

NOTES FROM THE STACKS

Dean's Corner

It is with great pleasure that I write my first column for Notes from the Stacks. My first months at Central Washington University have been filled with warm welcomes and enthusiasm for the work of the library.

In just three months, I've witnessed an amazing range of services for our students, faculty, and community. The student commons opened, providing an atmosphere for collaboration and study "alone but together." The Commons was also the site of our Big Read keynote by translator Michael Berry and the new home for the Lion Rock series—two efforts that engage our campus with the wider Ellensburg community. Seeing CWU's library staff provide much-needed stress relief and sustenance for finals week was a tangible experience of the care our librarians and staff feel for our students.

Amongst our public events, the core operations of the library are strong. Our staff provides research services for every level of library user, we provide library instruction in the classroom, and facilitate access whether the resource is a book we own, a database to which we subscribe, a precious primary resource cared for in our archives, or material borrowed from one of our many library partners.

Our library is also on the front lines of the battle to make education more affordable and accessible. Through a Washington Student Achievement Council Open Educational Resources Grant, CWU librarians are facilitating the creation of free online course materials for 27 CWU courses. This means that the students taking these classes will have high-quality, free texts.



Dean Rebecca Lubas at the welcome reception

In the coming academic year, I'm looking forward to the work we'll do in creating a new strategic plan for our library to build on our strengths. In the meantime, look for expanded offerings during finals week, new digital displays in the commons, and new book displays in the commons and on the first floor. It's a privilege to lead the CWU libraries.

Congratulations 2019 Scholarship Recipients

We are thrilled to announce the following library scholarship recipients:

The 2019 Tullis Library Student Employee Scholarship winners are Simone Tuilaepa and Vy Dam. The winners were selected based on the quality of their essays, strength of their letters of recommendation, and



Vy Dam (left) pictured with her supervisor, Gerard Hogan

overall GPA. Each winner received \$3,000, which goes toward tuition, fees, and books. Simone works at Jimmy B's serving coffee with a smile and Vy works at our first floor iDesk helping users find what they need. The Tullis Scholarship was established in 1990 in honor of Roy and Isabel Tullis.

The 2019 Brooks-Cutright Scholarship recipient is Jennifer Rosario. This scholarship is \$1,000 and is awarded to one outstanding student currently enrolled in our Library and Information Science program. The scholarship was established in 2018 to honor past CWU president and library namesake, James E. Brooks, and former dean of libraries, Patricia Cutright.



Jennifer Rosario (center) with current Dean of Libraries, Rebecca Lubas (left), and former Dean of Libraries, Patricia Cutright (right)



Simone Tuilaepa (right) pictured with the Dean of Libraries, Rebecca Lubas

Brooks Librarian Ginny Blackson Receives I Love My Librarian Award

In December 2018, collection development and management librarian, Ginny Blackson, received the I Love My Librarian award. This award is given to only a handful of recipients a year and recognizes outstanding leadership skills and achievements. Out of the 1,083 nominations, Blackson was one of the 10 selected for this honor. The award is a collaborative program of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the New York Public Library, the New York Times, and the American Library Association.

In an interview, Blackson said, “this award is an affirmation of 22 years [of working] in libraries.” Some of the initiatives she’s worked on have included the creation of a family study space in the library and obtaining a Pride Foundation grant that helped the library purchase materials about LGBTQ+ issues.



In the same interview, Blackson insisted it was a team effort: “none of the things I was nominated for were things I’d done alone.” It was her colleagues in the library that nominated her for this award. Blackson attributes her nomination to the “outstanding library” she works in. She could not have done this without the help of the amazing Brooks Library staff.

Blackson attended a reception in New York to accept this award and received a \$5,000 prize. She described the trip as an incredible opportunity to meet other top librarians. As a part of her time in New York, Blackson was able to see the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Public Library. It was an experience of a lifetime.

