Library services continue during COVID-19, but it’s definitely not business as usual

“I have always been impressed with our library at OSU — and have come to appreciate it even more during the pandemic. I know you are all slammed with work and requests, but count me as one of your many grateful patrons.”

— Oregon State instructor, Feb. 1, 2021
To make a gift to the Oregon State University Libraries and Press, go to library.oregonstate.edu/giving.

Anne-Marie Deitering
The Interim Donald and Delpha Campbell University Librarian

All the best,

Daniel Moret
Project Management Assistance
Erika Pierce, University Marketing

OSU Libraries Marketing and Communications Manager
daniel.moret@oregonstate.edu

Meeting the challenges of challenging times

As I write this, there are reminders that we have been meeting the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year. I do not think anyone fully understood a year ago what was in store for us. It has been exhausting and stressful, but we have seen over and over how important the Libraries and Press are to student success and research excellence at Oregon State.

I am thankful every day for the people who make OSU Libraries and Press the amazing organization that it is. I think Isaiah McGuire, one of our student workers featured in this issue, said it best: some of our work changed in the last year, but our commitments and our values did not.

There is a section in our strategic plan that I think about a lot. It says our contributions are rooted in the relationships that we build. At OSU, the libraries are uniquely positioned to create connections across colleges, disciplines and programs in Corvallis and around the state. Our services and spaces are intended for everyone, and we invest time, energy and resources to make them as accessible and equitable as we can. The pandemic tested us: Making our resources and services available to researchers and students working around the state and the world was a big job. We did it, though, and we were able to do it because we worked together.

We all know that libraries are great at connecting people with resources. We teamed up with campus partners like University Information and Technology and the Human Services Resource Center to get our laptops and wireless hotspots into the hands of the students and researchers who needed them. Working together, we were able to extend the reach of our services further than any of us would have been able to accomplish alone. In these pages, you’ll hear from the OSU community in their own voices about the different ways that OSU Libraries and Press helped them navigate these challenging times.

Library departments worked together to create safe and effective workspaces in the Valley Library for everyone who uses it. This was a team effort, made possible by the commitment and resilience of library workers. I cannot imagine a better tribute to our commitment to building connections than the Postcards to Campus project, which Richard Weis and Dan Moret describe in this issue. In the spring of 2021, OSU Today, the university’s daily email newsletter, started highlighting submissions to Postcards to Campus in every issue. Even on my most stressful days, seeing those postcards from the OSU community is a bright spot. This project is still active, so check it out. I can assure you that we see and appreciate every one of these little points of connection!

This issue also highlights the 60th anniversary of the OSU Press. I was especially struck by the conversation between Richard Brown and Brian Benson, authors of the recently released This is Not for You: An Activist’s Journey of Resistance and Resilience. Their conversation shows the deep relationship that the Press has with its community, and the ways that writing, frequently understood as a solitary act, is also rooted in relationships and connections. I’ve been thinking a lot about what Tom Booth says about the Press in this issue — that the books that we publish provide “readers with new ways to understand what it means to be an Oregonian.”

Of course, some of the most important relationships that we have are with our library supporters. We could not do any of the things we do without all of the people around the country who are deeply invested in our work and in helping us support Oregon State University. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

All the best,
Anne-Marie Deitering
Interim Delpha and Donald Campbell University Librarian
Postcards to Campus community art project inspires creativity and connection

By Daniel Moret

Who doesn’t like postcards? They arrive from friends and family as personalized and visual correspondence that lets us know that others are thinking fondly of us while they’re having a blast in Italy, New York or Yosemite. And they’ve been extra special this spring after being sheltered in our homes for a year.

With the happy magic of postcards in mind, OSU Libraries launched the Postcards to Campus community art project — encouraging students, staff and faculty to write a postcard and send it to campus. Some of the postcards received so far are little works of art with wistful or comical feelings about life during COVID-19.

Besides being fun, the postcard project accomplishes worthwhile goals by increasing a sense of community despite distanced learning and engagement, and it’s an inclusive, intersectional space for student creativity and voices. It beautifies the windows of the Valley Library and inspires interest in the virtual and physical resources at the library.

