University Library Bookmarks

Summer 8-2016

Bookmarks (spring/summer 2016)

Iowa State University Library

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From the Dean

How time flies. Is it possible that I have been at Iowa State for over a year? When I look out my window, a telltale sign of the season is the groups of students with their parents led by an excited guide arriving at Parks Library for a tour; 1200 people visited us during orientation, and we look forward to seeing these students back on campus when classes start.

We’ve been busy this spring and summer. First, in case you haven’t heard, the entire run of the Bomb, the Iowa State Yearbook, is now digitized, and the hardcover copies remain available in the general collection. This digitization effort is the culmination of a six-year project. The Bomb was published annually from 1893 to 1994. See the link on this page to view the digitized volumes.

In other news, we have enlisted the help of Perkins + Will, an architecture firm in Chicago, to help us conduct a space study. After the focus groups, charrettes and visioning sessions, in the coming months, we will use their programming suggestions to inform how we use our facilities, which are vitally important to student success.

Speaking of spaces, we have received many positive comments on our newly renovated Room 198 (pictured on page 3), which opened for classes this spring. The active learning classroom is a flexible student-centered space which, when formal classes aren’t in session becomes a technology-rich library study space.

We continue partnerships across campus to facilitate student success. In June, we welcomed the IT Solution Center to Parks Library. Staff offer technology assistance to the campus community by phone, online and in-person.

In this issue, we are shining the spotlight on our librarians and staff to provide a glimpse into the work they do on campus for students and faculty and highlight selected examples of their professional activities and engagement. We have made (and introduce you to in these pages) some impactful hires in recent months, including our collections conservator, the head of Special Collections and University Archives, our outreach archivist, the associate dean for curation services and our new head of business services.

Bookmarks also spent some time recently with Library Dean Emeritus Warren Kuhn to get his thoughts on being a library donor. Kuhn spent his entire career advocating the importance of libraries.

Your support plays a crucial role in our ability to help students succeed, and we are grateful that you are part of the Iowa State family. I hope you enjoy this issue of Bookmarks.

Sincerely,

Beth

Beth McNeil
Dean of Library Services

Image of William M. Beardshear from 1894 Bomb.
http://digitalcollections.lib.iastate.edu/bombs
A lifetime of library advocacy

Library Dean Emeritus Warren Kuhn grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of a policeman and a homemaker. Kuhn, who always wanted to be a writer, began his journey to Ames one day in New York City on a somber walk from an unsatisfying job at a silver company. He looked up from the sidewalk at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street where he found himself across from the New York Public Library. They hired him on the spot to work at the delivery desk, and that was the first of many library appointments (plus more consultancies for university libraries).

“I wanted to be in radio, but libraries took me over,” Kuhn says.

In and around U.S. Army assignments and before the Korean War, he earned a bachelor’s from New York University and a master’s degree from Columbia. Over seven decades, Kuhn established himself in New Mexico, Arizona, New Jersey, California, Iowa, China, Mexico, Costa Rica and Korea.

From 1950-52, Sgt. Kuhn, who once shepherded Danny Kay around when he was overseas with the USO Tour, was the assistant public information officer and a war correspondent. Kuhn was at the 38th parallel to report on the armistice talks at Panmunjom, Korea. He even took a photograph in the tent where the talks took place.

He returned to New Mexico, the job he left prior to the army, as the circulation department head. He advanced to assistant university librarian at Arizona State and then at Princeton University. Kuhn even tried his hand at teaching as a lecturer at the then-Drexel Institute of Technology. From 1965-67 Kuhn was the head librarian at J. Henry Meyer Memorial Library at Stanford University.

Kuhn arrived at Iowa State in 1967, to begin 22 years as a leader and tireless library advocate. The book budget was $500,000 at the time, and according to Kuhn, the ISU library was more heavily used than all others in the Midwest.

Kuhn had innovative ways to get the word out about the library. Staff compiled an annual report about the library for the ISU president. When complete, Kuhn promptly sent it to colleges and departments around campus so they could get an idea of what the library was doing for them.

