



Cheryl Kern-Simirenko

On my mind, a message from the dean...

University Libraries is living up to its reputation as a “happening place.” Change, in support of effective and efficient service to users, is the order of the day. Key initiatives include implementation of the new strategic plan

in alignment with UA’s Vision 2020, redesign of the internal administrative structure, the addition of technology enhancements for users, and the renovation of Bierce Library as a major step in the ongoing creation of a user-centered Learning Commons environment.

The University Libraries’ strategic plan for 2010-2014 was shared with the campus community in March 2010 (http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/bierce_scitech/global/files/StregeticPlan2009-2014.pdf). An action plan also was created to move the libraries forward through June 2011 in support of these strategic directions and Vision 2020. Some of the early results are described below.

The strategic plan is designed to enhance the libraries’ success in meeting user needs. It’s important then, that the organizational structure enable and support responsiveness to changing user needs, a focus on accomplishing goals and priorities (effectiveness), and a focus on doing those “right” things well (efficiency).

An organizational design team made recommendations for a structure that reduces the number of departments from nine to six and better reflects the dynamics of a 21st century library. Three new departments are being created in this internal restructuring:

- Research and Learning Services will encompass reference services in the Learning Commons, general and subject-based outreach to users, and information literacy instruction;

- Electronic Services will include the functional areas of cataloging, systems, electronic resource management and user-interfaces; and

- Access Services will include circulation and document delivery functions, reserves and media services.

Searches are under way for heads of these departments; the changes will be effective as new leaders are in place. Other changes include restructuring the Dean’s Office to reduce the number of associate deans from two to one and add an assistant to the dean.

A range of technology enhancements is in place for the start of the new academic year.

Laptops have replaced thin client-style computers for information literacy instruction in Bierce Library. Additional laptops and FLIP camcorders are available for students to borrow in Bierce.

The Science and Technology Library has new public workstations with large screens and a second mobile Smart Board — an electronic whiteboard that captures what is written and either saves it to a portable drive or produces a hard copy on an attached printer.

Work continues on the pilot project designed to embed streaming media reserves into Springboard for class use.

The new Archival Services’ website includes new content and advanced search features to aid in locating materials (<http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/archives>).

The transformation of Bierce 274 into a Learning Studio continues. This wireless, laptop-based learning space is characterized by flexibility, featuring mobile furniture and varied technology options. The Learning Commons service model supports learning of multiple literacies — one literacy goal considered essential by employers is presentation skills. Working in this Learning Studio, students will be able to create, capture, critique and/or share-with-a-tutor a presentation.

Creating the Learning Commons environment is a continuum rather than a one-time event. Nonetheless, renovation of the first floor of Bierce will be a major milestone in creating this user-centered environment. Significant preliminary work was accomplished over the summer. The government documents collection and the Curriculum Center were relocated to the lower level, in keeping with the Learning Commons program plan (developed collaboratively with faculty and students). The Reference Collection is also temporarily located on the lower level, but will

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Learning Studios

Phyllis O'Connor, associate dean

A Learning Studio is an incredibly flexible space that can effectively support instructor-led class activities and also promote more informal, student-initiated learning activities.

The University Libraries' first Learning Studio, in Bierce 274, is wireless and laptop-based. The mobile furnishings may be configured in traditional rows of tables and chairs for formal presentations, or arranged into collaborative configurations for any size group.

This technology-rich space meets the needs of technology-savvy students, while allowing individuals just learning to explore and practice with devices and software that are unfamiliar to them.

Students have six input options. They may use the standard projection systems to view and review motion video and to see how well their presentations show on a large area. The short throw projectors work on Smart Boards so students may critique their presentations and capture the critiqued image immediately. They can film, view and share the production in the studio. Students that need high-resolution, high definition output will make good use of the flat panel display units.

The Learning Studio is open when the library is open, and students may use the space and the technology whenever it is not scheduled for organized instruction.

Chinese Cultural Experience Center

UA's Confucius Institute unveiled the new Chinese Cultural Experience Center on the lower level of Bierce Library on Oct. 7, 2010. Vice President Zhijun Liu, Henan University, joined UA administrators for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The interactive display is designed to enhance the understanding of Chinese culture, and complements the more than 3,000 other Confucius Institute learning and teaching tools made available in Bierce Library. University Libraries is pleased to be a partner with the Confucius Institute in making these resources available to the campus and to the community.