“[For me], this project embraces so many of the things I absolutely love about OSU,” says student employee Robin Weis, an art major who is student outreach coordinator in the library’s Teaching and Engagement Department. “Since OSU is nestled in Corvallis, the public murals, sculptures and willingness of everyone to stop and say ‘hello’ always warm my heart. This project has been a joy to work on, and I hope it opens up a dialogue about how and where we showcase elements of community art. These postcards are glimpses into the soul of the community, and this community is beautiful.”

Inspired in part by postsecret.com, this project asks students, staff and faculty to write a postcard with an anonymous note to campus. Postcards could be mailed, dropped off or uploaded online. The Postcards to Campus project was accepting submissions through June 11.

Postcards submitted are on display in the Valley Library’s rotunda windows, on the Postcards to Campus website at beav.es/JR7 (the caps are necessary), archived through the OSU Libraries Special Collections and Archives Research Center and featured on SCARC’s COVID-19 Collecting Project at beav.es/3qe.

“Some postcards have made their way from Eugene, Portland, Cleveland and even the United Kingdom,” Weis says. “Seeing cards make their way back home to campus is a very rewarding process and a testament to how much the community connects to OSU.”

“[These postcards are] glimpses into the soul of the community, and this community is beautiful.” — Robin Weis
The Valley Library is going solar – thanks to a major grant

New solar array will reduce operating costs and serve as a model

By Rachel Burgess

OSU Libraries and Press has been awarded a $75,000 grant for the installation of solar panels at the Valley Library. This will be a key step toward the long-term vision of eliminating carbon emissions at Oregon State, and the library will be one of the first OSU buildings to have solar panels.

This grant from EBSCO will provide a funding match to install an approximately 311 kilowatt, grid-tied, photovoltaic solar array on the library’s roof. The solar installation will follow a reroofing of the Valley Library. “When we pair a reroofing project with solar, it’s ideal!” says Brandon Trelstad, sustainability officer in Oregon State’s Sustainability Office. “Having grant funding from EBSCO for this project also helps tremendously. Solar electrical systems have many long-term benefits. Especially on the sunnier parts of campus, like OSU’s beautiful Corvallis location, solar energy is an ideal tool to help us reach our sustainability goals.”

Cost savings

The solar panel system should reduce the electrical consumption of the building by an estimated $15,000 in the first full year of operations and by approximately $700,000 over the expected life of the system.

Education

Through our digital screens in the library, slides will inform and educate library visitors about the rooftop solar array by displaying real-time data related to energy consumption and savings.

Campus support and leadership

By sharing our story campus-wide, we show our support of the many students and organizations who have advocated for sustainability initiatives and can now see results of their work. The solar panel array on the Valley Library will be an example for other OSU units, and the library solar project is already sparking interest from campus leaders working on other solar installations.

Sustainability

The solar panels are just one of the university’s moves toward energy efficiency. In partnership with Oregon State’s facilities department, the library is currently converting to LED lighting (see below), and future plans will include upgrades to building and lighting controls as well as heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Other funding

After Oregon State was awarded the EBSCO solar grant in the summer of 2020, Trelstad worked with the university, library and the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative on funding the rest of the project. Through the funding partnership with OCPC, OSU is matched with a tax equity investor to access federal tax credits that will finance around 26% of the system. The investor owns the system, and the university buys the power from it at a rate cheaper than the local electric utility, reducing the upfront cost to the university. At year 10, OSU will buy the system at a depreciated value (estimated at under $15,000), or OCPC will donate the system to Oregon State.

Going forward

The goal to install solar panels accelerated the need to replace the 25-year-old roof on the Valley Library. That project is currently being planned, and the solar panel installation will follow in 2022. The solar initiative is a positive one to work on at a time when so much human energy at Oregon State is focused on the pandemic. This is a project that the library is proud to be involved in and will provide many long-term benefits. Especially on the sunny days ahead.

Valley Library switches to LED bulbs, electricity savings should be 50% or more

The Valley Library is partnering with Oregon State’s campus facilities and electrical shop to update the lighting in the building from fluorescent bulbs to LEDs during spring term. The six-floor library has more than 330,000 square feet of space, and most of it is lit throughout the day and evening. With LEDs, the library could cut the amount of electricity used for lighting by more than half. These savings on electricity can then provide funding for other worthy projects.

