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Library Newsletter, Spring 2016

Valparaiso University Christopher Center Library Services

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The library has been working on a number of initiatives that provide more and better services to our students and faculty. We have been busy with various digitization projects, information literacy partnerships with the Writing Program and various subject disciplines, and plans for opening up more student spaces in the Christopher Center Library.

I would like to congratulate our colleagues Jon Bull and Kimberly Whalen. Both achieved tenure as well as promotion to Associate Professor.

In April, Ruth Connell delivered a professorial lecture to celebrate her recent promotion to full professor. Most academic librarians wear many hats and work across diverse areas, especially at smaller institutions such as Valpo. Because work informs research and research informs work, Connell’s research spans many subject areas within librarianship, including social media outreach, parental policies for academic librarians, and the effects of interlibrary loan procedures on patron usage. These seemingly different research areas share a common genesis and methodology. All of them began with a question, involve data-driven research, and inform our practice on campus. This lecture provided insight into facets of librarianship and how related research impacts Valparaiso University.

The library recently purchased backfiles for two of our major databases. These one-time investments provide access to this content in perpetuity, and were taken from library endowments. An additional 26 years (1975-2001) have been added to our Web of Science database subscription, and we have also purchased the JSTOR Essential Collection, which adds access to over 850 journal titles. These were the two top items on the library’s wish list of purchases, and academic faculty had been requesting these for a number of years.

Enjoy all of the news and stories about the wonderful things happening in the Christopher Center. If you have any questions, please let me know via email at brad.eden@valpo.edu or contact me at 219-464-5099.

Dr. Brad Eden
Dean of Library Services
During the last week of classes in December, the library hosted a week of de-stress programming. These programs were designed to help students unwind and refocus during a busy time of year. The week of December De-Stress enlivened the Christopher Center with a combination of active events -- including therapy dogs, yoga in the library, a snack night, and a group scream -- and more passive activities -- which included a makerspace with Playdough and coloring supplies. In the 2nd floor fireplace lounge, students were provided with supplies to build their own blanket forts, leading to great creativity as students rearranged furniture to create comfortable study spots.

It took the help of wonderful partners to bring some of these events to life. Recreational Sports co-sponsored and led the yoga in the library event, which resulted in students doing yoga on mats in the Community Room. Additionally, the library partnered with the local ministry Lutheran Church Charities to bring therapy dogs to the building on three separate evenings. These partnerships were fundamental to this week’s success.

Although the library has offered December De-Stress in the past, a major change was made this year to the planning process. This year, the library essentially turned this week of programming over to the students. In early November, the librarians placed whiteboards in the Christopher Center’s lobby, and students were asked to write down ideas for programs they’d like to see. A few weeks later students voted on their options. This process-guided planning resulted in new programs, fresh ideas, and better turn-out.

Students displayed their fort-making abilities during December de-stress week.

More CLIR de-stress events coming the week of May 2nd.
Congratulations Kim and Jon!

As of July 1, 2016, Research Services Librarian Kim Whalen and Scholarly Communication Services Librarian Jon Bull will advance to associate professors. We appreciate their major contributions and dedication to the library.

Recent Faculty Publications


After our December de-stress event, we asked the campus community to share what they would like offered at our next de-stress event. The most popular response was the request for more therapy-dog sessions. One observant Facility Management employee notified our administrative office about the possibility of collaborating with his co-worker who owns a therapy dog. We soon made an appointment to interview Michele Pickering, one of our FM landscape maintenance technicians. Once approved by General Counsel, we were able to schedule our first comfort session with Hope.

During the interview, Michele provided some interesting background information regarding Hope. Her official Therapy Dog International, Inc. name is Hope Mooch Pickering. Hope is a rescue dog from Kokomo, Indiana. Michele was told that Hope was one of two siblings to survive the horrific conditions in which they were found. She was named Hope because she never gave up. Michele also noted that she isn’t sure what breed Hope is, “just some sort of beautiful mutt.” Hope has regularly been visiting the Christopher Center since February. Her next appearance in the Christopher Center will be Thursday, April 28, between 4 - 8 pm, in the 2nd floor fireplace lounge. She will also share some love during the week of May 2nd with therapy dogs from Comfort Dog Ministry.
In Fall 2015, Christopher Center Library Services added Write Posters to its annual celebration of publications. Similar to Read Posters, one of the library’s most popular features, this new showcase features 2015 Valpo authors and editors posing with their monograph(s) from the 2014 calendar year.

