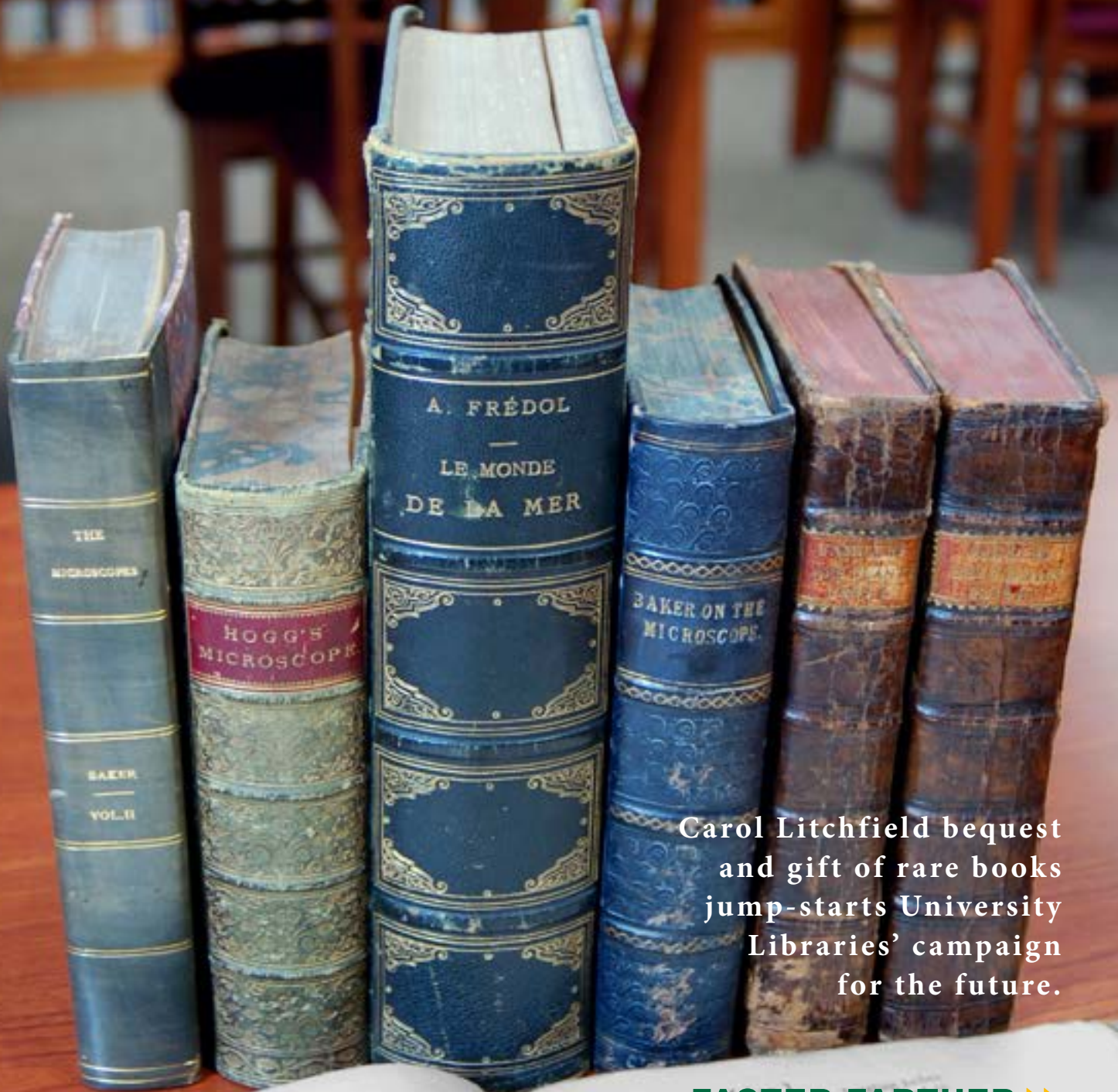


THE LIBRARIES AT MASON

FALL 2015

PEOPLE • RESOURCES • EVENTS



Carol Litchfield bequest
and gift of rare books
jump-starts University
Libraries' campaign
for the future.

