

Mardigian Library & Stamelos Gallery Center

2024 Newsletter



Welcome Qiyan Ba

Patrick Armatis

Qiyan Ba started as our new Web Designer in May. She earned her bachelor's degree in Computer Graphics Technology (with a focus on web development and design) from Purdue University and completed her master's degree in Integrated Design and Media at New York University



Tandon. Qiyan has worked as a web developer, user experience designer, graphic designer, and video editor. She describes herself as "a designer who can code."

Welcome Erin Frye

Holly Sorscher

Erin joined the Mardigian Library as Head of Access Services in June 2023 and is currently working towards a graduate degree in Library and Information Science at San José State University. She holds a BA in Art History from Portland State University and has held professional positions in several academic libraries. Erin has worked with collections ranging from law, to health sciences, to art and has a strong background in resource sharing. She is dedicated to best supporting the success of our students, faculty and local community.

Welcome Access Services Team

Erin Frye

In 2023 the Mardigian Library's Access Services department underwent a number of personnel changes and over the course of the year welcomed an entirely new team. With the support of many library staff members helping with both recruiting and operations at the Library Info Desk, the department is now fully staffed with four Access Services Associates: Kelly Turner, Brennan McBeth, Josie Columbus, and Brady Coyle.



Left to Right: Kelly, Josie, Brady

Kelly joined the library in March 2023 as a permanent staff member after working in a temporary position for a few months. Previously, she worked for Dearborn Heights Libraries as a paraprofessional and with several community outreach programs there. She is a UM-Dearborn alumni and recently graduated with a degree in Anthropology and minors in both Sociology and Psychology.

Brennan is also a UM-Dearborn alumni and worked as a student assistant in the library as an undergraduate. They rejoined the library staff in May 2023 and hold a Master's degree in Higher Education. Currently, they are working towards an additional graduate degree in Library and Information Science at Wayne State University with a specialization in archival administration.

In November 2023 both Brady and Josie joined the library staff. Josie holds a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry from Northeastern University. Before coming here, she worked as a Teen Associate in the public library system in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is also a freelance author.

Brady is a transplant from Australia and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies and Japanese Studies from The University of Sydney. Previously, he worked in youth services at public libraries in Sydney and holds a certificate in teaching English as a second language.

Together, the Access Services Associates work to staff the Library Info Desk and foster a welcoming and inclusive environment at the Mardigian.



Art Collection and Exhibitions Department Internship Program

Laura Cotton

The Art Collection and Exhibitions Department manages the Stamelos Gallery Center and enhances the academic and educational experiences of the students by coordinating a thriving internship program. Students have the unique opportunity to directly research and interact with the 4,000 works of art in the university's permanent collection. The department also offers museum studies and art history students the chance to gain professional experience curating and installing exhibitions within a working art gallery, and it provides learning opportunities in many other museum career fields including marketing, collection management, fundraising, gallery preparation, event planning, and educational programming.

The department's two most recent students reflect on their experiences:

A major focus of the Stamelos Gallery Center internship is to provide students with the opportunity to shadow different types of museum professionals throughout their daily tasks, and to assist them with deciding what type of professional role might be right for their career goals. Throughout the course of my three-semester internship, I am spending my time exploring the roles and responsibilities of many different museum positions including art curator, registrar, educator, preparator, marketer, and event planner...

...Overall, my experience as the current student intern at the Stamelos Gallery Center has been incredibly positive, welcoming, and well-rounded. The internship has been designed for my personal interests and needs. There has also been an interesting range of additional special projects that have arisen on a daily basis. I have learned that the museum and gallery field is quite spontaneous with new challenges and opportunities each day.--- Brooke Palomba, current gallery intern

While serving as an intern for the Stamelos Gallery Center, I learned many essential skills for my future career. I have recently graduated with a double Art History and History major, and I hope to pursue a career in museums. I gained valuable experience in many aspects of museum work including gallery preparation, curation, research and writing, art handling and installation, artist correspondence, creating exhibition checklists, exhibition design, collection management, event planning, and educational programming. I was also in charge of all social media content, sending out press releases, and many other marketing responsibilities...



...My internship experience at the Stamelos Gallery Center solidified my dream of working in museums, and it better prepared me for the expectations of my chosen career. After I finished my internship, I was able to secure a position at the Cranbrook Art Museum where I am continuously learning about the successful operation of a museum, and all the individuals who contribute to it, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds. --- Makenna Russell, former gallery intern

Welcome to the LRC

Chris Spilker

The Library Research Center (LRC) has a brand new look and feel!

We've painted over the monochromatic, institutional beige with a bright blue shade, and you will now find at least one librarian in our open workspace during regular hours.

This has created a warm and welcoming collaborative space for our students to seek out research help, and it has also brought the same energy to our collegial interactions with the other librarians on our team.



