

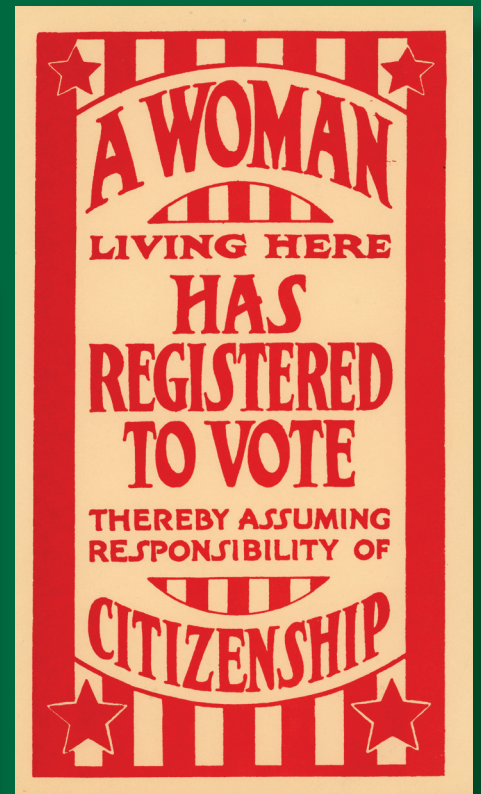
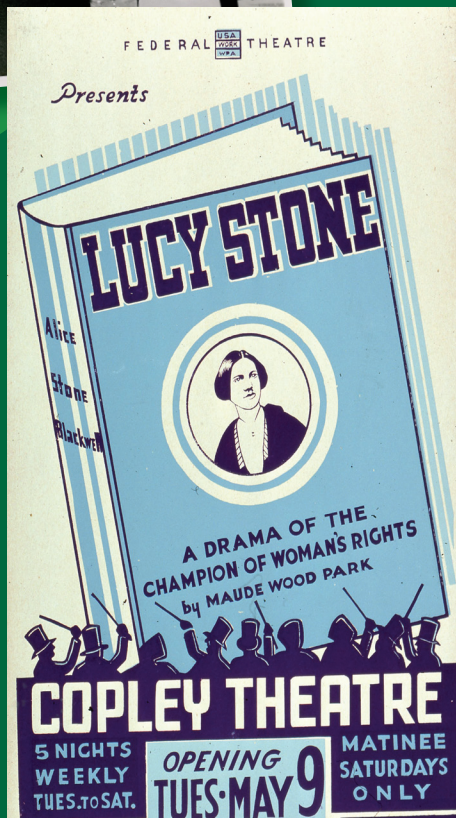
THE LIBRARIES AT MASON

SPRING 2021

PEOPLE • RESOURCES • EVENTS



- Adapting to a Pandemic World
- New Center for Mason Legacies
- Exploring the Equal Rights Amendment





About the front cover

Images of items in our Special Collections Research Center

- Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine shakes hands with an unidentified colleague, 1950
- Image of poster for the Federal Theatre Project play, *Lucy Stone*, 1939
- Poster that was to be placed in the window of the home of a woman voter, 1920s

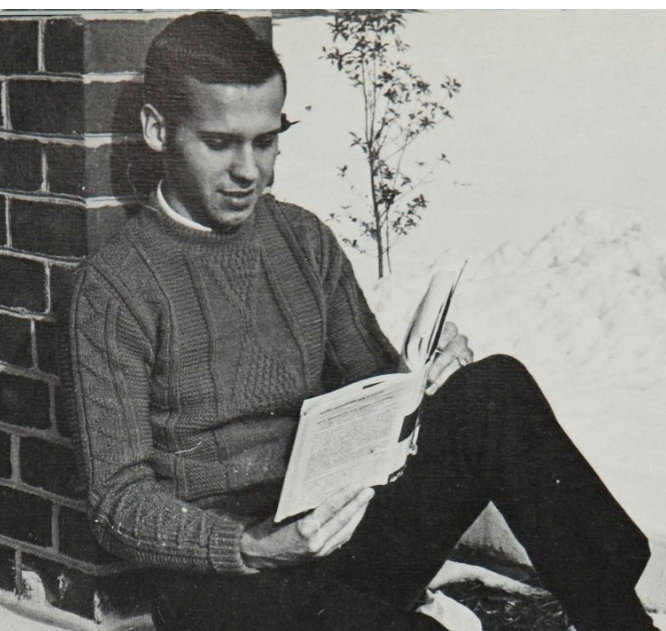
About the inside cover

Top left to right

- The graduating class of George Mason College, 1970
- Shirley Chisholm, former U.S. Representative of New York, at an appearance at George Mason University, 1985

Bottom left to right

- A student peruses the card catalog in the early Fenwick Library, 1969
- U.S. Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii, in front of the U.S. Capitol, 1965
- A student finds a corner to read in, 1970



The Libraries at Mason

Jessica A. Clark, *Editor*

The Libraries at Mason is published by the George Mason University Libraries. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be directed to: Office of the Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, MS 2FL, Fairfax, VA 22030, library@gmu.edu.

Scoggins photo courtesy of Scoggins. Fenwick Fellow faculty, ECGM, and Service Award photos, courtesy of Creative Services. All other photos and images from University Libraries collections or contributed by University Libraries faculty and staff: Jessica Bowdoin, Jamie Coniglio, Alyssa Fahringer, Brittney Falter, Steve Gerber, Stephanie Grimm, Kelsey Kim, Kim MacVaugh, Lana Mason, and Bob Vay.

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From the Dean



When the university's campuses were closed in March 2020, all of us hoped we would return to "normal" within a few months. If 2020 has shown us anything, it is that the unexpected can occur at any time.

While we have all experienced loss and difficulty in varying degrees, we have also seen our academic community come together and think creatively and adaptively about what work life and higher education endeavors look like in a pandemic world. After a few months of remote work, instruction, and services, in Summer 2020 we began to return to our buildings to assess how we could safely reopen with the rest of the campus in the fall and prepare to function in the new hybrid environment during the 2020–21 academic year.

Despite this changing environment, the Libraries moved forward on some important initiatives, such as launching our new Center for Mason Legacies in partnership with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, forming the Libraries' first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, preparing to process an important collection with the assistance of a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, developing and expanding on important partnerships, and raising funds to support and recognize student research.

And, though Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 have looked very different, as you will see in the following pages, the Libraries remains dedicated to its mission as we continue to provide our university community with resources, research and instruction support, and increased virtual offerings.

We have been encouraged and inspired by the appreciation of our faculty and students during this time, as well as the continued support of our friends and donors.

Such appreciation and support makes all the difference. My colleagues and I are grateful. Thank you!

Sincerely,

John G. Zenelis

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

By the numbers

University Libraries | FY 2020*

Campus libraries visits

1,366,412

Library website visits

2,530,647

Off-campus logins to library resources

109,000,000

* All numbers calculated from library statistics covering 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Where we are



3
campus locations



164
reservable
study spaces



1
website



288
online research
guides

Who we are



63 faculty



73 staff



14 graduate assistants



120 student assistants

What we offer



+1.4 million
print books



31,576
physical checkouts



+2 million
electronic books



519,831
downloads



+194,000
electronic journals



2,067,418
article downloads

and



365,591
digitized items



+800
databases



500
special and
archival collections



1,771
oral histories

What we do



+2.6 million
library search
queries



21,254
research questions
answered



1,209
instructional
sessions
18,993
students reached



interlibrary
loans

6,559
borrowed



23,100
loaned



\$46,319
open access
publishing funds



36
authors



SUPPORT FOR GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

A reflection from Libraries Advisory Board member, Len Scoggins



Len Scoggins serves as senior director for strategic partnerships at Barnes & Noble College, a Barnes & Noble Education company and leading solutions provider for the education sector, driving affordability, access and achievement at hundreds of academic institutions nationwide and ensuring millions of students are equipped for success in the classroom and beyond. Len works to forge new business relationships that deliver the full capabilities of Barnes & Noble Education to institutions throughout the mid-Atlantic and northeast territory.

