

Mardigian Library & Stamelos Gallery Center

Spring 2021 Newsletter



Experience+

By: Maureen Linker

Experience+ is a new collaborative effort designed to promote a Dearborn Wolverine's academic, personal and professional growth. Students will have access to technological support, undergraduate research, intercultural opportunities and career development through interactive learning experiences.

Launched in January 2021, this campus-wide initiative endeavors to connect students to opportunities across campus, to encourage learning experiences and reflection, and to promote academic, personal, and professional competencies.

There are a variety of engagement areas, including:

Professional development that promotes career competencies

Global learning that builds intercultural awareness in a diverse and inclusive environment

Undergraduate research that encourages academic exploration for all students

Information and digital literacy that prepares students for the demands of tomorrow's work

Personal growth and development that includes self reflection and self-understanding

Experience+ provides programming, workshops, career development and research opportunities, as well as support for current internship and co-op programs in partnership with faculty and the colleges.

Current Collaborators:

Mardigian Library brings resources and experience teaching informational literacy and research skills
Career Services prepares students for the world of work as they integrate their academic learning with their professional aspiration

Talent Gateway focuses on the development of "soft skills" and encourages reflection on the impact of living and learning experiences on academic, personal, and professional goals

Global Learning develops self-aware global citizens who can collaboratively address complex, borderless issues in a just and sustainable manner

College Co-op and Internship Programs assist students in preparing for and finding work experience in their related fields.

Current Initiatives

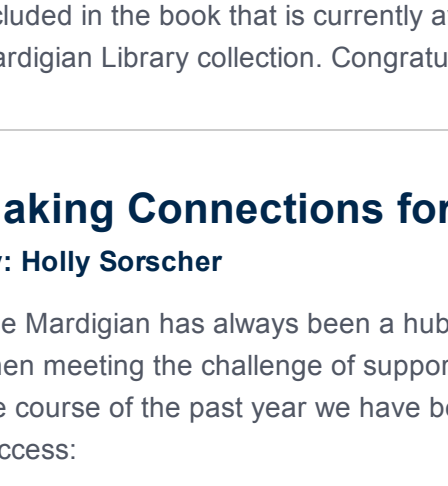
Starting with the **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)**, Experience+ aims to grow and enhance the undergraduate research experience for UM-Dearborn students. The SURE program provides current students the opportunity to participate in individual research projects under the mentorship of faculty while learning about research-oriented careers.

TechTutors are student employees hired and trained through Experience+ to support tech needs for students, staff and faculty. Whether it is an assignment, an Excel challenge, or general help with software and tools such as the Office and Google suites and Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator, TechTutors will problem-solve with you to find a solution.

In Appreciation of Valued Gallery

Donors Frederick and Jean Birkhill

By: Laura Cotton



Flameworked glass vessel, Shane Fero
Gift of Frederick and Jean Birkhill

On behalf of the University of Michigan- Dearborn faculty, staff, students, and the community we serve, the Stamelos Gallery Center would like to extend a big thank you to Frederick and Jean Birkhill of Pinckney, MI for their many decades of generosity and support as cherished gallery donors. The Birkhills have gifted numerous monetary and art donations over many years that have been invaluable in assisting the gallery in the important work of preserving, displaying and interpreting the university's treasured art collection. The Birkhills' support has also helped the gallery to provide educational and inspirational exhibitions and programming for the campus and greater community.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Birkhill Family Foundation recently gifted a generous \$10,000 donation that contributed greatly to the purchase of seven new, museum quality exhibition cases. This year, the Birkhills have also donated a total of 75 remarkable glass works from their private collection to the university. This generous recent donation is a wonderful addition to the UM- Dearborn permanent collection that has specifically greatly enhanced and augmented flame worked glass holdings. Many renowned artists are featured in the gifted works including Frederick Birkhill, Shane Fero, Lucio Bubacco, Matt Eskuche, Albert Young, Cesare Toffolo, Josh Simpson, and Gianni Toso.