STUDENT FOCUS

‘While our roles as student workers have changed, the library’s mission has not’

A student employee talks about working during the COVID-19 pandemic and creating masks for health care workers

By Isaiah McGuire, Political Science and Philosophy major

The role of student workers at the Valley Library has changed drastically during COVID-19. As the library has worked to ensure that it can still provide students with resources, our jobs and practices have changed as well. We’re now quarantining borrowed items, cleaning workstations after they’re used and monitoring social distancing and mask wearing.

All of these practices are on display for patrons visiting the library, and there’s been a lot that’s gone into making sure that students can access the resources that they need throughout the school year. The library has worked with professors to scan the chapters of book materials that they use in their classes so that students can access them online. From the beginning of Oregon State’s response to COVID-19 and now, library student workers have scanned more than 875 course materials that students can use without needing to request a physical copy of the book.

Between March and April 2020 — during the mask shortage that occurred at the beginning of the pandemic — the library also repurposed its 3D printers to make reusable plastic masks for use by staff at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis and the Corvallis Clinic. I was so excited when we first started printing masks, since there had been a fair bit of coverage in the news in March and April that, in facing the global mask shortage, people had begun designing masks for 3D printers.

“We received your donation of masks made by the 3D printers at the OSU Library — thank you so very much for your kindness shown to our clinical community.”

Some of the colorful masks that were printed and the 3D printers that were used to create them.

A mask with the changeable filter yet to be inserted.

The Library’s efforts to provide 3D-printed masks for health care workers underwent a lot of changes throughout the process. While we produced more than 100 masks of the final design for the hospital, in addition to around 30 masks for the Corvallis Clinic, the design of the masks changed several times over the period that we printed them. The efforts of people across the world to design an effective 3D-printed mask to support health care workers during the shortage meant that designs were quickly made available, improved upon and replaced by even better versions.

The final design that the hospital requested, while slower to print and requiring more PLA filament, was far sturdier and more effective than the initial design. PLA filament is a vegetable-based plastic material used in 3D printing. Since it is made from renewable resources such as corn starch, tapioca roots or sugar cane, it is more environmentally friendly than 3D printing materials made from petroleum. The whole of the mask being printed to shape also meant that this design required less prep time to be made usable. Instead of needing to mold masks before fitting, they could be quickly put together.

Throughout this difficult time, the library has continued to support our community and our students. While our roles as student workers have changed, the library’s mission has not, and we will continue to look for ways to safely and effectively provide resources like research materials and study spaces. And, along the way, try to help our community.
Using technology and resilience to create safe study spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Lucinda Amerman and Margaret Mellinger

The Valley Library is truly the heart of Oregon State University. It is the most visited building on campus, and library spaces are used in a multitude of ways. The library is usually a busy place for studying, tutoring, picking up materials and much more. Community members also depend on the library for access to computers and the internet.

In March 2020, we suddenly shifted from being open and busy to being closed to the public — like many other academic libraries. When the university moved to remote operations, most library staff did too. Materials already checked out to library users were renewed indefinitely. We shifted to electronic delivery of library resources as much as we could, and we mailed materials to library users when we couldn’t make them available digitally.

While preparing to close the building, we determined which library services we could still offer and which staff were essential to offering those services. Guidance from the university was changing frequently as new information came out about COVID-19. Once the library building was closed, essential staff worked on-site to support an all-remote term — much of the work involved moving all the course reserves to digital delivery.

We knew that we’d be reopening in some fashion as the pandemic got more under control, and we wanted to be more prepared for reopening the libraries than we were for our abrupt closures. To plan for that, library administration formed four working groups: support for remote work, communications, working groups: support for remote work, communications, planning for reopening, and library services we could still offer and which staff were essential to offering those services.

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When the Valley Library building did reopen on Sept. 8, only the library’s rotunda and computers in the Learning Commons were open. The circulation desk is currently separated from the public so staff would need to be able to assist with checking in and out materials that face-to-face interactions are limited to the service window.

The information desk is a vital part of the reservation process. The information desk staff make these reservations for community patrons, either in person or over the phone.

The circulation desk is currently separated from the public so that face-to-face interactions are limited to the service window and the host station. Materials are picked up and dropped off at the service window, while the host station handles most navigational questions.

Once LibCal Seats was set up and employees were trained in using it, it was easy to add other categories of services including express printing, scanners and microform machines. Setting up the Special Collections and Archives Research Center, which is located on the library’s fifth floor, in the reservation system allowed their staff to hold in-person consultations on the main floor. Student Multimedia Services, which has a service center in the library, was also set up with its own categories and spaces to meet their unique needs.