Len launched his career with Barnes & Noble College as a student clerk in his college store in Oklahoma. In his early career he served as general manager for a number of college bookstores serving diverse audiences, including a small

Libraries have always been important to me personally.

While not able to accurately recall the first time I fully appreciated the immense value it brought to my personal pursuit of knowledge and education, I do vividly remember the awe I experienced walking into the George E. Bizzell Memorial Library at the University of Oklahoma as an undergraduate. From that point forward it would serve as my living room on campus—a place to discover, solve problems, research, study, and re-charge. Similarly, the George Mason University Libraries serve every member of our community and I have been honored to lend my support for the past 11 years.

Academic libraries certainly exist to curate and collect materials. As importantly, they share knowledge and credible information that encourages thought and discovery. They are also good at adapting to ensure that services and collections are accessible when and where needed. This commitment to adaptability has been no more evident than during the past year as the dedicated team of library faculty and staff worked to respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I know the purpose of George Mason University Libraries will remain providing equitable access to information. It will continue to be the vehicle that helps our community advance learning, solve problems, and explore new ideas. I support the library because of the value it brings to our students, faculty, and the larger community. I encourage you to consider the University Libraries in your annual gift giving plans. ■

private law school, a Top 10 *U.S. News and World Report* Best National University, and one of the largest land grant universities in the nation with an academic population of more than 60,000. During his 20-year tenure as a regional manager, Len was responsible for store operations throughout Virginia and Washington, D.C., placing a strong emphasis on building relationships with academic and administrative leadership on each campus, expanding

awareness of tools and resources that improve access to affordable course materials, and ensuring that the strategic goals of each institution were supported by the campus store.

Len holds a bachelor's degree from the Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma. He is an active supporter of multiple national and local charities and civic organizations in addition to serving as an Alumni Mentor for the JCPenney Leadership Program at the University of Oklahoma. ■

NEW CENTER FOR Mason Legacies

Visit the Center for Mason Legacies' website at legacies.gmu.edu to read more about ongoing projects, student research, and future plans.

On June 30, 2020, the University Libraries and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) announced the newly established Center for Mason Legacies (CML) at George Mason University. CML is led by George Oberle (history librarian and assistant term professor in the Department of History and Art History), along with two associate directors, Wendi Manuel-Scott (professor of history, integrative studies, women and gender studies, and African and African-American Studies) and Benedict Carton (associate professor in the Department of History and Art History), and an advisory board of CHSS faculty.

This joint initiative unifies scholarly research, public history, teaching innovation, and community outreach by engaging student researchers in studying the past and present influences of the university's namesake. Carton underscores the value of such exploration:

“*We are uncovering hidden histories of George Mason IV, the legal visionary, family man, and slave-owner. His life and example inform our nation's founding concepts of liberty, justice, and property. What can we learn about his institution-building, opportunities and limitations, social and commercial networks, and what our Patriot intentionally and unintentionally imparted to America?*”

Members of the original Enslaved Children of George Mason project team—Alexis Bracey, Ayman Fatima, and Elizabeth Perez-Garcia.



CML is building and curating a significant archive of unique records generated by and about George Mason IV, his family, and their many associates. The historical coverage of this archive will span the period of the Virginia Colony through the early republic and antebellum era to Jim Crow, civil rights, and the establishment of George Mason University. The pool of materials will include archaeological reports (e.g. plotting remnants of field dwellings, burial grounds, etc.); cultural artifacts; oral interviews with possible descendants of enslaved people from Gunston Hall

and surrounding plantations in Virginia and Maryland; the collected testimonies of early African-American alumni remembering their experience at Mason and the meaning of their university namesake; and other sources. Building on these historical examinations, CML will look at the present and host events to facilitate critical conversations about freedom, slavery, and race in America and how we reckon with our past.

George Oberle, CML director, is enthusiastic about the prospects of engaging more university students in archival-based research and the center's efforts in guiding and supporting historical and cultural documentation. He observes, "I love the work the center is exploring because it shows great potential to sustain years of student-driven research. Our initial

experience with the Enslaved Children of George Mason (ECGM) pilot project led by Professor Manuel-Scott shows that undergraduates are excited to uncover and present histories with immediate meaning to wider audiences on campus and in communities beyond. We have not and are not defining topics. On the contrary, students are developing their interests and, in the process, broadening critical-thinking skills, for example, by conducting fieldwork in local archives. Their initiative promises to enhance the understanding of our university's diverse, complicated, and still-unknown story."

Wendi Manuel-Scott, who is also affiliated with the John Mitchell, Jr. Program for History, Justice, and Race at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and

Conflict Resolution, is deeply committed to scholar-community partnerships. She views the new center as a means of engaging student researchers in a critical dimension of university outreach, which seeks to connect and enrich the knowledge of wider worlds. "When pursuing public history such as the Enslaved Children of George Mason research," she reminds us, "it becomes our institutional responsibility as a public university to engage with as many people as possible on and beyond the campus. Our student-faculty-administrative research has influenced not only Mason but also those around us. That is why we are committed to making our findings accessible—both in content and format—to our university and alumni as well as to scholars everywhere such as K-12 school teachers. The center should have lasting, meaningful impact that will embrace and inspire many others." In this vein, CML will provide opportunities for research, teaching, and engagement with Northern Virginia communities around the history of slavery and its legacies in modern society.

John Zenelis, dean of Libraries and university librarian, signals the vital importance of the shared goals animating the partnership of CHSS and the Libraries, "The center is a natural outcome of student success and scholarly research. I am pleased that the Libraries' faculty and staff are both leading and supporting our university in a way that brings greater visibility to our institution's premier academic contributions. The Libraries offers an ideal, curated repository for the center's archive of collected materials, community records, and academic products, which will enhance administrative, faculty, and student commitments to diversifying and deepening collaborative learning at Mason."

Ann Ardis, dean of CHSS, notes that "this exciting new partnership between CHSS faculty and the University Libraries is bringing George Mason's complicated legacies to digital life for a new generation of student-scholars and enabling important new dimensions of community engagement and K12 outreach. The work that Dr. Oberle, Professor Carton, and Professor Manuel-Scott and their teams of student researchers are undertaking is a great example of Mason's trademark commitments to collaborative, project-based learning and research of consequence." ■

SUPPORT THE CENTER

Gifts to the Center for Mason Legacies fund will allow us to provide stipends for graduate and undergraduate student assistants, offer internship opportunities, enable public programming and community outreach, and establish future initiatives. Your support enables us to pursue our mission to examine the legacy of George Mason IV and his enduring impact on American history, Northern Virginia development, and higher education.

WORKING WITH THE CENTER FOR MASON LEGACIES

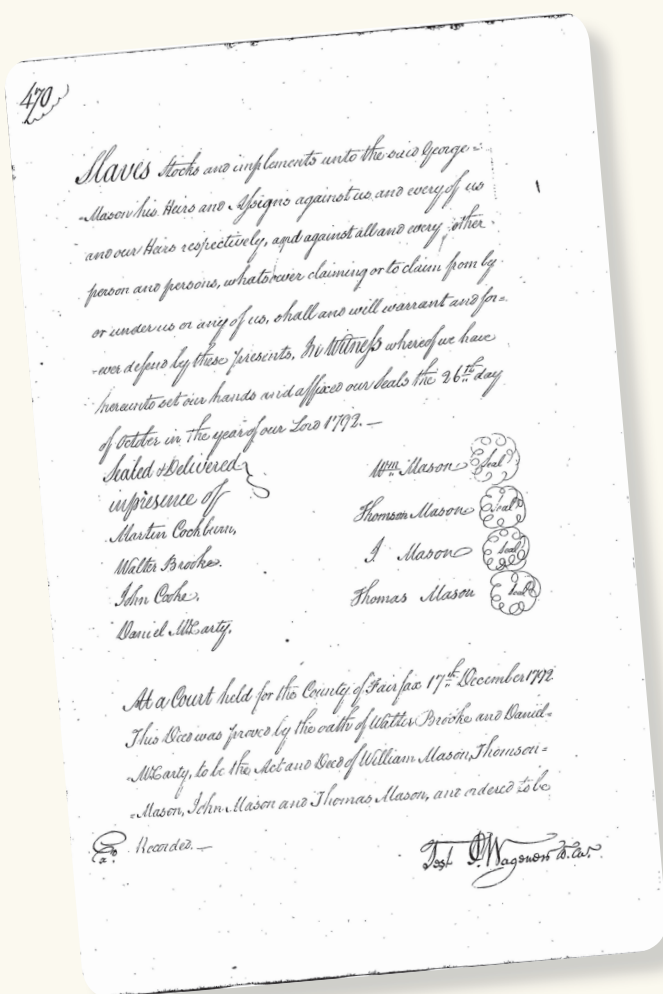
A student reflection by Rejina Tabay

Working at the Center for Mason Legacies has been such a pleasure. During my time with the project, I've learned so much about historical research and my university. I can safely say that I've transcribed more than a hundred record index cards and several wills detailing the history of the Mason family and their history with slaves, and with this opportunity, I can say that I've been able to gain more insight into the family, at least more than my average peer.

