

Mardigian Library & Stamelos Gallery Center

2025 Newsletter



Welcome Hannah Zmuda

Holly Sorscher

Hannah Zmuda joined us in June as our UM-Dearborn Archivist and in the short time she has been here has prepared student publications for digitization, implemented several fun student outreach initiatives, and supported students and faculty conducting Inclusive History Project research.

Hannah came to us following her May 2024 graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's iSchool with a Master's in Library and Information Studies. As a graduate student, she worked for the Wisconsin Historical Society in public service positions providing reference and research support in the archive and in the library. She also completed practicums and internships in archival audio/visual processing at the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research and in original metadata creation at Dickinson State University's Theodore Roosevelt Center. Prior to pursuing her MLIS and work in archives, she completed a Bachelor and Master of Arts in History from Miami University of Ohio.



Art Collection and Exhibitions Department Intern

Laura Cotton

The Art Collections and Exhibitions Department is happy to have UM-Dearborn senior Julianna Collins as the department's new student intern. Prior to transferring to UMD, Julianna was an Early Middle College student through Gull Lake Public Schools at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, where she earned her A.A. in Liberal Arts and a certificate in International Studies. She's currently working on earning her bachelor's degree in Art History - Museum Studies with a minor in Journalism.

Julianna's hometown is Sturgis, Michigan, where she grew up on a hobby farm raising goats and poultry. She enjoys reading, traveling, and art. Some of her stained glass work hangs in a church in Centreville, Michigan, and various pieces of her other artwork have been exhibited in community installations, at Michigan State University, and at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She also enjoys participating in campus activities and volunteering with various organizations.

I first learned about this internship with the Art Collections and Exhibitions Department on my initial visit to UMD when I had the opportunity to meet a former intern who enthusiastically shared about her experience in the role. I was so impressed by the opportunities provided to her to learn collections management, gallery preparation, curation, art handling, event planning, and social media through her internship position that it cemented my desire to enroll in the Art History - Museum Studies program. One of my academic goals was to obtain the experience needed to one day become a gallery intern myself. For that reason, I'm quite excited to have that goal become a reality this year!

--- Julianna Collins

Welcome Michelle Russell and Griffin Barkdoll

Erin Frye

In Fall of 2024 the Access Services Department welcomed two new staff members! We are happy to have Michelle Russell and Griffin Barkdoll on the Mardigian Library team as Access Services Associates.

Michelle holds an undergraduate degree in History and will complete her graduate studies in Library and Information Science later this year. Griffin holds an undergraduate degree in English and is also currently pursuing a graduate degree in Library and Information Science. Griffin's professional interests include metadata and cataloging.

Both Griffin and Michelle provide essential evening and weekend support to Mardigian Library patrons. Additionally, Michelle has taken on the role as Course Reserves Coordinator while Griffin is lending their assistance to our Library Tech Systems department on the Harmful Language Remediation Project for the library's catalog. Both have already proven themselves to be great assets to the department. We are so glad they're here!



Michelle Russell



Griffin Barkdoll

Campus Archive

Holly Sorscher

The Campus Archive hired an Archivist after many years with no one in this position. We were able to put together funding from the library to hire a part-time one-year term limited archivist. Through the Inclusive History Project (IHP), we were awarded \$238,000 in funding in the amount of to increase this position to full-time and then further to add two full years to the term. With the crucial support of the IHP we now have a

full-time three-year term appointed archivist to support the research necessary to tell UM-Dearborn's inclusive story.

Another major accomplishment of Spring 2024 was the receipt of \$56,000 in grant awards from the IHP to fund the large-scale digitization of the archive's holdings of student publications, The Michigan Journal and Lyceum. This project will support IHP research by making materials more easily searchable, encourage alumni to reconnect with their time on campus, and create a greater sense of community between the current students and their predecessors.