Gallery staff is also delighted to share the news about the notable new monograph, created by the Birkhills and published by the Artist Book Foundation, "Glassworks: The Art of Frederick Birkhill," honoring the work of this gifted artist. Over a lifetime, Frederick Birkhill has explored the unique qualities of glass and the numerous techniques and intricacies of working with it. The result of these decades of study is a body of work that is extraordinary in scope, technical expertise, and sheer virtuosity. UM- Dearborn is proud to own many pieces by Birkhill, and to have some of our collection included in the book that is currently available for purchase on Amazon and soon being added to the Mardigian Library collection. Congratulations to the Birkhills on this impressive achievement!

Making Connections for Success

By: Holly Sorscher

The Mardigian has always been a hub for collaboration and resource sharing but never more so than when meeting the challenge of supporting students and faculty during the COVID19 pandemic. Over the course of the past year we have been a key partner to many campus areas impacting student success:

Loanable Technology: Collaboration with Student Affairs to manage the distribution of Chromebooks and Laptops to students in need of technology for their courses and tablets to Supplemental Instructors for use in their tutoring

Course Reserves: Partnership with the Curriculum Knowledge Center to distribute teaching resources to students while their Center is closed

Art History Scanning: Library and faculty work together to provide scanned resources students need for courses but can no longer access in perso

Library Instruction Tutorials: Created by instructional librarians, in collaboration with faculty input, to define and demonstrate for students library resources and how to use them, including databases and Mardigian Search

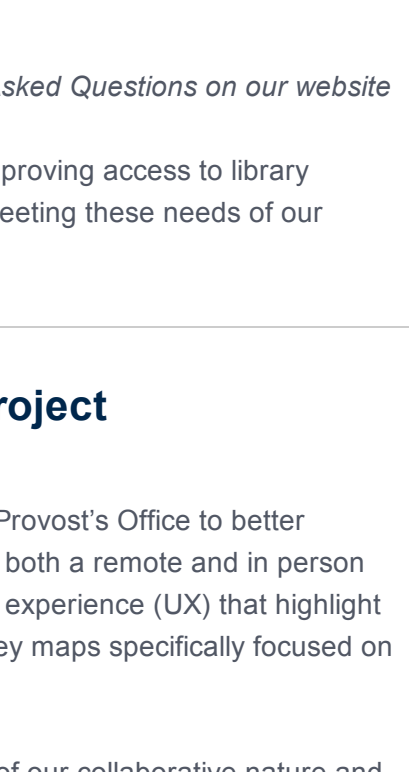
Programming: Expansion of the Qua-Routine workshops from last summer. For Fall 2020 library student employees, in collaboration with several campus offices such as Counseling and Psychological Services, designed and implemented events to provide wellness opportunities for students

One of the most important lessons we learned from these partnerships is the need to continue thinking creatively about ways to connect and provide opportunities for the benefit of our students and faculty. Here's to more and even better alliances moving forward.

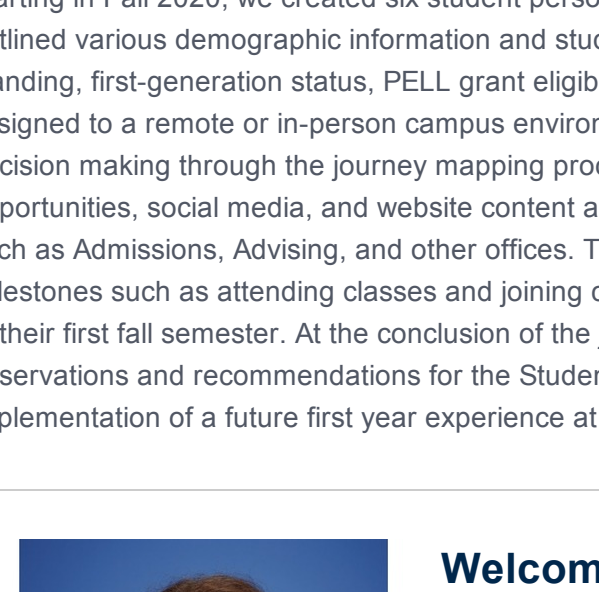
Welcome, Emily Chippa!

