



## University Librarian's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

*The start of new fiscal and academic years invariably bring new beginnings and, again, this was certainly the case for Mason's libraries.*

*First, the University Libraries officially transferred administratively to the Office of the Provost. Concurrently, we saw the foundation of the new Gateway Services department in the Johnson Center Library, with new librarians and staff. The Johnson Center Library staff also began service from its combined reference, circulation and course reserve desk in a newly refurbished first floor layout. Many of us in the Fenwick Library sojourned in the building's group study rooms as pre-construction activities of the Fenwick Addition (new firewalls and exterior stairs) projects continued...and continued. We also commenced our Assessment in Action study, the Balanced Score planning and management rubric, and initiated the TextSelect (textbooks reserves program). And, we started to work on the Libraries' next strategic plan as part of University's strategic goal-setting for the next ten years.*

*But, the most important new beginning was the start of the 2013-14 academic year in late August as we welcomed back our core constituency – Mason's students and faculty – and with it the promise of new ideas, new outlooks and new challenges.*

*I'm pleased to note that once again the Libraries began this new year clearly focused on the work at hand, ever so busy throughout the library organization, and ready to do our part to advance Mason's mission. For all of this – thank you for your individual and collective endeavors!*

Sincerely,

### Welcome!

Research & Educational Services Division

- Gateway Services, Johnson Center Library
  - **Patricia West**, Head, Gateway Services
  - **Christal Ferrance**, Instructional Design Librarian
  - **Jason Byrd**, Learning Technologies Librarian (*new role*)

### 1,000 ETDs...and Growing!

In August 2013, Mason Libraries published Mason's 1,000th "ETD" (electronic thesis or dissertation) in the Mason Archival Repository Service (MARS) operated by Digital Programs & Systems. The history-making dissertation is "An Approximate Dynamic Programming Approach to Financial Execution for Weapon System Programs" by Erich Morman, MS Operations Engineering '02 and PhD Systems Engineering and Operations Research '13, Volgenau School of Engineering.



MARS is the stable, well-managed, permanent archive for digital scholarly and research materials of enduring value produced by Mason faculty, staff and students. Posting Mason ETDs in MARS started in 2007; Mason dissertations completed since the 1980s are accessible through the libraries' subscription to the ProQuest [Dissertations & Theses Full Text](#) database. Bound copies of Mason dissertations and theses, completed through late January 2013, are shelved in Fenwick Library, Wing A.

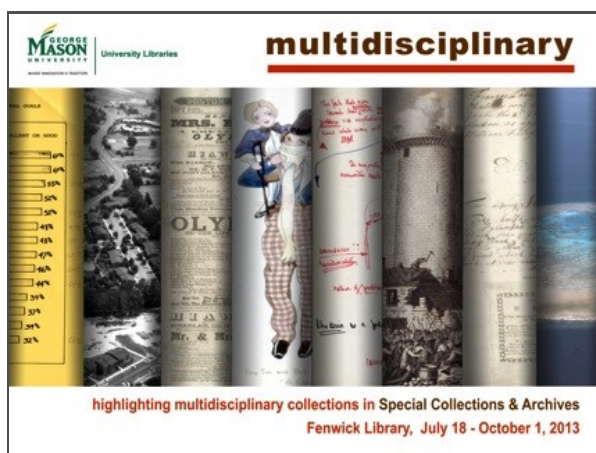
## Exhibit: multidisciplinary

“multidisciplinary” highlights the variety of collections held in Special Collections & Archives. The idea for a multidisciplinary exhibition came from the desire to encourage scholars across the University to examine SC&A collections to find sources relevant to their fields. SC&A is full of fascinating textual, photographic, audiovisual, and material items available to scholars who are looking for unique sources of inquiry.

The brainchild of Misha Griffith, SC&A oral history program Graduate Research Assistant, SC&A staff looked through the lenses of disparate disciplines to find examples of materials which would inspire scholars. Casting a wide net, the staff also highlighted works found to be particularly appealing, quirky or mysterious. For example:

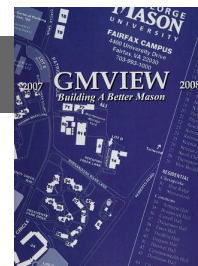
- **Greta Kuriger Suiter**, Processing Specialist, suggested looking at theatrical playbills in terms of graphic arts or Japanese phonograph record covers as sources of language study
- **Christine Cheng**, Research Services Coordinator, examined the the Poole Cookbook Collection to find recipes representing the history of home remedies
- **Bob Vay**, Digital Collections Archivist, selected a 1953 aerial photograph of Fairfax Circle and discerned its orientation, and
- **Yvonne Carignan**, Head, SC&A, found examples from the large collection of performing arts sources.