As a student here at Mason with no extensive knowledge of our namesake, I am often made aware of some qualities of Mason that I have never considered. After all, the average student does not research their prospective universities' namesake, but we focus more on the qualities of the university that will have an impact on us, the student. However, in this day and age, I think we are becoming more aware of these names and how their actions reflect upon us today. While I think we can come up with so many questions, we are still often left with one of the most prominent ones, a very common one among historians: how can we use the past to inform our future?

When I came upon this job as a transcriber as a wide-eyed, job-seeking freshman, I don't think I truly realized the importance of the work we do at the Center. My perception of George Mason IV has changed, or rather my apathy in him as a person has developed into something more. Working more closely with everyone at CML this semester has given me more insight on what this project is truly about. I'm excited to see where we can take this research in the future. ■

◀ An excerpt from the Fairfax County Court, Deed Book U-1 (page 470) which details an agreement between George Mason IV's sons. The complete document is one of many transcribed by Tabay and which is furthering the work of the center to fill the gaps in the record concerning the Mason family's slaveholding.



Rejina Tabay is an undergraduate student, majoring in psychology, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2022. Her work as a research assistant with the Center for Mason Legacies is funded through the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities and Research (OSCAR) Research Assistant Program. OSCAR, in coordination with the Office of Student Financial Aid, has created the OSCAR Research Assistant Program, where undergraduate students awarded Federal Work-Study may use their award to work with faculty, staff, and university programs on research projects. The goal of this program is for students to be introduced to the concept of scholarship and to learn research methods.

LIBRARIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Adapting to a pandemic world

Like the rest of the world, the Libraries faced uncertainty and hard decisions in March 2020, when the continued, rapid spread of COVID-19 sent much of the world into lockdown status. Making the pivot—first to virtual services and then to the current hybrid model—was an all-hands-on-deck affair with many challenges but also many opportunities.

Fortunately, the Libraries' robust online teaching and learning activities, extensive digital collections, and leading-edge access services meant the Libraries had a good foundation upon which to build, when called upon to deliver virtual support, services, and resources in a much greater capacity. As Dean Zenelis noted, it was "due to the extraordinary individual and collective efforts of our library faculty and staff that we were prepared and ready to make the switch to a largely virtual mode of support and services for Mason students and faculty throughout this pandemic. Supporting the university's scholarly community required incredible effort and dedication from our staff, and it has been rewarding to see this recognized by our community."



Top to bottom

COVID-19 directional signage in Fenwick Library

A student studies in Fenwick Library

Supporting Online Teaching and Learning

Members of the Libraries' Teaching and Learning Team—especially Janna Mattson, Valerie Linsinbigler, Christopher Lowder, and Anna Murphy-Lang—were instrumental in meeting online teaching and learning needs during the pivot to online instruction in the spring and summer of 2020. Their hard work in creating, maintaining, and revising customizable learning modules for all library instructors to use proved invaluable during the transition to all virtual learning.

These learning modules reached a significant proportion of Mason undergraduate students in courses, such as ENGH 101, ENGH 302, and HNRS 110. The Teaching and Learning Team, along with other library colleagues, also worked to expand the Libraries' virtual chat service, provide office hour support through the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning, and provided timely professional development for online instruction that reinforced best online learning practices, information literacy instruction, and accessible pedagogy.

Supporting Access to Resources

Members of the Libraries' Access Services, Resource Acquisition, Digital Technologies & Services, and Arts & Humanities teams—Jocelyn Lewis, Erika Coronado, Bruce Lord, Heather Darnell, Melanie Bopp, Lara Bushallow, and Jonathan Bueno—provided crucial support and expansion of our electronic resources. They were responsible for facilitating rapid acquisition of large quantities of materials to support online learning with adjustments to syllabi, lesson plans, course readings, and streaming media. Together, this cross-division group worked to swiftly identify, procure, and provide access to online e-books, streaming media, and other resources needed by instructors and their students, often adapting quickly as circumstances necessitated.

Keeping the Lights On

Even during the months when the Libraries had to remain closed to visitors, some of our faculty and staff remained onsite to provide the necessary services to facilitate other library work and to support their colleagues who were working remotely. These included facility concerns, mail retrieval, and fiscal activities, to name a few. Kevin Sanders, fiscal coordinator, and Cynthia Bentley, administrative coordinator, were especially recognized by their colleagues for their willingness to come to campus multiple times each week to ensure essential tasks were completed.

Planning for a Safe Return

In addition to the university's task force and Safe Return planning, the Libraries convened a Reopening Task Force to consider the unique place the Libraries holds in the university, both as a resource repository and an interactive gathering and study space. Melanie Bopp, head of access services, chaired the group, which developed guidelines and recommendations for the Libraries based on health and safety protocols, in addition to best practices from the library profession. Amy Sullivan, head of preservation services, followed the REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) test results and adapted protocols for quarantining books and materials in response to the test findings.

It was thanks to the work of the Libraries' Reopening Task Force and additional colleagues across all library units that the Libraries ensured safe spaces, physically distanced study spaces, and posted guidelines, as well as established best practices for both contactless pickup and staff-mediated access to physical collections when the Libraries reopened its buildings at the start of the Fall 2020 semester.

An essential part of the academic enterprise

When the pandemic hit, the Libraries continued to do what it always does—support the university with teaching and learning support, instruction and reference help, access to resources and technology, and a myriad of other services. While far from “business as usual,” the Libraries maintained its high level of support of the university, which did not go unnoticed by colleagues across the university. From students to faculty, academic deans to the provost, Mason has shown their appreciation with emails, notes via our virtual reference chat, and numerous testimonials. As one faculty member wrote, “One of the things I am very impressed with at the moment is how the library is working... its e-resources and also the excellent support online from the librarians. This is an incredible resource for us and our students.”

Provost Ginsberg reflected, “The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the university, and especially our faculty, staff and students in unique and profound ways. I'm proud that the Libraries remained open and accessible, pivoting quickly to provide necessary and highly valued services in a technology enriched environment, and continued to be a resource for information our students needed. The Mason Libraries are an important part of our academic mission and the education that our students receive at Mason. Librarians are an essential and integral part of the academic enterprise. I am so proud that the Libraries are there to support our students at a time of great need.”



Top to bottom

A physically distanced space in Fenwick Library

New external book drops were installed at each library location—the SciTech campus location is shown above.

Pandemic Connections

Best Practices in Online Teaching and Learning Across Academic Disciplines

Ross C. Alexander, Editor

Project MUSE

The George Mason University Press partnered with Project MUSE—a leading provider of digital humanities and social sciences content—to make one of our recent titles, *Best Practices in Online Teaching and Learning Across Academic Disciplines*, available as a free resource during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Published in 2017, *Best Practices in Online Teaching and Learning Across Academic Disciplines* provides insights from experienced university teachers and scholars across multiple disciplines—including social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, and professional programs such as nursing, education, and business administration who share innovative practices, pedagogies, and instructional design techniques for online teaching and learning.