The statistics and reports that LibCal Seats provides are valuable in guiding policy decisions. We can see real-time occupancy of the spaces, create detailed reports and export booking information out of the system for analysis. One decision that we made with this data was to extend the reservation time from two hours to four.

As we’d hoped, the reservation model improved safety guideline compliance among students using our building. Midway through the term, we learned that mask-wearing compliance at the library was significantly better than any other building on campus. Students repeatedly told us that they felt the library was the safest space.

While we employed technology to create the reservation system, LibCal Seats was only one aspect of the larger reopening project. Our success is largely attributable to the sustained and significant efforts of a number of essential staff who reorganized the space, developed new service models and workflows, and trained staff and students. In September, one of our staff said that reopening with the reservation model and COVID-19 protocols was like learning an entirely new job.

Library staff and student workers showed perseverance and resilience in implementing the new service model, which is running smoothly as all have adjusted to the new workflows. It’s never all about the technology. Our staff and student workers are our most valuable resource, and since reopening last September, they’ve been interacting with every visitor to the Valley Library.
Messages from a pandemic: Students and faculty tell us how important our libraries really are

During the challenging pandemic over the last year, we at OSU Libraries certainly missed seeing students, faculty and co-workers. But working remotely hasn’t stopped us from striving to provide excellent resources and compassionate service. In return, we’ve been hearing from a lot of library users, and their messages make our day. Here’s a sampling.

FROM OSU FACULTY
“I’m sitting out here on my patio in the shade (laptop in a cardboard box so I can read the screen) pulling out full versions of journal articles to inform an Extension publication I’m going to write. And I’m feeling grateful for that, so I wanted to say THANKS to everybody in the library for keeping the information flowing. In the College of Ag, when we’re being really sincere with our thanks, we write it in all caps like that.”
— COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES PROFESSOR, APRIL 8, 2020

“Thank you! I see all my books have been renewed to January. I will hope that by the new year sometime, I can enjoy at least seeing the campus and lovely library again. In the meantime, I’m still studying all those books!”
— A MEDICALLY VULNERABLE PROFESSOR, SEPT. 17, 2020

“Thank you so much and for all you are doing to support the students and instructional staff. You are amazing!”
— COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES INSTRUCTOR, APRIL 23, 2020

“I am continuously impressed with the scope and speed at which you all adapt and provide for our campus. I thought this was true in the best of times, but now the tasks you all are undertaking are kind of mind blowing. So, thank you!”
— OREGON STATE INSTRUCTOR, JAN. 7, 2021

FROM OSU STAFF
“I’d say you are amazing, really! I am just amazed at what you all are doing to support students during this time! Valley Library and Student Multimedia Studio!”
— HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE CENTER STAFFER, JUNE 23, 2020

“I just wanted to thank everyone at the Valley Library for sticking with me through my research process and being so gracious with the library’s resources. I know you are all just doing your jobs, but I think the way you helped me went beyond that. You have helped expand my access to knowledge, not restrict it.”
— OREGON STATE STUDENT, SEPT. 9, 2020

“In the 21st century as a college student, not having a laptop is like not having gloves, masks or soap and still trying to navigate this COVID-19 pandemic. There is a very slight chance that I will succeed. By providing me with a laptop, especially during this era of taking classes remotely, you continue to pave the way for success. I can only be grateful.”
— OREGON STATE STUDENT, APRIL 24, 2020

“I know this is no small feat for anyone involved, but it brings me a little bit of joy to have a place where I am allowed to safely exist outside of my home. Please know I have been and will continue to be safe, cautious and responsible. We are all depending on each other, and I am truly grateful for your efforts.”
— HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER STUDENT, SENT AFTER THE RE-OPENING OF THE GUIillian LIBRARY BUILDING, SEPT. 30, 2020

FROM OSU STUDENTS
“Thank you so much! I am so thankful and impressed by all of the hard work and thoughtfulness that you provide to the Ecampus students! So amazing!”
— ECAMPUS STUDENT, OCT. 9, 2020

“I am a new freshman at OSU. I am sending this email to commend one of the employees at the Valley Library for their excellent service. She was very professional and caring. In addition, she was very patient with my many questions and answered them quickly and completely. I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Valley Library for working with the HSRC. [Human Services Resource Center] to help provide textbooks for students. It is a very beneficial program.”
— FIRST-YEAR STUDENT, SEPT. 24, 2020

