

University of Michigan-Dearborn

Mardigian Library

Spring 2016

Inside this issue:

Save the Date:
Christopher Paul Curtis is
Coming.....1

Pardon our Dust and
Noise.....1

A Collector's Living
Room:
Honoring Richard and
Louise Abrahams.....2

How Are We
Doing?.....3

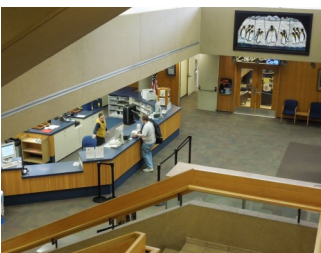
A New Café in the
Library.....3

Digital Library Branch is
Here.....3

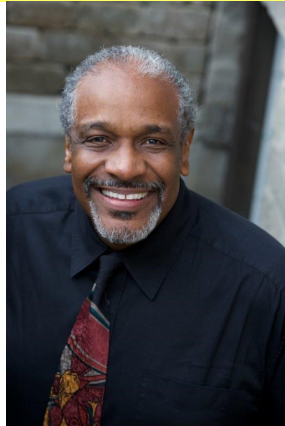
Two Librarians Join the
Mardigian Library
Team.....4

Vision Statement

The Mardigian Library is an essential part of the UM-Dearborn experience; a gathering place for learners, a campus hub for academic success and interdisciplinary collaboration, and a catalyst for integrated learning and community engagement.



Save the Date: Christopher Paul Curtis is Coming!!



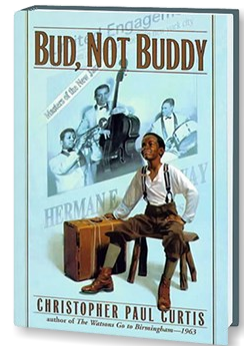
Christopher Paul Curtis

We are thrilled to announce that Newbery Medal winner Christopher Paul Curtis will be our guest author and speaker at the 2016 Young Authors' Festival on Saturday, Nov. 12! Mr. Curtis won both the Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Book Award in 2000 for his book "Bud, Not Buddy." In 2008, "Elijah of Buxton" won the Coretta Scott King Book Award and was named a Newbery Honor book. Mr. Curtis's first book "The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963" won numerous awards, was made into a movie, and in

2013 was added to the New York Public Library's list of "100 Great Children's Books" in the last 100 years.

Born and raised in Flint, Michigan, Mr. Curtis is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Flint. You can read more about him at his website: www.nobodybutcurtis.com

This year's festival is sure to be popular and space will be limited! If you would like to receive e-mail information about the festival and associated writing contest for children in grades three through five, please send your e-mail address to Barbara Kriigel at bkriigel@umich.edu



Pardon Our Dust and Noise



Progress and improvements are often a bit messy and sometimes noisy, so when you visit the Mardigian Library this May and June you will need to pardon our dust and noise. Two very exciting improvement projects will be underway during spring semester. These two projects provide support for the key campus strategic priorities of excellence in teaching and student success. The creation of the Experimental Classroom will be underway on the first floor of the library. This highly flexible, technology rich learning environment is a partnership between the HUB for Teaching and

Learning and the Mardigian Library. It will provide a place for faculty to try innovative interactive teaching techniques and engage with emerging learning technologies. We will be adding electricity, computer networking, and some new furnishings as part of our "Learning Commons" pilot on the second floor. The cornerstones of this new learning space will be access to 20 new computers and flexible, with configurable furniture to support group study. We will share pictures of both of these newly improved spaces in our next newsletter.

Learning and the Mardigian Library. It will provide a place for faculty to try innovative interactive teaching techniques and engage with emerging learning technologies. We will be adding electricity, computer networking, and some new furnishings as part of our "Learning Commons" pilot on the second floor. The cornerstones of this new learning space will be access to 20 new computers and flexible, with configurable furniture to support group study. We will share pictures of both of these newly improved spaces in our next newsletter.



A Collector's Living Room: Honoring Richard and Louise Abrahams



Scott Gamble
Glass
Gift of Richard and Louise Abrahams

one of the most important regions in the country for glass art. The high concentration of glass studios, galleries, museums, and artists in the area is reflected in the university's prized permanent glass collection.

The birthplace of the American studio glass movement is located a short distance away in Toledo, Ohio. It all started in 1962 with two glass workshops held at the Toledo Museum of Art taught by Harvey Littleton and Dominick Labino. These two innovators introduced the first small glass furnace, which made it possible for artists to create glass art in their home studios. This was the beginning of a major shift for many glass artists from producing utilitarian pieces in factories to a world of endless creative possibilities for making glass art in independent studios. In 1963, Littleton introduced the first university program for glass in the United States at the University of Wisconsin.

My aim has been to demonstrate that the modern potter, artist-craftsman, teacher, could easily learn the skills of working with hot glass, develop equipment, and develop techniques for working alone..... and further, that there were unique possibilities for aesthetic expression in this material that were beyond the limits of economic industrial production.
---Harvey Littleton

The studio glass movement quickly spread to the surrounding states and, by the 1980s,

Glass as a material for contemporary art is like no other. Artists revel in its unique ability to change color and to hold and reflect light. Glass art can be opaque or translucent, solid or hollow, curvy and smooth, simple, solid and geometric, or fragile and decorative. Glass is a medium suited for true artistic experimentation and expression.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn is fortunate to be located within

UM-Dearborn had decided to make studio glass a major collecting focus.