As we all learned over the past year, we can take for granted the amount of interactions we have throughout the course of a work day. When everyone moves from working together in a shared location to working remotely, much of this natural connection is lost. To address this need, library faculty and staff took the initiative to create opportunities for colleagues to come together through a variety of events, including coffee hours, book discussion meetings, specially themed Halloween festivities, and other gatherings.

Megan Reichelt, theater and dance librarian, who coordinates a book club for library faculty and staff, shared that the group “started out as a way for folks to connect virtually. I had been planning to start an in-person group, and when the pandemic hit, I knew we would really need human connection right now.”

Reichelt describes the book club as very democratic in nature. Periodically she sends out calls for book ideas, faculty and staff submit suggestions, and then everyone votes. The book which receives the most votes is the next read. This has produced a diverse selection of books, authors, topics, and genres that has sparked spirited discussion among colleagues. As the book genre and topic changes each time, different people show up, based on their interests.

The book club “provides them with something to talk about other than work,” says Reichelt, “and it is helpful to have a focal point for the conversation. Reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer brought up themes of caring for the environment, Native American practices, and family—giving us an opportunity to connect more personally.”



The winter meeting, which discussed Rumaan Alam's *Leave the World Behind*, found an unexpected consensus in a dynamic conversation of their collective dislike for the book. Reichelt speculates that one of the reasons was the setting of the book, with its unspecified disaster and underlying tension of unease, being "so close to home...but at that same time it provided us with an avenue to express our anxieties during this time."

Anne Melville, education librarian, shared that the book club was one of her favorite staff events, reflecting, "The book club included a wide variety of topics. My favorite part was that we each read the same book, but had very different takeaways. For Sarah Gailey's book *Upright Women Wanted*, which is the story of a stowaway in a librarian's book wagon, discussion ranged from the realists' expression of 'how can someone fall in love so quickly?' to people like me who read to go to places I will never go and meet people who I might never meet. Such a lively discussion ensued, and everyone was respectful of each other's opinions and beliefs."

Another favorite virtual connection point was the #SaveHalloween campaign created by Amanda Brent, archives processing coordinator; Tricia Mackenzie, head of metadata services; and Amy Sullivan, head of preservation services. The trio, affectionately referred to as The Weird Sisters, really brought the library community together throughout October 2020 for festivity and fun. Yoko Ferguson, metadata & cataloging librarian, shares, "A series of #SaveHalloween events organized by The Weird Sisters made us smile and gave us chills throughout the month of October. Especially the last costume event gave me a chance to get to know some colleagues whom I've only seen through emails and the Staff List. Due to their amazing disguise, I still don't know who some of them really were, but it was wonderful to get to meet new colleagues, which has been challenging in this pandemic time."

Brent, Mackenzie, and Sullivan coordinated an email group with weekly conversation themes and providing a place to share out-of-work projects and activities, as well as hosted bingo games and competitions for Best Pumpkin Carving and Best Costume. Kim Edwards, Bridget Euliano, Deb Hogan, and Kelsey Kim were the winners of the Spooky Bingo games. Kim MacVaugh received the Best Pumpkin Carving award for her entry "This is Fine"; Bridget Euliano received the Best Costume award for her portrayal of Mrs. Peacock from the *Clue* film; and Yoko Ferguson was awarded Honorable Mention for her costume, "Unzipped." ■



HathiTrust

Thanks to a cooperative agreement between the University Libraries and the HathiTrust, Mason students, faculty and staff were granted online access to over a million titles from our library's collection even as access to the book stacks had been cut off due to COVID-19 concerns. This virtual access to our collection, initially arranged for a few months, has been extended as the pandemic continues.



Opposite

Halloween Baking

Halloween baking by Kelsey Kim

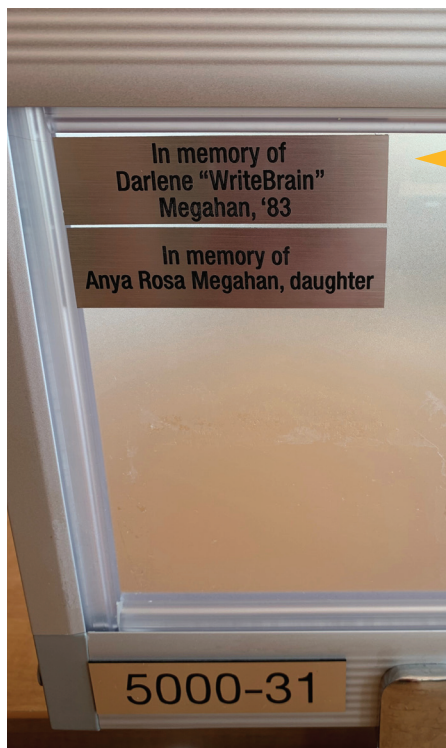


Above

Best Pumpkin Carving

Best Pumpkin Carving titled "This is Fine" by Kim MacVaugh

Advancement Highlights



Naming Opportunities

There are a number of naming opportunities available in Fenwick Library and other Libraries' branch locations—individual rooms, study carrels, and other facilities.

In 2020, we were privileged to receive a memorial gift honoring the memory of Darlene "WriteBrain" Megahan, '83 and her daughter Anya Rosa Megahan, given by their friends who named a graduate study carrel in their memory.

Center for Mason Legacies

The Center for Mason Legacies (CML) is a new interdisciplinary and collaborative research center established by the University Libraries and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. CML's mission is to preserve and examine the legacy of George Mason IV (1725-1792), his ancestors and heirs, and the people he enslaved. The Center engages student researchers in studying the past and present influences of our university's namesake through a combination of scholarly research, public history, teaching innovation, and community outreach. Gifts to the CML fund will allow us to provide stipends to graduate and undergraduate student assistants, offer internship opportunities, enable public programming and community outreach, and establish future initiatives.

See pages 5–7 for more about the Center for Mason Legacies.

Libraries' Student Research Endowment

The University Libraries' Advisory Board has proposed to create a new endowment in support of excellence in student research at Mason. To signal their support, they made a combined challenge gift to launch this initiative and the Libraries began a supporting campaign in Fall 2020. To date we have raised over seventy-five percent of our goal of \$25,000 to initially fund the endowment.

As it grows, the Libraries' Student Research Endowment will provide recognition and monetary support for Mason students by funding a new Graduate Student Fellowship and a new Undergraduate Student Research Prize each academic year.

We believe student research skills learned today at Mason benefit the lives of many in the future, as is demonstrated by the current output by both students and faculty research efforts related to the crucial field of global public health.

Supporting the Libraries

- If you would like to support student research and education, please join us here:
<https://library.gmu.edu/support>.
- If you have questions, please email Kathleen Kehoe, Director of Development at kkehoe@gmu.edu.



James Buchanan receiving the Nobel Prize in Economics from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, December 10, 1986.

James McGill Buchanan papers, #C0247, Photographs. Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

Mason Libraries receives grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

In April 2020, the Libraries received notification that we would be awarded a grant in the amount of \$334,720 from the NEH's Humanities Collection and Reference Resources program for the "Preserving the Legacy of James M. Buchanan" project.

The project's purpose is to preserve and make accessible the extensive James M. Buchanan Papers—the largest and most significant holding in existence of unique, primary source material related to James M. Buchanan (1919–2013). The archive, held in the Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), chronicles the legacy of Professor Buchanan, esteemed economist and Mason faculty member. Buchanan is well-known for his development of public choice theory, for which he received the 1986 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Of the award, NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede says, "NEH is pleased to support the processing of James M. Buchanan's papers, which will be accessible to scholars as a result of this project. In his lifetime, Buchanan received accolades including the Nobel Prize and the National Humanities Medal, and his work continues to have wide-reaching impact on American life."

The work of the grant, which began in early 2021, will take place over the next two years, with the Libraries' communicating progress updates along the way. The project will produce a completely arranged and described collection, create a detailed finding aid, and provide internship opportunities for Mason graduate and undergraduate students.

John Zenelis, dean of Libraries and university librarian, remarks, "Preserving primary source materials such as the Buchanan Collection and providing access to them are key to the mission of SCRC and the Mason Libraries overall. We are pleased to receive the endorsement of our colleagues in Mason's College of Humanities and Social Sciences for this project and the validation of the NEH on the importance of this work to the nation and beyond."

