Library Opens Modern, New Facility in January 2016

When George Mason College of the University of Virginia opened its first library building, it was a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility designed to respond to the emerging needs and research endeavors of its esteemed faculty and students. But that was 1967.

Forty years, 160 thousand students, and millions of library research material holdings later, the Fenwick Library had more than outgrown its aging facility, despite two incremental expansion projects in 1974 and 1983.

On January 19, the University Libraries opened the doors of a new Fenwick Library. The bright, modern facility with seating for more than 2,000, doubles the size of Mason’s main library and greatly expands the services, learning spaces, and digital resources that the University Libraries provides the Mason community.

Mason students and faculty explain why the University Libraries are the heart of campus.

Visit http://vimeo.com/113546978

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 - 25: NCAA March Madness Exhibit, Special Collections Research Center

March 2: NCAA March Madness Reception, Special Collections Research Center

March 7 - April 4: Locale Exhibit, Fenwick Gallery

March 25 - 31: Mason Collections of Distinction Exhibit, Special Collections Research Center and Fenwick Gallery

March 29: Mason Author Series Lecture sponsored by George Mason University Bookstore, 2:30 p.m., Main Reading Room, Fenwick Library

March 30: Fenwick Fellow Lecture Featuring Dr. Colin James Reagle, 2 p.m., Main Reading Room, Fenwick Library

March 31: Fenwick Library Grand Opening Celebration, 4:30 p.m., Fenwick Library, Atrium

April 4-30: Federal Theatre Project Exhibit, Special Collections Research Center

April 6: Federal Theatre Project Reception, Special Collections Research Center

April 6: The Five George Masons Book Launch, 3 p.m., Main Reading Room, Fenwick Library
The bright, modern new Fenwick Library opened for the campus community in January. The library provides seating for more than 2,000 people and doubled the size of the former facility. Photo by Creative Services.

New Fenwick Library

Highlights of the new facility include: more than 30 new group study rooms equipped with white boards and monitors, a café and study area, express check out stations, a laptop dispenser to check out equipment for use within the library, seminar rooms and three technology-rich instruction rooms, state-of-the-art Special Collections Research Center, a Main Reading Room, enhanced device-charging capabilities, presentation practice rooms, a Research Commons, a graduate student floor with individual locking study carrels, and two exhibition areas.

“When I first arrived at the university, it was obvious to me that we needed to start thinking about modernizing Mason’s central library for the 21st century,” said Dean of Libraries and University Librarian John Zenelis. “After much waiting and then six long years of planning and two years of construction, I think we have finally achieved our goal. In this new facility, I see a collaborative learning environment that offers great opportunities for innovative programming and one that can support contemporary scholarship and research not only for today’s Mason students and faculty, but also tomorrow’s.”

During this century, Mason’s library system has significantly expanded its footprint, and substantially expanded its capabilities through innovative programs and services, as well as its research collections. The Libraries’ collections today include robust digital resources, and more than 1.5 million physical volumes. Those digital resources include 1.5 million e-books, 119,000 e-journals, nearly 850 databases, and millions of other online research materials ranging from digital films to art images, which are accessed an average of nine times every second.

Alumni Weekend Draws Guests to the Libraries

On October 17, 2015, George Mason University welcomed back to campus alumni from around the country. As part of the festivities, the University Libraries hosted a presentation titled “The Libraries of Mason: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.” This was the first year Alumni Weekend was held in conjunction with Family Weekend, and Mason Admissions’ Fall Premier Open House. The combined events featured more than 60 events for 2,500 alumni, current and prospective students and their families.

Mason alumnus, resident historian, and Library Digital Collections and Exhibitions Archivist Bob Vay, BA ’92, MA ’99, took guests back to the mid-20th century when the university opened its original campus library in one small room in East Building. The multi-media presentation walked through time as community leaders dedicated Fenwick Library in 1967, added additional wings and branch locations over the next 30 years, and finally began planning for a new Fenwick Library, which opened on January 19, 2016. Guests gained perspective on the evolving role of libraries in university campus life, research and academic scholarship.
Mason Celebrates 7th International Open Access Week

This past October, Mason joined many higher education institutions worldwide in raising awareness about the benefits of unfettered access to scholarly research and data.

Broadening the Open Access movement’s traditional focus on scientific disciplines, during the week-long celebration, Mason’s nationally ranked Forensics Team presented on how collaboration and “openness” have revolutionized the entertainment industry and fundamentally altered the ways in which we create, share, and experience media. The students covered topics such as entertainment revenue models in a collaborative world, Open Access and contemporary theater, the curation of online media, and issues of ownership in musical mashups.

Mason A Leader in Undergraduate Research

Mason’s Students as Scholars program recently received national recognition through The Council of Undergraduate Research, and was presented the 2015 Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishment.

