

Mardigian Library

Summer 2012

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Mission Statement

Create a student-centered environment that fosters learning by providing access to authoritative sources of knowledge and information and by helping students learn critical information literacy skills and concepts.



The Mardigian Library Envisions the Future

Imagine it is September, 2016 and you are visiting the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. Everyone tells you to visit the Mardigian Library because of its amazing transformation. It is a gathering place for learners rather than a warehouse for books. The library has become a dynamic, integrated, and technologically-sophisticated environment that inspires individual and collaborative learning.

When you enter the building, you quickly notice how accessible and welcoming it feels. The layout is clear and intuitive, attractive and inviting. Color and art are everywhere. The furnishings are comfortable and flexible in configuration. There is a variety of individual and group spaces for study and research. Both quiet and interactive study spaces are available. Technology is accessible throughout the building. A faculty laboratory space supports experimentation with new learning models and instructional technologies. The café has ample comfortable seating, a diverse menu, and offers vending and cooking options.

Meeting rooms provide technology and rich learning environments. A gallery hosts exhibits, lectures, readings, and other programs to support campus academic goals and the Metropolitan Vision.

The technology and electrical power infrastructure of the building provides outstanding wireless and network connectivity and electrical outlets are everywhere. Technical barriers to providing seamless, convenient, and easy access supporting the full range of scholarly activities, from idea generation to publication in the appropriate medium and format, have been eliminated. Wireless electronic printing is seamless and easy. Col-

lections are focused on academic and research priorities. Staff members are not forgotten—their workspaces are comfortable and ergonomically designed to support teamwork and efficient workflow.

When you enter the Collaboration and Creativity Center, you know that this is not “your father’s library.” Nearly every seat is taken and there is a buzz in the air. In addition to assisting students and faculty with their information needs, the Center provides a “one stop shop” with support for creating papers, websites, audio-visual productions, and projects using information retrieved from our resources. This is a place to experiment with emerging technology and new ways to creatively communicate ideas; a place for interactive learning and collaboration. The Center is a wonderful new collaboration between the library, information technology, the writing center, and other academic support service groups across campus. A place where students develop the skills needed for a lifetime of learning, creativity and leadership. A space where students want to be.

The role of academic libraries is changing. The Mardigian Library is eager to embrace the future and we need your help. Creating a comprehensive master plan for the future of the Mardigian Library will be a major initiative for us in 2012-13. A cross-functional team will develop an exciting new vision for the building and the services we provide. Input will be gathered from the entire campus community, including our alumni and donors. If you are interested in being included in the planning process, please let us know by contacting Sue Flannery at 313-593-5236.

Time Flies When Library Staff Are Having Fun



Diane Leach

In April 1972, Diane Leach interviewed for a job at the library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Having recently been laid off from her first job out of high school, Diane was eager to land a new one. She aced her typing test with nearly 80 words per minute, and the rest is history. Over her 40 year career, Diane has worked with four different library directors and two interim directors. She started working in the old library (now the Administration Building) and was part of the move to the new University Library in 1980. When asked what she likes most about her years at the library, Diane says, "I have learned so many new things. I have always been offered training and opportunities to learn and grow."

During her 40 years with us, Diane experienced an amazing revolution in how libraries conduct their business. Her career took her from working with the card catalog to using two different online library automation systems. Her first job in the library was in the cataloging department where she typed subject headings on catalog cards and then filed them in the public

card catalog. Cataloging was where she got her first introduction to computers, using an online terminal to automate card production. In 1977, Diane moved to the ordering department (acquisitions) where she processed orders from faculty and librarians for new books and audio-visual materials. By the mid-1980s, the Library was rededicated as the Mardigian Library, and Diane was the head of acquisitions helping implement our first online integrated library system (GEAC). In 1998, Diane moved upstairs to library administration where she is currently the business manager. She is still a keyboard whiz and has outstanding Excel and other computer skills. As business manager, she maintains all of the library's financial records, manages building issues and projects, coordinates HR issues, provides administrative support to the Director, and serves on the Library Leadership Team. At a recent luncheon honoring Diane on her 40 year of service, Library Director Elaine Logan said, "Diane is the glue that holds the library together. After 40 years, she has so much knowledge of how to get things done, we would be lost without her!"



Having the Last Word



What can we learn about a culture by studying its burial rituals and the final messages people choose to leave behind? Ronald R. Stockton, Professor of Social Sciences, has been studying cemeteries and gravestones for many years in his research about ethnic and religious groups around the world. As he walked among the headstones, Stockton took over 1,000 images of Muslim gravestones in the Detroit Metropolitan area, gathering amazing evidence of the wide variety of traditions within a single religion.

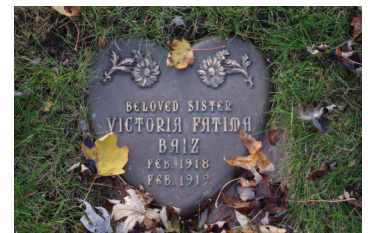
Convinced that his photos tell a compelling story of history, immigration, culture, and assimilation, Stockton spoke with librarians about the possibility of creating an exhibition in the library. We were intrigued, and agreed to host an exhibition in March and April earlier this year. After selecting about 40 of his favorite and most interesting images, Stockton worked with librarians and curators to create his exhibition, "The Muslim Graves of Southeast Michigan."

