University Librarian’s Letter

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share highlights of activities, projects, and events as well as librarian and staff accomplishments. This edition of the University Librarian’s letter summarizes our efforts and progress October through December 2012.

In addition to those noted by name in this letter, I would like to express my appreciation to the entire library staff for making the Fall 2012 semester productive and successful. Moreover, I extend my thanks to the many others who have contributed to the more notable achievements highlighted herein.

Welcome to the Libraries!

Digital Programs & Systems Division
• Ben Harrison, Desktop Support, Systems Group

Research & Educational Services Division
• Kathy Butler, Science & Psychology Liaison Librarian, Reference Department, Fenwick Library
• Raquel Duron, Document Delivery Coordinator, Arlington Campus Library
• Alek Potrzebowski, Policy & Planning Specialist, Research & Educational Services Division
• Laura Ramos, ILL & Document Delivery Assistant (Day), Access Services. Fenwick Library

New Library Roles
• Dot Lockaby, Director, Johnson Center Library, November 2012
• Beth Roszkowski, Head, Arlington Campus Library, November 2012

Libraries Involved with University Visioning Process

In August 2012, the Board of Visitors adopted a resolution directing Mason’s President, Dr. Cabrera, to create a new strategic Vision for the University in collaboration with the faculty and key internal and external stakeholders. The new Vision will be the basis for a new academic strategic plan and a new comprehensive campaign, and is to be presented at the March 2013 Board of Visitors' meeting.

Several librarians were selected as “Content Experts” to provide resources and other support to the university Vision Groups:
• Chris Dixon, Mission Vision & Mason Graduates Group and Program Innovation & Growth Group
• Jo Ann Henson, Funding & Resources Group
• Mary Oberlies, Global Strategy Group
• Tina Adams, Online & Executive Education Group
• Jamie Coniglio, Regional Strategy Group
• Beth Roszkowski, Research Group, and
• Claudia Holland, Student Value & Affordability Group

The “visioning process” was conducted through Fall Semester 2013, with the various Vision Group reports due to Dr. Cabrera in January 2013.
Focus on: New Initiatives

Songdo Global University Campus Library Planning Conference

The University Libraries planned and hosted the Songdo Global University Campus (SGUG) planning conference for the central library of the new university, located in Incheon, South Korea. The participants at the two day planning session, held October 11-12, 2012 at Mason, included:

- University of Utah: Rick Anderson, Interim Dean of Libraries
- Stony Brook University: Sherry Chang, Associate Director for Strategic Programs & Head Librarian, Mathematics/Physics/Astronomy Library
- Ghent University: Thomas Beurman, Project Manager for SGUG, and Sylvia Van Peteghem, Head Librarian
- George Mason University: Wally Grotophorst, Dot Lockaby, and John Zenelis

Planning conference support was provided by the Office of the Provost (Anne Schiller, Vice President for Global & International Strategies, and Min Park, Executive Director for Mason SGUC Operations).

SGUC is beginning as a global higher education campus cluster, offering non-duplicative undergraduate and graduate programs by the above listed universities (with several additional universities in negotiations) from the United States and Europe. Read more about this project.

E-Science Institute

From September through December 2013, the University Libraries participated in the national E-Science Institute (ESI), collaboratively sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Digital Library Federation (DLF) and DuraSpace. The ESI helps research libraries develop a strategic agenda for e-research support. Team members representing Mason at the ESI Capstone meeting were Wendy Mann, Mason’s team leader, Victoria Martin, and Professor James Olds, Director, Krasnow Institute, George Mason University. Librarians assisting with this initiative included Theresa Calcagno, Margaret Lam, Joy Suh, Sarah Sheehan, Tricia Mackenzie, Joanna Lee, Jen Stevens and Ian Fairclough.

The librarians helped with the environmental scan, identified key areas in academic departments where e-research activities are occurring, helped with interviews, and contributed to brainstorming activities. These varied and vital activities provided direction in organizing what was known about research and e-research at the university. Through these interviews, additional information was gathered, contacts established, and interviewees informed about the library’s current efforts in this area. Based on all these events and activities, the Libraries’ strategic agenda for e-science research support is being finalized and will be submitted to library administration for review.

FALL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Mason students, faculty and staff attended Town Hall Meetings on the New Fenwick Library Addition
October 15, 17, and 22, 2012.
Research & Professional Activities

To include your research and/or professional activity in forthcoming issues, please send the information to Debra Hogan (dhogan1@gmu.edu) by April 5, July 5, October 5, January 5.

- Vay, Bob. “A Brief History of George Mason University.” Presentation, City of Fairfax City Council Meeting, held at Meese Conference Room, George Mason University, October 30, 2012.