FASTER FARTHER >>



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 More than 350 people attended the “Faster Farther” campaign launch on September 12 at the Hylton Center for the Performing Arts on the Science and Technology Campus, Prince William. The event featured alumni, faculty, and student speakers, as well as performances by the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

ABOUT THE COVER:
 A few of the 180 rare science books gifted to the University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives by former Mason Professor Carol Litchfield.

The Libraries at Mason magazine is published by the George Mason University Libraries. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:
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Magazine photos courtesy of George Mason University Creative Services and Robert Vay BA '92, MA '99, Digital Collections Archivist, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries.



^
 John Zenelis,
 Dean of Libraries and
 University Librarian

Letter from the Dean

We opened the 2015-2016 academic year with grand campus and community celebrations to launch “Faster Farther,” the university’s largest-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign.

The University Libraries was honored to take part in these celebrations, showcasing for attendees one of the many new learning technologies at the Libraries—the One Button Studio.

As we assist the university in reaching an impressive \$500 million campaign goal in the next three years, the Libraries has identified key areas where philanthropic support can help us to transform and innovate the services, scholarly research resources, and learning environment that we provide Mason students, faculty, and other scholars from around the world. In the pages that follow, you will find information about some of the initiatives taking place at our libraries, how our outstanding library faculty and staff are sharing their expertise with the campus and international colleagues, and most importantly—how you can play a role in the Libraries’ exciting future.

It’s a wonderful time, and indeed a privilege, to be part of one of the top academic research libraries in Virginia and the National Capital Region! I look forward to sharing with you news about our progress.

Contents

- 4 University Campaign to Transform Libraries at Mason
- 6 Campaign Priorities for the University Libraries
- 8 One Button Studio Provides New Learning Technologies
- 9 Parents Fund Purchase of Electronic Databases at the Libraries
- 10 17th Annual Fall for the Book Festival
- 11 Fenwick Fellow Explores Connection Between Medieval Wealth and Fashion
- 12 Libraries Faculty and Staff Set the Bar for Excellence
- 14 Leaving a Legacy
- 16 Honor Roll of Donors

University Campaign to Transform Libraries at Mason



These inter-related service components require significant investment to meet the current and future needs of one of Virginia's largest university populations. Unfortunately, specialized information and scientific knowledge are not free in the information age. For instance, the annual cost for acquiring and maintaining digital and print materials in the bioscience field alone is more than \$750,000. When multiplied across the university's many academic disciplines, the magnitude of the financial investment becomes readily apparent.

Help us take the University Libraries to the next level.

Mason's students, faculty, and researchers are counting on us to provide them with the research materials, tools, and knowledge they need to achieve their highest goals. The University Libraries is steadfast in our commitment to them, but we can't do it alone. Every endowment established and every dollar contributed by our alumni, faculty, staff, parents, friends, and community partners is a vote of confidence in their future.

You can help the University Libraries maintain pace with an explosive growth in information and the widespread adoption of new online learning formats. Please join us as we take the University Libraries to the next level, and build a truly great research institution to meet the needs of Mason's 21st-century students.

More information about the campaign, naming opportunities, and other ways to support the University Libraries can be found online at library.gmu.edu/support.

The "Faster Farther" campaign kickoff featured student performances and innovative displays from across the university, including the Libraries' One Button Studio. Friends of the Libraries in attendance included (Front L-R) Ed Furlow, Marylyn Graves, BS '69; Kathleen Kehoe, MEd '97, Director of Development; David and Ann Stone; (Back L-R) John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian; Ryan Najjar, BS '13.