Opening night was a huge success with many peo-

ple attending Stockton's public lecture and slideshow. The gravestone images illustrate the many ways people express their final sentiments and are examples of complex and diverse sub-communities from around the world. As guests viewed the exhibition on the library's second floor, they were amazed to see the diversity represented on the gravestones of individuals who were originally from over 26 different countries.

The exhibition was extremely popular, and numerous people came to the library to see the photos. Students were particularly interested in the images and the explanations Stockton provided for the photos. Students can be inspired as they view research "come alive" and the library is a natural setting to host exhibitions of this type.

We were delighted to collaborate with Professor Stockton and feature his research. We hope you will join us at future events when we highlight the achievements of our faculty and students!



Remembering a Beloved Colleague



Janet Yanosko Elkins

In June, we dedicated a beautiful piece of artwork in memory of Janet Yanosko Elkins, one of our librarians who passed away in 2008 after a long and brave battle with breast cancer. Janet joined the Mardigian Library in 1999 and was the Systems Librarian from 2001 until her passing. Family members, friends, and coworkers raised funds to

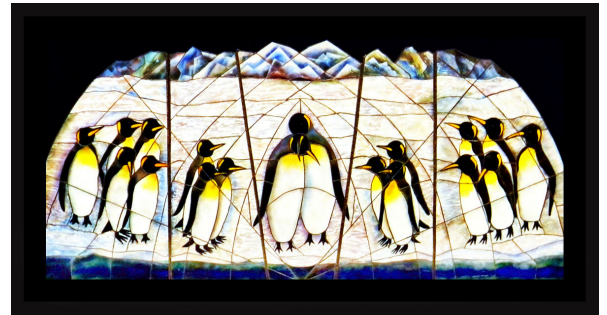
create a memorial that would embody Janet's dedication to our students, and impart a sense of her warm, fun-loving personality. After considering several options, a piece of stained glass artwork was commissioned for the library's lobby.

Janet loved penguins, enjoying their funny shape and waddle, as well as appreciating the community spirit and supportive social behavior some penguins exhibit within their colony. The penguin design, created by artist Vera Sattler, symbolizes the care and support provided by the university community to our students. Staff members suggested names for the piece

and after consulting with Janet's family and Ms. Sattler, the artwork was named "Never Alone."

At the dedication, people spoke about Janet's passion for her work, and her courageous spirit that was clearly evident in both her daily work life and in her battle against cancer. Tim Richards, retired director of the library, spoke about hiring Janet and watching her development as a new librarian. Barbara Jur, her mother, told personal stories about Janet, her love of life, and her creative abilities in both music and art.

The finished artwork is truly amazing, and you must see it to fully appreciate the beauty and the work that went into creating it. It truly represents the way Janet viewed the world and how she lived her life. She will be forever missed by her many friends and colleagues.



Satisfaction with Library High! Library Gets High Marks from Students

Hearing from UM-D students about their library experiences is essential to our success. The Library conducted a survey this winter to gather feedback on how well we are doing in communicating about our collections and services, how students use technology to access the library, and how they learn the skills they need to do library research. Participation was higher than ever! We had a total of 738 participants responding, with excellent representation from all 4 colleges. We attribute this increase to a few new incentives we offered. Adhering to the adage "Feed them and they will come," we hosted two sessions where students received free pizza and pop for taking the survey. We also had drawings for some great prizes. Students from each college had the chance to win a Kindle Touch ereader or one of two gas cards. And one lucky student won our grand prize, an iPad 2! Your generosity helped provide the funding for our survey.

Using a new survey tool, Qualtrics, we are able to conduct a deep dive analysis of the results. Data ranged from "what college do you represent" to "what device do you access library information with" and every detail in between. As expected, the majority of

our respondents were from the College of Arts, Science and Letters, followed by the College of Engineering & Computer Science then the College of Business, and the School of Education. Although many students hear about our services by attending a campus orientation or from a classmate or friend, the majority learn about us by navigating our website. Over 550 students reported using their own laptop in the library to access library resources, highlighting the value and importance of the wireless network in the building.

Overall, the survey enforced our efforts to provide quality resources and a pleasant environment for learning! We were pleased that 69% of the respondents were "very" or "quite" satisfied with our services, and that 74% would recommend the library and its services to other students. We will be using the results from the survey in the coming months to help determine priorities, goals, and objectives, as well as to help us create a master plan for a future renovation. Thank you for helping make this survey such a huge success!



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Combining Fantasy and Mythology



Saladin Ahmed

Do you enjoy reading fantasy literature? If your answer is “yes,” you would have enjoyed our event in April when the library hosted a book reading and discussion by fantasy author, Saladin Ahmed. A lecturer in UM-Dearborn’s department of English, Ahmed recently published his debut novel, “The Throne of the Crescent Moon.” The first of a planned trilogy, the novel combines elements of the fantasy genre with Arabian folklore and mythology. During his presentation, Ahmed talked about the creative processes behind writing fantasy fiction and read passages from his book.

Ahmed's short stories have been nominated for several writing awards and have been translated into five languages. His previous writings have appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. For more information about the author or his work, please visit: <http://www.saladinahmed.com/>



If you are interested in attending other author events at the library, please let us know by contacting Sue Flannery at 313-593-5236 or sasbury@umd.umich.edu. We look forward to seeing you!

