The University Libraries strive to be a welcoming and safe place for students, and many of our late summer activities revolve around welcoming students back to campus and encouraging their use of the Libraries. In this issue of Library Update you will read about the Libraries’ Great Dane Welcome event, during which students learned about library services and picked up a free book or two (donated by library staff). The Libraries hosted the International Students Reception, with more than 200 incoming graduate and undergraduate students in attendance, and participated in the University’s Great DANEtopia. The Libraries welcomed two undergraduate students from Taiwan over the summer who participated in a field study in the Libraries, learning all about how academic libraries in the United States operate.

The Libraries’ faculty and staff are its most valuable asset, and in this Library Update you’ll read about many of their accomplishments. Karen Kiorpes was awarded the prestigious Banks Harris Preservation Award, recognizing her many years of contributions and leadership to the preservation community. Camille Chesley was awarded a faculty research grant to explore the experience of women of color in academic libraries, and Elaine Lasda was awarded a grant to encourage the use of open educational resources in the classroom. UAlbany librarians have been sharing their research and scholarship through presentations and publications over the summer; their list of academic accomplishments is very impressive. Four librarians and department heads attended the Siena Leadership Institute for Academic Library Managers, and two of the Libraries’ directors attended the Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. Both are intensive programs that develop administrative and managerial skills in library staff.

These are just a few of the highlights from the summer; I hope you will take a few minutes to read through and learn about all of the Libraries’ exciting news.

Dewey Graduate Library in the News

By Lauren Puzier, Dewey Graduate Library Reference & Projects Librarian

ABC network’s Good Morning America came to Dewey Library on May 9 to film an interview with Paula O'Neil and Chantel Batuk, a
mother-daughter duo graduating from UAlbany's School of Social Welfare (above). The interview underscored the importance of family, education, and perseverance. The interview took place in the main reading room just below Dewey’s Vanderheyden and Bank murals. The feature also captured the Fort Crailo and Kingston murals. The interview can be viewed online: http://www.albany.edu/news/78870.php

Dewey Library: Exposed!

After many months of hiding behind scaffolding and tarps (left), the Dewey Library façade is back! The scaffolding around the library and the front entrance was removed over several days in May and while some construction is ongoing, the Dewey renovation is 95% complete! The mesh protecting the stained glass windows was also removed, leaving the library glowing and bright. One patron, struck by the amount of light filtering into the main reading room asked our reference librarians if the stained glass was recently restored. The difference is dramatic.

National Taiwan University Students Conduct Field Experience

Two Library and Information Science undergraduates from National Taiwan University (NTU) learned first-hand about American librarianship during the month of August by undertaking field experiences at the University Libraries. Yu-Jing Chen (left) and Jui-Ying Wang (right) gained a general overview of how an American university library operates through on-site observations and participatory learning activities. They also developed an understanding of the various and often innovative services and programs library staff create to support teaching, learning, and research. The agreement between the Libraries and NTU was forged by the students’ mentor, Yu-Hui Chen, PhD, Subject Librarian for Education and East Asian Studies.
International Students Welcomed

The Libraries hosted their annual International Students Reception on August 21. More than 200 incoming international students talked with library faculty, enjoyed the plentiful refreshments, and received information about the Libraries’ resources and services. Two students won gift certificates to the campus bookstore. Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries, and Jeanette Altarriba, PhD, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, delivered welcoming remarks. The reception was co-sponsored by the Office of International Student and Scholar Services and University Auxiliary Services. Yu-Hui Chen, PhD, Subject Librarian for Education and East Asian Studies, headed the library committee that organized the event.

Great DANEstopia

University librarians welcomed new and returning students at Great DANEstopia, a campus-wide event held in Collins Circle the day before the beginning of the fall semester. During Great DANEstopia, librarians distributed an array of orientation information about library services and resources. “Students loved our new subject librarian Bitmoji trading cards” said Amanda Lowe, Outreach & Marketing Librarian, who organized the library’s participation in the event. Bitmoji trading cards feature cartoon avatars of the subject librarians who specialize in students’ subject majors. Pictured at left are Karina Ricker, Reference & Government Information Librarian (left), Amanda Lowe (center), and Deborah Berndard, Director of Public Services (right) who were among those who represented the Libraries.
A Great Dane Welcome @ Your Libraries

The annual “A Great Dane Welcome @ Your Libraries” was held on August 28, the first day of the fall semester. Library faculty and staff shared information about the Libraries’ 100+ online reference databases, Personalized Assistance With Searching (PAWS), “live” online research assistance, free iLearn Workshops, and other information tools and assistance. In addition, David Dickinson, Interactive Media Center Training Specialist, gave demonstrations of media equipment students can borrow and a “photo booth” was set up in front of “Minerva” in the lobby of University Library (above). Along with the information and demonstrations, students also appreciated choosing books for leisure reading that had been donated by library staff. The event was organized by Amanda Lowe, Marketing & Outreach Librarian. To view more photos, please see the Libraries’ Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/pg/UAlbanyLibs/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1419242571457884

