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Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

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Small wonders on display at the Founders Day Reception.  
- see more on page 5.
Dear Library Friends,

Recently Utah State University underwent its ten-year accreditation visit from the Northwest Accreditation Commission. One of the stops for the accreditation team was the library. The team had one person specifically assigned to report on the library. This visit included a review of our written library accreditation report (embedded throughout the university report), a physical walk around the library, a visit with the library executive team, as well as an open forum with library faculty and staff.

The visit culminated in an oral report to the university that denoted commendations and recommendations for the entire university. The University Libraries received one of the four commendations given by the team. To say the least we were ecstatic! They specifically mentioned our excellent work in instruction, subject liaison efforts with faculty, and the excellent access to library resources throughout the entire USU system. The library accreditation representative mentioned that at all of the public forums positive comments were made about the library from faculty, staff, and students.

As we move forward with new initiatives and services, such as those outlined in this and previous issues of *Marginalia*, the commendation reminds me that we are still providing traditional and excellent library services to our USU constituents, and that our excellence is based upon the extraordinary library employees that work in the library system. This is a very exciting time to be a part of an academic library. We hope that our “Friends” will stop by and see all of the amazing happenings in the Merrill-Cazier Library.

- Brad Cole
  Dean of Libraries
Jeanne Davidson is the new Associate Dean for Instruction, Collections, and Patron Services. Prior to coming to USU, she held administrative roles in public services for more than ten years at Arizona State University, Portland State University, and South Dakota State University. Jeanne has a master’s in geology/vertebrate paleontology from the University of Wyoming along with a master’s in library science from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She is currently serving on the Association of College and Research Libraries Board of Directors. Jeanne's research includes papers and presentations related to organizational development, information literacy instruction, and science librarianship, among other interests. She enjoys walking and hiking as well as a wide variety of fiber arts including knitting, weaving, spinning, and dying.
After years of planning and development, the Utah State Legislature approved the establishment of the Utah State University School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) during the 2011 legislative session. As this was the first professional program at USU, it was critical that the Merrill-Cazier Library be involved from the start to ensure appropriate support for teaching, learning, and research. Time was short, as the first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students were to be admitted for the 2012–13 academic year. Library holdings were assessed, funding was secured, and Sandra Weingart, liaison librarian, set to work acquiring needed materials to be ready for the students’ arrival in August 2012.

We wanted this collection to be convenient for students and faculty to browse, so an old viewing room in course reserves was converted into a reference/reserve collections area for veterinary studies. In addition to classic animal health and basic sciences texts, we also have books on important skills such as client communications, team building, and leadership. We also buy as many titles as possible in electronic format, thus providing students with the convenience of either electronic access for remote locations and print materials for deep study.

The library also supports SVM through our subject liaison program. Sandra Weingart attends meetings and other events to establish and maintain close working relationships with veterinary faculty, staff, and students; provides research consultations and reference services in face-to-face, email, and phone sessions; and recently served on a subcommittee for professional development and lifelong learning for the Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah (WIMU) Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine in preparation for last fall’s accreditation site visit with the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Seven years have flown by and USU’s third class of veterinarians will soon graduate and begin their careers. Merrill-Cazier Library is proud of our involvement with the School of Veterinary Medicine and looks forward to continuing it in the future.
When I got wind of the possibility of a Doctor of Veterinary Science degree to be offered at Utah State University, I was excited by the news. I thought of all the infrastructure, how the library would be involved in this new degree, and what it could mean for library programs and resources. I had no way of knowing that I would be intimately involved in helping veterinary medicine students in their tenure here at USU. I discovered that this fledgling program needed “clients” who were willing to role-play scenarios so that soon-to-be-minted veterinarians could learn communication skills. My dairy farm upbringing made me the perfect guinea pig client. I could talk the talk and walk the walk, moo, neigh, honk, and cluck my way around the classroom.

In the clinical communications course, vet med students are taught how to communicate with clients, ask the right questions, and gain a rapport with the owner. For some students this is a daunting task. After all, they became veterinarians so they wouldn’t have to “deal with people.” Some students find role-playing difficult. It puts them out of their comfort zone and forces them to focus on what the client is saying or not saying. The ultimate goal of the communication course is for veterinary students to formulate their questions to get more than a yes or no answer.

