A Message from the Dean

Exciting things are happening at all three of Troy University’s Libraries. On the Troy, Dothan, and Montgomery campuses the Libraries’ faculty and staff are striving to create a positive learning environment that offers traditional quiet study spaces as well as collaborative work spaces where students can work together to create presentations, projects, and even prototypes of inventions. Students also have the opportunity to improve their health by taking advantage of studying while riding specially designed exercise bikes. At the same time, we are continuing to work to add to the learning experiences of not just our students, but also the surrounding communities that we serve, by offering unique and innovative lectures, film series, and exhibits. Many of these activities take place through the hard work of our library faculty and staff, who pursue grants to fund these activities. I served as director of Troy’s Dothan campus library for eight years before succeeding our previous dean, Dr. Henry Stewart, and am entering my 11th year at TROY. As you read through these pages, I hope you will be impressed at how much a full-time faculty and staff of 23, which is spread across three campuses, can accomplish through hard work and collaboration.
Dr. Christopher A. Shaffer, dean of university libraries at Troy University, received an early Christmas present when he became one of only 10 librarians in the United States selected to receive the I Love My Librarian Award. Shaffer, who was honored for his outstanding public service to the community and ongoing commitment to transforming lives through education and lifelong learning, received a $5,000 prize at an award ceremony and reception, hosted by Carnegie Corporation of New York, December 3rd, in New York City. The New York Public Library and The New York Times are co-sponsors of the award, which is administered by the American Library Association. As a part of the award process, library users nationwide are invited to nominate their favorite librarians working in public, school, college, community college and university libraries. This year, more than 1,300 nominations were received. Dr. Shaffer was nominated by Judy Fulmer, TROY’s director of the Office of Sponsored Programs. Shaffer has transformed the libraries at Troy University into a positive force by providing more opportunities for dynamic learning and community engagement for students as well as local residents. “The library is the heart of the University,” said Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor. “Dr. Shaffer’s leadership ensures that our libraries are not only valuable resources for our students, faculty and staff, but also centers for educating and engaging the communities served by Troy University. The national recognition Dr. Schaffer has earned is a testament to his leadership and his commitment to students.”

By partnering with local, national, and international organizations, Shaffer created a series of lectures and educational programming on topics such as Islamic culture, Black History Month and the Holocaust. In addition, he brought to the Troy campus a film festival featuring independent works and movies from around the world. Through grants, Shaffer expanded the library’s collection to include materials on Turkish and Middle Eastern history and Japanese culture. He was also able to purchase children and young adult books. The new collection is not only used by the education department’s students and faculty, but also the city’s children and families, many of whom have checkout privileges and are also able to borrow the new books. Shaffer has drawn support for programs from partners, including Alabama Humanities Foundation, Smithsonian Institute, National Endowment for the Humanities, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Association of Asian Studies, Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Kennesaw State University, National Endowment for the Arts, American Library Association, Nippon Foundation, National Institute of Health and the National Library of Medicine, Northeast Asia Council for Asian Studies and the Korea Foundation, Pragda, Target Foundation, Temple Emanu-El, Institute of Turkish Studies, Tournées Film Festival, and the US Capital Historical Society.

Holocaust Survivor Ann Rosenheck Visits Troy

Ann Rosenheck made her third trip to Troy University as part of a Holocaust education initiative that was supported by the Office of Sponsored Programs and the University Libraries. Ms. Rosenheck previously visited Troy with support from a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation in 2010, and then returned two years later to share her story with a new group of students. Her story of loss, hope, and forgiveness once again inspired all those who came in contact with her.
Troy University Library Newsletter

Troy Campus: Wallace Hall Library

The library in Troy is the oldest of our three libraries. Named for Lurleen B. Wallace, it was originally expected to serve about 3,500 students. It was also built before personal computing was an everyday activity. Forty-four years later, we are making much needed changes to accommodate double that number of students and the space required by modern technology. We have nearly doubled the public access computers in the library to 68. The book collection has been condensed and moved completely onto compact shelving, which has allowed for the removal of older shelving. This in turn has led to increased seating capacity for our students, who are coming to the library in increasing numbers. Last year we painted and refurbished a large space that formerly housed audio-visual materials and the media department. It is now used for student study and occasional lectures. We have also added an innovation lab, which allows students to work collaboratively. Study rooms have been increased from four to six. The original two study rooms on the third floor have been painted with whiteboard paint. Two rooms on the second floor have newly purchased glass writing boards, and one room has interactive technology similar to the Innovation Lab. We have also placed iPads in strategic locations around the library so that patrons can more easily search the online catalog. Renovations will be continuing during this academic year as we work to paint and modernize our library space.

Northeast Asia Foundation

Alyssa Martin, Instruction and Reference Librarian, on the Montgomery campus was successful her first time grant writing. She successfully received $1,000 in funding from the Northeast Asia Foundation to purchase instructional materials relating to Korean history, culture, religion and language. As a result of Hyundai’s manufacturing plant in Montgomery, there is increased interest in Korean studies and we feel confident this collection will see considerable use.