"CHSS students have gained valuable experience from employment with the Libraries, and working with a collection of this significance opens up remarkable opportunities for them," says Ann Ardis, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "CHSS looks forward to such a valuable and essential resource being available to future scholars."

ALYSSA FAHRINGER SELECTED FOR COMPETITIVE TEXT DATA MINING INSTITUTE

Alyssa Fahringer, digital scholarship consultant with the Libraries' Digital Scholarship Center (DiSC), was selected for the Building Legal Literacies for Text Data Mining Institute (Building LLTDM), held in June 2020. The institute—designed and taught by a team of legal scholars, digital humanities professionals, librarians, faculty, and researchers—was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Alyssa Fahringer

The competitive application to join the institute involved a two-round selection process, with only 32 participants making the final cut. The group of digital humanities researchers and digital humanities professionals were assessed based on their experience working with digital humanities text data mining projects, ability to articulate their reasons and goals for participating in the institute, and commitment to diversity and equity, among other criteria.

Fahringer, who has worked with DiSC since February 2019, was encouraged by DiSC director, Wendy Mann, to apply for the institute. With the number of Mason researchers who come to DiSC for text and data mining support and expertise, the institute provided a timely opportunity.

“A host of licensing and copyright concerns accompany digital projects that include data mining, especially when contemporary news sources and social media data are involved. Each project varies, depending on the sources, time period, and the questions asked by researchers. There is not a one-size-fits-all model when it comes to digital humanities projects,” says Fahringer. “The institute’s goal of providing participants with the skills needed to navigate law, policy, ethics, and risk in digital humanities text and data mining projects was exactly what I was looking for to better understand the intricacies and considerations facing researchers.”

One of the outcomes of the institute is a workshop Fahringer has developed on the legal and ethical principles of data mining so that faculty and students at Mason can gain knowledge in these literacies. “Two of my favorite aspects of the institute were the lectures on licensing and the discussions of ethics,” Fahringer reflected. “Often we focus on what is legal before turning to ethics, and in the institute we really dived into what it would be like to reverse that, to develop ethical frameworks that consider how to best minimize or weigh potential harm.”

The workshop, which Fahringer has conducted twice, will be offered each semester and, she hopes, will build awareness among our community of how library resources can and cannot be used. In line with this, Fahringer will be working with Mann to periodically review and update the

“Access Text Collections” section of a library guide created by Mann, which covers resources, data tools available, and which of the Libraries’ subscriptions allow for text and data mining.

About the institute, Fahringer says, “It was such a great experience, and I’m glad I was able to attend. The faculty were excellent and handled the transition from an in-person to virtual format really well. Our cohort was very collegial. We had a post-institute meeting to share updates, and it was great to hear about the work everyone was doing. If the institute is offered again, I encourage digital humanities professionals to apply.”

More about the institute can be found at <https://buildinglltdm.org>; as part of the project, the Building LLTDM project team will be publishing an open, online book to help others build these skills.

More about the work of the Digital Scholarship Center can be found at <https://dsc.gmu.edu/>. ■

What is text data mining?



“If you were to crack open some popular English-language novels written in the 1850s—say, ones from Brontë, Hawthorne, Dickens, and Melville—you would find they describe men and women in very different terms. While a male character might be said to “get” something, a female character is more likely to have “felt” it. Whereas the word “mind” might be used when describing a man, the word “heart” is more likely to be used about a woman. Yet, as the 19th Century became the 20th, these descriptive differences between genders actually diminish. How do we know all this? We can make this assertion because researchers (including David Bamman, of UC Berkeley’s School of Information) used automated techniques to extract information from the novels, and analyzed these word usage trends at scale. They crafted algorithms to turn the *language* of those novels into *data about* the novels.



In fields of inquiry like the digital humanities, the application of such automated techniques and methods for identifying, extracting, and analyzing patterns, trends, and relationships across large volumes of unstructured or thinly-structured digital content is called “text data mining.” (You may also see it referred to as “text and data mining” or “computational text analysis”). Text data mining provides humanists and social scientists with invaluable frameworks for sifting, organizing, and analyzing vast amounts of material. For instance, these methods make it possible to: detect racial disparity by evaluating language from police body camera footage; develop new tools to enable large-scale analysis of television series and photographs; and capture and design new physical representations of naturally occurring laughter.” ■

From Building LLTDM, <https://buildinglltdm.org/>



SAMUEL CLOWES HUNEKE AND ANDREA WEEKS NAMED 2020-21 FENWICK FELLOWS



The annual Fenwick Fellow award recipients for 2020–21 were Samuel Clowes Huneke, assistant professor, Department of History and Art History, and Andrea Weeks, associate professor, Department of Biology.



Above
Samuel Clowes Huneke

Opposite
Andrea Weeks

Professor Huneke's research proposal, *Visualizing Authoritarianism*, is a three-part project concentrated on examining the East German regime's visual propaganda and how it changed over time, through examination of the East German poster collection held by the Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). Professor Huneke is working collaboratively with both SCRC and the Libraries' Digital Scholarship Center (DiSC) to accomplish his project goals: 1) migrating existing collection metadata into an Omeka S site (with the assistance of graduate research assistants); 2) conducting a qualitative assessment of the posters in the collection to augment the existing metadata and to create more nuanced descriptions of the posters; and 3) publishing a journal article of research findings and digitizing a sampling of the posters for inclusion with a digital exhibit.

Professor Weeks' research proposal, *The Extended Specimen Project*, seeks to explore the extended specimen concept in relation to the curation of natural history collections using the methods of digital scholarship by focusing on an orphaned research collection recently acquired by the University Herbarium. The collection, amassed over 40 years by a professor at Virginia's Lord Fairfax Community College, contains 20,000 herbarium specimens and 18 collection notebooks of significant historical and scientific value for understanding the flora of Virginia and its exploration in the late 20th century. Professor Weeks' project has two main goals: 1) creating a digital resource of the notebooks (which will be accessioned within the Libraries) and 2) cross-linking the digital images of the notebook entries with the growing database of herbarium specimens, with the assistance of DiSC. Professor Weeks also intends to publish and present on her findings.

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian John Zenelis commented, "It is a delight each year to see Mason faculty's creative proposals to use, build upon, and expand the Libraries' collections. I was pleased to support the review committee's endorsement of Professor Huneke's and Professor Weeks' projects this year, with their mix of archival and digital exploration. We look forward to the results of their research projects."

Professors Huneke and Weeks will present on the outcomes of their projects in spring of 2022 at the annual Fenwick Fellow Lecture hosted by the University Libraries. ■

About the Fenwick Fellowship

The Fenwick Fellowship is awarded annually to one or two Mason tenured, tenure-track, or multi-year appointment term faculty members to pursue a research project that uses and enhances the University Libraries' resources while advancing knowledge in their fields. The winning proposals are recommended to the dean of Libraries and university librarian by a six-member selection committee including three

instructional faculty members and three librarians, with one of the associate university librarians serving as administrative coordinator. The recipients are provided with a fully equipped and furnished research office in Fenwick Library and an award of \$5,000 to support the recipient's research project. The term for the fellowship is one academic year. ■

STEVE GERBER RECEIVES 2020 DISTINGUISHED LIBRARY FACULTY AWARD

Steven K. Gerber—music, theater, and philosophy librarian—was the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Library Faculty Award. Gerber's nomination for the award was a recognition by his colleagues of his enthusiastic and tireless support of Mason's students, faculty, and staff; his commitment to the academic research librarian profession; and his dedication to the discipline of music.

Over the course of his fifteen years with the Mason Libraries, Steve distinguished himself through the development of original programming and deep involvement with teaching and student research. In addition to his instructional appointments in Mason's Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music, Steve was instrumental in a notable OSCAR Summer Research Grant project, leading a team of undergraduate students in the scanning, editing, dissemination, and performance of chamber music manuscripts from the Library of Congress.

