


[About](#)
[Media Relations](#)
[Faculty and Staff News](#)
[Archives](#)


You are here: [Home](#) › [Faculty/Staff News](#) › News from Mardigian Library: Young Authors' Festival and library retirements

← [Teaching by example: CEHHS grad Jackie Tarnacki says experience, faculty led her to classroom confidence](#)

[More than a fan: Retired Air Force Captain Edward Hourigan completes dream of Michigan degree](#) →

## News from Mardigian Library: Young Authors' Festival and library retirements

December 18, 2016 | Filed under: [Faculty/Staff News](#), [Library](#)

### Young writers honored by their peers at the 2016 Young Authors' Festival

Around 120 young writers (grades 3-5) learned tips on what it takes to be an author from Newbery Medal-winning author Christopher Paul Curtis. Curtis was the special guest speaker at the 4th Annual Young Authors' Festival held on Saturday, November 12, in Mardigian Library. The festival also honored the winners of the 2016 Young Authors' Writing Contest. UM-Dearborn pre-service teachers judged about 260 contest entries, a record number. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell stopped by to congratulate award winners and encourage students to read and write. Winning students received Barnes & Noble gift cards and were invited to read their entries aloud.

Curtis, who came with his wife and three young children, spoke from the heart about his life and how he became a writer. He told the eager audience to be observant and listen, and encouraged them to use what they see and hear in their everyday lives in their stories. He gave an example about how writing can be a collaborative process through the challenges he faced when writing a book from a girl's perspective. He got a lot of advice from the girls and women in his life to help him shape his character's personality and voice.

Curtis also took time to autograph books and take pictures with the children attending the event. Born in Flint, Mich., and a graduate of UM-Flint, Curtis is the

#### THIS MONTH @ UM-DEARBORN

Opening Reception: One House, Two Voices: Recent Glass Works by Christina Bothwell and Robert Bender  
Friday, May 5

Transfer Week  
Monday, May 15-Thursday, May 18

GOLD 6th Annual Recent Grad BBQ

Saturday, May 20

All upcoming events



**Subscribe to Reporter  
UM-Dearborn's weekly news  
and event email**

author of the highly acclaimed books *Bud Not Buddy*, *Elijah of Buxton* and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*.

Children also participated in 11 fun, educational writing workshops conducted by UM-Dearborn pre-service teachers while their parents were getting tips on how to inspire their children to continue writing and reading. Workshop topics included: collaborative group writing, how to create a picture book, creating a story to accompany a piece of music, a bookmaking workshop and more.

This event was sponsored by the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, the Mardigian Library, the Salloum family in honor of Abdallah and Leila Salloum, the Metro Detroit Book and Author Society, the Hub for Teaching & Learning Resources, the Office of Metropolitan Impact, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn Barnes & Noble College Bookstore.

Winners of the 2016 Young Author's Writing Contest are:

**Grand prize winner:** *Family* by Jet Miller (George Defer Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Park)

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> prize: *Tag!...you trip!* by Hadley Walker (Hilton Elementary School, Brighton)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: *Families* by Owen Strieff (Lindbergh Elementary, Dearborn)

3<sup>rd</sup> prize – (tie) *The Water Machine* by Lena Sophia Goethe (Cranbrook Schools: Brookside, Bloomfield Hills) and *Family Memories* by Hussein Mansour (William Ford Elementary, Dearborn)

**4<sup>th</sup> grade winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> prize: *Fishing Trip* by Joshua Lemanski (George Defer Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Park)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: *Maya* by Maria Fontes (George Defer Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Park)

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: *My Life, My Everything* by Nameh Sharif (Henry Ford Elementary School, Dearborn)

**5<sup>th</sup> grade winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> prize: *Thanksgiving* by Hanley DeSmyter (George Defer Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Park)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: *Bubbles* by Cassidy Woolums (George Defer Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Park)

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: *Big Dreams* by Ali Beidoun (Joshua Howard Elementary School, Dearborn)

## Patty Rutkowski and Cheryl Nevels retire from the Mardigian Library

At the end of December, we will say goodbye to two longtime library employees, Patty Rutkowski and Cheryl Nevels. With Patty's 35 years of service and Cheryl's

## ARCHIVES

Archives  ▼

## BROWSE BY CATEGORY

Browse by Category

33 years, together they represent almost 70 years of supporting the mission and goals of the library and the university.

When Patty began working in the library's monographs department in 1981, the library's collection was mainly books and journals with a few audio-visual items, such as LP records and cassette tapes. Five years later, she was promoted to head of the serials department, which included supervising student assistants. At that time the library subscribed to around 1,600 print journals and newspapers. Part of her job was to manually check in new journal issues. We still had a card catalog and, while patrons could identify what journal titles we owned, they could not tell which specific issues had arrived. Patty tracked all of that, plus she tracked payment, renewals and binding information on 4×6 index cards. When we were finally automated, Patty played a big role in entering data and building serial order and check-in records. While we still have books and journals today, the vast majority of library resources are electronic: e-books, e-journals, streaming videos and databases. Patty transferred her skills and knowledge of managing print titles to managing online resources so the campus community has access to the latest information.

Cheryl began managing the reserves process in the Circulation Services department in 1983, handling the many resources faculty members put on reserve each semester for their students. Her desk would be piled high with stacks of books, solution manuals, old tests, and other items to process. It was no easy task to manage the many lists of requested materials, frequently submitted at the last minute, so that students had access as soon as possible. Over the years, Cheryl continued to manage reserves while taking on additional responsibilities, such as interlibrary loan, student supervision, patron assistance, etc. Cheryl is especially known for her outstanding customer service and her ability to remain calm, pleasant, empathetic and helpful at all times. Like other library processes, most of Cheryl's work that was performed manually in 1983 has now been automated. And, with the increasing amount of electronic resources available to students and faculty 24/7, the need for reserve materials has lessened, although it has not disappeared!

Both Patty and Cheryl have truly participated in a revolution in the library. Both worked on many important projects, including implementing two library automation systems. They have always been willing to cooperate and collaborate, and have been wonderful team players. When they retire in December 2016, both will be greatly missed.

We wish them a long and healthy retirement!

---

**Did you like this article? Share it with your friends!**

Like 3

Tweet  0

[← Teaching by example:  
CEHHS grad Jackie Tarnacki](#)

[More than a fan: Retired Air  
Force Captain Edward](#)

[says experience, faculty led her to classroom confidence](#) [Hourigan completes dream of Michigan degree →](#)

## Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

Comment

Name \*

Email \*

Website

Post Comment

### UM-DEARBORN IN THE NEWS

Most common debt collection scams

and how to avoid them

MCWT doubles down on women in

tech with CIO's, grade school girls

Detroit area Armenians mark 100

years since genocide

Local experts weigh in on Israeli

elections

Maple syrup tours usher in sweet

promise of spring

### PUBLICATIONS

Dearborn Engineer

Detroit Center Newsletter

Legacy

The Senator

UM-Flint News

University Record – Ann Arbor

