Fall 2017

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Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

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Students are the lifeblood of the library.

The arrival of thousands of students exploring the Merrill-Cazier Library marks the beginning of a new school year – a dramatic and welcome change from the quiet, empty feeling of the library during the summer months. During the school year an average of 2,000 patrons, primarily students, visit the library daily. Students come to study, use computers, visit the writing center, receive help from our librarians, socialize, pet therapy animals, and the list goes on. We are always thrilled to see the vast number of students that continue to make the library such a vibrant and active place. A very important group of students that often goes unnoticed is our student workers.

Over 70 strong, our student workers are the backbone of our library service, and we could not operate without them. They essentially double our staff and perform tasks that allow our library faculty and staff to dedicate their time toward helping students learn, engage, and discover. The largest group of students works in our Circulation Department where they check out books, re-shelve books, help manage the barn, and even open and close the library. They also provide security at the front door as well as throughout the building, especially during evenings and weekends.
In Special Collections, Digital Initiatives, Data Services, and Cataloging, students help prepare materials for patron use. They process valuable archival collections; check articles for copyright status; scan, describe, and catalog material; as well as create computer scripts to help place data sets into our Institutional Repository. These skilled workers make our wonderful collections accessible to researchers.

In Learning and Engagement Services, our Library Peer Mentors do extraordinary work, and have since the program inception over a decade ago. These Peer Mentors staff the reference desk and help with instruction among other duties. As they progress as Peer Mentors, they perform these tasks independently.

Over the past few years through generous donations from library supporters, we have been able to create graduate student internships. Two of these reside in the Special Collections and Archives (SCA) unit. This year marks the seventh Munk-Arrington Internship in SCA and the first Elsner Foundation internship. The Hattie Munk-Arrington internship is possible because of a bequest from Mrs. Munk and ongoing donations to the Arrington Endowment. I would especially like to thank Tami Leppert from the Elsner Foundation for funding the first Elsner Internship in Special Collections and Archives. This year the library launched a third internship, the Teacher Education and Leadership (TEAL) Graduate Internship in the Learning and Engagement Services (LES) department. This is a pilot internship, co-sponsored by the library and Teacher Education and Leadership to fund a doctoral student to help with library instruction. We thank all of those who have donated to make these internships possible and would love to encourage new donations to help support our student interns and employees.

The next time you are in the library, please commend our student workers for their amazing contributions to our library. We are very pleased that we can provide meaningful jobs for so many of our USU students. To that end, this issue of Marginalia is devoted to our student employees.

Brad Cole | Dean of Libraries

Become a Friend of the library!

Two ways to give:
1. Visit usu.edu/giving
2. Select Merrill-Cazier Library for the area
3. Select Friends of the USU Libraries for the sub-area

OR
Send a check for any amount to:
Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-3000

FALL 2017 | 2
Millennials sometimes get a bad rap, but the Merrill-Cazier Library could not function without the twenty-eight student workers we employ. We ask them to open and close the building, check out and in materials, put books and other items away correctly, handle sales transactions, and interact with the close to a million people that enter and exit the building during the course of a school year. The Circulation Department is the eyes and ears of the library.

While most of our students come from Cache Valley and the surrounding areas, circulation also employs students from all parts of the world as far away from home as the Dominican Republic, Armenia, and Poland. Each student worker brings with them a unique and varied life experience, those who are first generation college students and ones whose grandparents attended USU during the Great Depression.

More than 100 hours per week our student workers maintain the Circulation Desk, the Security Desk, and Library Media Collections Desk. They help patrons find books, direct them in searching for other needed materials, and provide a friendly helping face for all of our patrons who walk through the front door. These millennials come with a wonderful work ethic, creativity in solving problems, and a willingness to help out in any circumstance. Unlike many, we are not worried about Millennials leading us down a dismal road. Instead we are awed by our students’ knowledge, their understanding of the world around them, and their unique methods of solving problems.
Since 2004, Library Peer Mentors (LPMs) have helped the Merrill-Cazier more effectively reach students. LPMs are student workers employed in the Learning & Engagement Services and Special Collections & Archives Departments. With partial funding from the Provost’s office, LPMs are specifically hired to encourage their fellow students to engage with the library and educate them on library services and materials.

Among LPMs’ many tasks, teaching classes and assisting patrons at help desks are the most visible. Last year, these students taught or assisted in roughly 50 instruction sessions, and they each worked roughly 8 hours per week at library help desks. LPMs also assist librarians with special projects that include everything from simple class prep to complicated research studies gauging USU students’ information literacy skills. Such tasks may include performing quality control on web pages, processing archival collections, preparing exhibits, and leading tours of the library. Additionally, they provide the library with diverse perspectives with majors in engineering, psychology, and history.

Once LPMs land a job in the library, they usually stay with us throughout their academic career. To our knowledge, five former LPMs sought careers in libraries, with two pursuing graduate degrees in library science. Given the benefits to both librarians and students alike, the LPM program stands out as one of the most valuable experiences the library has to offer.
Kelli Morrill is the seventh recipient of the Munk-Arrington endowed graduate internship. Kelli is a second-year master’s degree student in USU’s Department of History, having also received her undergraduate degree in Social Studies Composite Teaching from USU. Kelli will be working with Photo Curator Daniel Davis on archival processing projects including the Gil Moore photo collection as well as the Mormons for ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) photo collection. The latter relates directly to Kelli’s thesis topic, investigating the protest strategies of the Mormons for ERA group as well as the social and religious consequences they faced as a result of their activism. Mormons for ERA lobbied for ERA ratification in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Kelli will be producing a digital exhibition related to her processing work during the spring semester.