It is thanks to Steve that the performing arts have a vibrant, visible presence in the Libraries. Steve advocated for and established a dedicated space for music collections and exhibitions within Fenwick Library. In conjunction with the grand opening of this dedicated space, he launched the immensely popular "Music in the Lobby" series, which has drawn eager crowds for regular performances since 2017. With such efforts Steve forged strong connections with the performing arts as well as the broader Mason community, situating the library as a dynamic space where research and artistic investigation are active, engaged practices.

Steve's contributions as a scholar have earned him recognition in academic librarianship and music studies. He organized exhibitions, panel discussions, and conferences for music librarians, but also authored critical and reconstructed editions



of historic scores. His efforts to digitize and disseminate rare nineteenth century scores, held in Mason's Special Collections Research Center, put a spotlight on these unique resources as well as our university. Steve's reputation further extends to the international stage. Among his many conference presentations, posters, and publications, he was the invited keynote speaker for the Association of Nordic Music Academies in Oslo in 2011, where he spoke about the library and librarian's role in the "Music Academy of Tomorrow."

Beyond these notable forms of scholarship, Steve is a dynamic music professional, performing, composing, editing, and arranging original works. As a colleague aptly noted, "Because Steve is both a scholar and a professional artist, he knows his students and his academic community and their needs [...] He speaks the language of the musician." Steve's colleagues and peers all recognize his quick wit and disarming sense of humor, but also his unwavering commitment to his communities and ceaseless efforts to learn, teach, and grow.

Steve retired on August 1, 2020, and he and his wife relocated to North Carolina. The Libraries is grateful for all of Steve's many contributions to our community, and we wish him all the best on his next ventures! ■



About the Award

The Distinguished Library Faculty Award is awarded on an annual basis at George Mason University's Celebration of Teaching Excellence, organized by the Stearns Center for Teaching and Excellence. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 ceremony was postponed. Awardees were mailed their certificates of recognition at their home.

To be considered for the award, library faculty are assessed on the performance of their professional duties, as well as their scholarly and service contributions to the academic research library field and to higher education. Award recipients exemplify this threefold role: have a strong reputation among their colleagues at Mason and outside the institution; actively foster the teaching, learning, research, and public service mission of the Libraries; and embody organizational values such as innovation, collaboration, and leadership. ■

Libraries forms Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council

In 2017, the Libraries adopted an updated strategic plan and mission, vision, and values statement. Within this plan, the Libraries identified six key priorities, one of which was to focus on how we might expand as "a diverse, dynamic, and responsible organization."

In support of this priority, an Action Item Team was formed to assess and review the Libraries' organization over the course of 2018–20. In line with that assessment, the team drafted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement and Action Plan, and proposed the formation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council. This plan was adopted and the new council was convened in September 2020. During this first year, the council has been laying the groundwork for moving forward in a sustainable manner, and they have organized library-wide opportunities for library faculty and staff trainings and enrichment.

Additional work outside of the formal auspices of the council is ongoing in various divisions across the Libraries. Library faculty and staff have been crafting new resources guides, such as "Anti-Racism, #BlackLivesMatter, and Civic Action" and "Finding Diverse Voices in Academic Research." And, in our Special Collections Research Center, we have embarked on an archival reparations project, examining the terminology and descriptions in our catalog to discover where we can better represent heretofore marginalized people in our collections. ■

FENWICK GALLERY HOSTS EXHIBITIONS

Call & Response

In Fall 2020, Fenwick Gallery at George Mason University Libraries hosted *Call & Response: Structures*, a collaborative exhibition between Mason's School of Art and Creative Writing program. This annual series was founded more than a decade ago, by Mason Professors Emeritae Susan Tichy (Creative Writing) and Helen Frederick (School of Art) to foster literary and artistic collaboration between students, faculty, and alumni of Mason's Creative Writing program and School of Art.

Call & Response is an annual exhibit of collaborations between writers and visual artists, including a dynamic set of paired literary and art works that resonate and speak to contemporary issues. Each year is guided by a relevant theme.

For *Structures*, the contributors were asked, “What architecture will you create in this work, and how will form and meaning support one another? What is the use or the imperative of any structure? On what will your structure rest?” As our society reckons with structural inequities, and structural racism in particular, how do we as artists and writers un-struct, de-struct, and instruct, and eventually help construct new systems on new foundations?

Due to COVID-19, the exhibition occupied a hybrid space, with a physical exhibition in Fenwick Gallery, an online exhibition, and virtual events, including an artists' panel discussion and a thematic literary reading. ■

Echo Impressions

In September 2020, Fenwick Gallery presented MFA candidate Kate Fitzpatrick's pop-up show *Echo Impressions* as an amuse-bouche to her thesis exhibition, *Liminal Glyphs*, which was held in the School of Art's Gillespie Gallery of Art. Activities in Fenwick Gallery have necessarily been curtailed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Libraries was happy to feature Kate's work when we reopened our space on a modified schedule for the fall semester. Kate's work is just one example of students' creative accomplishments and dedication to their work during these trying times.

Artist Statement

Signs can take the form of words, images, sounds, body gestures, and objects which play a crucial part in the social construction of our reality. We take understanding these signs for granted and don't often think about how we come to understand these signs, or if others can understand the signs we use. All signs communicate something that we may or may not understand based on our own culture and experiences. My work centers around my own sign system to create interpretive spaces filled with unknown letter forms. Repetitive glyphs appear as mantras or broken language, glyphs gather and float away to reveal new worlds.

This series of layered drawings is inspired by palimpsests. Palimpsests reveal a collection of partial images or words through a history of marks on its own surface. As an early method of recycling surfaces for writing and images, they were erased, scraped or washed away to make room for new scrawl and images. Only made on a single surface, the layers hint at an archive of altered history where visible traces of the past are present.

Palimpsests have a direct relationship to the day to day veneer that covers the meaning of words and images we encounter. The removal, crossing out, erasing, and overwriting of our words and images reshapes the meaning of our language systems and opens up the possibility for multiple meanings to live in the remnants of our “readable” surfaces. The meaning of images and words lie somewhere in the interplay of the spaces between. ■



Call & Response: Structures
exhibition card



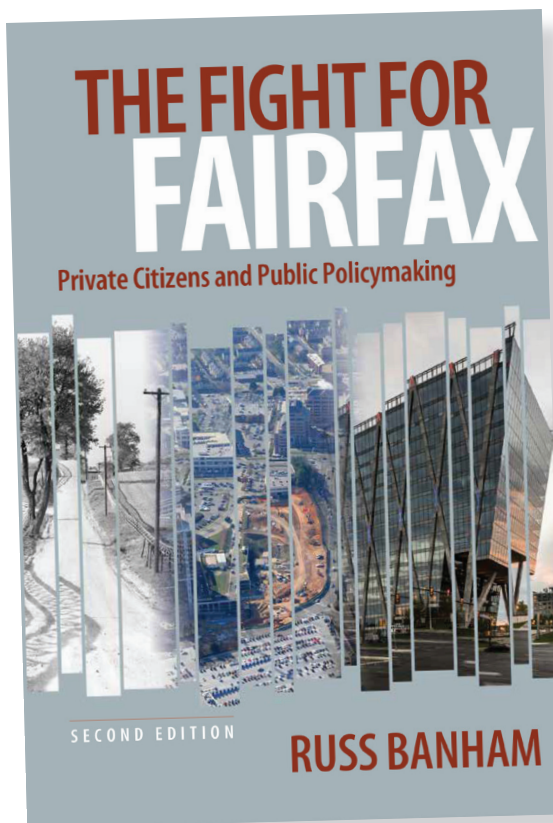
Fenwick Gallery hosts
Echo Impressions



GMU Press releases

The second edition of *The Fight for Fairfax: Private Citizens and Public Policymaking* by Russ Banham

Fight for Fairfax presents the story of a group of local citizens in Fairfax County, Virginia, and their efforts over the past half-century to invent a place that would be more than a Washington, D.C. suburb. Told from their point of view, the book chronicles their



vision of Fairfax and the steps they took to bring it to life in the face of much opposition. The pro-development group, including a zoning attorney, a university president, two defense contractors, several county officials, real-estate engineers, and a homebuilder, believed their work would transform Fairfax into what might be called the cradle of the Information Age.