Upcoming Events

Campus Conversations in Standish

“Campus Conversations in Standish” raise awareness of UAlbany faculty research and expertise and connect members of the UAlbany community in an exchange of ideas and perspectives. “Campus Conversations in Standish” are free and open to the public and are always held from 12:35 to 1:30 p.m. in the Patricia and J. Spencer Standish Board Room on the third level of the Science Library. Please consider attending one of the three Conversations scheduled for the 2017 fall semester:

Dr. Laura Wittern-Keller. “The Supreme Court vs. The President: How the Court Decides the Constitutionality of Challenged Presidential Actions.” October 4, 2017

Mr. Paul Grondahl. “How the Standish Room and the Corning Tower Got Their Names: A Biographer’s and Ghostwriter’s Tale.” October 18, 2017

Dr. Mathias Vuille. “Toward Mountains without Snow and Ice: How Climate Change will Transform our Mountain Environments in the 21st century.” November 8, 2017
Karen Kiorpes Receives Preservation Award from the American Library Association

Karen Kiorpes, Head of the University Libraries’ Preservation Department, was presented with the 2017 Paul Banks and Carolyn Harris Preservation Award by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of the American Library Association, at its annual meeting in June. The award honors the memory of Paul Banks and Carolyn Harris who were early leaders, teachers, and mentors in the field of library preservation.

Kiorpes was commended for her consistent leadership and service, and for her “tireless” advocacy for the field of library preservation. She was described at the awards ceremony as a “dedicated teacher and mentor who has made important and lasting contributions to the field” through her early contributions to “Preservation 101,” the Northeast Document Conservation Center’s online preservation course, and to her development of “Fundamentals of Preservation,” an online course offered by ALCTS.

Kiorpes is pictured above (center) with Ann Kearney, Collections Conservator (left) and with one of her former University at Albany student assistants, Robert Klingenberger, who is now the Head of Digital & Reformatting Services at Yale University Library (right).

Camille Chesley Awarded University Grant

Camille E. Chesley, Reference Librarian (left), was awarded a grant from the University at Albany’s Faculty Research Awards Program (FRAP) to examine the unique experience of women of color in academic libraries. Using a combination of data from surveys, in-depth personal interviews, and a range of documented public examples of tenure-related controversies, her study will aid in the recruitment, support, and retention of diverse faculty in academic libraries and in the library profession as a whole.
Elaine Lasda Awarded Innovative Instruction Grant

Elaine Lasda, Subject Librarian for Social Welfare, Gerontology and Reference at the Dewey Graduate Library (left), and Julie Cuccio Slichko, Instructional Developer, Information Technology Services, were awarded a 2017 Innovative Instruction Technology Grant (IITG) to incorporate open educational resources (OERs) into online classes. OERs are scholarly, freely available online textbooks and course materials. They not only save students money, they improve learning outcomes by making it possible for students to access resources they could not previously afford, such as prohibitively expensive textbooks.

SUNY’s Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Provost have been awarding Innovative Instruction Technology Grants to SUNY campuses since 2012 to “incubate technologies in service of pedagogy” and “to reach outside of departmental and campus boundaries to share and ‘scale up’ innovations.” This year’s grants were awarded to research projects considered to have the “greatest potential to make a transformational impact on teaching and learning SUNY-wide.”

Library Managers Build Leadership Skills

Four managers from the University Libraries attended Siena College’s Leadership Institute for Academic Library Managers this summer. They were Regina Conboy, Head, Interactive Media Center; Elaine Lasda, Subject Librarian for Social Welfare, Gerontology and Dewey Reference; Kate Latal, Head of Acquisitions Services; and Nancy Poehlmann, Head of Cataloging Services. The program is part of Siena College’s Institute for Leadership Development (ILD). During the week-long course (July 31-August 4), library managers focused on communications, team building, and strategic planning within the context of a college and university library setting.

Participants from the University Libraries are pictured, below, as follows: Kate Latal (front row, second from left); Nancy Poehlmann, (front row, third from left); Regina Conboy (second row, fourth from right); and Elaine Lasda, (third row, first from left).
Library Administrators Attend Harvard

This summer, Catherine Dwyer, Director of Scholarly Communication and Head of the Dewey Graduate Library, and Mary Van Ullen, Director of Collections, spent a rigorous week of professional development at Harvard University’s Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians (LIAL), part of Harvard’s Graduate School of Education. “Attending LIAL was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Van Ullen. “The Institute offers an opportunity for library administrators and managers to expand their skills in guiding change and providing leadership to their organizations. The faculty was outstanding, the course was challenging, thought-provoking and intense, and the many group sessions provided an opportunity to form lasting connections with a diverse group of library leaders. I appreciate the support provided by Dean Mugridge and the University Libraries.” Dwyer concurred. “LIAL was a unique opportunity to interact with, and learn from, colleagues from all over the country, as well as some international colleagues, on issues that challenge us all. The instruction was of the highest caliber. I am grateful to the Dean and the University Libraries for their support.”