By: Anna Granch

The Mardigian Library is excited to welcome Emily Chippa as a new User Services Supervisor! Emily joined the User Services Department in January 2021 and has been working hard to learn the inner workings of the Mardigian Library (which have changed significantly due to COVID-19!). In addition to getting acclimated to the library, Emily has already made great strides in providing professional development opportunities for the library's Student Assistants by planning and presenting a three-part workshop series. These workshops take students on a career-focused journey that includes identifying and applying transferable skills to competencies defined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), translating these skills to compose resumes and cover letters, and combining these skills through the FOCUS assessment. Emily is excited to provide further professional development opportunities to students in this new role.



Alongside her role in User Services, Emily works as Office Manager for Career Services. Emily is also a UM-Dearborn alumni and holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. When she's not working, Emily enjoys watercolor and acrylic painting, baking, cooking, watching anime, reading manga, and taking pictures around Detroit.



The Foundry

By: Kelsey Parker & Holly Sorscher

In the Fall of 2015 the Assessment Committee formed because the Library, as an Academic Unit, was expected to provide learning goals and objectives for annual assessment. While this was being done on an informal basis, the committee was an effort to join campus

assessment practices. It quickly became apparent that this was a very necessary committee and the work was important for the library as the campus began to require assessment from each co-curricular unit. The Assessment Committee began to meet monthly.

In April 2020, in response to moving to remote work for the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of the Assessment Committee knew it was important to increase our online presence in this new virtual environment and capture and measure our virtual work. We began to meet weekly and one member of the group jokingly suggested we call ourselves The Foundry because the team was "forging" new tools and best practices. Thus The Foundry was born. All departments in the library are represented in The Foundry as well as a good portion of Library Leadership.

Here are just a few of the improvements made to remote access during the Fall 2020 semester:

Branded, designed, and added filters to the Mardigian Search, the main portal used to find resources in the collection appearing on each page of our website

Created the Borrowing Items from Other Libraries resource, a short guide explaining how UM-Dearborn students & faculty can borrow items from partner libraries across the state and throughout the world

Produced an online form and dashboard to track library instruction, improving efficiency and accuracy of data collection in this area

Reviewed, updated, and increased accessibility to the Frequently Asked Questions on our website

One year after the formation of The Foundry, our list of ideas for improving access to library resources and services continues to grow. We are committed to meeting these needs of our students, faculty, and staff.

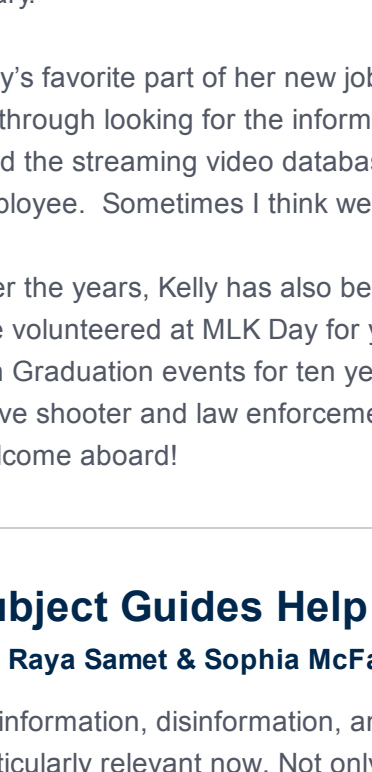
First Year Experience Journey Mapping Project

By: Sophia McFadden-Keessling & Kelsey Parker

First Year Experience (FYE) Journey Maps were requested by the Provost's Office to better understand the FYE for incoming first year and transfer students in both a remote and in person environment. Journey maps are a visual representation of the user experience (UX) that highlight milestones and pain points for the user along the way. These journey maps specifically focused on the first semester.

The library was identified as a key partner for this project because of our collaborative nature and connections across campus. The team for this project was made up of Jessica LaGrange (Academic Success Coordinator), McKenna Maurino (Academic Project Coordinator), Sophia McFadden-Keessling (FYE Librarian), and Kelsey Parker (Strategic Initiatives Manager). This project was done in tandem with Professor of Psychology and Provost Fellow Marie Waung's research into the structural and organizational experience for first year students across campus. Library Director and Associate Provost Maureen Linker lead this joint project.