Richard and Louise Abrahams purchased their first piece of glass, *Taketori Tale* by Kyohei Fujita, after falling in love with the medium at the 1997 SOFA (Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design) exhibition. For many years after, the Abrahams travelled the world and built the extraordinary, international studio glass collection that is partly on view in the new exhibition "A Collector's Living Room: Honoring Richard and Louise Abrahams." The couple collected pieces from all over the United States and many other countries including Australia, Denmark, and Scotland. When they first met, Richard and Louise found their taste in painting to be quite different. However, they shared a passion for glass.

We decided early on in our collecting that we both had to love the piece before we could buy it. We also tried not to have more than two from any artist. We definitely could be called glassaholics. It's similar to going into a candy store and saying I would like one of these and one of those, etc. The artists and gallery owners are very special people and became great friends. ---Louise Abrahams

This exhibition, on view in the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery from February 19 to June 15, highlights only a portion of the remarkable studio glass collection that has been gifted to the university by Richard and Louise Abrahams. It is intended to honor their significant contribution and provide the



Janet Kelman
Slumped and etched glass
Gift of Richard and Louise Abrahams

viewer with a rare glimpse into the living room of a private collector. Sonja Blomdahl, Lucio Bubacco, Ben Edols, Kathy Elliott, Petr Hora, Janet Kelman, Harvey Littleton, Colin Reid, and Richard Ritter are just a few of the world-renowned glass artists highlighted in the exhibition. It is a pleasure to share these treasured works with the campus and greater community.



Te Rito Pod (Kelp)
Ann Robinson, Cast crystal glass
Gift of Richard and Louise Abrahams

How Are We Doing?



Assessments

Services (instruction in the classroom), our collection (electronic and physical), and our user services (in-person and virtual reference help, circulation of materials, building usage).

Each team is researching ways to assess the impact of their area on student success. This spring and summer, we will be pilot testing several

This winter we began a library-wide project to review and revise our assessment strategies for evaluating how well our services support our students and the missions of both the library and university. Teams of staff members are currently looking at three areas: Instruction and Learning

assessment strategies for each of the three areas. This test will help determine the success of a strategy and its sustainability as we move forward in our effort to re-design our assessment tools.

Our project ties in with the campus-wide initiative to look at reviewing learning outcomes and the best ways to assess student success. Assessment is more than just numbers, it must be meaningful and relatable in addition to being measurable. It should also be sustainable and manageable so we can compare data over time to see trends and make informed decisions in how we help our students and use our resources wisely. Stay tuned, we will be reporting on our progress in the near future!



A New Café in the Library



café to PRG from a previous vendor has allowed the university to reach its goal of a single food service provider for all of campus. PRG took over operation of McKinley Café in the University Center and Picasso Deli in Fairlane Center during the summer of 2014. Students can now enjoy grab-and-go sandwiches,

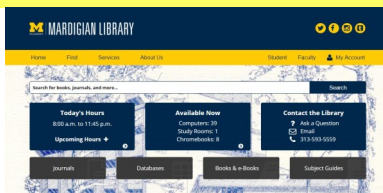
This past fall, the Mardigian Library welcomed Picasso Restaurant Group (PRG) into the library as the food service vendor for the library café. The conversion of the library

snacks, smoothies, and Starbucks coffee at the library six days a week. Beverage and snack vending machines have also been added next to the café to provide quick snacks for students at any time during the library's regular hours.

PRG has several food service operations in Southeast Michigan, including at the University of Michigan Law School and the UM Health System in Ann Arbor. PRG is owned by Mr. Gerald Attee, formerly a Dearborn resident. His sons, Allen and Michael, are also principals in the company. Allen is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.



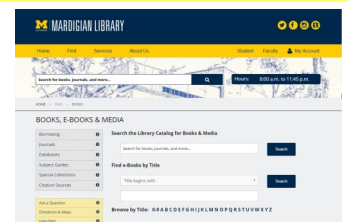
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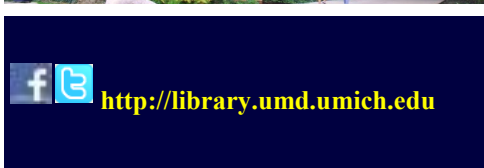


its virtual branch. New features include a real-time equipment and technology availability; an area for featured events, collections, and resources; as well as a "Did you know?" section highlighting collections

Digital library branch is here! After 18 months of campus focus groups and student usability testing the library has launched

and achievements. Two special areas were developed specifically for our students and faculty. The Student and Faculty sections are tailored to the specific needs of each group; allowing them quick access to library resources, tools, and collections. Please visit the site at umdearborn.edu/library and enjoy our new evolution.





Two Librarians Join the Mardigian Library Team

The library recently welcomed two librarians to our staff: Engineering Librarian Elaine Meyer and User Services and First Year Experience Librarian Holly Sorscher.



Elaine Meyer joined the Mardigian Library in January 2016. Previously, she worked for MCLS (Midwest Collaborative for Library Services) as a user experience librarian and at Proquest as a user experience specialist. Meyer also brings extensive experience in website design and information architecture. In

addition to her M.S.I. (University of Michigan) she has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering (Michigan Technological University).

Meyer is a member of the Library Research Center staff. She will serve as liaison for the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and the Mathematics and Statistics department.



Holly Sorscher has worked for both the Mardigian Library and the University Libraries in Ann Arbor since 2012. She received her M.S.I. from the University of Michigan in 2011. In

addition to her library science degree, Holly has an M.A. from Wayne State University in English Literature and Creative Writing as well as a B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Michigan. Prior to her work in libraries, Holly worked as a copywriter for Campbell-Ewald Advertising in Warren, Mich.

