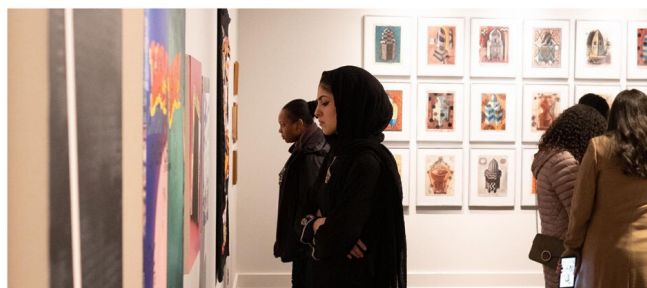




MARDIGIAN LIBRARY & STAMELOS GALLERY CENTER

spring newsletter



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The Final Jam

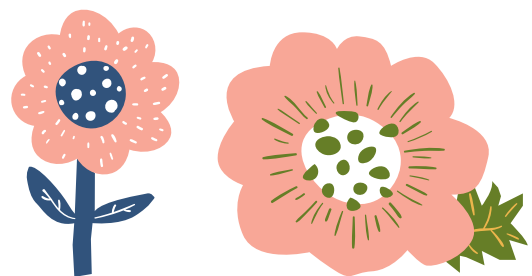
By Kelsey Parker

Finals week is a stressful time for students. That's why our students are so often seeking refuge within the walls of the Mardigian Library when finals week rolls around. We see an average of 390 students actively engaged in study and group work in the evenings during the semester and expected that number to double during finals week. Knowing this, we wanted to provide the opportunity for your faculty to meet students where they were, combining fun, collaboration, and a sense of scholarly belonging.

The Mardigian Library coordinated a new initiative during finals week called “The Final Jam.” The Final Jam was a collection of sessions with space provided by the library where students could drop in and get support, spend time with faculty members, have fun, or simply eat PB&Js provided by the library. Many departments found creative ways to engage: the Philosophy Department’s jam featured “Play Dough with Plato,” along with chess and other logic based games; the Anthropology Department partnered with the Anthropology club; the Health and Human Services Department facilitated Mindfulness Coloring all while being there to answer questions during a stressful time for students. Eleven faculty members participated and hosted eleven sessions with great student turnout!



The Final Jam was the Mardigian’s effort to promote retention, scholarly belonging, and the experience that we were all in this together—a feature often lacking during the stress of finals when most students and faculty are managing multiple responsibilities as well as commuting to and from campus. We received great feedback from students and faculty and are excited to continue this initiative during finals this April!





Halal Metropolis

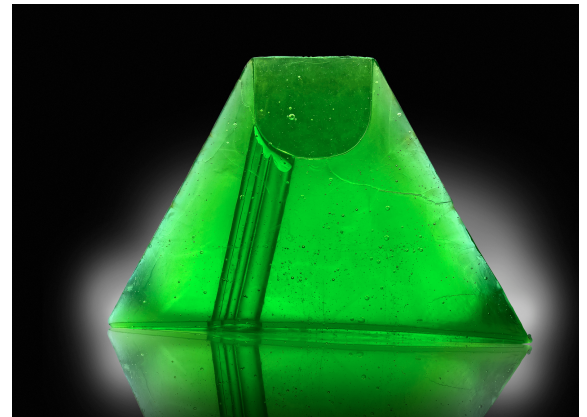
By Sally Howell

The new Stamelos Gallery Center on the Mardigian Library's ground floor hosted the Halal Metropolis exhibition on January 17th. This installation explores the history, aesthetics, and politics of Muslim visibility in the Detroit metro area. The Stamelos iteration of this six-part traveling series focused specifically on Dearborn and its significant Arab American community. Guest curated by Sally Howell (UM-D Center for Arab American Studies), Osman Khan (UM Penny Stamps School of Art and Design), and Razi Jari (UM-D Center for Arab American Studies), the project explores the many ways in which the Muslim communities of Metro Detroit contribute to and are shaped by the culture of the region.



The opening reception for the exhibition featured a performance by the Maple School Drum Ensemble and halal food offerings from Qahwah House, Trio Eats, and A1 Dogs and Burgers. Roughly 200 people turned out for the event including local politicians Debbie Dingell, Sam Baydoun, and Hussein Berry. The exhibition was clearly a hit with the local audience, and with the many school groups, UM-Dearborn classes, and others that have received docent-guided tours.