Starting in Fall 2020, we created six student personas based on UM-Dearborn's institutional data. We outlined various demographic information and student attributes such as domestic/international standing, first-generation status, PELL grant eligibility, and more. These student personas were then assigned to a remote or in-person campus environment. We used these personas to guide our decision making through the journey mapping process. Additionally, we researched campus opportunities, social media, and website content and conducted interviews with campus stakeholders such as Admissions, Advising, and other offices. The journey maps started at admission, included milestones such as attending classes and joining campus organizations, and ended with final exams of their first fall semester. At the conclusion of the journey maps project our team created a report of observations and recommendations for the Student Experience Strategic Planning Group's implementation of a future first year experience at UM-Dearborn.



Welcome, Kelly Ledingham!

By: Beth Taylor

Kelly Ledingham is the newest member of the Library Tech Systems department. She started on October 5, 2020 and spent three months training with Linda Burt, whose position in Acquisition, she was going to start solo on Jan. 2. She may be new to the library but has been on campus since September 1997. She has worked in the Cashier's office, the Financial Aid Office and purchasing for the Natural Sciences department. Since Kelly is responsible for purchasing all the educational resources in her position at the library, her job with the Natural

Sciences helped prepare her for that aspect of her job. Kelly is busy learning everything about the library.

Kelly's favorite part of her new job "is the topics. I love checking in the periodicals. It is hard to just flip through looking for the information that I need without checking out an article or two. I have also used the streaming video database. It is opening my eyes to what is all available to me as an employee. Sometimes I think we forget that the library has resources that are not just for students."

Over the years, Kelly has also been active on campus. She was on the Staff Senate for 8 years. She volunteered at MLK Day for years, helped with the Chancellor's inauguration day, has assisted with Graduation events for ten years and participated in the safety training held on campus with the active shooter and law enforcement. Kelly is a great addition to the department and the library. Welcome aboard!

Subject Guides Help Showcase Current Events

By: Raya Samet & Sophia McFadden-Keessling

Misinformation, disinformation, and "fake news" have always been part of our society, but feel particularly relevant now. Not only is it important for librarians to teach information literacy skills but also to position the library as the source of trusted and timely information about current events. One way that the library can both curate and communicate information quickly is through our **Subject Guides**, which contain a wide array of content around a single topic.

Four subject guides were recently created to highlight major news and political events of interest to our campus community, including guides about the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter protests over the summer of 2020 in response to George Floyd's murder, voting information for the 2020 elections, and the U.S. Capitol Insurrection on January 6th, 2021. These guides are examples of how the library has been proactively creating resources to provide reliable information on current issues:

COVID-19: CEHHS Librarian Raya Samet first published this guide on March 2, 2020 when the news about the virus began circulating in the United States. It brought together news sources, websites, data dashboards, emergency resources, research databases and even social media feeds about COVID-19. It has been continuously updated since, and has been viewed over 1,000 times.

Anti-Racism Resources: This guide provides a starting point for developing a vocabulary to discuss anti-racism through readings and other media to better prepare our campus community with research and information-seeking strategies.

Informed Voting: Created with the help of library Student Assistants, this guide informs our campus community about how to vote at the national and local levels, what to expect at the polls, and how to evaluate information about candidates and issues.

Capitol Insurrection Resources: In response to a request from faculty interested in how to teach about the Insurrection in their courses, this guide focuses on teaching about January 6th from a variety of perspectives, highlighting lesson plans and resources for facilitating discussion and further study, especially in relation to media literacy.

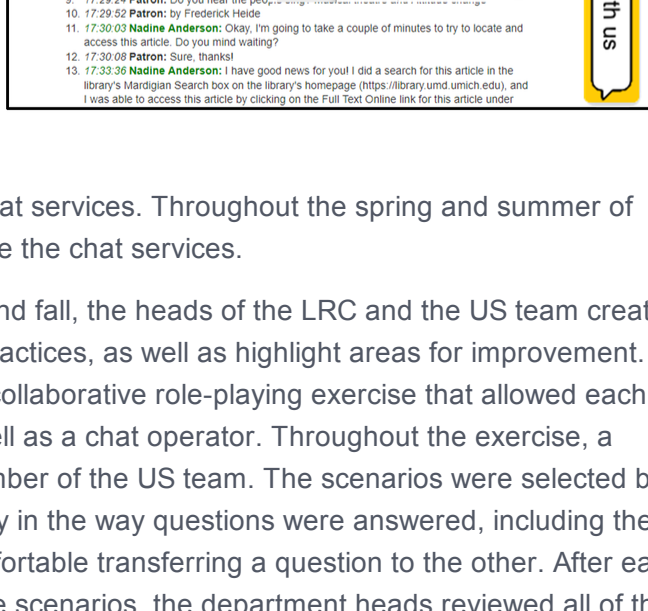
Chat With Us!

