



MARDIGIAN LIBRARY & STAMELOS GALLERY CENTER

Fall Newsletter



Mardigian Library Covid-19 Archive & Oral Histories

By Maureen Linker & Holly Sorscher

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The Covid-19 Archive and Oral Histories Project was established in recognition of the importance of capturing the broad range of experiences of all members of the UM-Dearborn community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mardigian Library and the Office of Student Life invited current faculty, staff, and students to contribute to the UM-Dearborn COVID-19 Archive Project: Share Your Experience. We are collecting personal and professional experiences through a multitude of digital experiences in a variety of formats such as blogs, journals, short films, artwork, research, and social media.

As well, we are conducting oral history interviews with University of Michigan-Dearborn current faculty, staff, and students to learn firsthand about individual perspectives and experiences around the pandemic. These contributions will become a part of the UM-Dearborn community's collective memory of the COVID-19 pandemic.



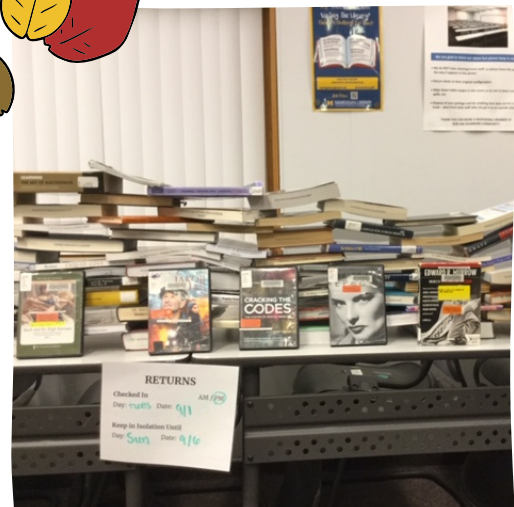
Future generations, including historians, scientists, writers, economists, educators, and more, will explore the multiple impacts of the pandemic by studying documentation such as this. Including as many perspectives as possible in the historical record is essential for capturing our full and authentic experiences throughout the varied challenges we all faced during this unprecedented time. The Mardigian Library in partnership with the Stamelos Gallery Center plans to launch an initial digital exhibit of the project in December 2020 knowing the stories we tell now will ensure understanding in the months and years ahead.

Safe Reopening Task Force

By Susan Flannary & Beth Taylor

The library created a team to facilitate and work with the University's facilities department on the safe reopening of the library and library services. The new changes consist of:

- New card swipe entry which will allow students and staff to enter the building and exit the building through different doors allowing for social distancing. Completion date early November.
- Contactless pickup and dropoff of materials.
- Two protective barriers placed on the outside of the building allowing for contactless pickup and returning of materials.
- Protective shields at the User Service desk.
- Materials are held in quarantine for the 5 days before they are put back into circulation.



- Limited staff in the building during open hours.
- Averaging 44 pick up appointments, busiest day we had 11 appointments.

The team is continuing conversation on the next safe reopening phase of the library.



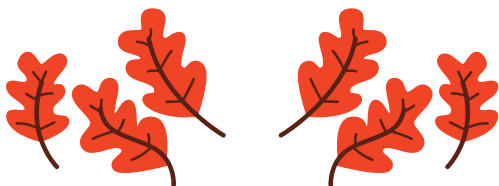
Student Assistant Virtual Graduation

By Deirdras Jones & Anna Granch

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Michigan - Dearborn had to cancel its spring commencement ceremony. Since the Mardigian Library's User Services Department had six student employees graduating in the spring, they decided to host their first ever virtual graduation ceremony for their graduating student employees: Mariam Alkanani, Zahraa Bazzi, Ali Forsythe, Connor Kohls, Haley Leleniewski, & Brennan McBeth.

The ceremony celebrated these students as they concluded their final semester working at the Mardigian Library and their graduation from the University of Michigan - Dearborn. The implementation of the virtual graduation ceremony helped the library maintain a sense of community and belonging amidst self-isolation, boost positive morale among students and staff, and give the graduating student assistants a unique celebratory experience.