Van Ullen (left) and Dwyer (right) are pictured at the right as they are about to dine at the Harvard Faculty Club.
David H. Dickinson Produces Documentary on Venice Beach

Last July, David H. Dickinson (left) joined the University Libraries as Interactive Media Center Training Specialist. Since then, staff have come to rely on him to film and edit library-organized presentations and conferences, such as “Campus Conversations in Standish” or “Open Access Day.” Little did we know that Dickinson was an accomplished documentarian in his own right.

Dickinson produced and co-wrote *Welcome Home America: Spirit of Venice Beach* (2010), a documentary about the looming gentrification of Venice Beach, California, the longtime sanctuary for visual artists and street performers and a bastion of tolerance and free speech. The documentary has been picked up for distribution and streaming by Amazon Prime.

Dickinson first visited Venice Beach as an undergraduate in 2003 while competing at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in nearby Los Angeles. When he visited again in 2007, rumors were rampant that Venice Beach was gentrifying. Land developers were buying up properties with the suspected intention of turning Venice Beach into another Santa Monica. “Venice Beach is a unique space,” says Dickinson “It is historically a free speech zone, where even the homeless are tolerated. In Santa Monica, the police presence discourages the homeless off the beach.”

Dickinson put together the documentary’s team in 2009, a combination of people he went to school with at SUNY Plattsburgh and artists and film people he’s come to know. (Justin Halstead, the director, was born and raised in Albany.) “We did ten days of filming and one year of editing” says Dickinson. “Fortunately, three of the team happened to be living in Brooklyn at the time.”

“There are two ways to shoot a documentary,” explains Dickinson. “Use narration to present your point of view or film and let the story tell itself.” Dickinson and his team chose the latter approach and “let Venice Beach tell its story to us.” The documentary features a number of memorable individuals, from a performance artist who plays Doors covers on Peruvian pipes, to “Doll House Dude,” who wears dollhouses on his head to protest homelessness in America, to Dumond, a homeless individual who talks about what it’s like to be homeless in Venice Beach in the middle of the night (prompting one online reviewer to write: “Opens your eyes and your hearts to the homeless in Cali. Well-made and great way to learn more about our country and people”).

Dickinson hopes the film will be the first in a series of eye-opening documentaries about “what’s happening in America right in front of our eyes that we’re choosing not to see. If gentrification can happen in Venice Beach, it can happen anywhere,” he says.
Task Force Studies Library Hours

Last spring, in response to comments about library hours from the Student Advisory Board and the Graduate Student Association, the Libraries formed a task force to determine if library operating hours were meeting the needs of students and faculty.

The task force initiated a Twitter chat about library hours, surveyed students and faculty via e-mail, conducted observational user studies, and interviewed colleagues at peer institutions about their libraries’ hours.

Overall, the data indicated that current library hours meet most library users’ needs. However, the task force recommended conducting three pilot studies to determine if expanding or adjusting library hours would benefit users. Recommended were:

- A pilot study on keeping the Dewey Graduate Library open later on Sundays during the academic semester. Dewey is used most heavily on Sundays and usage peaks near closing time.

- A pilot study on extending the Dewey Graduate Library hours Monday through Friday during the May Intersession.

- A pilot study on keeping the University Library open on weekends during the winter Intersession.

Members of the task force were Gerry Burke, Subject Librarian for Art, English, Music, Philosophy, & Theatre; Irina Holden, Information Literacy & Science Outreach Librarian; Peter Recore-Migirditch, Director of Finance & Administration (Chair); Kabel Stanwicks, Head of Access Services; and Lindsay Van Berkom, Assistant for Dewey Graduate Library Operations & Scholars Archive Administrator.
Innovations in Teaching

By Gregory Bobish, Information Literacy Librarian and Trudi Jacobson, Head of Information Literacy Department

Information literacy is an educational reform movement that gained steam about fifteen years ago in response to the layer of complexity the internet adds to conducting scholarly research. Information literacy teaches students to assess information with a skeptical stance, to understand how information is produced and valued, to use and create information ethically, and to be self-aware of their own biases and worldview.

During the spring 2017 semester, we experimented with two of the information literacy courses we teach by successfully introducing some new participatory learning experiences to our students.

