SERENDIPITY
AND STARS ALIGNED

THIS PAST ACADEMIC YEAR HAS BEEN A FULFILLING, busy time for us at the UO Libraries, and I am eager for you to read about some of the amazing reasons why in this issue of Building Knowledge. As I contemplate our accomplishments and the generous support of donors and community members that made these achievements possible, I think about the ways that serendipity affects us all and can lead to unexpected, life-changing results.

Serendipity—the occurrence of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way—takes place in the UO Libraries when a researcher uses our online systems to locate a known item and then accidentally discovers that several books shelved near this title are even more revelatory than the work she originally wanted. Serendipity happens whenever students visit the library to access our collections and spaces, and suddenly realize there are people called librarians here too—people who are dedicated to helping them gain mastery over information and research strategies. (More than a few students have advised me that this happy discovery saved them countless hours of struggling alone on course assignments.)

Serendipity is also in play whenever our student employees realize they have fallen in love with the library and decide they want to work in one throughout their professional careers. It happens more often than you might imagine! You will read about the experiences of some of these students-turned-colleagues, including Hana Chan ‘07; Stan Hall ‘80, MS ‘90; and Nancy Slight-Gibney ‘78, MA ‘86. Notably, Nancy began working in the UO Libraries as a student assistant 35 years ago and will retire as assistant dean this year. In this issue, we also celebrate the gifts of two donors who established endowments to make new student-employment opportunities possible: the Mimi Vollstedt Library Student Internship created by the Ward family, and the Susan Dotson Poston and Albert B. Poston Math Library Student Employment Endowment Fund created by Bart Poston ’69.

Of course, serendipity alone is no substitute for thoughtful strategies and careful planning. A strong focus on our goals, a clear roadmap, and the right investments in people and resources all position the Libraries to achieve the best results for students and faculty. If we design and carry out our programs and services well, the stars align and magic happens. This occurred, for example, when we combined forces with the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and were awarded a large grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to enhance library-museum collaboration. An exhibit marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation inspired a donation of rare, historic books to our Special Collections. Research interest in the libraries’ holdings soared to new levels when attention intensified on renowned individuals who happened to be represented in our unique collections. We are proud to on renowned individuals who happened to be represented in our unique collections. We are proud to.

With your help, we at the UO Libraries will continue to strengthen our many programs, initiatives, and collections aimed at increasing student success and enhancing faculty research. We hope to see you in our virtual and physical spaces experiencing serendipitous discoveries of your own.

Thank you for your support!

Adriene Lim
Dean of Libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair
A sense of belonging at the library

AS PART OF THE COLLEGE TRANSITION PROJECT, the UO Office of Assessment and Research conducted a yearlong study, Sense of Belonging in Focus, to assess students’ impressions of our campus.

Why is this important? Research indicates that a sense of belonging plays a vital role in encouraging students to persist in school, complete their studies, and graduate.

The 2016–17 first-year cohort was invited to participate in an online assessment at the beginning (October) and end (May–June) of the academic year. In the end-of-year follow-up, students were asked to identify the places at UO where they feel the strongest sense of belonging and, conversely, not belonging.

Pre screening

FREE TO RUN, a 2016 European documentary, offered fresh perspective on a subject that often grabs headlines here in Eugene. It also featured some of the best historical footage of Oregon’s most legendary runner.

The film traced the evolution of running from a niche sport dominated by insiders, to a fitness, recreation, and lifestyle phenomenon that is now enjoyed by millions worldwide. The New York Times said, “[The film] is an idiosyncratic account of the rise of long-distance running over the last 50 years, viewing it not so much as sport as a social revolution shaking off the tyranny of running federations that limited participation.”

Of course, it would be impossible to tell any story about running without giving a big role to the University of Oregon. And the film’s creators held one Oregon athlete to be truly iconic in the sport’s popularization worldwide. Steve Prefontaine, hailed as the foremost American long-distance runner before his untimely death in 1975, also earned a reputation as a style setter and free spirit. To tell the story they wanted to tell, the team from Yuzu Productions and Arte France Cinema knew they would need the very best historical footage of Pre. They soon realized they would have to go halfway around the earth to get it.

“In the final cut of the movie, there are clips of him at the 1972 Track and Field Olympic Trials at Hayward Field, other track meets where he dominated, and of his memorial service at Hayward Field. Altogether, they used six clips from the KEZI/Chambers collection, two clips from our KVAL-TV news collection, and one clip from the films in the Bill Bowerman collection.”

Now you can have your Pi and eat it, too

EVERY YEAR, March 14 is International Pi Day, and mathematically inclined (or just curious) people celebrate creatively. This year, senior accounting major Renee Bodart fabricated a π-shaped cookie cutter in the Robert J. DeArmond MakerSpace and Annie Zeidman-Karpinski, the Kenneth M. and Kenda H. Singer Science Librarian, was so impressed that she commissioned the baking of the cookies.

Knight Library was named one of the top three spots on campus where students most feel they belong. We were proud to learn of this—but not surprised! This accolade is a tribute to the combined efforts of all our librarians, staff, student workers, and administrators who have conscientiously worked to ensure that the library remains a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive resource for all students, from their first day on campus to graduation day.

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TGI #BookfaceFriday

YOU’VE HEARD ABOUT FACEBOOK . . . but do you know about #BookfaceFriday?

Bookface is a social media trend that first took off around 2015. It involves strategically melding art and life in a kind of visual pun. Librarians and other book lovers worldwide post these photos weekly using the tag #BookfaceFriday. It’s a fun way to celebrate traditional media in the digital age.