He nurtured relationships with students and alumni. Kuhn attended 50th reunion dinners and spoke with alumni. He gave tours and talked about what the library needed. As a result of that stewardship, individual classes made donations and hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised. He went to fraternities and sororities to have dinner and speak with students about the library, and he fostered relationships with members of the student government. He became affectionately known as Mr. Library everywhere he went.

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Parks 198 classroom in action

Classes were assigned to Room 198 this spring. Instructors and students alike are drawn to the open space and cutting edge technology that facilitates collaborative learning. The space is available for use by the library and for study space after 3 p.m.
Facilitating lifelong learning

At 7:30 a.m. on weekday mornings, the Iowa State University Library doors open. Librarians and staff are ready to assist students and faculty with research questions, locate materials, and discuss scholarly publication issues.

The library facilitates access to books and journal articles (print and electronic), items in the Digital Repository, and special and digital collections. Librarians teach Library 160 courses, information literacy, workshops and aid those students who are distance learners. Staff offer expert research help and Parks Library is always full of activity with 10,000+ students visiting each day.

In 2016, librarians are engaged with faculty, student and staff researchers in facilities that are vibrant and alive with activity. Librarians stand ready – at any stage in a project – to support the scholarship pursuits of everyone in the campus community.

Librarians are committed to their own professional development and lifelong learning. The librarians at the Iowa State University library are dedicated to expanding their knowledge. Each year they present papers at conferences, publish articles, pursue grants and are elected to offices in the societies and associations where they are members.

Librarians and staff: selected professional development & research
Staff names in bold.

Publications


Kelly Thompson. More than a name: A content analysis of name authority records for authors who self-identify as trans. Accepted for publication in Library Resources and Technical Services, 60 (3), tentative publication July 2016.

Conference papers, posters & presentations


Kimberly Anderson, Christopher Colwell and Andrew Lau. (2015, July). You don’t have to be a professor. Convener and workshop co-leader at juried workshop on alternative
academic careers for Archival Studies doctoral students.
Archival Education Research Institute, College Park, MD.


Emma Molls. (2016, February). Best practices for working together as diverse faculty and staff. Panel session 2016 Professional Development Conference. Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

Emma Molls and Kelly Thompson. (2016, June). ORCID doesn’t have to be hard: Practical tools for a simple implementation. Poster session at the ALA Annual Conference. Orlando, FL.


Lori Osmus Kappmeyer, and Dreama Deskins. (2015, October). The future of cataloging. Presentation at the Iowa Library Association Annual Conference, Des Moines, IA.

Kelly Thompson (2016, March). Alternatives to teaching with textbooks: Open educational resources. With Emma Molls. Invited workshop Iowa State University Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) for faculty, instructors, and graduate students on campus.

Professional activities & service


Harrison W. Inefuku. Professional and Scientific Outstanding New Professional Award, Iowa State University, 2015.


Kelly Thompson. SHARE curation associate selected through a competitive application process, 2016-17.

Grants

Adding to our expertise

Welcome new (and promoted) staff

**Sofia (Sonya) Barron** joined the University Library this year as the collections conservator. Barron comes to Ames from The Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif. She earned her B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Ill., and her M.S. in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, School of Information.

**Petrina Jackson**
returned to central Iowa to become the head of the Special Collections and University Archives. Jackson was the head of instruction and outreach at Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. She earned her B.A. in English from the University of Toledo, Ohio; her M.A. in English from Iowa State; and her M.L.I.S. from the University of Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Rachel Seale**
joined the University Library as the outreach archivist in Special Collections and University Archives. Seale comes to Iowa State from the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she was an archivist. She earned her B.A. in English from Arizona State University, Tempe, and her M.S.L.I.S. with an archives concentration from Simmons College, Boston, Mass.