Fight for Fairfax uncovers their vision and records their fight to make Fairfax County the technological leader that it is today. Fairfax has become a vibrant economic hub that boasts of its modern industries, high paying jobs, superior public developers, schools, multicultural workforce,

and abundant open spaces. In making the case for these architects of change, the author, who prodigiously researched the subject and conducted numerous interviews with key players, produces an eloquent account of a transformative story.

Growth in Fairfax and the wider region has continued since the publication of the first edition in 2009 and the second edition has been updated throughout, including new chapters focusing on that recent growth and new challenges facing the region. ■

JIPE acceptance into Directory of Open Access Journals

In 2020, the *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education* (JIPE) was accepted into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Inclusion in the DOAJ speaks to JIPE's quality and reputability as well as the strong partnership between the College of Education and Human Development, the Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities, and the Mason Publishing Group (MPG). Andrew Kierig, digital publishing lead for MPG, was instrumental in facilitating this partnership and shepherding the journal to its inclusion in the directory. JIPE is particularly notable for being the first scholarly journal to focus exclusively on post-secondary special educational needs and its intellectual and methodological diversity. ■

▶ The journal may be accessed at <https://journals.gmu.edu/jipe>.

JIPE Journal of
Inclusive Postsecondary Education

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER

Adds to Oral History Program Collection

The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) took two of its popular, collaborative oral history events into the virtual space this year.

Welcoming Golden Patriots

The 50th Reunion program, begun in 2018 to commemorate the class of 1968, entered its third year with a celebration of the class of 1970 on Thursday, October 15, 2020. A partnership with the Alumni Association, the 50th Reunion has become a popular event, which is usually hosted in the Fenwick Library, with a brunch, interactive discussion, and tour of the library and surrounding campus.

While this year looked different—an evening, virtual event due to COVID-19—the enthusiasm of the returning Mason alumni remained the constant. Chatty and engaged, they shared remembrances and reflections of their time at the new college that was then Mason. Bob Vay, BA '92, MA '99, SCRC's technology and exhibitions archivist, who facilitated the wonderful discussion, remarked, "This is my favorite event of the year, this opportunity to relive what it was like then with our alumni."

Welcoming the alumni and joining the conversation were Jenn W. Robinson, JM '02, associate vice president of alumni relations; Sumeet Shrivastava, MBA '94,

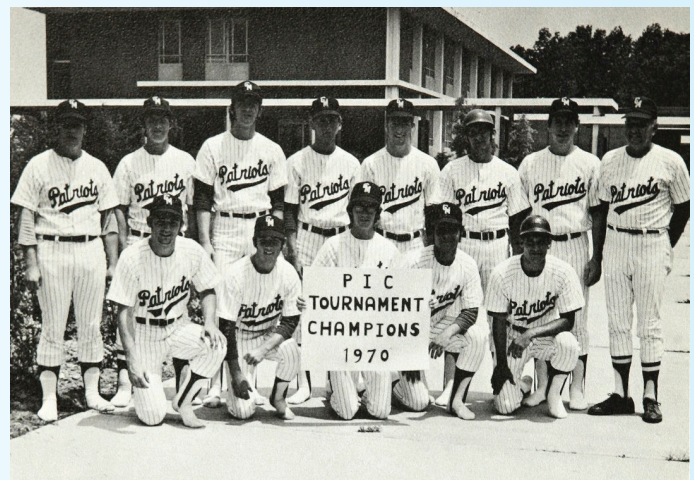
Alumni Association president; Gregory Washington, president of the university; Trishana Bowden, vice president of advancement and alumni relations; Kathleen Kehoe, MEd '97, director of development for the Libraries; and Lynn Eaton, director of the Special Collections Research Center. Attendees also enjoyed a comparative "then and now" discussion with current student body president, Shelby Adams.

As one alumnus, and former class president, said, "This brought back a lot of memories." The lively and free flowing conversations covered favorite classmates and professors, Mason Day and Homecoming, sporting events and campus shenanigans, and more serious topics such as protests and the scholarship they started in honor and memory of a fellow student who died in the Vietnam conflict.

In addition to facilitating the discussion, Bob selected items from the Libraries' special collections and university archives to create a video highlighting the class of 1970, including their yearbook photos as well as images that documented the world at that time. ■



Students enjoy Mason Day in 1970



The 1970 Mason baseball team

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Marching for Equal Rights



On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, a panel of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) members shared their individual, first-hand experiences lobbying and marching for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in Virginia and Washington, D.C. The discussion, which focused on the pivotal years 1970–82, was moderated by Laura Moore, adjunct faculty with the Department of History & Art History at Mason. Moore, who has been teaching at Mason since 2005, has focused her training and research on early 20th century U.S. women's history and has directed several senior theses on the Virginia ERA campaign.

Panelists Bonnie Becker and Jackie Gilbert held the audience captive with their stories and remembrances—from their “click moments” to “finding a home” in the National Organization for Women (NOW), from being told “to play stupid to get a boy” to choosing to work at smaller companies with less hierarchy to have a chance, from campaigning for the ERA to marching to Richmond to try to get the votes.

The 19th Amendment in the 20th Century

The 19th Amendment in the 20th Century is a virtual exhibition curated by the Special Collections Research Center. The exhibit highlights items in SCRC's collections from the women's suffrage movement in the 19th century through continued advocacy into our current time.

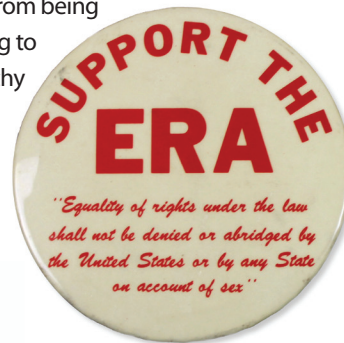
For Americans today the right to vote regardless of sex is a basic and indisputable principle. The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution,

Audience members chimed in to the conversation with their affirmations, recollections, and questions. One attendee recounted how a department store refused to let her purchase a couch (with the credit card she had in her name) without her husband present until she threatened them with action from NOW. “That couch was my badge of honor,” she said.

Collectively, panelists and attendees agreed that while tremendous progress has been made, there is still much room for improvement and that they hoped for more 100 years after suffrage.

In response to attendees questioning the value of their own mementos, such as pins and protest signs, Lynn Eaton, SCRC director, responded, “It is a big deal... this moment in time... these pieces of time that you have collected and lived through are incredibly valuable, both to scholars and historians. Such physical items would also be useful in educating our students and the younger generations so they can see what you all fought for.”

“The Equal Rights Amendment” marks the fourth annual special oral history collaboration between SCRC and OLLI. The program, which was recorded and added to SCRC's Oral History Program collection, was funded by a Special Project Grant awarded to the University Libraries by OLLI Mason. An online exhibition featuring some items from SCRC was created in conjunction with the program. ■



ratified in August of 1920, affirms this belief and gives it legal authority. And while ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a major victory in the centuries-old struggle for equality for women, equal opportunity has remained an objective for which many have fought and continue to fight.



View the exhibition at

<http://artemis.gmu.edu/SCRC/exhibits>

WORKING WITH THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER

A Student Assistant Reflection by Lana Mason



Lana Mason

About Lana Mason

Lana has an Associate of Arts degree in Fine Arts from Piedmont Virginia Community College, and she recently earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art History at George Mason University. Lana worked with the Special Collections Research Center team from January 2018 through her graduation in May 2020. She was the recipient of the University Libraries Student Assistant Scholarship for the 2018–19 academic year.

For a sampling of Lana's work, view her series on the Mason presidents at <https://vault217.gmu.edu/?p=9173>.

It's finally happened—on May 22, 2020, at long last, I received my Bachelor of Arts in Art History from George Mason University (GMU). However, this exciting accomplishment comes paired with one I've admittedly anticipated less enthusiastically. As my time as a student at GMU is finished, so I am also finishing my time as a student assistant at the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) and University Records Management (URM).