The ceremony was conducted via Zoom on Saturday, April 25th, and was attended by Mardigian Library staff with a special guest appearance from Associate Provost Ilir Miteza. The ceremony agenda included opening remarks, student employee introductions, student employee memories and anecdotes, staff memories and anecdotes, a graduation speech, tassel turning, & closing remarks.



Art in a Time of Pandemic

By Laura Cotton

In March 2020, when the Stamelos Gallery Center was closed because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, gallery staff shifted gears and began creating digital exhibitions and offerings. The Art Collections and Exhibitions Department, in collaboration with the Mardigian Library, hosted, planned, coordinated and judged the *Art in a Time of Pandemic* campus-wide photography contest as a method for telling our stories during this unprecedented time through the use of art. This all-inclusive campus project encouraged everyone, either with or without prior photography experience, to pick up an iPhone or any available camera and examine their homes and communities carefully with a new eye. Gallery staff asked participants to look for interesting possibilities for abstract compositions of mundane objects they see every day, express emotion by photographing family members or volunteer activities that inspire them, or shoot scenes that convey hardship, loneliness and isolation during this time. Participants were also encouraged to consider photographing what they observe in their community that could serve as commentary or historic documentation for the pandemic.



Empty Roads and Face Masks by Ariana Lopez
1st Prize Documentary Photography
Art in a Time of Pandemic campus
photography contest



Masked Professor Roams the Halls
by Arlo Clark-Foos
2nd Prize Art Photography
Art in a Time of Pandemic
campus photography contest



The top twelve photographs are now on view on the gallery website at www.umdearborn.edu/stamelos, and an expanded digital exhibition for *Art in a Time of Pandemic* is currently being curated.

Remote Student Employee Project

By Maureen Linker & Holly Sorscher

The Office of the Provost requested a project be completed by student employees in the Mardigian during the transition to remote teaching and learning in March 2020. The intent of the project was to keep our students employed through at least the end of the Winter semester. As it turned out, the project transformed into a multi-varied set of initiatives and produced a campus-wide survey, new virtual programming, marketing materials, and a library subject-guide. The project took student employees through Winter semester and Summer I & II semesters.

THE CHALLENGE

With COVID-19, the campus faced an extraordinary situation and most students, faculty, and staff were approaching problems and challenges from an understandably reactive position. No one had the time to think ahead and to meet the ever-changing needs that were arising. Could our student employees, who would ordinarily be working on-site, take the time to reflect and think ahead about virtual opportunities and solutions?

CAMPUS WIDE SURVEY AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TASK FORCE

A survey was designed and conducted from April 22, 2020 - May 4, 2020 yielding 459 responses. Survey results were then analyzed to produce a substantial set of quantitative and qualitative data regarding technology access, mental health and well-being, distractions at home, childcare, communication, and experiences with remote teaching/learning/working. Survey findings were then summarized into an executive summary. It included an Introduction, Survey Design (with a description of participants and demographic make up), Key Findings (that highlight strengths and areas for improvement), Conclusion, and Appendix. It was presented to the Council of Deans on June 10th and to the UM-Dearborn campus community on June 30th.

The Campus Wide Survey Executive Summary can be read here: [Campus Wide Survey Executive Summary](#).

A wide variety of programming and initiatives stemmed from the survey findings including resources providing support for remote learning, mental health and wellness, working while caring for children at home, and a guide to informed voting.

For a deeper dive into the Student Remote Project and outcomes including students' "lessons learned" see our [special newsletter highlighting the achievements of the Mardigian Library Student Employees amidst the COVID-19 pandemic during Summer 2020](#).



STUDY AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

With Dr. Clark-Foos

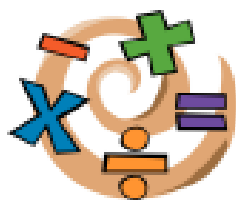
1 EMOTIONAL

People are more likely to remember events, situations, etc that are emotional to them. Emotions do have a large influence on our memory. Create a personal connection to make it relate to your life.