While I find role-playing fascinating and rewarding, the greatest accomplishment for me is seeing these “new” vets take jobs here in Cache Valley. They have moved past the stumbling blocks of communication and as one new vet said when coming to my house, his first house call on his first day as a “real” veterinarian, “It is so good to see a familiar face.”

-Vicki Read
Head of Circulation
The Merrill-Cazier Library hosted this year’s USU Founders Day reception. Attendees enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to view some of the library’s exhibitions, including *The Built Environment: 130 Years of Growth, Development, and Change on USU’s Campus.*
Dr. Martha Bradley-Evans speaking at the Built Environment opening.

Larry Elsner Art Foundation board member, Tami Leppert, at the Built Environment opening.

A WWI USU ROTC cap on display as part of the Built Environment exhibition.

USU President Noelle Cockett at the Founders Day reception.

Dean of Libraries, Brad Cole, at the Founders Day reception.

Built Environment curator and Elsner Curatorial Internship recipient, Cody Patton.

Dr. Martha Bradley-Evans speaking at the Built Environment opening.
Utah State University students funded a virtual reality (VR) lab in the library that opened in January 2018. VR technology immerses users in a 3D environment, offering them a more visual and physical learning experience. VR based learning is now available for biology, anatomy, geology, astronomy, chemistry, architecture, history, literature, economics, and other areas of study.

In a 3D VR environment a student can walk through space, travel anywhere in the world, interact at the molecular level, go inside the human body, create life-sized 3D architectural objects, swim with ocean life at 20,000 ft. below sea level, and many other lifelike experiences. What would it be like for a student learning about the Apollo 11 moon experience? Along with a lecture, students are given a VR headset and are able to walk on the moon. VR provides a new type of learning experience that hasn’t been available before in a classroom setting.

Academic & Instructional Services, IT Computer Labs, and the Library Information Technology Departments worked to bring resources together and make a space and VR technologies available to USU students.
Undergraduate students at Utah State University have a long history of contributing to the scholarly conversation. Established in 1975, Utah State University's Undergraduate Research Program is the second oldest campus initiative of its kind in the country. Currently, undergraduate student research events like Research on Capitol Hill, hosted in the State Capitol building in Salt Lake City, and the Student Research Symposium, hosted in Merrill-Cazier Library every April, have digital counterparts in Digital Commons.

Beyond student research, DigitalCommons@USU has been digitizing and providing access to many important aspects of overall student life and culture on campus and beyond. The library is excited to continue to provide access to both new and historical student projects, research, and student life to the world.
Curious about library events and services? 

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Friends of Merrill-Cazier Library
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-3000
1st Place  “Lights, Camera, and Whistling Solos: An LDS Roadshow”

Kelli Morrill is a second year master’s student in the USU History Department. Her thesis research centers on the group Mormons for ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) and her thesis is entitled “From Housewives to Protesters: The Story of Mormons for ERA.” While a graduate student Kelli has interned at the Hyrum Museum and is currently the Graduate Fellow in Special Collections and Archives. Kelli also earned her undergraduate degree from Utah State in history teaching and upon graduation plans to pursue a career in teaching. She hopes to work in either museum education or a public school setting. Kelli grew up in Riverton, Utah, and enjoys spending time outside, reading, and watching her favorite movies and TV shows.

2nd Place  “Reviving Passions: A Brief Examination of Opera, Past and Present, in Utah”

McKenna Brunson was born and raised in Utah and was very excited to have the opportunity to learn and write about the musical history of her home state. McKenna has been performing since the age of three and was a state finalist for the Sterling Scholarship Program in the area of Vocal Performance. She has come to Utah State to study opera. When not practicing, she loves to spend time with her family on camping trips, cooking, and traveling. Some day she hopes to visit and possibly even perform in Italy, Germany, Russia, and England. After pursuing her passion for the stage, she wants to teach music in public schools to help students cultivate their own passions.