UM-Dearborn Ad Hoc



Wolverine Welcome Day Campus Archive Table

Laura Cavanaugh: Perchance to Dream Exhibition

Laura Cotton

The Stamelos Gallery Center is proud to present *Laura Cavanaugh: Perchance to Dream* from May 8 to August 10. The exhibition opening reception will be held on Thursday, May 8th from 5:00-7:00 pm. There will be an artist talk at 6:00 pm and complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

This exhibition features two bodies of work; one consisting of imagined, collaged portraits of women who never existed. This collection of works is influenced heavily by portraiture from the Renaissance Era. The other collection consists of simple, imagined interior and exterior spaces inspired by the mid-20th century and personal memories.



Vivienne

Drawing and mixed media collage



Left Behind

Pastel on paper and mixed media collage

Through this exhibition, *Laura Cavanagh: Perchance to Dream*, the artist hopes to take viewers of all ages and demographics on a visual odyssey, either to a time in history that they can recall firsthand or to a time they can only imagine.

Laura Cavanagh is a Michigan artist currently living in Metro-Detroit. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Michigan in 2011 with a BFA in art and design and a minor in art history. When she is not creating art, you can find her taking long walks, hanging out with her cats, listening to an audiobook, or trying out a new NYT recipe (Melissa Clark's are her favorite). Cavanagh has a passion for living life fully and making people happy.

Please check the gallery website for current open hours and more information:

www.umdearborn.edu/stamelos.



Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon: MLK Day

Chris Spilker

On January 20th, 2025, our campus, along with the rest of the nation, celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Library Research Center (LRC), partnered with other organizations on

campus to actively participate in the campus day of service to lead a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon. Participants were trained to edit and enhance existing Wikipedia articles about prominent black contributions to media. This project involved identifying a need for new or better information and then learning to provide it - a mode that fits very comfortably in the overall goal of the LRC and the Mardigain Library as a whole, to advance Information Literacy on our campus.

Student Assistant Scholarship

Jean Song and Ayah Farhat

The Mardigian Library would like to honor and congratulate Ayah Farhat, the recipient of the 2024-2025 Mardigian Library Student Assistant Scholarship! Ayah is an undergraduate student at UM-Dearborn, currently pursuing Biochemistry degree.



"I am currently the President of the Biochemistry Society as I aim to encourage scientific scholarship in my community! I am interested in biochemistry as it not only helps us better understand who we are on an intimate level, but it also helps us find targets against diseases that our community is fighting. In line with my interests, I am on the pre-health track to become a physician who serves the vulnerable populations of the metro-Detroit area. In my free time, I enjoy reading, needle-felting, and embroidering, the latter of which I picked up at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have been a Student Assistant of the Mardigian Library since September 2022, my first semester at UM-Dearborn. Ever since I was young, I have adored libraries for their role in enriching and serving the community educationally, socially, and politically. As such, growing up, I've volunteered extensively at both my high school's library as well as my local library, Caroline Kennedy Library. As a Student Assistant, I have polished my time management and organizational skills while strengthening my bond with the community. Working at the Mardigian Library has truly enriched my experience at UM-Dearborn as I have been able to appreciate the fact that everyone, including these patrons who I have not shared a class with, has lives as complex as my own. I fondly remember one instance where an old couple recalled their time as students from the 1970s, and they pointed to the front desk and proclaimed, "This wasn't here back then!"

I am honored to be the 2024-2025 recipient of the Mardigian Library Student Assistant Scholarship. The financial aspect of my educational journey has become more of a burden as I get closer to completing my degree, as I begin to take the more costly higher-level and lab-based courses. With this scholarship, I am better able to offset this burden and devote more of my time to my studies. I can work harder towards turning my mission into a reality rather than worrying about my tuition, for which I am immensely grateful!" - Ayah

If you would like to provide financial assistance for students like Ayah and donate to the Mardigian Library Student Assistant Scholarship, please visit the Library Giving Page at myumi.ch/gj71q.

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