Research Leave

Fall 2012: Leave awarded to Heather Groves Hannan and Janna Mattson to author a chapter on “STEM Partnership between George Mason University Libraries and The Governor’s School” for the book How to STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education in Libraries, to be published by Scarecrow Press.

Fall 2012: Leave awarded to Jason Byrd to develop MARAC Technical Leaflet on Instruction and Archival Collections, at the invitation of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) Publications Committee.

Around Campus

- Lara Bushallow, Head, Systems Group, Mason Leadership Legacy Program, Cohort 3, Fall 2012-Spring 2013
- Jen Stevens, Humanities Liaison Librarian, established weekly office hours in Women’s Studies Center, Fall 2012
- Jo Ann Henson, Business Librarian, established weekly office hours in the School of Management, Fall 2012
- Mike Perini, Reference & Research Specialist, featured in Mason’s Higher Education Department News, November 2012

Grants & Gifts

- University Libraries was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance grant to conduct the first preservation needs assessment of Special Collections & Archives, to plan how to move these collections safely to the new library building, and to assist in creating an SC&A preservation plan. Yvonne Carignan is the Principal Investigator for this project.
- University Libraries received a significant collection of primary research materials from Partners for Livable Communities (PLC). PLS is a national, nonprofit leadership organization based in Washington, DC, dedicated to improving the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development, and social equity. The collection includes PLC’s entire forty years’ accumulation of reports, white papers, pamphlets, audiovisual materials and other resources.
Exhibits & Events

Looking Back: Cuban Missile Crisis Exhibits

University Libraries created two exhibits and displays of images and items to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis, which is generally regarded as the moment in which the Cold War came closest to turning into a nuclear conflict.

“Confrontation & Consequence: Cuba, 1962” was prepared by Jason Byrd, Alek Potrzebowski, Christine Cheng, and Aaron Hartman, and displayed in Fenwick Library Lobby. The timely exhibit highlighted a selection of library resources on the crisis, including material from Special Collections & Archives, government documents, and other research collections.

Arlington Campus Library also prepared an exhibit, “Crisis through the Headlines Timeline,” prepared by Mary Oberlies and ACL Graduate Research Assistant Tanzoom Ahmed, which explored the key moments of the crisis through primary documents available at the Mason libraries. “Crisis through the Headlines Timeline” was displayed on 2nd Floor, Arlington Campus Library. Image source: Mason Libraries Special Collections & Archives

Margaret Armstrong: Binding Artist Exhibit

During Fall 2012, a Special Collections & Archives exhibit celebrated the career of American book artist and author Margaret Armstrong (1867-1944) who worked in the medium of publishers’ bindings, designing book covers and “decorating” texts from 1890 through 1926. Mason Libraries holds fifty of Margaret Armstrong’s bindings, novels, as well as her guide to western wildflowers. The Margaret Armstrong books are part of a larger collection of decorated and signed bindings gifted to George Mason University Libraries by Wendi D. Slagle.

Open Access@Mason

The entire month of October 2012 was dedicated to celebrating Open Access Week at Mason to “reflect on the spirit of innovation that is at the heart of the University’s philosophies.”

Events included:
- Presentations by Claudia Holland on tips for publishing in open access scholarly journals
- “Open Access = Open Data” panel presentation on the implications and future of open data featuring
  - Dr. Amy Friedlander, National Science Foundation
  - Professor Kirk Bourne, School of Physics, Astronomy & Computational Sciences, College of Science, George Mason University, and
  - Professor Liping Di, Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science, College of Science, George Mason University
- Data Management Plan Tool (DMPT) Information Session on writing data management plans, presented by Wendy Mann
- SPARC/World Bank Open Access Week Webcast
- Information tables in all Mason libraries

Open Access Week is an annual event organized by the Libraries’ Scholarly Communication Team; the team’s website is available at scholarly.gmu.edu. Claudia Holland is the team’s chair.

In addition, University Libraries made a very important announcement establishing George Mason University’s Open Access Publishing Fund in October 2012. Through the University Libraries, Mason will provide financial support to Mason scholars and researchers who wish to publish their work in open access (OA) journals. Faculty, postdoctoral fellows and registered graduate students are eligible to apply for assistance with article processing fees required by some OA journals. Learn more!

GIS Day 2012

GIS Day provides an international forum for users of geographic information systems (GIS) technology to demonstrate real-world applications. Mason Libraries joined the University in celebrating GIS Day on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, with a demonstration on “Mapping your data with Google Fusion Tables” by Joy Suh, Government Information & GIS Librarian, and Sahar Haghighat, Graduate Research Assistant, Data Services Group.