FASTER FARTHER >>

On September 12, University Libraries' donors and friends joined in a grand celebration to publicly launch "Faster Farther: The Campaign for George Mason University."

The campaign comes at a critical time for the University Libraries. As academic research libraries across the nation consider how to best balance physical collections with emerging digital technologies while simultaneously supporting teaching and learning and a myriad of faculty and student research endeavors, the campaign provides a unique opportunity to significantly enhance the Libraries at Mason and thus, support the university's aspiration to become a top 100 research university in the nation.

A hallmark of every great research university is a great library system.

George Mason University should be no exception. Our ambitious plans to become the leading public university in the National Capital Region and one of the top 100 research universities in the nation, dictates that we take the Mason University Libraries to the next level. We are called on to provide broad and deep access to knowledge across a global network of research institutions in a wide array of formats; to provide the professional expertise, resources, and digital tools to enable students, faculty, and researchers to find relevant and authoritative information at a 24/7 pace; and to serve as university hubs of collaboration by providing technology-rich learning and study spaces that promote academic success.



"Some outside of higher education have wondered if comprehensive university libraries are necessary in the digital age. The fact is, in the 21st century, we need university libraries more than ever to help Mason produce the leaders, professionals, and scholars our world needs."

—Dr. Ángel Cabrera,
President,
George Mason University



Campaign Priorities for the University Libraries

1. Expanding the Future of Research at George Mason

Securing Mason's place as a top research university in the nation requires that we continue to develop the depth and breadth of scholarly research resources in our University Libraries. Increasingly, those resources are electronic materials—journals, books, multimedia works, and databases available 24/7 to our faculty, students, and researchers. These are the tools that help fuel innovation and discovery at a great research university, but unfortunately, scholarly research resources come at significant cost to the university. Subscription fees can cost up to \$1 million or more for larger databases or journal packages. Endowments to expand our current inventory of knowledge are necessary to maintain access to current electronic library research materials and acquire future resources.



Students Andrew Weisberg and Jessica Campbell, who researched and built the Mason History website, look at rare documents inside the Special Collections Reading Room.

2. Strengthening the Undergraduate Experience

The quality of a university's library continues to be a significant deciding factor for prospective students and their parents. George Mason's Gateway Library is focused on meeting the unique needs of undergraduate, new, and transitioning students by providing a technology-rich environment that is welcoming, supportive, and conducive to learning. Our expert librarians provide research instruction, serving as trusted navigators for undergraduate students through a vast and often overwhelming amount of knowledge. The campaign seeks funding to renovate, modernize, and consolidate the Gateway Library's floor plan; fully develop a "Learning Commons," which combine teaching and learning-focused library services with relevant technology support; enhance our teaching program; construct a collaborative and multifaceted computing area; develop modern library instructional classrooms; and upgrade group study rooms to provide dynamic spaces with the technological resources students need to succeed.

"Any great university library system requires five key elements: expert staff, relevant and ample collections, innovative outreach programs, facilities that foster collaboration, and cutting-edge technology. With incredible growth and hard work, the Mason Libraries emerged as a leader among academic research libraries. What we need now is support from our alumni, friends, and regional partners to ensure we secure Mason's place as one of the top 100 research universities and research libraries in the country."

— John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian



A Digital Scholarship Center will provide Mason students and faculty with cutting-edge technologies to support tomorrow's technology-assisted research.

3. Building a Digital Scholarship Center

In 2016, the university will open a new central library on the Fairfax Campus. While state funding provided for its construction, there is much work to be done on the interior and cyber-infrastructure to ensure we provide the digital tools and data that researchers are increasingly incorporating into their teaching and research process. To support the scale and sophistication of tomorrow's technology-assisted research, the University Libraries seeks funding to build a Digital Scholarship Center. This collaborative, interdisciplinary area will offer space, infrastructure, and expertise to both faculty and students moving digital projects from idea to publication. Through workshops, lectures, and individualized consultation sessions, library faculty and staff will provide students and faculty with expertise in a number of complementary areas including data conversion, data storage, data preservation, data visualization, metadata consulting, copyright assistance, e-publishing, and digitization, among others.

