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HOW IT ALL STARTED

The IDEA Lab began with a group of 11 faculty (chosen by the Provost for their past innovative teaching practices) from different colleges to engage in interdisciplinary design thinking. The result was a pilot program with student teams across three different courses. Librarians participated by providing research support for the project.

LOGISTICS

The librarians dubbed themselves “Project Coaches” providing inspiration and support for the student teams. 12 student teams, made up of 4-5 students, were each assigned two Project Coaches. Student groups will meet formally with the Project Coaches twice in the fall semester. Project Coaches will schedule individual meetings with their teams as well.

CLIENT AND GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The client for this project is the Maize and Blue Math Circles. The goal is for students to propose solutions for the expansion of this very successful UM-Dearborn math tutoring program given its recent award of $50,000 dollars from the Ford Foundation.

PROCESS AND FEEDBACK

Eight subject librarians and the student success coordinator met several times throughout the summer to discuss how to help students as they worked on their projects. Ideas from those meetings were shared with the library student workers to assess everything from project goals to marketing materials. Library student assistants provided excellent feedback, including suggestions to invite the Math Circles tutors to meet with the students and discuss the project. They also suggested group members negotiate tasks during the first meeting and set up schedules (virtual or on campus) for work on the project.

FIRST MEETING

The first formal meeting was September 23, it included a presentation about the project, a short video on “Design Thinking” and introduced the Project Coaches and their teams. Other library staff helped at the meeting, from set up/clean up of the second floor space for the first team meetings, to taking pictures of the session. The Mardigian library looks forward to continuing this program with faculty volunteers who have signed their classes up to participate in the winter.
STAMELOS GALLERY CENTER GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

THANK YOU

The Art Collections and Exhibitions Department would like to thank everyone who attended the grand opening event on September 12 for the new Stamelos Gallery Center! It was a lovely evening to celebrate this remarkable new addition to the campus. The generosity of William and Electra Stamelos made all of this possible.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

The new center includes a gallery and collection storage space with museum quality climate-control and LED lighting systems and upgraded security. These features will allow the department to meet the borrowing requirements for museums across the country and to better preserve the university's treasured art collection. In its new location on the first floor of the Mardigian Library, the center is much more visible, and public access is greatly increased. These newly designed spaces are already beginning to attract and inspire highly-regarded artists and guest speakers who greatly enhance and enrich university offerings. This initiative raises faculty awareness of the collection and gallery programming and encourages them to consider new ways of incorporating critical thinking strategies through the study of art into their curriculum.

GOAL OF THE GALLERY

Thought-provoking exhibitions and programs designed to reach new audiences of a variety of ethnicities, age groups, lifestyles, and religious and economic backgrounds generate debate and fresh ideas in students and community members. An important goal of the Stamelos Gallery Center is to play a key role in the educational growth of UM-Dearborn students, across all disciplines, and to become an educational leader in its service to the diverse populations of Dearborn and beyond. The university is profoundly grateful for this transformative gift from the estate of William and Electra Stamelos. Electra and Bill: Honoring an Immeasurable Contribution will be on display in the Stamelos Gallery Center until November 21.

Chancellor Grasso and Tim Angelos, nephew of Bill and Electra Stamelos
This year’s 7th annual festival is a half-day campus event in the Mardigian Library (Saturday, Nov. 9, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30) featuring Michigan author Jean Alicia Elster and her 2013 Michigan Notable book The Colored Car. Written based on the author's own family story, Elster's book provides an emotional and compelling look at segregation largely set in Detroit during the 1930s. The Colored Car has inspired this year's writing contest theme, "experiencing something unexpected."

Fun breakout sessions for children and their accompanying adults are followed by a writing contest award ceremony and a book signing. The YAF is a collaboration between the Mardigian Library along with faculty and students in the College of Education, Health and Human Services. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information and registration, visit our website library.umd.umich.edu/yaf or contact Raya Samet(rsamet@umich.edu or 313-593-4936). We hope to see you there!
The retreat offered an opportunity for focused work within a supportive community of peers. A dinner social was held the night before the start of the retreat at Mint 29 in Dearborn. At the dinner, faculty from across campus had the opportunity to learn about each other’s research and enjoy some social time together before getting to work. The retreat then met for two days off-campus at conference rooms in the Courtyard Marriott in Dearborn providing a distraction-free environment to write, discuss and learn about productive research habits and practices.

Library Partners
The Mardigan Library partnered with the Provost’s Office to host the first annual Faculty Research & Writing Retreat on May 1st and May 2nd. The planning committee included Maureen Linker (Library Director), Ilir Miteza (Associate Provost), Georgina Hickey (History & Interim Chair, Natural Sciences), and Armen Zakarian (Chair, IMSE, Industrial Manufacturing & Systems Engineering).