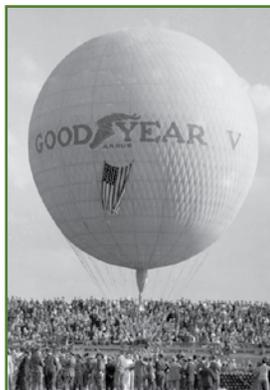
Chinese Cultural Experience Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

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Archival Services awarded \$303,000 NEH Grant

S. Victor Fleischer, University archivist and head, Archival Services

In March 2010, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded Archival Services a two-year \$303,000 Humanities and Collections Resources Grant — the largest grant received by University Libraries to date.



National Balloon Race, 1927

The funds are being used to process, preserve and digitize 22,500 negatives from The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, including the earliest at-risk images (1912-1950) on glass plates, nitrate and acetate film. The grant is also funding a conservation assessment by a professional photograph conservator and an inventory of the entire collection of approximately 250,000 negatives (1912-1984).

The collection visually documents the fascinating history of one of the world's largest and most influential rubber companies. It includes seldom-before-seen images that depict factory conditions, lighter-than-airships, and tires and other rubber products. This project has been

designated a "We the People" project, which is an NEH program designed to encourage and enhance the teaching, study and understanding of American history, culture and democratic principles.

Archival Services has hired and trained three undergraduate and two graduate students from the Department of History to organize 12,000 images by size and format and re-house them in acid-free enclosures to preserve them for future generations.



Goodyear employee applying gum to bead and ply, 1915

The Northeast Document Conservation Center has already digitized more than 7,000 nitrate negatives. Next, metadata will be created and these images added to the OhioLINK Digital Resource Commons, where they will be fully searchable and accessible worldwide at <http://drc.ohiolink.edu/>.

Archival Services, located in the lower level of the Polsky Building, maintains a variety of historical resources that document the history the rubber industry. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bierce Library's Laptop Lending Services now circulates 5 FLIP Ultra HD Camcorders, bundled as one unit, to UA faculty and staff.

These compact, easy-to-use camcorders have "shoot-and-share simplicity," meaning videos can be recorded, downloaded and shared in a matter of minutes. Each FLIP comes equipped with a rechargeable battery pack, wall charger and carrying case for maximum functionality. In addition, each has

two hours of high definition recording capability.

Available for a one-week checkout, the FLIP camcorders allow instructors to easily integrate media into their courses. Recording field trips, capturing experiences and filming student reflections add value to the learning experience. (*Uncommon Knowledge*, issue 8, spring 2010, Page 4 <http://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/1042345>).



Internship and Practicum Experience in University Libraries: Hands-on Preparation for Tomorrow's Workforce

Jeffrey Franks, Reference head

University Libraries provides two types of hands-on work opportunities for students either considering or planning a career in the information and library profession.



Practicum Student, Scott Hutka

The first, Bierce Library internships, provides Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences majors with an opportunity to learn about day-to-day operations in a large, complex academic library, as well as the theoretical and conceptual foundations of librarianship. Each internship lasts for one semester and specific duties are tailored to the interests of the student as expressed in the application and interview process. Students receive an in-depth orientation to each library unit in order to gain an understanding of the unit's purpose, operations

and relationships with other library units. Students also have opportunities to observe workflow and the services provided by various library units. The internships may include a specific project designed around a student's career interests and natural abilities. The last two interns went on to work as student assistants in Bierce.

The second career preparation opportunity is the University Libraries' Practicum Program, which provides hands-on, practical work experiences for future library and information science professionals. The program is primarily a partnership with the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science; however, students from any accredited

master's program are eligible and welcome to apply.

UA usually hosts four or five practicum students each academic year. These students come to us with varying degrees of previous work experience and diverse backgrounds and interests. University Libraries works closely with each student to design a one-semester practicum consisting of 150 on-site contact hours and a practicum project or paper. The primary goal of the program is to place students in a rich workplace environment, where they can learn to perform actual professional duties matching their career aspirations. The program provides a unique growth experience and often a jumpstart on their career path. In turn, we in University Libraries gain the satisfaction of contributing to our profession. The popularity of the program has increased sharply in recent years and we expect that it will continue to draw students eager to gain practical work experience.

As an organization that is constantly pioneering new ideas and services, University Libraries is the perfect environment for aspiring professionals to obtain hands-on experience in the information and library profession. The forthcoming Learning Commons, with its many-faceted and collaborative service model, will present even greater opportunities to design unique and innovative practicum experiences. We look forward to providing these learning opportunities in what looks to be a very bright future indeed!