4. Supporting University and Community Outreach Programs

High visibility public programs and research initiatives position the George Mason University Libraries as the real and symbolic hub of Mason's academic enterprise. Establishing our place as one of the key centers of the university's intellectual and cultural life requires that the Libraries expand its current programming to include

public lectures, exhibitions, and professional development and research seminars for our students and faculty. An endowment will ensure a continuous stream of funds to support these critical outreach efforts for the benefit of both Mason, and broader communities of the region.

5. Preserving Mason's Unique Collections

From the works by the "father of classical liberalism," John Locke, to the impressive collection of East German posters, the Mason Libraries provides a rich collection of unique, historical reference for researchers and laypersons alike. We are committed to digitizing our special collections and archives, allowing the originals to be preserved, and making electronic access widely available. Increasingly, "born digital" collections require preservation for future access as well. Although expensive and time consuming, the University Libraries is committed to protecting this history of tens of thousands of rare books, 600 topical archives and manuscript collections, and other unique digital resources to ensure they are available to future Mason generations, and to researchers across the globe.

"The library is the heart of campus. It's where students go to study, to socialize, and to find guidance and support from the awesome team of librarians. I would not have been as successful in my academic studies without the libraries at Mason."

— Symone Folson, BS Psychology '15

One Button Studio Provides New Technologies

Libraries are becoming test beds for new learning technologies at colleges and universities across the country.

From collaborative online group meetings, to flipped classrooms and multimedia student presentations, new technologies are changing how professors develop their courses and how students approach their academic projects. Last academic year, the University Libraries premiered the “One Button Studio” in the Gateway Library, making Mason one of only a few higher education institutions in the country with this kind of recording studio technology.

With literally the push of one button, students and faculty can create professional-quality video for research presentations, tutorials, distance learning courses, or informational videos. Other than the presenter,



Located at the Gateway Library in the Johnson Center, the One Button Studio helps students and faculty create multimedia presentations or online learning courses with the touch of one button.

no additional staffing is required to operate the camera, the lights, or microphones.

The final recorded product is saved to a flash drive, and can be edited using video editing software. During the recording session, the presentation can be viewed live on two large, wall-mounted screens in the studio. Chairs and tables provide space for an audience or a small class.

“It’s all about raising the bar for ways we can reinvent teaching, while lowering barriers by making this easy and accessible,” says Jason Byrd, Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning Services at Gateway Library. “It’s been amazing to see the creative ways that students and faculty are using the One Button Studio. They are recording everything from class lessons to oral histories, mock counseling sessions and job interviews, practice drama presentations, and media interviews.”



Students access the Libraries’ online services and resources an average of nine times every second.

Parents Fund Electronic Databases at the Libraries

The Libraries at George Mason University play a key role in helping the university recruit and retain outstanding students.

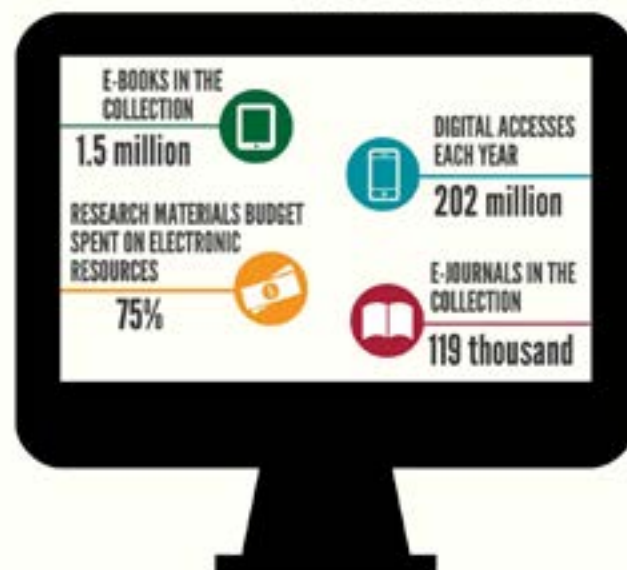
More importantly—they play a critical role in students’ success while on campus. To maintain pace with an explosive growth in information, the Libraries must continually invest in new, relevant, digital and print resource collections and technology to support student research and learning. Electronic Resources Librarian Michelle Polchow notes that digital resources and online services are extremely popular, and accessed an average of nine times every second by Mason students, faculty, researchers, and others around the world.