2 MNEMONICS

To recall or remember something easier one should take information that is difficult to them and make abstract info an example, use the Dear Aunt Sally operations in a



3 VISUAL

If you are struggling with information use visual aids you learn and use better and even longer.



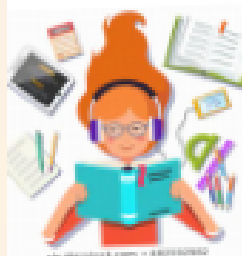
4 ORGANIZATION

Having organized process and use concept ideas.



5 ENVIRONMENT

Consistency in the environment is important to your success. If you were to study for a test in one room and take that test in the same room you are more likely to recall the information that you learned.



6 STUDYING

Cramming is not always the best idea. Instead, space out studying so it can be encoded into your brain. This will last longer than the information "learned" during a cram session. Start studying and reviewing lecture material the night you have access to it.



M MARDIGIAN LIBRARY

BY STUDENTS

FOR STUDENTS

Suggestions for communication technology by the Mardigian Library Student Assistants

Google Meet

Schedule video meetings for free with friends and/or classmates to discuss assignments and group projects or just socialize



BlueJeans

A free cloud-based video/audio conferencing application that can be used on smartphones and computers; sessions can be recorded and revisited



Zoom

Another cloud-based video/audio conferencing tool used for teleconferencing



WhatsApp

A messaging app that allows users to make video or voice calls, send text/voice messages, create group chats, and send images and documents



Microsoft Teams

An app similar to Google Drive, that allows Microsoft users to enjoy document collaboration, one-on-one chat, team chats and file storage



My Study Life

A free app available on iPhone, Android, and Windows devices; allows them to create schedules and timetables, set up reminders, and all data stored on the cloud can sync across multiple devices



DropBox

A free file storage and sharing app available on Android, iPhone, iPad, and Windows mobile devices for team/group work; create folders and access all your files from one account; there are paid plans for students who need more storage space and options



Due

A reminder app available on iPhone and Mac devices; very precise reminders that you can use for repetitive tasks; can defer or mark reminders complete and sync them through iCloud or DropBox



Check out some of the events and flyers created by our students!

Mon, April 20th
• 8-9 am: Early Morning Coffee
• Grab your morning coffee and talk about finals with SA's!

Tues, April 21st
• 4-5 pm: Finals Check-In and Snack Time
• Bring a snack and talk with peers about how the week is going!

Wed, April 22nd
• 2-3 am: Late Night Social Hour
• Night owls can come talk with others about anything on your mind!

Fri, April 24th
• 9-10 pm: Netflix Party with "The Great British Bake Off"***

Thurs, April 23rd
• 12-1pm: Finals Check-In and Snack Time
• 4-5pm: Baking Sugar Cookies
• Come relax and bake easy cookies with us! Ingredients can be found here: tinyurl.com/sugarUMD



Join us on BlueJeans throughout the week for special events with the Mardigian Library Student Assistants!

bluejeans.com/382926094

All events (except Netflix parties) will be held via this BlueJeans link

Activity Links

***Fill out the Google form to RSVP to our Netflix parties!

You will receive the link to join one hour prior to the showing: tinyurl.com/netflixform

*Check out virtual coloring pages here: tinyurl.com/coloringML1
tinyurl.com/coloringML2

Remote Learning Modules

By Kelsey Parker

As the university prepared for a Fall semester with primarily remote instruction, the need for remote student learning resources became exceedingly clear. Our students were being asked to learn in uncharted territory and with the resources and team at the Mardigian we were able to answer the call.

A small group, comprised of Chris Spilker, Head of the LRC, Raya Samet and Joel Seewald, LRC librarians, Sophia McFadden-Keesling, First Year Experience Librarian, and Kelsey Parker, Student Success Initiatives Coordinator began meeting weekly to develop remote learning modules. The goal of the modules was to provide engaging, relevant information, in a clear, easy-to-follow format for students to understand the basics of remote learning. In consultation with faculty and provost office leadership, the team created six series with 18 videos in total covering various topics related to student success in a remote learning environment:

- Be Informed - an introduction to remote learning
- Canvas Basics
- Time Management
- Campus Resources and Connections
- Motivation and Focus Active Learning

Topics ranged from what to expect in a remote course to study skills, campus resources, and so much more! All videos were made using PowToons, and include animation, music, narration, clickable hyperlinks, and closed captioning. These modules have been made available to faculty to import into their Canvas course, with complimentary quiz components.