Located in the Faculty Lounge on the Christopher Center’s 4th floor, this year’s lineup has eight posters, including Dean of Library Services Brad Eden, as well as Janet Brown and Nola Schmidt from the College of Nursing and Health Professions, Dean Schroeder from the College of Business, Christoffer Grundmann, Richard DeMaris, and Matthew Becker from the Department of Theology, and Timothy Tomasik from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Each Write Poster has a picture of the author with a background thematic to their work. Each poster also features the author name, department affiliation and/or title, title of their book(s), and library call number.

This year’s posters will be featured at the upcoming Valpo Scholarship and Creative Works Reception at the end of the Spring 2016 semester and become a recurring reception addition in future years.

Patrons of the library, especially other faculty and staff, can see that the collection includes exemplary scholarship from around the world.
The sermons of President O.P. Kretzmann are being transcribed and scanned as a digital project. Otto Paul Kretzmann served as president of Valparaiso University from 1940 until 1968. The students that attended Valpo during that period remember O.P. fondly and will frequently refer to his inspiring sermons. We look forward to completing this project and providing former students with O.P.K. words of inspiration.

Two of the more interesting volumes from the Rare Books Collection have been placed on display this month. The first volume displayed was the 1543 German translation of Leonhart Fuchs' Renaissance botanical masterpiece, *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes*. The German title was *New Kreuterbuch*. Filled with accurate illustrations and including for the first time plants from the Americas, this important and beautiful volume was acquired by the university in 1948 from Selma Mullins, daughter of Dr. Kroenke for whom Kroenke Hall was named.

Mrs. Mullins also was the acquisitions source for *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*, an anatomy text from the same period. This volume is currently on display in the Christopher Center Lobby and represents the work of Vesalius, a Belgian, who was the first to use dissected human bodies and is considered to be the founder of the modern science of human anatomy.
Rebecca Ostoyich has joined the archives staff and is using the newly-obtained archival software, ArchivesSpace, and her certification in Museum Studies to help make the archives more accessible for users.

Rebecca grew up just outside of Worcester, Massachusetts, earning a B.A. in History from the University of New Hampshire. With stops in Missoula, Montana, and Notre Dame, Indiana, she arrived in Valparaiso in 2006. Since then she has had the privilege of living in Hangzhou, China, and Reutlingen, Germany, during her husband, Kevin’s directorships of VU study abroad centers. Rebecca, Kevin, and their daughter, Daphne, enjoy attending local musical, linguistic, and athletic activities.

Rebecca also enjoys reading, knitting, listening to music, watching movies, swimming, hiking, baking, and walking and playing with Peanut their Puggle.

1960 campus map featured in the Christopher Center Lobby during 219 Day Display week. 219 is the area code for Lake, Porter, Laporte, Newton and Jasper counties in Northwest Indiana. 219 Day is a recently inaugurated holiday to celebrate all things known to the region.
Our 3D visbox provides opportunities for students and faculty to experiment with various visualization constructs as well as Oculus Rift technologies. Everyone is encouraged to contact us regarding a tour of the 3D visbox as well as Game Night opportunities for campus organizations and classes. Contact Administrative Assistant Detra Becker (Detra.Becker@valpo.edu) or call ext. 5364

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What is a Visbox?

Detra Becker, Administrative Assistant

Why are there eye-shaped holes on the glass partition? Why is it so dark back there? Why the black curtains? We get these and many other questions regarding the area of the library where our 3D visbox is located. We have been advertising the use of our visbox for over three years now for classes and organizations, offering once a month gaming nights and student/parent tours. Inevitably, we still get the question, what is a visbox?

Before I get in to that, I first want to provide some background on how the library acquired the visbox. Our visbox was once located in the College of Engineering. As the college grew, so did its technology needs. Dean of Library Services Brad Eden was approached with the opportunity to acquire the visbox for the library. Preparations were made in the library to relocate the advanced media lab to the 1st floor alcove. Black film on the glass partitions and drapes were installed to provide the atmosphere needed to project images from the machine.

According to visbox.com, a visbox is an immersive 3D visualization system that allows users to collaboratively examine and manipulate complex 3D models with natural interaction and human 1 to 1 scale. This equipment works well across multiple disciplines.

We use our visbox for hosting virtual reality gaming nights. Participants have included IT and digital art classes as well as fraternities.

We hope to soon have a full-time Visbox Coordinator managing the equipment. But, for now, we employ experienced graduate students to support our equipment. This spring, our Visbox Coordinator Marianne Costa Alexandrino has been an integral part of running gaming nights and introducing new hand-held technologies for the library. She will be available the week of May 2-6 and May 9-10 to offer some much needed study breaks for students.