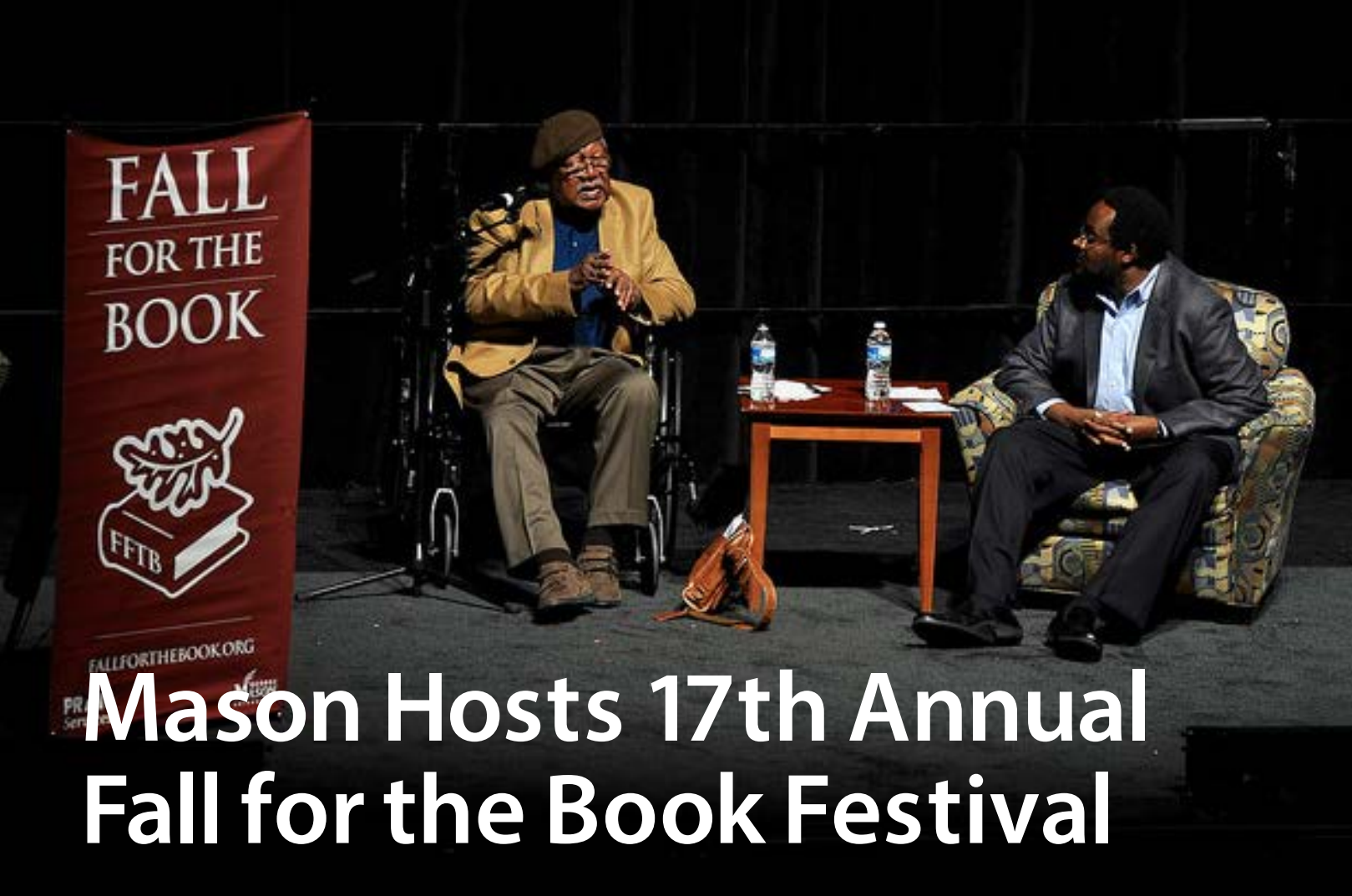
Luckily, Mason parents understand the importance of these resources, and have been steadfast supporters of the University Libraries. In fact, in the past five years, more than 300 parents have made financial gifts to support the important services and resources that only the University Libraries provides on campus.