By: Chris Spilker

Since the shift to remote learning and working in March of 2020, the LibAnswers chat service, available through the Mardigian Library website,

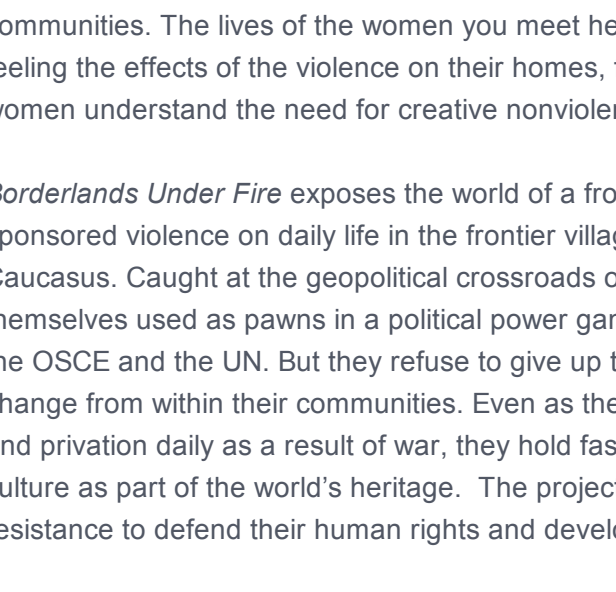
has been an important tool in our efforts to continue to support our students and faculty remotely. In March of 2020, the instructional librarians from the Library Research Center (LRC) partnered with the User Services team (US) to add

enhanced research support to the existing chat services. Throughout the spring and summer of 2020, the library team sought ways to improve the chat services.



As a result of these efforts, in late summer and fall, the heads of the LRC and the US team created an exercise that would help to identify best practices, as well as highlight areas for improvement. The LRC and US teams each participated in this collaborative role-playing exercise that allowed each participant to play the role of a student, as well as a chat operator. Throughout the exercise, a librarian from the LRC was paired with a member of the US team. The scenarios were selected by the department heads to promote consistency in the way questions were answered, including the threshold at which each team should be comfortable transferring a question to the other. After each LRC/US pair had finished working through the scenarios, the department heads reviewed all of the transcripts, identifying the high and low points of each exchange, as well as pointing out aspects of each transcript that should become a best practice. In addition to improving the functioning of our chat system, this process had the added benefit of providing an opportunity for the LRC and the US teams, the two student facing departments in the library, to work together more collaboratively. This valuable collaboration will inform the work that these two teams undertake in the future.

The LRC and US teams are presently at work creating documentation based on this exercise that will enhance the quality of our chat service moving forward, and become a valuable training tool for new members of the teams.



