Spring 2019

The Scroll

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Part of the Library and Information Science Commons
The Spring 2019 edition of The Scroll recognizes Kim Myers, who recently retired as Scholarly Communications and Special Collections Team Lead in Drake Memorial Library. Kim spent 16 years as an advocate for all things library and has been a dedicated member of the Friends of Drake Library. She earned widespread respect throughout the College for bringing the Digital Commons to life at Brockport. Named a bepress All-Star in 2014, Kim has been a strong and innovative voice celebrating student and faculty scholarship. Kim completed her MS in Library Science from the University at Buffalo and received the SUNY Chancellors Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 2017.

Kim focused her time on the digitization of important collections for the college, including our Masters’ theses and College Senate resolutions. This year she enhanced the e. e. cummings digital collection and worked collaboratively to help reset The Spectrum Scholars Day Journal. She helped establish the Brockport ePrint for monographs, and received several grants including a SUNY IITG grant on Scholarly Communications.

Kim and John will be moving to Crossville, Tennessee this spring. We wish Kim a very happy and healthy retirement!

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The Library Café is one of the busiest and most visible places in the library and on campus. Originally dedicated in September 1999, the café was recently renovated and is being re-dedicated in a special naming celebration on April 26 at 2 pm. The Raj Madan Café honors the legacy of Ms. Raj Madan who served as the Director of Drake Memorial Library from 1986-2002. The first library automation conversion to the Dynix system occurred under Raj’s leadership. The renaming will take place as part of Honors and Awards Day at the campus. All are invited to attend this special event.

Raj started at the College at Brockport as our acquisitions librarian, succeeding in a busy time when the book budget and collection were expanding at the exponential rate of that era. When she started in 1965 we had a 64,000 volume library, and when she retired in 2002 we had over 500,000 volumes.

Raj rose through the library ranks to become the Associate Director, and then in 1986 she became the Director of Drake Memorial Library. She was a keen advocate of utilizing technology and led Drake to become the first SUNY four year school to adopt an online catalog system, Dynix.

She was active in the academic library profession in New York, being one of the founders of the SUNY Library Association, and a strong advocate for faculty status for librarians in the late 1960s, when librarians were generally classified as Civil Service employees.

A native of India, Raj received her undergraduate education from Punjab University, and earned an MA in Sociology from the University of Missouri, and her MLS from Rutgers.

Over the years, Raj has been consistently dedicated to Drake Library, and to librarianship as a practice and profession. We thank her for her continuing commitment to the College at Brockport.
Magic Lantern Bird Slides Event

Charlie Cowling, College Archivist, and Chris Norment, Environmental Science Faculty, joined forces on a well-received Friends of Drake Library presentation on October 4, 2018. The event included recently digitized magic lantern slides from the Rose College Archives related to the birds of New York State. These photographs were taken by notable birdwatching and ornithology figures of a century ago, like Arthur Allen of Cornell, the first PhD ornithologist in the U.S. The slides are part of a Digital Commons collection that can be viewed at https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bird_slides/

Student Athletes and Library Partner for Giant Read

Another successful Giant Read Event took place Friday, October 19, 2018. Brockport scholar athletes and Drake Library staff teamed up for a literacy event at School 43 in Rochester. This annual event provides personalized books for primary school students. Brockport student athletes assist the students in reading their books aloud and frequently autograph the books for the young readers. The reading event also included numerous physical games and activities to make the day even more enjoyable. Ellsworth, the Brockport Eagle, was on hand to join in the fun with the children.

Now nearing its tenth year, the Giant Read Program included assistance from Susan Hoffman (Athletics), Jennifer Kegler (Drake librarian and Giant Read Coordinator), Terry Berl (Drake Library retiree), and others. Drake Library supplied the books, Pete the Cat and The Missing Tooth, and The Friends of Drake Library contributed custom goodie bags that included a variety of school and personal hygiene items. Thank you to all who contributed to making this year’s event memorable for everyone!
Successful Transcribathon

What is a Transcribathon? It’s a crowdsourced event that seeks to enhance and improve the readability of archival records. On November 13, a Transcribathon was held in Drake Library with help from two classes – Dr. Jamie Spillers’ History class and Dr. Jason Dauenhauer’s Aging in America class. The students participated in transcribing soldiers’ handwritten responses to surveys administered at the end of World War II. The project was part of a larger collaborative effort being conducted with Virginia Tech, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Over 200 records were completed during two hours. Participants described how the authentic voices from another time resonated with them.