These generous gifts have helped to purchase extensive digital knowledge collections and databases, which can range in cost from \$10,000 up to \$1 million or more annually for larger databases. Electronic databases made possible by Mason parents’ generous support include: *American Consumer Culture Market Research* (1935-1965), *Popular Culture in Britain and America* (1950-1975), *American Indian Histories and Culture*, *China Trade Politics and Culture* (1793-1980), *China America and the Pacific*, and *Virginia Company Archives*.

“Without an alumni base of its own to help provide critical resources that exceed state funding, the University Libraries has been fortunate to receive strong support from Mason parents and friends,” said Kathleen Kehoe, MEd ’97, Director of Development at the University Libraries. “We are deeply appreciative of Mason parents who understand the vital role that the Libraries play in advancing student learning, scholarship, and research.”

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES STUDENTS CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT





Mason Hosts 17th Annual Fall for the Book Festival



Top: Novelist Ernest Gaines (L) speaks on the George Mason campus at the 2015 Fall for the Book festival.

Bottom: On October 3, the Libraries sponsored an event featuring award-winning novelist Tim O'Brien. At the event, he was presented with the Fall for the Book's highest honor, the Fairfax Prize, which recognizes outstanding literary achievement and contributions to literary culture. (L-R) Jack Kehoe, O'Brien, and Kathleen Kehoe, MEd '97, Director of Development for the University Libraries.

Since its founding, George Mason University and the University Libraries has played a significant role in hosting the increasingly popular regional Fall for the Book festival.

This year's successful event took place from September 28 through October 3, and featured more than 150 authors. Highlights included internationally best-selling novelist Diana Gabaldon; National Book Award-winning novelist Tim O'Brien; and MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant recipient and novelist Ernest J. Gaines. Gaines' book, *A Lesson Before Dying* was chosen as this year's Mason Reads selection for all incoming freshmen. The festival has brought some of the world's finest authors, artists and thinkers to Mason and the wider Northern Virginia community including Stephen King, Dave Barry, Jodi Picoult, David Baldacci, and Ralph Nader, among many other notable writers.

Fenwick Fellow Explores Connection Between Medieval Wealth and Fashion



Dr. Kristina M. Olson

What do the fashion styles of 14th-century Italy have to do with banking and trade? Kristina M. Olson intends to find out.

Olson, Assistant Professor of Italian and the Coordinator of the Italian Program in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, has been named the 2015-2016 Fenwick Fellow. The fellowship, which carries an award of \$5,000, is presented annually by the University Libraries to a Mason tenured, tenure-track, or multi-year appointment term faculty member to pursue a research project.

Professor Olson's research proposal, *Sumptuous Literature: Clothing and Governance in Fourteenth-Century Italy*, is a current book project that investigates the intersection of history and literature in the works of medieval and

early modern Italian authors. In her research, she will explore the impact of the displays of new wealth in clothing and jewelry and the restrictions imposed upon such social practices as expressed in the literary works of the Italian middle ages—namely those of Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarch, the “three crowns” of Italian literature. Ultimately, *Sumptuous Literature* seeks to show how characterizations of fashion in literature shed new light upon our understanding of the simultaneous rise of capitalism and of fashion, and how these phenomena are first articulated in terms of gender and the body.