Girldhood Interrupted, Kristin Anahit Cass

The Stamelos Gallery Center Presents New Digital Exhibitions

By: Laura Cotton

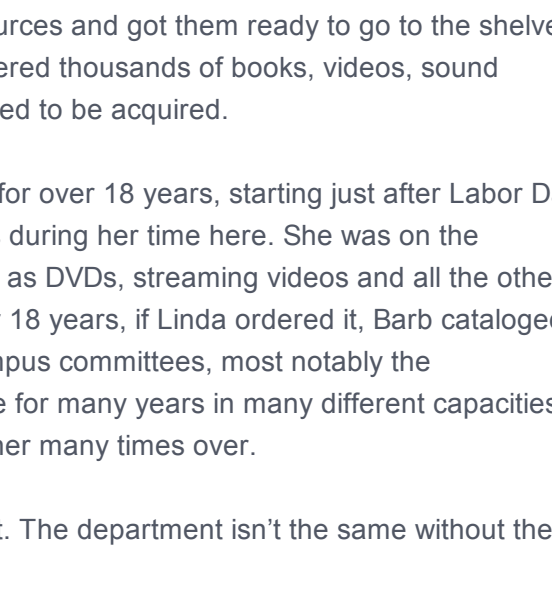
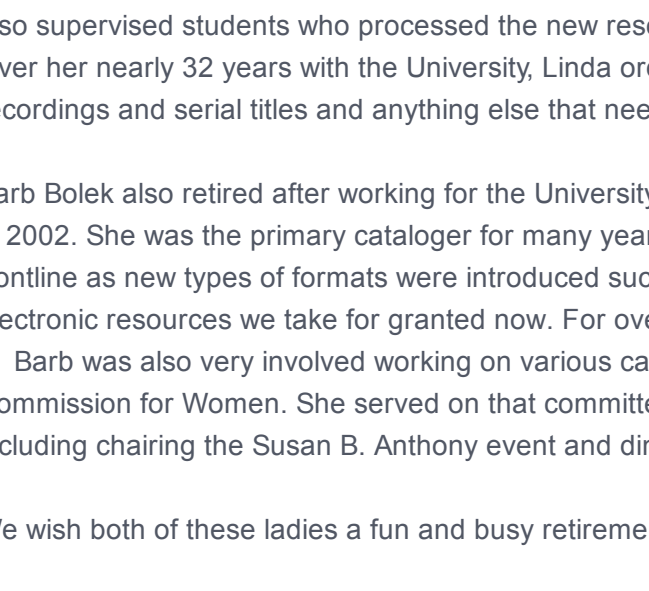
The Stamelos Gallery Center is proud to present two new digital exhibitions featuring the remarkable work of Kristin Anahit Cass. Both exhibitions are currently on display on the gallery's website at www.umdearborn.edu/stamelos.

Cass is a Chicago-based artist working in photography, video, writing, sculpture and other

media. Her art explores the intensely personal spaces where our lives intersect, considering underlying questions of social justice and human rights. As an artist of mixed ethnicity and a descendant of genocide survivors, Cass's work reflects her passion for amplifying diverse voices telling stories that inspire change. In addition to her arts education, her career as a lawyer gives her a unique perspective on the injustices that so many people and communities face every day. Cass is a graduate of the University of Chicago.

The New Freedom Fighters: Women and Nonviolent Resistance project explores the often unrecognized role that women play in the survival and evolution of cultures and communities. The women profiled in this project live every day under military threat and use different types of nonviolent resistance to defend their human rights and mitigate the consequences of war in their communities. The lives of the women you meet here have been irrevocably shaped by war. Despite feeling the effects of the violence on their homes, families, career prospects, and communities, these women understand the need for creative nonviolence to break the cycle of war and intolerance.

Borderlands Under Fire exposes the world of a frozen conflict and documents the effects of state-sponsored violence on daily life in the frontier villages of Armenia, a tiny country in the South Caucasus. Caught at the geopolitical crossroads of East and West, Armenian villagers find themselves used as pawns in a political power game, and ignored by international organizations like the OSCE and the UN. But they refuse to give up their agency, and they continue working to make change from within their communities. Even as the people of these border villages suffer violence and privation daily as a result of war, they hold fast to their homeland, preserving their language and culture as part of the world's heritage. The project explores the villagers' use of creative nonviolent resistance to defend their human rights and develop their communities.



Library Retirements

By: Beth Taylor

We are happy and sad to announce the retirement of two long-term members of the Technical Services department. Both retired at the end of 2020. Linda Burt, started working in the department in May 1989. Over the years, she worked in the serials, then the acquisitions department. When the two departments were combined, she was the sole member—doing it all! In her time with the University she supervised students checking in serials and getting the bindery titles ready to go. She also supervised students who processed the new resources and got them ready to go to the shelves. Over her nearly 32 years with the University, Linda ordered thousands of books, videos, sound recordings and serial titles and anything else that needed to be acquired.

Barb Bolek also retired after working for the University for over 18 years, starting just after Labor Day in 2002. She was the primary cataloger for many years as DVDs, streaming videos and all the other electronic resources we take for granted now. For over 18 years, if Linda ordered it, Barb cataloged it! Barb was also very involved working on various campus committees, most notably the Commission for Women. She served on that committee for many years in many different capacities including chairing the Susan B. Anthony event and dinner many times over.

We wish both of these ladies a fun and busy retirement. The department isn't the same without them!