Over the past three years, approximately 17,000 students at Mason have been introduced to research through courses and projects, as reported by the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research (OSCAR).

Librarians play a critical role in supporting undergraduate research at the university by partnering with instructional faculty to teach courses that promote the discovery of scholarship, scholarly inquiry, and the creation of scholarship. In total, librarians taught 25 courses for the Students as Scholars program in the 2013-2014 academic year, and 30 in academic year 2014-2015.

To ensure it maximizes impact, in 2011 the University Libraries developed a Quality Enhancement Plan initiative along with an extensive master rubric of learning outcomes to produce tangible outcomes for the Students as Scholars initiative.

Barnes & Noble

Leadership Gift Establishes TextSelect Endowment

In 2015, long-time supporter Barnes & Noble announced a leadership gift to establish the “TextSelect” by Barnes & Noble College Endowment for the Libraries. This endowment fund will provide seed money to endow the TextSelect initiative, a project aimed at addressing the growing cost of required textbooks for university courses.

“We are deeply appreciative of Barnes & Noble’s continued partnership and commitment to the students at Mason,” said Dean of Libraries and University Librarian John Zenelis. “In particular, the leadership of Len Scoggins and Chris Peterson has been instrumental in helping the Libraries establish this valuable program for students.” Scoggins serves as Regional Manager and Peterson, Vice President of Stores, Barnes & Noble College.

The TextSelect program was launched in 2013 in response to recommendations from the Provost’s Task Force on Textbook Affordability commissioned by Provost Stearns and chaired by Associate University Librarian Diane Smith. Today, the program provides more than 1,000 required textbooks for most required general education courses at the university.
Global GIS Day Annual Event at Mason

On November 18, 2015, the University Libraries’ Data Services Group joined industry leaders, the Department of Geography and GeoInformation Science (GGS), and others across the university to provide an exciting program featuring geographic information systems (GIS) related presentations, speakers, a student poster sessions, and career fairs. At the event, Data Services staff demonstrated how GIS software can help visualize geospatial patterns to data such as the cholera outbreak that occurred in London, England 1854.

The Data Services Group assists students, faculty and researchers by providing a suite of services related to archiving research datasets and data manipulation. Services include quantitative and qualitative data analysis, Geographic Information Systems assistance for geospatial data and research, and research consultation for research data archiving and management as well as data discovery and use. A data lab with robust, applicable technology in Fenwick is available to students and faculty. The Data Services Group staff also provides numerous class- and curricula-related instruction sessions and workshops each academic year.

Music Conference Draws Librarians from Region

In October 2015, the Libraries hosted 50 attendees at the Music Library Association’s Atlantic Chapter Annual Conference and Meeting. Founded in 1931, the Association serves as the primary professional organization for music libraries and librarians in the country. Conference attendees discussed scholarly papers on preservation and discoverability of music; student internships and awareness of copyright legislation; and strategies to strengthen curricula. Participants also viewed a curated exhibit of performing-arts iconography from the Libraries’ Special Collections.

The circulating music collection held by the Libraries provides valuable research and performance materials for the School of Music, among other departments. Currently housed in Gateway Library, the collection will transition to Fenwick to better accommodate the approximately 16,000 books, 11,000 scores, and 14,000 recordings in the collection. Additionally, significant music-related resources are held by the Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center.

SAVE THE DATE: Fenwick Grand Opening Celebration!

On March 31, 2016, the University Libraries will join with University President Ángel Cabrera, Board of Visitors Rector Tom Davis, university and community leaders, faculty and students for a grand celebration to commemorate the opening of the new Fenwick Library on the Fairfax Campus.

Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Fenwick Library Atrium.

Photo by Creative Services.
China Delegation Visits Mason to Learn About University, American Libraries

In November 2015, the University Libraries hosted a delegation of academic officials from the Henan University of Science and Technology in China who sought to learn more about academic administration, including library management, in American universities.

Mason library staff presented information to help Henan University officials better understand how the Mason Libraries use data management to assist students and faculty, provide support for students at the thesis and dissertation stage of their studies, work collaboratively with peer academic institutions to provide greater access to research resources, and how the Libraries manages digital scholarly resources.

Delegates in attendance included President of the Henan University School Board, Niu Shucheng; Director of the Office of the Chancellor, Zhang Yanjun; Director, Education Supervision Office, Shi Baojin; Section Chief, Integrated Management Division, Technology Department, Zhang Yaling; Director, Student Affairs Office, Zhai Juhuai; Director, Admissions and Career Services Office, He Ermao; Director, International Exchange Office, Zhao Ruixiang; Director, Finance Office, Zhou Jianshe; Director, Assets Department, Niu Liyuan; Deputy Director, Henan University of Science and Technology Library, Di Jiufeng; and Director, Network Information Center, Ma Xiaoqin.