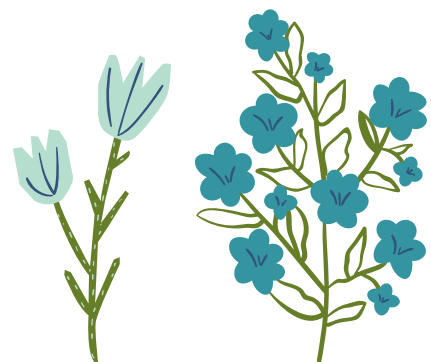
The gallery included Saturday hours for the first time and featured robust public programming including a gallery talk by the three curators and panel discussions by pioneers in the Dearborn halal food scene, Islamic fashion designers, food influencers, and innovators in the local Islamic holiday scene. It was exciting to see so many different types of audiences visit the campus for these events. The Halal team would like to express gratitude to the staff of the Mardigian Library, the Center for Arab American Studies, and especially the Stamelos Gallery Center for being great hosts for these events. If you missed out on the show, the *Halal Metropolis* exhibition will open in the Stamps Gallery in Ann Arbor on May 29th.



The Stamelos Gallery Center is pleased to present the upcoming exhibit **Conversations in Glass:**

Selected Works by JB Wood.

Opening date TBD. Check the [Stamelos Gallery Center's website](#) for updates.





The Mardigian Lactation Room

By Sue Flannery



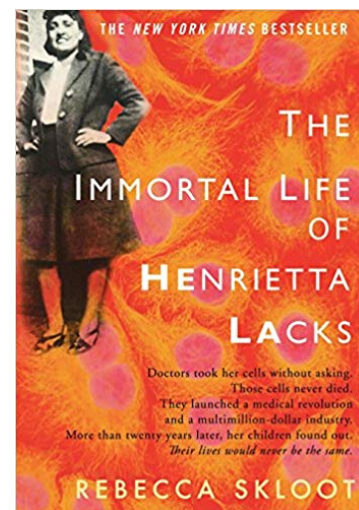
The Mardigian Library is excited to announce that our newly created Lactation room is now open! The Mardigian Library has created a new space to meet the needs of faculty/staff who are nursing. In the U.S., 75 percent of mothers breastfeed their babies, yet many wean their infants early due to lack of accommodation in the workplace. In recognition of the important health benefits that breastfeeding offers to both newborns and mothers, we are excited to add a Lactation Room in the library as part of the ongoing university-wide support for new mothers as they return to work. The new Lactation Room is located on the 1st Floor of the library, room 1221, and comes equipped with a comfortable recliner, small refrigerator, and microwave, as well as a locked door for single use occupancy. Access to the room can be obtained by checking out the key at the Library Info Desk desk in exchange for your University ID. Return the key when you are done in exchange for your University ID. Please don't hesitate to contact Susan Flannery for any questions: sasbury@umich.edu

Books & Brew at the Mardigian



By Holly Sorscher

The library welcomed close to 30 students, faculty, and staff to Books & Brew, a series of 6 librarian-facilitated discussions around the 2019-2020 Community Read. Over coffee, tea, and treats in the Mardigian, individuals came together across disciplines to talk about *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This story of a poor black tobacco farmer—whose cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951 and became one of the most important tools in medicine—laid the groundwork for dialogues on topics such as politics, race, medical ethics, public health, family dynamics, and economics. These cross-campus meetings of the minds led to conversations both broad and deeply personal as each individual brought his or her own particular insights and experiences to the table. Books & Brew will continue through the Winter 2020 semester and the library looks forward to hosting many such interdisciplinary programs as the Community Read gains momentum on our campus.



The Mardigian Library Turns 40!

By Julia Daniel Walkuski



It is hard to believe that the Mardigian Library turns 40 in 2020. The library staff have been busy preparing events to celebrate this milestone anniversary. On March 6th, 2020, we invited back our retired staff and faculty for a special dinner and tour of the library that highlighted the changes over the years. We also took the opportunity to ask for assistance with identifying people in archival materials. Guests included former Library Director Ed Wall, Professor Elton Higgs and former Associate Director Barbara Kriigel. On May 1st, 2020, we will be holding a celebration for the campus and alumni. Highlights will include a library escape room, strolling dinner, tours of the library and identifying archival materials. We hope you can join us on this special 40th anniversary!



Tri-Campus Assessment Day

By Nadine Anderson



Members of Mardigian Library's Assessment Committee joined a total of thirteen librarians at Tri-Campus Library Assessment Day on March 3rd at Hatcher Library, coordinated by Craig Smith from UM Libraries and Nadine Anderson from Mardigian Library. The Tri-Campus Library Assessment Community includes librarians from Mardigian Library (UM-Dearborn), Thompson Library (UM-Flint), and Taubman, Kresge, Hatcher, and Shapiro libraries (UM-AA). We held discussions around how to create a more sustainable and supportive community of practice around assessment across UM-libraries. To inspire our community of practice, Craig Smith and Larissa Stenzil unveiled the Assessment Materials Repository they have been developing to facilitate a culture of assessment and sharing materials across UM libraries. Several librarians also shared inspiring assessment project stories, including ones from the Mardigian Library.