Any librarian working in public, private, school, college, or university libraries may be nominated for the I Love My Librarian Award and 110 librarians out of thousands have received it to date. The James E. Brooks Library is truly fortunate to have such an outstanding librarian on staff.

Happy Trails to Music Librarian, Mary Wise

After 34 years of service to CWU Brooks Library, Mary Wise will be retiring this June. Growing up in California, Mary dreamed of becoming a paleontologist. When she became aware that her chosen career path would require long hours working under the scorching sun, she began looking for a new direction. Eventually she followed her mother into library work because it seemed far more interesting than becoming a dental assistant. Mary worked for seven years in Los Angeles County, first as a children’s librarian and then running one of the small libraries in the county system, before moving to Ellensburg in 1984.



Mary began her career at Central as a tech 3, moving on to a specialist position, then as a non-tenure track and eventually a tenured librarian. In the 1990s, she earned a second master’s degree in education. When asked what she would miss the most after she

retired, Mary replied “the people, of course.” She has appreciated the comradeship and cooperation here at Brooks Library and has had a lot of fun working in libraries over the years. Mary has always enjoyed the patrons she’s helped, the people she’s worked for and the people she has worked with, including the man who put on her spare pumps, and modeled them for all to see.

Later this year, Mary and her husband Edward plan to take their vintage 1969 Westfalia camper on a road trip and motor along part of Route 66 from Amarillo to Santa Monica. They are looking forward to seeing the Slug Bug Ranch in Conway, Texas; the Blue

Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico; the wild burros in Oatman, Arizona; and the Route 66 Museum in Victorville, California. Hopefully they will get to stop at the 66 Diner in Albuquerque and sample Wayne’s Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas.



Jimmy B's

Jimmy B's had some exciting changes take place at the start of spring quarter. The popular library coffee shop now falls under CWU's Dining Services, which means Connection Cards will be accepted as an additional form of payment. Each day it offers fresh pastries, donuts, muffins, a variety of chips, Umpqua Oats oatmeal, and bagels from Blazin' Bagels. Jimmy B's now serves coffee by Thomas Hammer Coffee Roasters, a company based

out of Spokane, Washington. A monthly 16 oz. hot or cold drink special, such as Almond Roca mocha and Peeps mocha, will be available for just \$3.50. Finally, the coffee shop modified its hours and will open at 7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, coinciding with the library's opening.

For more information, visit cwu.edu/dining/jimmy-bs.

The Lion Rock Writers Series Brings Local and National Authors to Brooks Library

Students and faculty in the English Department at CWU are likely already aware of the many wonderful writers who are showcased at Lion Rock events. Writers ranging from Washington state poet laureates to Central faculty members, such as professors Sonya Dunning, Joe Powell, and Lisa Norris, have been featured speakers for the series.

Since 2005, CWU has brought together students, aspiring writers, and established writers for periodic Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series events. These events are aimed to “broaden exposure” and provide a connection among attendees and writers of color, LGBTQ+ writers, and women writers. These events are typically held on the second floor of the Brooks Library around six in the evening. The name Lion Rock was set forth by Judy Kleck, which is based off a local natural landmark.

Just recently on April 23rd, writer Kristiana Kahakauwila read drafts for her upcoming works. Her first book titled *This is Paradise: Stories* explores Hawaii and deep topics, such as what it means to be a native Hawaiian. She also gave a craft talk covering some of her writing techniques earlier the same day.

On May 7th, writer Erika L. Sánchez was featured in a craft talk and evening reading. Her first novel, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* is considered one of the most significant works in young adult fiction. She advocates for young women and speaks about young people of color and the life of undocumented immigrants.

Originally, the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series was partially funded by the College of Arts and Humanities under former dean Marji Morgan. Currently, Lion Rock has

several partners, including the Brooks Library, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Diversity and Equity Center, Club Senate, and several others.