“I would say school feels significantly more stressful and difficult since we’ve switched to remote learning. For me personally, I don’t have the most stable laptop — it consistently freezes, shuts down out of nowhere, can’t run basic programs necessary for my engineering courses and can’t even have more than 3+ tabs open simultaneously. A stable laptop, which was provided by HSRC/Library, has simply made my experiences much better. I’m able to take notes easier and run programs much more smoothly. A lot of my assignments are computer-based, so without a laptop, I can’t imagine how I can succeed this term.”
— ENGINEERING STUDENT, APRIL 20, 2020

FROM A STUDENT EMPLOYEE AT THE VALLEY LIBRARY
“I’ve been extremely fortunate over the past few years to have gotten to work at SCARC (the Special Collections and Archives Research Center, a department within OSU Libraries). Up until I took this job, I never understood what it felt like to be motivated to go into work and to be truly excited about the work that I’m doing.”
— SCARC STUDENT ARCHIVIST, OCT. 9, 2020

“Thank you very much for your patience and thoughtfulness that you provide to the students at the Valley Library. You are a miracle worker. I can’t thank you enough for your assistance. It is my hope when the library is open to the public, I can thank you personally!”
— LIBRARY PATRON, JUNE 25, 2020

“Are you a miracle worker. I can’t thank you enough for your assistance. It is my hope when the library is open to the public, I can thank you personally!”
— LIBRARY PATRON, JUNE 25, 2020

“Your are a miracle worker. I can’t thank you enough for your assistance. It is my hope when the library is open to the public, I can thank you personally!”
— LIBRARY PATRON, JUNE 25, 2020

“Librarians are lifesavers. You guys are absolutely essential workers. Have a great weekend.”
— VALLEY LIBRARY CHAT LINE, JULY 17, 2020
Jane Nichols: $1,500 to cover the registration fees for the Public Voices Fellowship program at OSU Oregon State University, a training and mentorship program.

Hui Zhang: $120 for his AWS Cloud Practitioner Certification Exam registration fee and practice exam.

Lundeen award winners announced
The Lundeen Award Committee of OSU Libraries is pleased to announce the winners of the spring 2021 Lundeen Awards. The Robert Lundeen Library Faculty Development Award is an important gift to OSU Libraries that has supported innovative and exemplary library faculty project work for many years. The Lundeen Award was established in 2003 by Bob Lundeen, former member of the Libraries' Advisory Council. Here are the most recent award winners:

- Michael Boock and Zach Wellington: $400 to hire a graduate student to conduct a survey of OSU faculty about the open access landscape at OSU. This is part of the work of the Open and Sustainable Scholarship Committee, and survey results will contribute to the committee's efforts to establish principles that articulate what OSU scholars seek from scholarly communication.
- Jane Nichols: $1,500 to cover the registration fees for the Public Voices Fellowship program at OSU Oregon State University, a training and mentorship program.
- Hui Zhang: $120 for his AWS Cloud Practitioner Certification Exam registration fee and practice exam.

DONOR NEWS
New gift from Albert and Ruth Parr supports the Special Collections and Archives Research Center
Their earlier gift of rare books is well-used by undergraduate and graduate students

Albert and Ruth Parr, past supporters of OSU Libraries, have established the Albert and Ruth Parr Endowment Fund. This fund, according to the official paperwork, “is to be used to support the needs of OSU Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Research Center, including but not limited to the acquisition of new materials and ongoing maintenance of collections.”

“it has been my pleasure to know Al and Ruth since I arrived at OSU in 2011, and shortly after they donated their rare books collection,” says Rare Books and History of Science Librarian Anne Bahde. “It has always been a pleasure to talk with Al and Ruth about their collection passions. The collection does hard work for us every quarter. Selections from the Parr collection are often included in undergraduate and graduate class sessions in SCARC, and collection items are used by students in diverse disciplines, for diverse reasons.”

According to Albert Parr, “As rare book collectors, we want to support the use of these valuable materials in research and teaching and their ongoing preservation.”

“The Parrs’ passion for the history of books and printing has already substantially supported research and teaching at OSU,” says Bahde. “This endowment will enable us to continue that legacy in SCARC for years to come.”