According to Professor Olson, those who showed their wealth by wearing expensive clothes were closely monitored and subject to fines by law officials in Italy from 1265 through 1380. These regulations were designed to reduce rivalries, which began to develop between a rising merchant class and a long-standing aristocracy.

During her fellowship, Professor Olson plans to complete the historical and literary research for this project and write the first chapters of her book. Another expected product of this project will be the compilation of a database of the leading families of this period that will be featured on the Digital Dante project at Columbia University.

“Dr. Olson's research will enhance our collective understanding of medieval and early Renaissance history and literature, and appropriately expand the Libraries' holdings in these areas,” said John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. “The University Libraries is pleased to support her important research through the Fenwick Fellowship.”

Professor Olson will present the results of her work in spring 2017 at the annual Fenwick Fellow Lecture hosted by the University Libraries.

Library Faculty and Staff Set the Bar for Excellence

Library faculty at Mason teach more than 1,100 classes each year attended by 21,000 students.

Working hand-in-hand with instructional faculty, they provide in-depth expertise on various academic subject areas, assist students with research strategies, and publish scholarly work in their respective areas.

Among the outstanding faculty at the University Libraries is Geospatial Resources Librarian Joy Suh, recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Library Faculty Award. During 16 years of service at Mason, Suh developed the Libraries' Geographic Information System (GIS) service into a program that works with departments across campus, from the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science, to supporting the curricula of such diverse programs as Journalism and Social Work. She also played a key role in organizing Mason's initial involvement in the national GIS Day—a landmark campus event that she has continued to support through well-attended programs over the past decade.

"Joy's disciplinary and formidable technical skills, and professional knowledge have been characterized as being blended with self-motivation, well-founded ideas and approaches to her work, practicality, common sense, leadership, and considerable organizational skills," said John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. "With such attributes, Joy exemplifies the Mason Libraries' organizational values of innovation, collaboration, and leadership."

Joy holds an MA in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and an MLIS from the University of Iowa.

Library staff member Jennifer Hamilton was also honored last year for her dedication to excellence when she was selected to participate in Mason's Global Professional Staff Exchange Program.



Joy Suh receives her Distinguished Library Faculty Award from Provost David Wu.

Currently serving as the Libraries' Gift Coordinator, Hamilton was one of the first Mason staff members to be selected to participate in the university's Global Professional Staff Exchange Program. Established in 2013, the program provides an international professional development exchange experience for staff that will enhance global awareness, encourage cross-cultural perspectives, and broaden professional expertise through direct in-service experience.

As part of her exchange, Jennifer was abroad for one week last fall at the University of Basel, Switzerland. She visited various administrative departments and especially, the library, which is one of the oldest and largest in Switzerland. Afterward, she visited a dozen other libraries and archives throughout Basel, Zurich, and Bern. In turn, Mason hosted Communications Officer Olivia Poisson from the University of Basel on the Fairfax Campus.

"My time abroad enhanced how I view my daily routine and long-term departmental goals," said Jennifer. "Exemplary service was commonplace on and off campus in Switzerland. However, it became evident that Mason Libraries face similar day-to-day challenges, such as how to efficiently provide general services and distance learning opportunities for students."

Joining the Libraries eight years ago, Jennifer manages the gift-in-kind program, which enhances the current and evolving collections to support research, instruction, and outreach interests. She holds a BS in Political Science and Justice and Policies Studies from Guilford College.



Jennifer Hamilton celebrates her Exchange Program selection with fellow Libraries colleagues. (L-R) Kim Edwards, Technical Services Group Interim Director; Mason Farr, Former Gifts Student Assistant; Jib Vititpongs, Cataloger; Jennifer Hamilton; Tricia Mackenzie, Resource Description and Metadata Services Head; Meg Manahan, Former Technical Services Group Director.