Additionally, the videos are hosted on the library website and accessible to all students at:

library.umd.umich.edu/remotelibrarybasics/.



Virtual Library Support

By Carla Brooks

The Library Research Center (LRC) and User services staff are offering virtual support with the shift to remote learning environment. While the library has provided virtual services for several years, through email and virtual reference to complement our on-campus services, we have added and enhanced other remote services.

Our enhanced remote services include our new chat widget ("Chat with us!") added to the library's website and to our Subject Guides to contact us for questions on guide content.

We have added virtual research appointments, where students can choose an open time and date to schedule an appointment with a subject librarian (["Make a Virtual Appointment"](#)).

Our library instruction (Research Education) continues virtually as well.

New services include:

- Virtual team teaching with faculty, via Zoom
- Virtual office hours with faculty to help students with current assignments
- Working with small groups of students via Zoom, Blue Jeans, and Google Meet for group class assignments

- Virtual library instruction sessions (asynchronous)
- "Library Boosters" - follow up with students after a library instruction session. We will answer questions students may have on material covered during the session.
- Instructional modules for Canvas, covering library research and resources.

Our continued services include:

- On-demand video tutorials created as needed or requested.
- Embedded in Canvas courses, with point of need announcements to students.
- Tailored Subject Guides for courses and general guides for subject areas.

We hope our virtual services will assist our students, faculty and staff for all teaching and information needs



Grant Awards

By Laura Cotton

The Art Collections and Exhibitions Department is happy to announce it was the recipient of a 2019 Detroit Arts Support Grant from the Kresge Foundation in the amount of \$31,000 to be used for gallery operating funds. The grant award was used to cover part of the expenses for a recent purchase of seven new, museum quality exhibition cases. These cases will play a key role in the Department's mission to better preserve, interpret and display the university's treasured art collection using museum best practices, and to provide enriching and inspiring exhibitions. At times, the cases will be utilized inside the new Stamelos Gallery Center for exhibitions and programming, and when not in use inside the gallery, they will be used to beautifully display the studio glass collection on the first floor of the Mardigian Library. A generous \$10,000 donation from the Birkhill Family Foundation also contributed greatly to the purchase of the seven cases. The Department would like to extend a giant thank you to both the Kresge Foundation and the Birkhill Family Foundation for their invaluable support!



Student Internships

By Laura Cotton

For many years, the Art Collections and Exhibitions Department has offered students and faculty the unique opportunity to directly research and interact with the artwork in the collection. In addition, the gallery offers students the chance to gain professional experience curating and installing exhibitions within a working art gallery, as well as writing and publishing exhibition catalogs. Internships are also available for students interested in curation and collections management.

The Department was fortunate to have UMD Art History student Morgan Pigott start an internship with the gallery in September 2019. She graduated with a BA in Art History and a minor in Applied Art in May and then was promoted to a temporary Gallery Assistant position for the summer. Morgan recently completed her one year appointment in which she gained work experience in a variety of professional museum fields including curation, administration, collections management, conservation, marketing, gallery preparation, exhibit installation and educational programming. She also had the opportunity to work directly with the collection and hone her art history research and writing skills, and make decisions about future career goals. Morgan plans to enroll in graduate school for Museum Studies and Library Science and ultimately pursue a career as a museum professional. Gallery staff are so very grateful for Morgan's many contributions over the past year and wish her well in her future endeavors! She will be missed!



Welcome Monica Adams!

By Raya Samet



On September 1, 2020, the Mardigian Library welcomed Associate Librarian Monica Adams as the new head of the User Services department. Adams, who describes herself as humorous, inquisitive and friendly, is a librarian with over 17 years of academic library experience, including in the role of Head of User Services at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. “I love engaging with the public, and I want to be considered a colleague, ally and partner to the UM-Dearborn community of students, faculty and staff, as well as the surrounding community that we serve. I’m excited about it,” she said.