The exhibition divided the disciplines into eight smaller exhibitions: Graphic Design; Performing Arts; Modern and Classical Language; Natural and Physical Sciences; Conflict Resolution, Public Policy and Political Science; Language Education, Literature and Anthropology; Travel and Hospitality; and Geography, Urban Planning and Transportation. The materials displayed include rare and antiquarian books, hand-drawn and published maps, prints and posters, photographs, and audiovisual items.



## The Way We Were...

Forty-eight yearbooks chronicling the history of George Mason University have been added to the Libraries' digital collections! All hardbound and video yearbooks were scanned and are now available online. The collection ranges from 1965 to 2012, and is fully searchable. [Check them out!](#)



## Grants & Gifts

- **Special Collections & Archives** received a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to develop a publication and web portal, *Fifty Years of Reston Past and Future Reston: Educators, Learners, and the Community Coming Together*, for the anniversaries of Reston (50 years) and Reston Center (25 years) in 2014. **Yvonne Carignan**, Head, SC&A, is principal investigator and **Bob Vay**, Digital Collections Archivist, is project leader.
- **Special Collections & Archives** received a Mason Auxiliary Enterprise Management Council grant for the *Broadside* Photograph Digitization Project. **Jordan Patty**, Processing Archivist/Librarian, is principal investigator and project leader.
- **Professor Randolph and Mrs. Ellen Lytton** donated more than 200 unique historical artifacts to Special Collections & Archives to the Randolph H. Lytton Fairfax and Northern Virginia Collection. The Lytton collection includes postcards and maps, paper currency, letters, broadsides, pamphlets, postcards, photographs, sketches, cartoons, magazines, journals, newspapers, books and other resources that shed light onto the past of Northern Virginia, illuminating its history from colonial times to the modern era.

## Research & Professional Activities

**Anne K. Driscoll**, Education Liaison Librarian, “If We Build It, Will They Come?” Poster Session, Annual Conference, Virginia Library Association, Williamsburg, VA, September 26, 2013.

**Steven K. Gerber**, Music & Theater Liaison Librarian, presented “I Won’t Dance, Don’t Ask Me: Preliminary WorldCat Analysis of Performing Arts Holdings.” International Association of Music Libraries and Archives, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, August 1, 2013.

**Jo Ann J. Henson**, Business & Economics Liaison Librarian, Jared Hoppenfeld, Trip Wyckoff, Jenna N. Mayotte & Hal P. Kirkwood Jr. “Librarians and the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans: Helping Disabled Veterans With Business Research.” *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*, Volume 18, Issue 4, 2013, 293-308.

**Margaret Lam**, Physical Sciences Liaison Librarian, participated in the ACRL Immersion Program Teacher Track, July 28-August 2, 2013 at Seattle University, Seattle, WA.

**Margaret Lam**, Physical Sciences Liaison Librarian, and Nedelina Tchangalova. “Professional Development Needs of Science and Technology Librarians: Results of the 2012 SLA/PAM Professional Development Committee Survey.” [\*Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship\*, Number 73, Summer 2013.](#)

**Megan McDonnell**, Circulation Assistant, Fenwick Library, completed a Master’s of Science in Library and Information Science, The Catholic University of America, August 2013.

**Wendy Mann**, Head, Data Services Group, and Jennifer Doty. ASERL 2013 Summertime Summer Preconference Webinar, August 1, 2013.

**Mark Schwartz**, Communications & Marketing Officer, contributed several articles to *Encyclopedia of Politics of the American West*. Denver, Steven L., editor. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2013

**Joy Suh**, Geography & GIS Liaison Librarian, Christine Kollen, Cynthia Dietz & Angela Lee. “Geospatial Data Catalogs: Approaches by Academic Libraries.” *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*, Volume 9, Issue 3, 2013, 276-295.

## Research Leave

Recommended by the Librarians’ Council Professional Development Committee, the following librarians were awarded research leave by the University Librarian for Fall 2013/Winter 2014.