University Libraries faculty and staff in participating in the presentations included Jo Ann Henson, Business and Economics Librarian; Diane Smith, Associate University Librarian for Research and Education Services; Theresa Colcagno, Assistant Head of Research Services; John Walsh, Associate University Librarian for Resources and Collection Management; Andrew Lee, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian; and (not pictured) Wally Grotophorst, Associate University Librarian for Digital Programs and Systems.

University Press Releases Book on George Mason

In February, George Mason University Press, in collaboration with the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall, released a second edition of The Five George Masons: Patriots and Planters of Virginia and Maryland by Pamela C. Copeland and Richard K. MacMaster. First published in 1975, this new, second edition features an introductory note by George Mason University President Ángel Cabrera; a foreword by Scott Stroh, Executive Director of Gunston Hall; and new images and maps.

Though often less celebrated than fellow Virginians George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, George Mason’s work as the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights left an indelible mark on democracy, as we know it today. The Five George Masons highlights his history and legacy as one of America’s outstanding thinkers, legislators and writers. This book, available through Amazon and the university’s bookstore, will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, historians, and those interested in the early history of America.

Official Book Launch: 3 p.m., April 6, Main Reading Room, Fenwick Library. Free and open to the public.
Distinctions

Liz Beckman, Processing Coordinator, Special Collections Research Center
- Awarded scholarship to MARAC 2015 fall conference, Roanoke, VA.

Jessica Bowdoin, Head, Access Services

Steve Gerber, Music and Theater Liaison Librarian
- Appointed to Program Committee, Atlantic Chapter of Music Library Association, which hosted its annual conference at George Mason University, October, 2015.

April Kelley, Reference, Research and Instruction Specialist
- Received the University Libraries’ Staff Excellence Award, October 2015.

Maoria J. Kirker, Instructional Services and Assessment Librarian

Jenna Rinalducci, Arts and Art History Librarian
- Selected to attend “Digital Humanities Institute for Mid-Career Librarians” in Rochester, VA, July, 2015.

Jen Stevens, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian

Katara Wright, Access Services Specialist
- Elected to George Mason University Staff Senate, August 2015.

John Warren, Head, Mason Publishing/George Mason University Press

Library Inaugurates Galleries with International Exhibit

On March 5th, 2007, a car bomb exploded in Iraq on Al-Mutanabbi Street, killing 30 and injuring 100 and destroying many bookselling businesses as well as the historic Shabandar Café, where intellectuals had met for generations. To commemorate the bombing of Baghdad’s historic bookselling street, celebrate the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, and stand in solidarity with the people of Iraq, a diverse coalition of DC-area universities and arts and literary organizations joined forces to present Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016. This book arts and cultural festival runs from January through March 2016. As a key partner, the Libraries inaugurated its new gallery and exhibition spaces with the Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here art exhibit. Other events hosted at the Libraries included an opening reception, and panel discussion. 

Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016 is made possible in part by grants from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities. Partners at Mason include the University Libraries, College of Visual and Performing Arts, School of Art, Student Media, and Fourth Estate Newspaper. Other partners in the region include Split This Rock, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, McLean Project for the Arts, Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at The George Washington University, Busboys and Poets, Georgetown University, Cultural DC, Smithsonian Libraries, Brentwood Arts Exchange, and Northern Virginia Community College.
Sharing Expertise

Yvonne Carignan, Head, Special Collections Research Center


Theresa Calcagno, Engineering Liaison Librarian

• “Revising Academic Library Governance Handbooks,” in the peer-reviewed, open access journal In the Library With the Lead Pipe, July 1, 2015. (with C. Calcagno, J. Stevens, and Nathan Putnam)

Anne K. Driscoll, Education Liaison Librarian


Steven Gerber, Music and Theater Liaison Librarian


Claudia Holland, Scholarly Communications and Copyright Officer

• “Revising Academic Library Governance Handbooks,” in the peer-reviewed, open access journal In the Library With the Lead Pipe, July 1, 2015. (with T. Calcagno, J. Stevens, and Nathan Putnam)

Beth Roszkowski, Head, Arlington Campus Library

• “The Scholars’ Commons: Redefining Services and Spaces for Graduate Student Success” for the book Advances in Librarianship, Volume 39 (Emerald Publishing Group Limited, 2015). (with Michael Perini)

Megan Hunt, Access Services Supervisor, Arlington Campus Library


Jen Stevens, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian

• “Revising Academic Library Governance Handbooks,” in the peer-reviewed, open access journal In the Library With the Lead Pipe, July 1, 2015. (with T. Calcagno, C. Holland, and Nathan Putnam)

John Warren, Head, Mason Publishing/George Mason University Press