Named after Leonard J. Arrington and Newell E. Munk, the Munk-Arrington Internship provides graduate students who have an aptitude for research and writing the opportunity to become immersed in the day-to-day workings of Special Collections by developing skills in collection appraisal and processing, reference services, and the interpretation of primary source materials. Kelli, who grew up in Riverton, Utah, plans either to teach high school history or to pursue a career in public history through work in a museum or archive.
University Libraries is pleased to announce that Cody Patton has been named the first Elsner Curatorial Intern. Cody is a senior history major with an economics minor and is president of the university’s history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta. Cody is already an experienced student curator, having worked last year with Manuscript Curator Clint Pumphrey on *Utah Brews: The Untapped Story of Ogden’s Becker Brewing and Malting Company*. That project formed the foundation of Cody’s senior history capstone, which he is currently in the process of completing.

Cody, a native of Layton, Utah, has been working in Special Collections & Archives since the spring of his sophomore year. After graduation, he plans to pursue dual master’s degrees in history and library and information science with the goal of securing a career in an academic special collection.

The Elsner Internship, named for the late Larry and Yoko Elsner and funded through the generosity of the Elsner Art Foundation, is designed to provide an undergraduate student with the experience of curating both a gallery exhibition and a digital exhibition using materials housed in Utah State University Libraries’ Special Collections & Archives unit. Working under the guidance of University Archivist Robert Parson, Cody is developing an exhibit focused on the architectural history of Utah State University’s main campus in Logan, in conjunction with USU’s 2017-2018 Year of the Arts celebration. The physical exhibit will be on display in the Library’s atrium in spring 2018.
TEAL Assistantship

Karen Washburn recently joined the library team as the first recipient of the TEAL Graduate Assistantship, a partnership to fund a doctoral student in the Teacher Education and Leadership Department. She has a bachelor’s in history, a master’s in social studies education, and is starting a doctoral program in TEAL with an emphasis in cultural studies. She is originally from Canada and has lived all over the United States as well as in France, Israel, Japan, and Taiwan.

Karen taught both social studies and English as a second language, and last year with the Title VI/Indian Education Grant she worked with American Indian/Alaskan Native K-12 students throughout Northern Utah. She is interested in minority education, specifically with regards to English language learners and refugees.

As part of her role in the library, Karen assists with teaching and consultations in the College of Education and Human Services, as well as serving at the information desk and assisting with English 2010 courses. The assistantship provides Karen with an opportunity to become an expert researcher in her field and share that knowledge with her peers and provides the library with the opportunity to learn and benefit from her considerable teaching experience. We welcome Karen to our library team!

Digital Initiatives & Cataloging

In Digital Initiatives, no two days are the same. Responding to requests from faculty and beyond, our team creates digital collections and exhibits from USU’s scholarly and creative output. We also highlight historical content from Special Collections and Archives (SCA) and create non-traditional research products as part of coursework. Developing online access to these one-of-a-kind materials is a team effort that would not be possible without our outstanding student employees.

Cataloging and Metadata Services employs five student assistants who help catalog library collections. Two of our students work with the main library collection, providing fast, on-demand service by cataloging “rush” material ordered by faculty and beyond. Three of our students serve in the SCA unit helping to box, folder, and process materials, provide reference services, and assist with the barcode and inventory process for SCA material.

Whether artists or engineers, these student employees use their talents in ways that exemplify the discovery, engagement, and learning that are core to the USU mission.
WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Andrea Payant  
**Assistant Librarian, Cataloging**  
**Terminal Degree:** MLIS, San Jose State University  
**Area of Research:** Metadata librarianship  
**Outside Activities:** Andrea enjoys night sky and nature photography, woodworking, camping, hiking, and spending time with family

Rebecah Skeen  
**Assistant Librarian, Cataloging**  
**Terminal Degree:** MLS, University of North Texas  
**Area of Research:** Library science, cataloging rare and unique materials, digital metadata methodologies  
**Outside Activities:** Becky enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, summer barbecuing, and swimming

Jennifer Kirk  
**Assistant Librarian, Government Documents**  
**Terminal Degree:** MLIS, University of Pittsburgh  
**Area of Research:** Government information, presidential records, presidential libraries  
**Outside Activities:** Jen enjoys cooking, crafting, taking long walks, listening to film scores, and going to the movies

Elizabeth York  
**Assistant Librarian, Collection Management**  
**Terminal Degree:** MLIS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Area of Research:** Electronic resources management  
**Outside Activities:** Elizabeth enjoys researching American popular music and musical theatre history, playing oboe and piano, and knitting
Memento Mori

The Art of Death and Mourning
Memento Mori, “remember that you will die,” is a Latin saying that conveys the inevitability of death. No matter how good a life you lead, or how rich or famous you become, death awaits. *Memento Mori: The Art of Death and Mourning*, Utah State University Libraries’ newest exhibition on display in the Merrill-Cazier Library atrium from August 23rd to December 10th, explores the darker side of the library’s collection through hallmarks of how we mourn, celebrate, deny, and ultimately accept death.

From the grisly gamboling of the Danse Macabre to the dapper depictions of Mexican folk saints, artistic explorations of death and mourning traverse cultures and centuries. *Memento Mori* highlights a wide variety of death-centric artistic traditions from across the globe, but also from closer to home here in Logan. The exhibition includes images from Brigham City’s Compton Studio Photographs collection and a selection of first-hand accounts concerning Logan Cemetery’s own Weeping Woman statue, both housed in USU’s Special Collections and Archives. The exhibition also features historical mourning posters of prominent persons in the LDS church, on loan from the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum.

The exhibition’s official opening on October 12th included a reception with Exhibition Curator, Dylan Burns, and a gallery talk by folklorist Carol Edison about Mormon cemetery monuments. Come see the exhibition before it closes on December 10th, or check out the companion digital exhibit at: exhibits.usu.edu/show/mementomori.