Intern Student, Liz Ahlman

Friends

Julia Gammon, Acquisitions head

The Friends of University Libraries held its 68th annual membership reception and program meeting on June 4, 2010, at Martin University Center. President Steve Love announced that the executive board had approved 13 faculty grants and four applications for library purchases. Two awards of special note — funding to begin the processing of records of the Goodrich Corporation (formerly the B.F. Goodrich Company) and the conservation of the 19th century imprints from the Muehlstein rare book collection.



Carla Myers and Charissa McDowell

Joyce Dyer, director of the Lindsay-Crane Center for Writing and Literature at Hiram College, and author of "Goosetown: Reconstructing an Akron Neighborhood," entertained the audience with her presentation on a family growing up in a long-forgotten and vanishing Akron neighborhood. A book signing followed.

Carla Myers and Charissa McDowell were each awarded a Friends' Scholarship of \$1,500 to help defray tuition costs for

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their M.S. in Library Science at Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science. Both are library specialists in the Bierce Library Circulation Department.

The Friends recognized two Outstanding Student Employee award winners: Zach Boeshart and Paul Friess. Each received a certificate and a check for \$1,000.

Boeshart, a senior engineering major, joined Circulation in 2006 and covered assignments in Laptop Lending and OhioLINK processing. Friess, who earned a civil engineering degree in spring 2010, joined Acquisitions in 2008. He handled such duties as binding and checking e-journals access.



Steve Love and Joyce Dyer

The Friends elected new officers for 2010-2011. Mitch Allen is president; Barbara Heinzerling, vice president; and Julia Gammon, secretary-treasurer. Board members are Thomas Bacher, Ronald Cable, Andrea Klein and Steve Love.

The group's annual dues are \$45 for a single membership and \$75 for a family membership. For more information, call 330-972-7224 or visit http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/bierce_scitech/about/friends_of_library.dot.

UL Appreciates and Educates

By Janine T. Pavkov, library associate senior

The University Libraries participated in Student Appreciation Day 2010 on Sept. 8 with “Under Construction — Building a Better Bierce” as its theme.

Students had the chance to learn about the new Learning Commons, with a focus on why it’s being created and how it can improve academic success.



There were displays featuring illustrations and schematic designs detailing the layout of services, learning studios,

computer workstations and seating suited for studying, collaborating and even coffee breaks.



Additionally, our games and decorations emphasized key Learning Commons concepts — 21st century learning, collaboration, technology-enabled learning and collaborative knowledge discovery.



This year’s event was fun, informative and a success for all involved. Once we get through the actual construction with the same cooperation, flexibility, dedication

and hard work as we demonstrated for Student Appreciation Day, we will truly have a “Better Bierce!”

America’s Historical Imprints

Peter Linberger, Collection Management Department, interim head

Two major digital collections of early American imprints were recently added to University Libraries’ e-book resources.

Early American Imprints Digital, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800 is based on the famous Charles Evans “American Bibliography” and the Roger Bristol supplement. It is considered “... the definitive resource for researching every aspect of 17th and 18th century America...and contains virtually every book, pamphlet and broadside published in America over a 160-year period (it includes advertisements, almanacs, bibles, broadsides, catalogs, charters and by-laws, contracts, cookbooks, elegies, eulogies, laws, maps, narratives, novels, operas, pamphlets, poems, primers, sermons, songs, speeches, textbooks, tracts, travelogues, treaties and more...)”

Early American Imprints Digital, Series II: Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801-1819 is based on the famous Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker “American Bibliography, 1801-1819.” It “... provides a comprehensive set of American books, pamphlets and broadsides published in the early part of the 19th century” on a wide range of subjects.

Especially noteworthy is the fact that these digital collections include imprints not available in earlier microform editions.

These collections are currently accessible through the UA Libraries Catalog under the title “America’s Historical Imprints.” They can also be accessed via the Databases tab from the catalog page under either “America’s Historical Imprints” or “Early American Imprints Digital.” Soon, records for each individual title (70,000+) in both series will be added to the catalog, making the content even more readily searchable.



DID YOU KNOW?

University Libraries provides more than 330,000 e-books covering a wide range of subjects.

Both new and historical imprints are available. These titles may be found in the UA Libraries Catalog.

PEOPLE



Laster receives prestigious appointment



Sharalyn Laster, assistant professor of bibliography and government documents and reference librarian, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Federal Depository Library Council.

The 15-member council advises the Public Printer on policy matters relating to the Federal Depository Library Program. The program, which traces its roots to 1813,

provides access across the United States to the published information of all three branches of the government through partnerships with more than 1,220 libraries, ranging from public libraries to research universities. While the Government Printing Office operates the program under the direction of the U.S. Congress through the Joint Committee on Printing, the GPO relies on feedback and advice from program constituents to make decisions, plan priorities and address the needs of the depository library community.