Mosaics

Dothan artist, Frederic Lecut (mosaicblues.com) presented mosaic workshops on the Dothan Campus. Students, staff and community members joined in making mosaic pieces which the artist will soon assemble on the tables and benches on the Harrison Walking Trail.

Larry Register Book Donation

Mr. Larry Register, former mayor of Dothan, AL, recently donated a large portion of his book collection to the Troy University Dothan’s library. The books represent Mr. Register’s diverse interests, and include works on history, religion, philosophy, and politics.

Pragda

Lisa Vardaman, the Education Reference Librarian on the Troy Campus, partnered with Dr. Johanna Alberich and the Modern Languages Department for a second time to bring the Pragda Spanish Language Film Series to the Troy campus. The grant-funded film series brings five Spanish films to the Troy University campus. Ms. Vardaman was very pleased with attendance at all of the films, pointing out that movies are “a wonderful way to expose Troy students to different cultures and languages.” A total of 181 attended the various films. Ms. Vardaman plans to apply soon for another grant from Pragda in order to continue this popular series.

Spanish Film Club offers grants twice a year to help high schools and universities bring the very best in contemporary Spanish and Latin American cinema to campuses with the aim of introducing students to the language and cultures of these territories.
Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers

Jeff Simpson, Head of Reference on the Troy Campus, partnered with the First Year Studies Department to bring this unique film series to the Troy campus. The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of South Arts. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Founded in 1975, South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization that builds on the South’s unique heritage and enhances the public value of the arts. This six film series is aimed at raising awareness about critical issues and events through the use of various films. As part of this series, filmmakers will travel to the Troy campus to screen their films and interact with the audience.

One film was screened monthly during the Fall semester. The first film, I Will Dance, was presented in September to an enthusiastic audience. The second film, 1971, focuses on the strengths, weaknesses, and tradeoffs of government surveillance and the power of citizens to shape policy and reform. The third film, Imba Means Sing, was shown in November. The Spring film screening schedule began in February 2016. Admission is free and open to the public.

Latino Americans: 500 Years of History

Alyssa Martin also led the charge for a grant from the American Library Association (ALA). Partnering with Lisa Vardaman in Troy and Dr. Marty Olliff in Dothan, it was possible for the Libraries to offer programming on the immigration experience of Latino Americans as well as their history in the United States. Three films that were provided by the grant were shown on the Troy, Dothan, and Montgomery campuses. In Montgomery, the Rosa Parks Museum allowed us to use their exhibition space to host an art exhibition by graphic novelist Lila Weaver, author of The Dark Room. Dr. Tiffany Sippial from Auburn University gave two lectures on topics of Cuban women’s history. The last in the series, Sergeant Garcia provided a lecture on the history of Latino Americans in the United States Army.

Library Staff Member Helps Save Puppy

For a few weeks last year the Troy University library had a special visitor in the form of a foster puppy named Booker. Jill McLaney, a library assistant, looked after Booker as part of her role as a volunteer with the Troy Animal Rescue Project. Because of his young age, he had to be bottle fed every three hours. Booker is now living a happy life with his permanent family in Indiana.
From mid-May to late-June, the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, visited the Dothan Campus Library, drawing a steady stream of visitors. The installation consisted of five large kiosks describing the kinds of work Americans have done over the last 150 years. The visit sparked other community events including a workshop on Local History with Dr. John Kvach of UAH and the screening of the documentary, *Brother Joseph and the Grotto*, with presentations by the director, Cliff Vaughn, and producer, Carol Ann Cross. Dr. Marty Olliff hosted.

In March the Dothan campus library hosted the Enterprise and Dothan Quilt Guilds who competed to see who could make the most quilts in one day. Twenty-one quilt tops were completed. The tops were then quilted and bound and presented to the local chapter of the Quilts of Valor for presentation to veterans.

**Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition - The Way We Worked**
Sister Libraries

Olga Casey, a native of Odessa, Ukraine developed a sister library relationship with the library at Kirovohrad State Pedagogical University in Ukraine three years ago. As a result of this partnership, the Dothan campus library has shipped a variety of materials to Ukraine, and in Dothan we have had exhibits that have taught our faculty and students about life in Ukraine. Mrs. Casey has also attended and presented at library conferences in Ukraine.

Wayne and Sally Greenhaw

Sally Greenhaw donated her late husband’s, the noted historian Wayne Greenhaw’s, collection of books on Civil Rights history to the Libraries. Mr. Greenhaw was a historian who specialized in the Civil Rights era. Many of the books in the collection have signatures by notables such as George Wallace, John Lewis, Archibald Cox and Howell Raines and were placed in Special Collections. The rest of the materials will form the basis for a Civil Rights Reading Room on the Montgomery campus. In addition to these wonderful materials and resources, Mrs. Greenhaw also made a monetary donation to the University Libraries in memory of Julian Bond.

Wade Hall: Frank Lloyd Wright Plans

The Libraries and Archives were excited to accept recently a set of architectural plans by Frank Lloyd Wright that was donated by Dr. Wade Hall, who recently passed away. Mr. Greg Swem presented the plans on behalf of Dr. Hall in September. Previously Dr. Hall had donated his extensive postcard collection to the Libraries, which can be viewed in part online at this website: http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/search/collection/troy2.