

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The 2017-18 academic year is off and running, and we are looking forward to another full and exciting year here at the University Libraries and at George Mason University.

I am pleased to announce the selection of two new Fenwick Fellows for 2017-18: Dr. Jennifer Ashley, Assistant Professor of Global Affairs, and Dr. Alok Yadav, Associate Professor of English. Both faculty members' research projects promise to make excellent use of the Libraries' resources, particularly our growing Digital Scholarship Center ([library.gmu.edu/disc](http://library.gmu.edu/disc)). To read more about Professors Ashley and Yadav and their research plans, please see our recent news story at [library.gmu.edu](http://library.gmu.edu).

In addition to supporting university faculty, we are excited to partner with a number of university units for educational and cultural events, such as the current visiting exhibition from Interference Archive in NYC, and the upcoming Fall for the Book and Alumni Weekend events!

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the University Libraries. We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

John G. Zenelis  
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

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## Delegation from China visits Mason to learn about higher ed in US

In August 2017, the University Libraries hosted a delegation of twenty-two faculty members from the Jiangsu Normal University in China. Jiangsu Normal University is a national university, established in the 1950s and located in Xuzhou in the Jiangsu province, on the eastern coast of China. The visiting faculty members were participating in a Higher Education Administration Study facilitated by George Mason University, and they represented a broad spectrum of academic departments (including sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities).

The program at Mason covered the history of higher education in the US, management and operations in US universities, student organizations and alumni relations, degree and records management, and, of course, the importance of academic libraries. Andrew Lee, Social Sciences Librarian, conducted a workshop (in Chinese) for the visiting faculty, in which he covered the responsibilities of academic libraries and discussed the various roles





## Mason Author Series

Our Mason Author Series kicks off the year with a timely discussion on freedom of the press with Sam Lebovic, Assistant Professor of History. Professor Lebovic will talk about his latest book, *Free Speech and Unfree News: The Paradox of Press Freedom in America*, at 3pm on Thursday, October 5, in the Fenwick Main Reading Room.

The following week, in conjunction with Fall for the Book and Alumni Weekend, we will welcome five alumni poets - Sarah Marcus (MFA '12), Sheila McMullin (MFA '13), Ranjani Murali (MFA '10), Nicole Tong (MFA '07), and Sarah Ann Winn (MFA '14) - who will read from their new books at 4pm on Friday, October 13, in the Fenwick Main Reading Room.

## Fall for the Book



Fall for the Book, the region's oldest and largest celebration of literature, will take place October 11-14. The Mason Libraries is one of many sponsors supporting this annual festival, which will include such headliners as Colson Whitehead, Jennine Capo Crucet, Mohsin Hamid, Lev Grossman, Janet Mock, and Ellen Bryant Voigt.

Jennine Capo Crucet is the author of this year's Mason Reads selection, *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, and the Libraries is sponsoring her talk in the Concert Hall on Thursday, October 12 at 4:30pm.

In addition, the Libraries will host events in our Fenwick Main Reading Room and Special Collections Research Center.

For the full Fall for the Book schedule, visit [fallforthebook.org](http://fallforthebook.org). Read on!

## Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend is October 12-15 this year, and we are excited to participate with an open house on Saturday, October 14, from 10:30am to noon, in our Special Collections Research Center.

Come take a trip down Memory Lane with your fellow alumni: visit the all-new Fenwick Library and (re) experience Mason's 60 years of history. See the building in Bailey's Crossroads where George Mason opened in 1957; read the article you wrote for *Broadside* in 1977; chuckle over what you wore in the 1997 yearbook; look for the course description from your favorite class from 2007, and more. The display will also include historical highlights from each decade, making your history come alive.

For the full Alumni Weekend schedule, visit [alumniweekend.gmu.edu](http://alumniweekend.gmu.edu).



## Faculty & Staff Accolades

In addition to their day-to-day activities ensuring our library system operates smoothly, and the hours they spend conducting workshops and assisting and guiding students, our faculty and staff serve on national professional committees, organize and contribute to international conferences, secure grants, and supervise student research teams, just to list a few items of note. Visit <http://library.gmu.edu/about/accolades> for more.



University Libraries

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