More information on these events can be found at cwu.edu/english/lion-rock-visiting-writers-series. Typically, there are at least two writers showcased in the fall and winter and three in the spring.

Why Interning at a Library is Invaluable by April Duncan

We’ve all been in a library, some of us much more than others. We see the librarians behind the reference desk, the eager volunteers shelving books, and staff members assisting in the computer lab. What we see is only a glimpse, a fragment of what is going on and makes up the library.

As a library and information science student, I can say with certainty that interning at a library was an invaluable experience. There is something about hands-on, in-person experience that cannot be substituted with readings or class time.

I landed a 10-week internship at a public library as a “Tech Help Intern.” I came in five days a week for two or three hours. My job was to help anyone with technology issues. I found out right away, that my job was much more than that. I helped with reference transactions and catalog searches, which I had only learned about in class. As an intern, I learned how to work with patrons to find a solution.

My most common questions were about technology in the library itself. I showed dozens of patrons how to use library computers, printers, and copiers. By the end of my internship, I helped a total of 213 patrons with various tasks. I averaged about 21 patrons per week. I had a positive experience working with several librarians at the information desk. They all encouraged my growth and would assist me if I had any trouble answering a patron’s question. The best part of my internship was the relationships I built with the staff and patrons. I would have regular patrons come in and book 1-hour technology classes with me. These classes helped me to learn more about these technologies myself. In some cases, I was learning right along with the patrons.

When I look back at before this internship, I feel like I hardly knew anything. I have gained so much experience with reference transactions, technology assistance, and assisting patrons. Interning in a library is invaluable to anyone wishing to go into this field.

Contributors: Brenda Gardner, Gerard Hogan, Ronda Brooks Patrick, Maureen Rust, Julia Stringfellow, Emily Tickell, Lauren Wittek, April Duncan, Rebecca Lubas, Georgie Ainsley, Elizabeth Brown

Events Around the Library



President Gaudino welcomes guests to the grand opening of the new student commons.



Micheal Berry, UCLA scholar and translator of Yu Hua’s novel *To Live*, headlined the 2019 Big Read program



Over 60 guests visited the CWU Lynnwood library center for the spring New Student Orientation and Student Services Fair.



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Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Brooks Library board was excited to sponsor and join in the February 12 celebration to welcome new dean of Libraries Rebecca Lubas to CWU. As a stakeholder group, the board is passionate about how they can be a part of the dean's strategic plan.

Our immediate goal is to combine efforts with the dean to engage in increased fundraising, so we can continue supporting the library with some needed and creative ways. For example, we are joining the conversation on student food insecurities and are planning at least one event at the end of this spring quarter to address this. The board pays for the popular book lease program and collections such as the 20th Century Female Composers. We also helped pay for the format migration and bought books of the featured authors of the Lions Rock Speakers Series to enable more students to buy books for their personal collections. All donations to the Friends go right back into our library. Can you help by making a cash donation?



Members of the Brooks Library Friends of the Library at their January, 2019 board retreat

Once again, Maureen Rust and Julia Stringfellow presented at the United for Libraries midwinter meeting on Leveraging Your Community Ambassadors With Your Friends. We are really proud of our collaborative work with our librarians.

At our annual meeting, we are saying thank you for your service to Cynthia Pengilly, Allie Sheldon, and Susan Waddle. These volunteers have served on the board and worked on various projects, bringing a diverse range of experience and perspective to our group, and we appreciate their dedication.

Reminder, the Friends hold an annual book sale fundraiser each fall. Think of us with your book donations (no textbooks or VHS tapes, please). Also, there is a self-pay bookshelf in Jimmy B's – check it out.

Please join us at the annual meeting June 4 at 3 pm at the library.

Thanks for reading.
Ronda Brooks Patrick, outgoing President

For more information about the Friends of the Brooks Library, contact Maureen Rust, Library Liaison, at 509-963-2102 or email brooksfol@cwu.edu, or check out brooksfol.org