Two and a half years ago, in January 2018, I was beginning my first semester as an undergraduate transfer student here at Mason. While I was certain of what I wanted to do in an abstract sense—help others—I knew I needed to gain experience in a field before I could be sure it was a good fit for myself and my ambitions. I had explored a variety of career options and was specifically interested in the field of archives. It seemed like a perfect choice that merged both my goals and my personal strengths. I hoped to find an opportunity at some point to work in an archives but didn't imagine it would be as accessible as it ended up being. I felt incredibly lucky when I learned that SCRC was hiring student workers right when I began my search for work.

I don't know how or when I might have found a comparable work opportunity if it were not for SCRC, and I can't overstate the value that I've gained from holding this position. Working here has affirmed my interest in archives and has given me countless opportunities to learn important skills and develop a familiarity with the theory behind the profession.

I came into my position at URM through a similarly serendipitous turn of events. Since beginning at SCRC, I had also developed a curiosity about the world of records management. As I've written about in a previous blog post, it seemed that records management was a complementary field to archives. I learned that URM was looking for a student assistant and I quickly jumped on the chance, excited to learn more about the field that seemed both similar and entirely different from what I had already gained experience in.

My work at URM has proved to be immensely impactful, much like my work at SCRC. The strategic challenges of handling living records and the opportunities to connect with the people who work in offices across the university have both helped me to expand my professional skill set and connected me more meaningfully with the university itself.

As I prepare to enter graduate school, where I will be pursuing my Master of Science in Library and Information Science, I find within myself with a deep sense of gratitude for what my work here at Mason has given me. I will always remember this time fondly. The opportunities I have had access to through Mason, through SCRC and URM, and through the kind, supportive people I've been so lucky to work alongside have empowered me to continue succeeding for the rest of my life. ■

Showing Us Our Own Face

An Arts Exhibition

"S *Showing us our own face": Performing Arts and the Human Experience* featured items from SCRC's major performing arts collections (as well as some smaller collections), including documents, photographs, playbills, programs, artist books, posters, rare books, and other objects. Fascinating objects on display ranged from an illuminated manuscript of choral music from the 1400s to East German posters advertising opera and ballet to a braille script for "All the King's Men" from an Arena Stage production.



As Zelda Fichandler remarked, "the theater is capable of showing us our own face, plumbing for us the human heart, leading us to the edge of our own mind." This exhibition celebrated the myriad faces and experiences of those who dedicate their lives to the performing arts. Through six disciplines—opera, ballet, theatre, musical theatre, dance, and music—the exhibition examined the power of the performing arts, and its ability to "show us our own face."

The exhibition was on display January 2020 through March 2020 (when the Libraries closed in response to COVID-19) in the Special Collections Research Center's exhibition gallery on the second floor of Fenwick Library. In conjunction with the exhibition, an opening reception took place on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, with Rick Davis, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, speaking about the importance of the performing arts. ■

▲
Bifolium from the Missale Brixinense
with the Lord's Prayer in
Gothic musical notation, 1493,
BX2015 .A2 1493, Special Collections
Research Center, George Mason
University Libraries



▲ "Showing us our own face"
opening reception and
exhibition card

LIBRARIES STAFF

Excellence Award



The Staff Excellence Award is an annual award that recognizes library classified staff who have gone “above and beyond” in their assigned duties, shown a positive and energetic attitude towards their work and their colleagues, and have contributed to furthering the University Libraries’ mission. Our 2020 recipients were Brittney Falter and Kevin Sanders.

Congratulations to Brittney and Kevin!

Brittney Falter

Brittney Falter is the research services coordinator for the Special Collections Research Center. She has been praised by her colleagues for her inter-departmental collaboration and for her reinvigoration of the Staff Council—a group charged to provide staff members with a forum for voicing ideas, discussing concerns, and getting to know one another. Brittney is known for her tenacity, willingness to collaborate, and creative problem-solving.

Brittney is an integral part of the SCRC team, where she has worked hard to amplify SCRC’s Research Services’ area and activities, including increasing instructional opportunities and supporting primary-source research. She has been described as “the living definition of going above and beyond,” and the embodiment of a staff member who pursues excellence in all her work.

Brittney is a respected colleague across the Libraries, particularly for her collaborative nature and diligent work with the Staff Council. About Brittney, one colleague wrote, “When she was first named to Staff Council, there were about 10 people on it. After the library reorganization, it was down to two or three people. Brittney believed in the importance of the council as created by the dean, and wanted to make sure that this administrative initiative was successfully continued.” To ensure this, she worked with the remaining council members and a representative from the Dean’s Council to revamp and build up the Staff Council. Her work to support the vision and mission of the Libraries in this regard has taken a great deal of time, research, and thoughtfulness, and has been accomplished in addition to her regular work responsibilities within SCRC. ■

Kevin Sanders

Kevin Sanders is the fiscal coordinator for Administrative Services. He has been praised for his numerous contributions to the Libraries, including processing orders for all departments, being a go-to for questions, and displaying a consistently sunny attitude and friendliness to everyone he interacts with. His colleagues provided overwhelming support for his nomination and appreciation for his dedication.

Kevin’s immense contributions to keeping the Libraries functioning during the current pandemic have not gone unnoticed. He worked tirelessly to respond to and process all financial requests to ensure a successful close to this fiscal year. He also continued to come to campus multiple times a week to perform essential tasks, as well as ensure that deliveries were received and items delivered to those units who needed them. His willingness to help his colleagues in matters small and large is captured by one nominator who wrote, “I, personally, have never heard Kevin tell anyone ‘no, I can’t do that.’ What more can I say?”

Another colleague wrote, “It is easy to talk about extraordinary efforts during a crisis. Yes, Kevin Sanders is extraordinary. But COVID-19 did not change Kevin, nothing changed about Kevin. Kevin comes to work every day with a smile, a kind word, and the determination to exceed his efforts of the day before... Library members come to Kevin for answers, guidance, direction, and yes, often because they know there is help in the cube on the corner... Kevin, with his amazing work ethic and dedication to the University Libraries family does the right thing, above and beyond, every day.” ■

▶ Brittney Falter, standing next to an item from the Bernard Brenner Brass Rubbings collection C0044, as the SCRC team prepares items for an exhibit.

LIBRARIES FACULTY AND STAFF SERVICE RECOGNITION

In April each year, George Mason University celebrates University Day, an event that honors individuals who have served Mason and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia for their years of service. Since the university community was not able to gather in person during 2020, the recipients received personalized celebration packages in the mail and special thank you videos from Gregory Washington, president of the university, and Lester Arnold, vice president of human resources and payroll.

The following Libraries faculty and staff were recognized for their service to George Mason University and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2020.

► 5 Years

Liz Beckman, *Special Collections Research Center, Learning, Research, and Engagement*

Kathleen Bell, *Assessment and Planning, Digital Strategies and Systems*

Heather Darnell, *Arts and Humanities Team, Learning, Research, and Engagement*

Kaitlyn Kinney, *Access Services, Access and Resource Management*

Maoria Kirker, *Teaching and Learning Team, Learning, Research, and Engagement*

John Sherman, *Mercer Library, Learning, Research, and Engagement*

Amy Sullivan, *Preservation Services, Access and Resource Management*

► 10 Years

Dorothee Schubel, *Metadata Services, Access and Resource Management*

► 15 Years

Jen Stevens Fehsenfeld, *Arts and Humanities Team, Learning, Research, and Engagement*

► 20 Years

Paul Coley, *Metadata Services, Access and Resource Management*

Andrew Lee, *Social Sciences Team, Learning, Research, and Engagement*

Joy Suh, *Digital Scholarship Center, Digital Strategies and Systems*

► 30 Years

Jib Vititpongs, *Metadata Services, Access and Resource Management*



► Jib Vititpongs (front row, right), along with other university colleagues celebrating 30 years!

DONOR HONOR ROLL

The University Libraries gratefully acknowledges the following donors who made gifts and grants of \$100 or more from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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Ms. Martha D. Boerner, BA '75
Mr. William N. Bowden, MA '07
Mr. Thomas Bradley, MS '18, CERG '18, and Ms. Sandra Gregory
Ms. Amy Lynn Breedlove, BA '76, MA '83
Judith A. Buchino, PhD '05
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