations — one of them being our annual Library Society Reception. This year’s event would have been visually stunning, as we planned to showcase Picture of the Year International (learn more at www.POY.org). While we long for what could have been, we look forward to celebrating in person next year during Donor Recognition weekend April 22-24, 2021.

We had also planned to recognize two members of the Mizzou community who are important to the Libraries and have received awards: Dr. Denice Adkins, chair of the campus Library Committee and an associate professor in the School of Information and Learning Technology, and Mathew Swan, graduating ULSAC president.

Adkins received the Outstanding Library Advocacy Award from the University Libraries Student Advisory Council (ULSAC). Swan received the Visionary Leadership Award from the University Libraries and was integral in creating both of ULSAC’s Student Vision Projects. Congratulations!

PICTURE OF THE YEAR INTERNATIONAL

Presented by the Reynolds Journalism Institute

POY 66 Science and Natural History: Award of Excellence
Brian Skerry, National Geographic Magazine

Standing on the sea floor, a diver is approached by a right whale in 2008. Over 15-meters in length and weighing 70 tons, this whale had most likely never seen a human before and was highly curious.

POY 57 Global News: Award of Excellence
Carol Guzy, The Washington Post

Kosovar refugee Agim Shala, 2 years old, is passed through the barbed wire fence into the hands of grandparents at the camp run by United Arab Emirates in Kukes, Albania, in 1999. The members of the large Shala family were reunited here after fleeing Prizren in Kosovo during the conflict.
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