"Your Librarians Are Here to Help!" sign and "Come on in" sign

We also created welcoming and informative signage and added two consultation stations for student meetings. All of this has created a warm, welcoming space for our students to find research support or just to chat with the librarians.



And by the numbers, in-person drop-in have increased from 60 visits in Fall 2022 to 132 in Fall 2023!

So stop by and check out our improvements and chat with a librarian.



Completed Compact Shelving Project

Laura Cotton

The Art Collection and Exhibitions Department is pleased to share the recent completion of an exciting new construction project! A new museum quality compact storage shelving unit, a flat file for prints, a small objects cabinet, and a new painting rack system, have all now been installed in the department's newly constructed, climate-controlled art collection storage room.

The completion of this project will greatly assist the department in its ongoing mission to utilize museum best practices for properly storing and preserving the university's treasured permanent art collection. This year, gallery staff will work on a major collection move and inventory project, and an analysis of the space, which will allow for the new art storage room to be filled in a manner that best utilizes every part of the new furnishings.

The department is thrilled about this significantly impactful development in its collections management practices. Gallery staff would like to extend its appreciation for generous, longtime gallery donors Bill and Electra Stamelos for funding the collection storage room and all of its newly installed furnishings.



Archive Refresh

Holly Sorscher

Over the last three years, the Campus Archive space in the Mardigian Library has undergone a much needed overhaul. Non-archival materials were removed and many items unrelated to our campus were relocated to appropriate institutions. At the same time supplies and collections were reorganized and a functional workspace was created for materials and request processing. Along with these

In addition to reorganizing the physical space, we have been able to revise many of the forms and policies to meet today's best practices. We even had the time to mentor April Nudell, our first Archive Intern, to review audio visual materials, create deaccessioning spreadsheets, and to research current archival standards.

Much of this progress can be attributed to the work of Autumn Muir, Gallery Registrar, who has been able to dedicate a number of hours each week as an Archive Assistant. Many thanks go to Autumn for all of her hard work!

Student Assistant Scholarship Recipient

Heidi Keppen Palmer

The Mardigian Library would like to honor and congratulate Furqan Al-Tamimi, the recipient of the 2023-2024 Mardigian Library Student Assistant Scholarship! Furqan is a graduate student at UM-Dearborn, currently pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Health Psychology. She is interested in evaluating and providing appropriate recommendations and resources to individuals suffering from brain injury, developmental disorders, learning disabilities and much more.



"I am grateful to have received this scholarship." - Furqan

If you would like to provide financial assistance for students like Furqan and donate to the Mardigian Library Student Assistant Scholarship, please visit the Library Giving Page at myumi.ch/gj71q or contact Susan Flannery at sasbury@umich.edu.



Everyone Says Hi
Used envelopes and fabric, 2015
Andrew Thompson

Art History Capstone Seminar Mounts an Exhibition on Campus

Nadja Rottner

The Stamelos Gallery Center opened *Andy T's Urban Vision, 2001-2024*, on January 25, 2024. This exhibition presents the first mid-career retrospective of Detroit-based installation artist Andrew W. Thompson. Thompson, a trained sculptor, who holds a B.F.A. degree from the Kansas City Art Institute (2003) and an M.F.A from the Cranbrook Academy of

Art, finds value in making art with discarded materials. Covering over two decades of artistic production starting in 2001, this comprehensive exhibition delves into the underpinnings of his creative process rooted in the study and the reuse of everyday commonplace materials such as tires, plastic shopping bags, and bottles. Thompson, specifically concentrating on the urban environments of Kansas City and Detroit, gains an understanding of the world by meticulously

observing and investigating the origins, uses, and distribution of everyday objects within shared places. Public space not only directs behavior, but it can also mirror and reinforce skewed societal hierarchies and power structures.

This exhibition is part of the Arth 402: Museums and Art in the Community capstone seminar for art history. It is curated by Nadja Rottner, an Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, who taught the seminar in the Fall of 2023. The eleven art history majors who have worked on this project recorded interviews with the artist and edited four Kiosk videos that play in the exhibition. In addition, they wrote short didactic texts answering “What is Andy T’s Urban Vision?” by comparing and contrasting his ideas on what constitutes good living to the University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Metropolitan Vision on urban living, referred to as the Urban Futures strategic plan.

On display at the Stamelos Gallery Center are close to one hundred photographs, five videos, and selected sculptures documenting Thompson’s installation work since 2001. The exhibition includes re-creations of three artworks—the envelope installation *Everyone Says Hi* (2015) and two untitled plastic waste sculptures from 2012 and 2017. In addition, two new site-specific installations directly respond to Dearborn’s political districting and the architecture of the exhibition site.

The show is open from January 25 – April 21, 2024.

Exhibition Event: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 5 – 7 pm, Mardigian Library, University of Michigan-Dearborn. Help complete the collaborative flag *Home of the Brave!* Bring in a small personal item of choice that shows how participating in a local community brings you strength.

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