New publications by library faculty and staff
Natalia Fernández, interim director of the Special Collections and Archives Research Center within OSU Libraries, has written a chapter for a new book, Transformative Approaches to Social Justice Education: Equity and Access in the College Classroom. Her chapter is entitled Collaborations between Professors and Archivists: Engaging Students with their Local Community History. The book, edited by OSU’s Nana Osei-Kofi, Bradley Boyo and Kali Furman, is a wonderful overview of some work being done at Oregon State and is for anyone with an interest in teaching and learning in higher education from a social justice perspective and with a commitment to teaching all students. More info is at beav.es/35D.

Tiah Edmunson-Morton, curator of the Oregon Hops and Brewing Archives that are housed in the Valley Library, had her digital press essay, Brewing industry in Oregon, published in The Oregon Encyclopedia. The essay covers the history of the industry from the 1850s to the present day and is packed with an incredible amount of information about this fascinating aspect of our state’s history. Read the online essay at beav.es/35K.

Clara Llebot and Hannah Gascho Rempel had an article published in the Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication. Their article is entitled Why Won’t They Just Adopt Good Research Data Management Practices? An Exploration of Research Teams and Librarians’ Role in Facilitating RDM Adoption, and it’s available at beav.es/3jP.
Reflections on 25 years in OSU archives, part 2

By Larry Landis

The retired director of the Special Collections and Archives Research Center looks back at the major highlights and challenges over three decades.

By Larry Landis in the radiant Douglas String Reading Room in the Special Collections and Archives Research Center on the Valley Library’s fifth floor.


University Archives, and a consultant brought in to assess a merger concluded that there were many potential benefits and that the OSU libraries should proceed with the merger. My personal take was that the rich collections and broad-ranging talents of the faculty and staff of the combined units would result in one of the strongest and largest archives programs in the state. In October 2011, the Special Collections and Archives Research Center was created — coincidentally the 50th anniversary of University Archives and the 25th anniversary of Special Collections. I was made director of the new department.

One of the first endeavors undertaken by SCARC was the reemergence of an oral history program at Oregon State, which had gone by the wayside with the closure of OSU’s Horner Museum in 1995. In 2012, Chris Petersen completed oral history training and began interviewing many of the remaining associates of Linus Pauling, including Linus Jr. Other interviews followed.

This initial success led to SCARC undertaking a project in 2013 on behalf of OSU administration to complete 50 interviews of prominent faculty, staff, students and alumni. This project, intended as a resource for the 150th anniversary of the university, morphed into a major undertaking that resulted in more than 240 interviews by 2017.

Parallel to the oral history project was my work on the project in 2013 on behalf of OSU administration to complete 50 interviews of prominent faculty, staff, students and alumni. This project, intended as a resource for the 150th anniversary of the university, morphed into a major undertaking that resulted in more than 240 interviews by 2017.

Larry Landis

I began the book project in early 2013 and spent more than 20 subcollections.

Cliff Mead, hired in 1964 as the Librarians’ first head of Special Collections, retired in 2010. I was designated as the interim head of Special Collections, in addition to my university archives position. The library’s administration was considering merging Special Collections with University Archives, and a consultant brought in to assess a merger concluded that there were many potential benefits and that the OSU libraries should proceed with the merger. My personal take was that the rich collections and broad-ranging talents of the faculty and staff of the combined units would result in one of the strongest and largest archives programs in the state. In October 2011, the Special Collections and Archives Research Center was created — coincidentally the 50th anniversary of University Archives and the 25th anniversary of Special Collections. I was made director of the new department.

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Larry Landis

I began the book project in early 2013 and spent more than 20 subcollections.
"I was thinking maybe I’d just make a pamphlet. And then I met Brian, and we got to talking, a lot, and somewhere in there, my little pamphlet turned into this book."

Brian Benson:
"In January of 2017, I, like many white people in this country, was feeling ashamed of my country, and ashamed of myself, for not being an engaged enough citizen. I had been thinking, a lot, about how I could use my writing as a form of activism, and I’d been exploring how I might use my skills to help amplify voices that weren’t getting heard.

"Then a friend introduced me to Richard Brown. All I knew about him, when we sat down for lunch, was that he was an activist, and he was trying to write something and was looking for help. That lunch lasted about three hours. I was just blown away by Mr. Brown — by who he was, and what he’d done, and how he’d spoken about it.