Adams was born and raised in Detroit until age 12 and spent her teen years in Mississippi, later returning to Michigan to receive degrees from Henry Ford Community College and Michigan State University and completing her MLIS degree at Wayne State University.

She spent much of her professional library career at academic libraries in Florida and Georgia, but is excited to be back in the area after nearly 25 years. “I’ve had a lot of experience as a librarian, and I’m proud to be working at such a great university as UM-Dearborn. There are lots of new things to get used to being a city girl again after many years in the south--snow, weather! But, I still feel like I’m a Detroiter and a Michigander,” she said.

Adams acknowledges the challenges of stepping into this role in this moment, when COVID-19 has changed the nature of the interactions that User Services staff and student assistants have with library users and with each other. Though the Mardigian Library is open for checking out materials including books, course reserves, DVDs, and loanable tech, research and live chat services are now provided remotely. Adams notes “The entire User Services team is really ‘on it’ and dedicated to helping our students, faculty, and staff and improving what we do to provide the best possible experience to everyone who uses the library.” Ultimately, Adams sees this situation as an opportunity. “I’m always looking at the bigger picture thinking about how to make the library a more welcoming virtual space. We want to find innovative ways to engage and support our campus community.” Please join us in welcoming Monica (and her cat, Pierre) to the Mardigian Library.

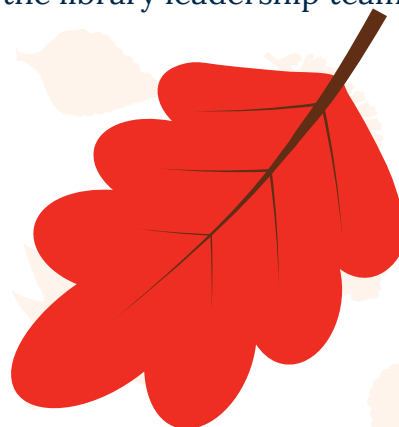


New Developments in the Mardigian

By Maureen Linker

In August 2020 Maureen Linker, Library Director was appointed Associate Provost while retaining Directorship of the Library. With Maureen's added responsibilities as Associate Provost there will be two changes in library leadership. The first is that Holly Sorscher, Associate Director, will now lead the library effort to educate and support the creation, adoption, and licensing of Open Educational Resources. This includes chairing the UM-Dearborn OER Task Force made up of representatives from the library, the HUB, DE, and a faculty "champion." The most significant responsibility in addition to committee chair, is managing the OER Grants program open to faculty across all four colleges. Holly will also lead the UM-Dearborn COVID-19 Archive and Oral History Center, a project that began just after the onset of COVID and will serve as a campus repository for materials and oral histories of our community. This work will include overseeing the use of Omeka, an open source platform for digital archives and exhibitions. Holly will also lead Mardigian librarians in research education to develop information products, digital tools, and services to facilitate on-demand use of information in educational activities, particularly with the increased demand because of remote teaching and learning.

Kelsey Parker will be promoted to Strategic Initiatives Manager and serve as a liaison between the Provost's office and the Mardigian. Kelsey will assist the Associate Provost, Director of the Library to operationalize the creation of a unit dedicated to Career Readiness and Experiential Learning. This would unite varied campus entities, including Career Services/Talent Gateway Program; Academic Service Learning; Global Engagement; SURE and related student research programming. Kelsey will also support both Associate Provosts and their offices to coordinate a broad discussion of Student Success, retention, and support initiatives in light of the announcement of additional funding from Ann Arbor. Finally, with Provost Faculty Fellow, Marie Waung and First Year Experience Librarian Sophia McFadden-Keesling, Kelsey will develop and lead a User Experience (UX) exploration and assessment of First Year Experience services across campus. Kelsey will be joining the library leadership team.



If you'd like to support any of the wonderful programs or people you read about in this newsletter, please consider giving to one of these Mardigian Funds at: leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/dearborn/umd-mardigian



March 2020



MARDIGIAN LIBRARY