In Greg Bobish’s Information Literacy Psychology class two undergraduate teams helped to increase the online representation of women in Wikipedia. They researched and contributed entries to Wikipedia's Women in Red/Black History project, which strives to increase the number of works by women and women’s biographies in Wikipedia—currently only 17.03% of total biographies. The “Red” refers to the red-colored hyperlinks in Wikipedia used to signify that a “page does not exist.”

The students were very engaged in this project, which tied together three of the six core concepts of information literacy discussed in class:

- **Searching as Strategic Exploration**—beyond just “is this accurate?,” students had to decide what sources were appropriate for Wikipedia articles; otherwise their changes or entries would be reverted by other editors;
- **Scholarship as Conversation**—students created a public information source and responded to how other editors reacted to and changed their article;
- **Authority is Constructed and Contextual**—students asked such questions as: “Why are women underrepresented in Wikipedia?,” “Who gets to decide what information about them is available?,” and “What can I do to improve the situation?”

To view their contributions, go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Ebanks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Ebanks) or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Masekela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Masekela) and click the “View history” tab (UAlbany student teams are listed as: “Group 1 Infolit” and “Group2infolit”).

Digital badging and a flipped classroom model were key components of Trudi Jacobson’s Information...
Literacy in the Humanities and Arts course. Digital badging is grounded in the same concepts as analog badging—that of certifying a learned competency—but digital badges are earned in an online information environment and can be displayed in a student’s online portfolio, such as LinkedIn or Credly. The eight students in this course were the first ever to earn the Empowered Learner master badge, one of four badges students can earn from the Metaliteracy digital badging system, https://metaliteracybadges.org/. Metaliteracy is an enhanced form of information literacy that specifically addresses individuals’ roles as collaborative producers of information in the often uncertain information landscape that is the internet. Through the badge activities, students engaged with such metaliteracy concepts as metacognitive reflection and learners as teachers.

One class activity asked these upper level undergraduate students to teach information literacy to groups of first year students from Susan Detwiler’s Writing and Critical Inquiry course. The students found this to be a unique learning experience that shed light on some of the challenges their own instructors face, while also providing a taste of a situation they might encounter in the future.


### New Hires

Jenna Pleines (*left*) was hired on June 1, 2017 as Lending & Access Services Clerk at the University Library. Jenna has a B.A. in English from the Sage College of Albany.

Janetta (Jan) Waterhouse (*left*) was hired on July 17, 2017 as Director of Technical Services and Library Systems. Prior to joining the University Libraries, Jan was Director of Knowledge Access & Resource Management at West Virginia University; Senior Implementation Manager at the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in Dublin, Ohio; and Director of Library Systems and Technical Services at the University of Illinois Springfield.
Thanks to @CLIRHC [CLIR stands for Council on Library and Information Resources, the organization that administers grants to digitize Hidden Special Collections & Archives] the massive death penalty archive at @UAlbanyLibs is going digital, aiding researchers & activists

—May 2, 2017

… of immense invaluable assistance. Many thanks! [from a local researcher about the Libraries’ collections and staff]

—May 13, 2017

#StressLessUAlbany [jigsaw puzzle completed at a “stress less during finals” event spring 2017 semester]

—May 18, 2017

… just having a place to work where you can concentrate but aren't alone [in response to asking students how “Libraries Transform” during National Library Week spring 2017 semester]

—April 14, 2017

God bless UAlbany for having "silent zones" in the library

—March 3, 2017
**Recent Faculty Publications**

[http://www.comminfolit.org/index.php?journal=cil&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=v11i1p21&path%5B%5D=252](http://www.comminfolit.org/index.php?journal=cil&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=v11i1p21&path%5B%5D=252)


**Recent Faculty Presentations**


Chen, Yu-Hui. “Guidelines for Writing and Submitting Papers to International Conferences and Journals.” Presentation delivered at Chengdu Sport University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China, June 2017.


LaFond, Deborah M. “Pollution Fighters: Problem Solving in Research Using Surveys and Interviews - Distinguishing between Qualitative and Quantitative Methods.” Workshop presented at Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP Summer Institute), Albany, NY, July 2017.


University Libraries—Past and Present

Past

…International Student Association performance on Community-University Day in 1974 in what is now the Presidents Room on the second floor of the University Library

…and Present

International Students Reception, University Library, first floor, northeast wing, August 21, 2017.
The University at Albany Libraries comprise the University Library, the Science Library, and the Dewey Graduate Library. A member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the 123 largest, most comprehensive research libraries in North America, the University at Albany Libraries serve the University’s students, faculty, and staff to further their academic achievement and success, as well as the citizens of New York State, and scholars and researchers from around the world. For up-to-date information about the University Libraries, visit library.albany.edu.