- **Theresa Calcagno**, Engineering Liaison Librarian, **Claudia Holland**, Head, Scholarly Communication & Copyright Office, **Jordan Patty**, Processing Archivist/Librarian and **Jen Stevens**, Humanities Liaison Librarian, to collaboratively prepare two research papers for publication and a conference presentation on the evolution of the status of academic librarians in the United States, with emphasis on Mason librarian status as reflected in the evolution of the *Librarians’ Handbook* and a case study of the *Librarians’ Handbook* revision process.
- **Yvonne Carignan**, Head, Special Collections & Archives, to research and write a scholarly article with the working title “History of the Richmond Library Company in the Context of Virginia Nineteenth Century Social Libraries” for presentation and publication in Spring 2014.
- **Wendy Mann**, Head, Data Services Group, to prepare an article about research data management (RDM) policies, based on work completed with the ASERL RDM Policies Group, for publication in the *Journal of eScience Librarianship*.
- **Helen McManus**, Public Policy & Political Science Liaison Librarian, to write a scholarly article for publication and prepare a conference paper for presentation at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting, April 2014, based on her dissertation.



## Fenwick Fellow 2013-2014

**Mark Koyama**, assistant professor in the Economics Department and Mercatus Center Senior Scholar, is the University Libraries' Fenwick Fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year. Koyama's research project, *The Rise and Fall of the Persecuting State*, will examine Western Europe as the birthplace of modern ideas of political freedom and religious toleration. His project sets out to investigate minority group persecution in medieval and early modern Europe, what economic and political changes faced rulers of the period, and how the idea of religious toleration emerged during the 17th century. The study will explore these questions using a combination of new historical data and approaches from modern political economy. Koyama's research project is part of a larger endeavor in collaboration with Dr. Noel Johnson, who is also a Mason economics faculty member. The work will result in the publication of a monograph likely with the same title.



## TextSelect: Textbooks Pilot

In September, the Libraries launched "TextSelect" as a pilot project to address the cost of required 100- and 200-level and English 302 course textbooks. **Diane Smith**, AUL/RES, **David Gibbs**, Head, CDP, **Meg Manahan**, Director, Technical Services, and Johnson Center Library staff **Nick Hofmann**, Print Reserves Coordinator, **Kara Kiblinger**, Reserves Team Leader and **Cynthia Bentley**, Coordinator, Circulation/Reserves worked in concert with the Mason Bookstore to acquire at least one copy of required textbooks for Mason undergraduate general education required courses. The texts were placed on 2 Hour Reserve in the Johnson Center Library, Fairfax Campus; students then locate TextSelect books through the Libraries' Classic and/or Course Reserve catalogs. The Libraries will assess the TextSelect pilot at the end of Fall Semester 2013 for any needed revision and possible expansion.

## Around Campus

- **Jennifer Hamilton**, Gifts Coordinator, Technical Services Department, was elected to the University Staff Senate, August 2013.
- **Dot Lockaby**, Head, Johnson Center Library, **Allison O'Connor**, Reference, Research & Instruction Specialist, Gateway Services, and **Royce Gildersleeve**, Reference, Research & Instruction Specialist, Gateway Services conducted two classes for high school students in the Early Identification Program's Summer Academy.
- **Jamie Coniglio**, Head, Fenwick Library Reference, presented an overview of Mason Libraries for Visiting Faculty from China and Ukraine, July 1, 2013.
- **Beth Roszkowski**, Head, Arlington Campus Library, was selected to participate in the University's Legacy Leadership Program, September 2013 - April 2014.
- **Bob Vay**, Digital Collections Archivist, Special Collections & Archives, presented "A History of the Arlington Campus" in conjunction with a Founders Hall exhibit on the development of the Arlington Campus, Summer 2013.

## National Winner!

Mason Libraries student assistant Elizabeth Bass entered a national "create-your-own-comic-book-character" sponsored by Marvel Comics and Harley-Davidson Motorcycles and won an all-expense-paid trip to Comic-Con International: San Diego, often dubbed the largest comic book convention in the world. Bass's entry included a photo of herself, to be used for the actual look of the new character, and a concise description of the character.

"I wanted to create a hard-core female character who was empowered on a motorcycle," says Bass, a history major interested in Greek and Roman classics. "What's cool about Marvel comics is that many of their female characters are complicated and realistic." Inspired by her years of reading comic books, Bass, a senior, found she could quickly create a [character as a stand-in for herself](#). *Congratulations!*