Participation and Feedback
Participation in the event was limited to 20 tenure-track faculty members based on applications demonstrating readiness for the writing activities and with preference for faculty in their first three years. Participating faculty were surveyed after the retreat and 100% agreed that the dinner social was a relevant component, the off-campus location worked well, and that both days were effectively structured. Qualitative comments included, “Excellent choice to have it right at the beginning of the summer. I’ve had so many service and teaching meetings to attend this May that I might not have gotten in to my research mind set if it weren't for the writing retreat. I feel very grateful that now I have my focus on research!”

What Happened at the Retreat?

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Retirements

Barbara J. Kriigel
Barbara J. Kriigel, Associate Director of the Mardigian Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on July 22, 2019. Barbara initially served as Department Head of Technical Services and was promoted in 1996 to Assistant Director and in 2001 to Associate Director, a title she held until her retirement in 2019. Her position included supervision of four departments: Technical Services, User Services, Systems, and Art Collections & Exhibitions. During Barbara’s tenure, the library saw numerous changes, including the shift from paper to digital resources. Barbara co-chaired the committee to select/implement a new integrated library system. Barbara also helped lead other major projects, including working with faculty to create the Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive, establishing the Juvenile Historic Collection, and working with Department of Education faculty to create an annual Young Authors’ Festival (an outreach program with literacy workshops for children, created and led by Dearborn’s pre-service teachers). Barbara was actively involved in library leadership and management, most recently chairing a library committee to evaluate, update, and create library assessment strategies for evaluating library success. Fundraising and donor stewardship were especially important to Barbara, along with mentoring other librarians, staff, and student assistants. She served twice as interim director when directors retired.

Everyone at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and especially the Mardigian Library, salute this dedicated and wonderful leader!

Dr. Robert Fraser
Dr. Robert Fraser, Ph.D., Librarian at the Mardigian Library, retired as the Associate Director for Graduate Programs, Research and Scholarly Communication from active faculty status on September 3, 2019. Bob joined the University of Michigan in 1994 as an Associate Librarian at the Mardigian Library, was promoted to Senior Associate Librarian in 1998 and to Librarian in 2005. As Network Resources Librarian, he developed the first official campus website in the University of Michigan, set up the first server for the Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor site, introduced the first online library reserves system at the Dearborn campus and was instrumental in negotiating a “single home” modem pool policy for the entire University. In 1996, he joined the University Library’s Network Information Support Committee, spearheading the development of the cost-saving “1U” concept by which the libraries of all three campuses shared single contracts with vendors. He triaged many of the Dearborn campus copyright concerns, working closely with the General Counsel’s Office. Elected to the Dearborn Faculty Senate and Council in 2002, he established and co-chaired the first faculty-staff benefits committee. He represented Dearborn on the University’s Faculty Senate and was elected by the University Faculty Senate to serve as interim Secretary. As the Mardigian Library’s Associate Director, he taught classes in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Education, mentoring doctoral students and working with the heads of the programs. He received the Jackie Lawson Memorial Faculty Governance Award in 2011 and the University Librarian Achievement Award in 2016.

Thank you Bob for all your many contributions to the University of Michigan and the Mardigian Library!
Calendar of Events

Open Educational Research (OER) Grant Awardees’ Presentations, Friday, October 25, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., 1216, Mardigian Library

Pumpkin Decorating, Tuesday, October 29, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., 1st floor, Mardigian Library – Halloween fun for all!

Donuts and Databases, Wednesday, October 30, 1st floor, Mardigian Library – Students learn about the library’s databases while enjoying a seasonal snack.

Trick or Treat in the Library, Thursday, October 31, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mardigian Library - Students visit various departments throughout the building to learn about them and pick up some treats!

Silent Dance Party, Thursday, October 31, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., 2nd floor Mardigian Library - WUMD Radio will live stream Halloween style dance music and students can tune in on their phones and headphones.

First Gen Watch Party, Monday, November 4, 4:00 pm-5:30pm, Room 1211 Mardigian Library - A screening of videos collected on the experiences of first generation college students at UM-Dearborn.

Library Wide Escape Room, Tuesday, November 5th, this event will consist of 21 clues hidden around the library with mini clues for the final password students need to finish the escape room. This event is a partnership with the Mardigian Library and the First Gen Committee.

Young Authors’ Festival, Saturday, November 9, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mardigian Library – Jean Alicia Elster, author of the book, The Colored Car, is the special guest speaker.

Living Library, Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., Berkowitz Gallery – Students from English 327 will share their written personal stories.

Student / Faculty Reading: A Night of Prose and Poetry, Thursday, November 21, 6:00p.m. to 7:30 p.m, Berkowitz Gallery – The reading will feature the creative work of three students and a faculty member – a first time event!

Halal Metropolis exhibition opening reception, Stamelos Gallery Center, Friday, January 17, 2020- 5:00-7:00 pm

Holocaust Unfolds Exhibit, Monday, January 27, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., 2nd floor, Mardigian Library
If you would like to support any of the wonderful programs or people you read about please consider giving to one of these Mardigian Funds: https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/dearborn/umd-mardigian

Special thanks to our intern Zipporah Abarca for all of her work on the newsletter design!