For more information see: https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/tkotwim/the-american-soldier

Textbooks on Reserve – Spring 2019

The textbooks on reserve program returned this Spring semester. The Friends of Drake Library helped purchase $500 worth of textbooks for short-term use by students in the library. The program continues to offer assistance to those who may not have a textbook readily available to them. The textbooks on reserve program is a limited, though growing initiative that supports students at point of need. It is a small initiative that can be a big help to students.

For more information, see: https://www.brockport.edu/daily_eagle/items/view/14879

Spring Tree Planting

A flowering crabapple tree planted in Spring 2018 on the west side of Drake Library recognizes and honors Jeanette Reynolds, Brockport’s first librarian, as well as other dedicated library staff. A plaque marking the tree will be dedicated during Spring 2019 as a tribute to library workers who have helped the library to continually grow as a place for nurturing scholarship and research since its beginning. Thank you to the Friends of Drake Library for supporting this project.
Late Night at Drake – Fall 2018
By Pam O’Sullivan

Since the first “Long Night” was held in the Fall of 2015, this event has proven very popular with the students using Drake Library. It has expanded from a single night to 3 nights during which the library stays open until 3 am. At various times it has included tutoring services, de-stressing activities, and even yoga. The one constant—and most popular feature, however, has been the beverage and snack service that provided late-night studiers with the energy to fuel up for the long push. Our largest and most consistent donor has been the Friends of Drake Library.

This year, we changed the format a little, as well as the name. We did not book tutors because their services had not been in demand, and we reduced the number of de-stressing activities. Rather than send a book cart around the library with snacks, we set up snacks at the Circulation Desk conveniently near the beverages.

As always, the students were very grateful. When asked their favorite part of Late Night, responses included:

- “Everything. You guys rock”—and many variations on that theme, including, “Thank you! This free snack made my day!”
- Snacks and beverages
- Longer hours
- Other: office supplies (glue sticks, rulers, paper clips…)

All in all, it was another successful late night program. We thank the Friends of Drake Library for their continuing support.

Tree Rings Tell a Story

A slice of a tree trunk saved from one of the elm trees that grew in front of Hartwell Hall is on display in Drake Library this spring. The tree section was sanded and sealed by Dr. Jason Dauenhauer (Social Work). This project resulted in a gorgeous wood surface that tells an amazing story. This tree witnessed many decades of the college’s history.

The annual rings seen in the cross-section provide a glimpse of the age of the tree. Community members were asked to help guess the tree’s age in a recent promotion in the library. FODL provided $50 gift cards to three of those who were closest to guessing the tree’s age: Allison Vohs, Kyrill Gill and Danielle Fanelli. They were all close to the actual age, which was determined by Eric Olsen, Biology student, as 130 years, plus or minus 2 years.

Eventually, flag pins or markers are expected to show the size of the tree’s circumference during key dates in the history of the college, and provide an interesting vantage point for considering our community’s shared past.
Student Research Awards

The FODL-sponsored Library Student Research Awards were presented to three outstanding Brockport students during a National Library Week celebration on April 9, 2019. The awards are based on research papers that reflect outstanding use of library resources. Winners receive $500 for first, $300 for second, and $150 for third place. They will have their names inscribed on a plaque in the library, and their papers are also published in Brockport’s Digital Commons.

This year’s winners include:

1st Prize: Stephen Sovocool, senior majoring in History  
*Why Carter Lost: Dissecting the 1980 Presidential Campaign*  
Faculty: Dr. Bruce Leslie

2nd Prize: Lilia Hutchison, graduate student in English  
*The Intersections of Empathy and Mobility*  
Faculty: Dr. Alissa Karl

3rd prize: Jessica Semon, senior majoring in English  
*The Female Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Epidemic: Awareness and Prevention*  
Faculty: Dr. Sharon Jacobson

Special thanks to this year’s judges including Jill Campbell, Charlie Cowling and Jennifer Kegler, as well as student advisors for helping to promote and support the FODL Library Research Award program.

Dr. John Maier in the News

Dr. John Maier, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and member of the Friends of Drake Library, published an open access Brockport e-book, *Gilgamesh and the Great Goddess of Uruk*, that recently received a favorable review in *Aramco World* (March/April 2019, p. 39). The reviewer noted that Maier has taken earlier work “a step further in a lengthy commentary on this tale of man’s search for eternal life”.

Congratulations, John!
Join the Friends of Drake Memorial Library

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