As a council member, Laster plans to maintain the link between the public and government information in the electronic environment, and identify ways to meet the changing needs of library users and those seeking information. Her first assignment is to lead the compilation of priorities for the next release of FDsys, GPO's advanced digital system that will manage and preserve federal publications.

Shelly Durbin Named Director of Development for University Libraries

Kaye Ketcham, administrative assistant senior



Shelly Durbin became the development officer for University Libraries and the College of Creative and Professional Arts on Sept. 27. Most recently, Durbin served as director of development and public relations at the International Institute of Akron. Her prior experience includes the Greenleaf Family Center in Akron, Community Support Services, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens Museum, and Oriana House, Inc.

Durbin graduated in 2003 from The University of Akron with an M.A. in Communication after completing a B.A. in Business and Organizational Communication/Marketing.

Playlist for the Soloist



Lisa Lazar, assistant professor of bibliography and performing arts librarian, has prepared a Naxos playlist of music and musicians mentioned in Stephen Lopez's book "The Soloist," this year's common reading. Created to complement Lopez's October presentation, it remains available to the campus community at <http://ezproxy.uakron.edu:2052/playlists/playlist.asp?tbg=usr>.

University Libraries Welcomes Joe Williams as Assistant to the Dean

Kaye Ketcham, administrative assistant senior



Beginning Nov. 1, Dr. Joe Williams moves to University Libraries as assistant to the dean from his post as associate director/project manager for UA's Institute for Health and Social Policy, which he held for more than 10 years. Williams brings a wide range of skills from his personnel work, fiscal and project management, and team building. In addition, his previous work experience

includes extensive administrative leadership in both high school and middle schools.

Williams was instrumental in successfully managing one of UA's largest grant-funded projects, serving as liaison between the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Study (A.S.A.P.S.) and D.A.R.E. America. He directed, trained and monitored the study's field staff across the country.

Williams, has a Ph.D. from The University of Akron in secondary education/organization development.

DID YOU KNOW?

University Libraries provides online access to the "Chronicle of Higher Education."

To access the Chronicle from the campus network, you can go directly to the Chronicle home page. You can also use the UL Catalog or the Electronic Journal Center on the UL website. No matter where you start, you will have full access to the "premium" content.

To access the Chronicle from off-campus, use the UL Catalog or the Electronic Journal Center, click on the link provided in the title record, and you will be prompted for your UAnet ID and password. Once logged in, you will be taken directly to the Chronicle home page and you will have full access to the "premium" content.

What they're saying about University Libraries....



“As a graduate student and then as a postdoc (both at places other than UA), I used to spend enormous amounts of time just trying to find primary literature, many times ending up empty-handed. Now, if I am still struggling to find something via the usual channels after 10 or 15 minutes, I submit a request through Illiad. It is worry-free, the staff is

extremely competent, and I usually have what I was looking for within a couple of days (and sometimes less than 24 hours). That is saying a lot when I'm searching for field trip guides, published only regionally with limited distribution, or obscure unpublished theses and dissertations. Waiting a day or two is worth the time and energy I used to waste doing the legwork to find the literature my students and I need to do our work.”

*-Ashley Griffith, assistant professor,
Department of Geology and Environmental
Science*

“Thank you for an inspiring and insightful visit.... I couldn't stop talking about the vitality and energizing atmosphere at Bierce Library.”

*Ann O'Beay
Chief Technology Officer, Ohio Board of Regents*

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return to the first floor when the project is completed.

The Learning Commons planning team, University Libraries faculty and staff, and staff from UA's Department of Capital Planning and Facilities Management have been working with Four Points Architectural Services and design architects from DesignGroup to move the program plan into reality.

To create as much user space as possible, several functions less directly involved in providing Learning Commons services will be relocated to the second and third floors. Preparation of these workspaces will be the first phase of renovation, and construction will begin later this semester. Once these spaces are completed and occupied, the large wall that divides the first floor can be demolished. Creation of the new environment is expected to begin in May 2011. Operations will be maintained during the renovations.

Watch the University Libraries website (<http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/>) for updates.

The Bierce Learning Commons will be an important catalyst for the cultural change that is required to reshape University Libraries, both physically and philosophically, into a 21st century learning environment. Emphasis on state-of-the-art technology, access to information, expert help, collaboration and innovation will enable new paradigms and pedagogies for learning.

The Learning Commons will create synergies that improve the learning experience for students and offer opportunities for faculty to engage their students in new ways. The third floor will remain a place for quiet, individual study. The entire University community — faculty, staff and students — will find resources and support for their teaching, learning, research and discovery.