**Hilary Seo**
was promoted to associate dean for curation services after serving in an interim role. Seo had been the preservation department head since 2003 and served as interim head of Special Collections and University Archives. Seo holds a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with advanced training in preservation from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Brent Swanson**
arrived at the University Library earlier this year to serve as the head of Business Services. He had served as the accountant in Information Technology Services for 15 years. Swanson earned a B.S. in accounting from Iowa State and received his CPA license in 1999.
Students reap benefits of 24/7 open hours
(Below and right)

The library tested 24/7 open access during dead and finals weeks spring semester 2016, and according to student feedback, we passed with flying colors. One evening, members of the Iowa State Student Government stopped by to hand out containers with candy, snacks, pencils and encouraging messages for the students. The SG representatives passed through the entire library and handed each student the little care package in a cup.

During Finals Week, Dean of Library Services Beth McNeil spoke live on the radio with representatives from KHOI about the 24/7 trial and the important role the library plays in student success. McNeil conveyed that it is crucial for students to access resources when and where they are most comfortable at the end of the semester as they prepare to turn in research papers and take final exams. KHOI recorded an a.m. show and a p.m. show from Parks.

Students were interviewed during the programs, too. One said as the days went on she established a camaraderie with students she’d never met but studied near and who were also engaged in final coursework. Students expressed gratitude for 24/7 access a number of ways. Hannah, a junior journalism major, said: “Your being open 24/7 is going to save my grades. The library is my favorite place to study, especially having use of the dual computer screens. I’m so happy I go to Iowa State.”

IT Solution Center
(Right)

The IT Solution Center relocated to Parks Library in June. Staff and student employees are able to provide technology help online, by phone and to those who stop in. The Solution Center was located in Durham Center prior to moving to Room 192 in Parks Library. The new location is of great benefit to students. According to Vice President and Chief Information Office Jim Kurtenbach, a goal is to ensure technology is transparent to the user and seamlessly operates to ensure customer success for the campus community, including faculty, staff, student and other library patrons.
A lifetime  Continued from page 3

When asked about the ISU library, Kuhn says, “We’re the best.” The ISU Library has an exceptional collection of scientific journals thanks especially to Charles Harvey Brown (library director 1922-46), and all librarians over the years. During Kuhn’s tenure, 15 members of the library staff went on to become deans or directors at other institutions. Kuhn advanced the library and the people.

Currently working on his memoirs, Kuhn developed himself as a writer over the years to help fulfill his desire to tell stories. His creative writing can be found in many magazines including 2-Gun Western, 5 Western Novels and Adventure. His byline even appears on the cover of some of them. Kuhn plans to give them to Special Collections and University Archives, where his current interests lie. He established the Margaret Mae Gross Memorial Endowment in Special Collections for his colleague and friend. It’s the one thing that he sees for the future. “Special Collections will still be there, but everything else may be gone,” Kuhn says of the library 100 years from now. “My prayer is that there will still be an interest in the book itself.”

Coming events

Sept. 15, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Stephens Auditorium, the University Library will co-sponsor a presentation by Cheryl Strayed, the author of the bestselling memoir Wild.

Sept. 20, at 8 p.m., in the Great Hall, Memorial Union. Edward Mezvinsky will participate in a panel discussion moderated by Professor Jim McCormick. This event is part of the Congress-to-Campus program sponsored by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. The Edward M. Mezvinsky Papers are housed in Special Collections and University Archives.

Oct. 3, 2016. As part of National Archives Month, Liz Garst will give a presentation on the history of Midwest agriculture as told through the life of her grandfather, Roswell. The Garst family hosted Nikita and Nina Khrushchev during their 1959 visit to Iowa. Roswell Garst’s and the Garst Family Papers are housed in SCUA. [Editor’s note: Time and place are yet to be determined. Contact 1-515-294-1442.]

Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, the University Library will co-sponsor a talk by Gloria Steinem, co-founder and long-time editor of Ms. magazine.

Nov. 1, at 8 p.m., in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, the University Library will co-sponsor an evening with Margaret Atwood, author of more than forty books including The Handmaid’s Tale.

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