Holly Sorscher presented on the Reference Student Assistant Survey developed by User Services student assistant supervisors Heidi Keppen and Anna Granch, and how data from this survey was used to identify short-term and long-term goals for student assistant training. Nadine Anderson presented on the assessment of her information literacy collaborative project with faculty in the Behavioral Sciences program, and how the data was used to identify best practices and improve their information literacy initiative. We heard about Taubman Library's assessment project exploring how their library contributes to patient and population care, as well as an assessment project in Hatcher Library examining how graduate students and faculty at UM-AA think about and use their document delivery service. We also had a tour of Shapiro and Hatcher Libraries that literally walked us through their proposed renovations and how they were planned using assessment data and the service design model. It was an inspiring day that gave us new ideas for assessment projects at Mardigian Library. We're looking forward to the next Tri-Campus Library Assessment Day in June!



Show Your Wallet Some Love!

By Sophia McFadden-Keesling & Joan Martin



During the month of February, Sophia McFadden-Keesling, First Year Experience Librarian, and Joan Martin, Business and Economics Librarian, piloted a four-part financial literacy program for students that covered the basics of credit scores, money management, financial aid, and budgeting and spending while in college. Each 45 minute drop-in information session was highly interactive with plenty of time for questions and conversation between presenters and attendees.

Attendance averaged 12-15 students per session, representing undergraduates, graduates, and most colleges. All were held on Wednesdays between 5:00 – 5:45 PM with the exception of the session on financial aid which began at 12:30 PM.

Verbal feedback from students was very positive!

"These sessions are very worthwhile. I will be coming to another one."

"I hope you repeat this series. I know more students could benefit."

Here are the highlights of each info session:

Wed., February 5th, 2020

Quicken Loans Presents Credit Scores and reports: What They Really Mean and How to Have a Good One

Presented by Marty Lewis, Quicken Loans' University Relations Manager.

Note: This session was videotaped and is available on the library's website at the Mardigian Library Lecture Series: library.umd.umich.edu/lecture/.

Wed., February 12th, 2020

Money Goals and Money Woes: Peer-to-Peer Discussion on Money Management

Presented by the following four student panelists, with Sophia McFadden-Keesling serving as moderator.

- Faris Ajluni, COB
- Brennan McBeth, CASL
- Bethany McQuiston, CASL
- David Muse, COB

Wed., February 19th, 2020

Financial Aid: Do's and Don'ts

Presented by Cynthia Williams, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship



Building Usage Survey



By Tim Streasick & Patrick Armatis

To better assess how the various study environments in the library are meeting the needs of U of M-Dearborn's students, library staff have developed and recently implemented a building usage survey. In addition to capturing the number of people on the various floors, the building survey also collects the activities being done, such as: reading, using a computer (either personal or university), sleeping, eating, or using a portable whiteboard. Additionally, whereas previous building surveys were performed as time and staffing allowed, the new building survey is performed 4 times a day Monday through Thursday; 3 times on Sunday and Friday; and twice on Saturday.

This new, scheduled approach will provide for a more accurate picture of usage and activities performed in the library throughout the day. The data provided by the new building survey will not only help determine the effectiveness of the current spaces in the library, but will also prove invaluable when deciding where to direct the library's limited resources to meet any deficiencies.

Some interesting statistics already observed since the survey's implementation in February include:

- The social second floor is by far the most active floor in the library, with an average of 96 people recorded for each survey.
- Patrons have made heavy use of the silent study space available to them on the fourth floor, where we have recorded as many as 132 people at a single time.
- On average, the Mardigian Library has the most activity on each of its floors on Sunday afternoons.



Admitted Student Reception



By Barbara Bolek



Prospective students and parents who attended the Admitted Student Reception on March 10, 2020 were drawn to the Mardigian Library's table by a chance to spin to win various library swag prizes. But the real prize was finding out how the Mardigian Library can help students achieve academic success.

157 students were expected to attend the event. Students and their parents appreciated the warm welcome they received from library staff and the chance to spin the wheel for fun prizes.

Emphasizing the message "This is the way," librarians discussed library services, the friendly, helpful librarians available to help students with their research needs, and the library that is open long hours to support them on their journey to graduation and beyond.

Mardigian staff wore matching library-themed shirts emphasizing all the great things people love about libraries. The Library's Admitted Student Reception planning team included Barbara Bolek, Maureen Linker, Sophia McFadden-Keesling, Kelsey Parker, Holly Sorscher and Christopher Spilker.

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