UP CLOSE 2014-15

A snapshot of how the George Mason University community uses its libraries.



Leaving a Legacy

Shown here diving in the Caribbean, former Mason Professor Carol Litchfield shared her love of science and discovery with thousands of students.

While some think that only wealthy people leave money to charitable organizations when they pass away, the reality is that most bequests are made by ordinary, hardworking people.

Simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization, bequests are popular because they allow a donor to retain assets during their lifetime, but upon their death, provide a lasting legacy for causes they care most deeply about. Bequests also provide an opportunity for people to give more than they ever imagined during their lifetime.

“By leaving a gift in your will, you make a powerful commitment that can change the educational environment for future generations of students,” said Kathleen Kehoe, MEd ’97, Director of Development for the University Libraries. “No one understood that better than Carol Litchfield. Her bequest to the Libraries celebrates a lifelong love for the field of science and a commitment to share it with tomorrow’s leaders in the field.”

An avid diver and scientist, Carol Litchfield spent a lifetime collecting scientific books, journals and rare imprints. So extensive was her library, that she had rented a separate apartment, filled with library-standard

shelving and filing cabinets.

When the Professor Emerita in Mason’s Department of Environmental Science and Policy passed away in 2012, she left a nearly \$300,000 bequest to the University Libraries to support microbiology research materials. This gift, coupled with those she made during her lifetime, created the Litchfield Microbiology Endowment for the Libraries, which today funds the preservation and augmentation of a collection that Litchfield so devotedly stewarded for the benefit of Mason students, scholars, and supporters.

The Litchfield Collection includes 180 rare science books including rare first editions of works by Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729-1799), whose investigations into microscopic life and nutrient cultures formed the groundwork for Louis Pasteur. Dating from 1787 to 1803, the Spallanzani volumes cover some of the most important periods in the physiologist’s career. The collection also contains works by Francesco Redi



“Distinguished universities have been developed over long periods of time and with the great generosity of individuals in many cases. We are privileged to honor Carol’s memory—the rich knowledge she shared as a faculty member at Mason, and the legacy she leaves behind for future generations. She provided a wonderful example for others to follow.”

— John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

^
Carol Litchfield

(1626-97), the poet-turned-scientist who performed one of the first examples of biological experiments with proper controls. Carol gifted this valuable collection of rare scientific books, as well as her large collection of other volumes to the University Libraries, ensuring that future generations of Mason students, faculty, and researchers around the world could have access to them.

Litchfield joined the Mason faculty in 1993, first

teaching in the Department of Biology and later in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, in which she became Research Professor. In 1996, she donated journals, monographs, and other research materials on environmental microbiology, helping to expand Mason’s then new Mercer Library at the Science and Technology Campus, which houses a large portion of the Libraries’ science collection.



The University Libraries Legacy Society

The University Libraries Legacy Society honors alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have included the university in their estate plans or other deferred gift payments. The following Mason Legacy Society members have generously named the University Libraries as beneficiary. If you would like to explore becoming a member of the Legacy Society for the University Libraries, please contact Kathleen Kehoe at 703-993-8740, library@gmu.edu. There are different kinds of bequests, which each require very specific language to indicate the precise direction of your assets. To ensure your bequest successfully carries out your final wishes, it is advisable to work with your financial planner and advise the university of your wishes.

Anonymous

*Marjorie D. Atkins

Fabrizio Colombo

*Sam A. di Bonaventura, PhD

Howard V. Kurtz

*Carol D. Litchfield, PhD

Randolph H. Lytton, PhD, and Ellen N. Lytton

Patrick F. McIntyre '70, and Félice L. McIntyre

*Hermine O'Reilly

Irene Sabadini

*Darlene M. Scott

Anita M. Taylor, PhD

*deceased

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