"By the end of our lunch, I knew I wanted to help him with his book."

This Is Not for You is about how and why to become an engaged, activist citizen — and about how activists can stay grounded, no matter how deeply they immerse themselves in the work. It also offers an intimate, firsthand look at policing: about what policing is and could be, about how civilians can have a say, and how police can and should be responsive to and inclusive of those civilians’ voices.

The book speaks on every page about being Black in America: about Black pride, Black history and art and culture, and the experience of resisting white supremacy. And it stands as a much-needed counter-narrative to the Portlandia TV show by telling a different story about the city and who has shaped it.

To order your copy, or to view a recorded event featuring Brown and Benson in conversation, visit our website at osupress.oregonstate.edu.
NEW EMPLOYEES

Megan Lawrence began her role as executive assistant to the university librarian in November 2020. She previously served as administrative assistant for Oregon State Athletics. Prior to that, Lawrence worked for University of Oklahoma Athletics as the coordinator of special events and the Varsity O Association. She earned a master’s in adult and higher education as well as a bachelor’s in business administration from the University of Oklahoma.

Amris Allemand joined the Valley Library in December 2020. Her library technician 3 role for the Library Experience and Access Department involves outreach and promotions and assisting at the circulation and info desks.

Allemand began working at libraries as a page at Jackson County Library Services in Medford, Oregon. Her most recent job was associate librarian at the Mandel Public Library in West Palm Beach, Florida, where she trained employees in customer service, worked on the social media committee and taught computer classes. She also created the library’s Binge Bundle collection, which was featured in American Libraries magazine in January 2020. She has a bachelor’s in English from Southern Oregon University.

Sara Trott joined the Valley Library in February as a library technician 2 in the Library Experience and Access Department. Trott previously worked in the Lyons Public Library and the Mari-Linn School, both in Lyons, Oregon. She has a master’s in library science from Emporia State University and a bachelor’s in communications and political science from Milligan University.

Umaima Afzal is a library technician 2 for the Library Experience and Access Department who started in October 2020. She began as a student employee at the Valley Library in 2017 and was a winner of the 2019 Kathryn Kenyon Library Student Employee Scholarship. Afzal earned a bachelor’s in business information systems from Oregon State.

RETIRESSES

Daniel Moret is retiring in July after six years as the marketing and communications manager for OSU Libraries. He was responsible for a range of marketing and communications projects — including being the editor of The Messenger. The issues of The Messenger in recent years are evidence of his vision, skills and dedication.

Prior to joining OSU Libraries, he led the marketing efforts for the Eugene Water and Electric Board, the state’s largest public utility, and for Lane Community College, where he won national awards for print advertising campaigns and other marketing efforts.

According to Moret, “I did what I could to increase the quality, branding and effectiveness of the marketing and communication efforts for OSU Libraries, and I’ve always been a big believer in libraries, books and education. The most satisfying elements of my job have been creating each issue of The Messenger — which I’ve compared to wrestling an octopus — and working with and mentoring student interns from OSU’s graphic design program.”

After a half century of having a job, he’s really looking forward to the freedom of not having one. And being free to travel and to choose what to do for fun and how to be creative each day.

Here’s what Phoenix Dawn Thomas, a graphic design intern who he supervised and mentored for two years, had to say about Moret:

“His many strengths have made my experience working at the Valley Library by far the best work experience I have had to date. If my job could go beyond a student position, I would want to continue working under his guidance and expertise because he offers the eye of a designer, the mind of a writer, the principles of a leader and the heart of a friend. He is the best sort of person to have on a team because he brings out the best work in those around him.”

From the Archives at OSU Libraries

The Talons and Thanes were honorary societies for sophomores — Talons for women and Thanes for men. The organizations were created in the 1930s, and their original focus was to ensure that first-year students upheld what were then Oregon State College’s strict rules for behavior. Over time, both organizations came to be more focused on service. This photo was taken for the Beaver Yearbook. (PO03:Talons)

It’s amazing to see this level of conformity in dress in 1969. Within a few wild years, hairstyles would change considerably and so would clothing. And what’s the deal with the two guys standing in the bushes?
This is one of the postcards that have poured in during the Postcards to Campus community art project at the Valley Library. To discover more about this fun and colorful project — and see more of the delightful postcards — see the article in this issue.