In case you missed them online, here are two of our favorite UO Libraries bookfaces.

Mathletes win big thanks to #DucksGive 2018 supporters

#DUCKSGIVE, the UO’s third annual giving day, ran from noon, May 16 to midnight, May 17, 2018. For the third year in a row, the event was a smashing success for UO Libraries! We received 220 gifts totaling $280,410. Library supporters kicked in 28 percent of the total amount raised across campus. That’s awesome!

Special thanks are due to library champions Bart Poston ’69 and R.J. Norris ’76. R.J.’s $2,500 challenge gift incentivized the first 25 people to step up and donate. Later in the day, when the count of donations reached 150, Bart’s challenge gift of $250,000 was unlocked, creating the Susan Dotson Poston and Albert B. Poston Math Library Student Employment Endowment Fund to honor his late wife, Sue Poston, who was a math instructor for many years. This vital fund ensures that the Math Library will be able to continue providing the popular “Mathlete” peer-to-peer, free tutoring services in perpetuity.

The seven libraries in our system employ more student workers than any other academic unit at UO. Our library student workers earn more than just a paycheck; they also gain experience and training that relates to their studies. They enjoy scheduling flexibility to help balance work and school. A job at the library also provides valuable opportunities to make connections with faculty, staff, and fellow students outside their schools and majors.

Thank you to everyone who supported us during #DucksGive 2018!
$300,000 Mellon Foundation Grant to Enhance UO Libraries-Jordan Schnitzer Museum Collaborations

New faculty fellowships will support the use of library-museum assets in research, teaching, and learning

The University of Oregon recently was awarded a $300,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support enhanced collaboration among campus libraries and museums, and to encourage increased use of library-museum assets in research, teaching, and learning.

The award funds a new program to be led by the UO Libraries and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA). The program will issue Mellon Fellowship Grants to UO faculty members throughout the initiative’s three-year duration, and will provide integrated library-museum education and support services to develop and realize the Fellows’ projects. Three Mellon Fellows will be selected for the 2018–2019 academic year, and three for 2019–2020.

“We are honored and excited to receive this award,” said Adriene Lim, dean of libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair. “By partnering with UO faculty to complete innovative curricular and research projects, we will increase the use of our jointly held collections and raise awareness of the vital role of libraries and museums in preserving cultural heritage.”

Added Jill Hartz, executive director of the art museum, “It also reinforces the importance of the arts and humanities in the university’s research and teaching activities. We are thrilled to have the Mellon Foundation’s support of this initiative. We look forward to building this innovative collaboration between our units and partnering with faculty to do more than we can do on our own.”

One added benefit of the grant is the opportunity to test out a new graduate learning model that will contribute to the professional training of emerging library and museum professionals. A portion of the funds will be used to support the first joint library-museum position for a post-doctoral fellow, as well as two graduate employees who will help carry out the program’s activities while gaining valuable experience in interdisciplinary academic and cultural heritage settings.

“This opportunity aligns with the university’s mission on multiple levels, and advances the university’s goals of increasing research activity as well as institutional capacity,” said Jayanth Banavar, senior vice president and provost. “I am grateful for The Mellon Foundation’s support and recognition of the JSMA’s and the UO Libraries’ collaborative approach, expertise, and distinctive collections.”

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Founded in 1969, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation endeavors to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies by supporting exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work. Additional information is available at mellon.org.
Homegrown Talents

For any student, getting a job in the library can be a life-changing event. Some people find it so rewarding that it grows into a career! Meet a few of our amazing UO Libraries staff who first came aboard as UO students.

By Lauren Walbridge MFA '14

Sammi Fisher '16
Access Services Assistant
Knight Library

“I began my second year of college with a work-study job in a biology lab at UO, but I soon wished for something to do with film, sound, and communication technology. I was hired in a student position in the Instructional Media Center (IMC), which is now the Center for Media and Educational Technology (CMET). I completed my undergrad work while employed at the IMC, and after graduate school and a few years away, I was again hired into the IMC in 1991. I must say it has been very interesting to see the tremendous change in audiovisual and video technology over the 27+ years I’ve been employed in the library.”

Stan Hall ’80, MS ’90
Classroom Technologies Manager
Knight Library

“I started reading at two years old so working in a library is my calling. I like seeing everyone who uses the library—the whole community visits us! At first, I wasn’t a natural but now I feel comfortable talking to and helping patrons. As a student employee, I received good training in customer service and learned skills that can apply anywhere. Now I use my own experience to add to the current training I can offer to new student employees.”

Kate Smith ’10
Resource Sharing Manager
Knight Library

“I started in Lending Services in 2005 and also in the Portland branch while completing my BFA. After graduation and a brief stint elsewhere, I was hired on as permanent staff in 2012. I love working with our student employees and seeing the diverse paths they take while they’re here. It’s really neat to see how they evolved from when they start at the UO to who they are when they’re leaving the UO. They are quite inspiring!”

Neil Wilson ’86, MMus ’93
Music Cataloger and Metadata Technician
Knight Library

“I was hired at the checkout desk in September 1983. I was referred to the library because it was close to the music school, where I was studying trumpet and voice at the time. When I graduated, I was hired full time in the same department, and am now using my music degree to catalog music scores and recordings. I’ve been very fortunate to hire many wonderful student employees, three of whom are now my coworkers.”

Nancy Slight-Gibney ’78, MA ’86
Assistant Dean for Library Resource Management
UO Libraries

Even as an undergraduate, Nancy Slight-Gibney had her priorities in order. “I started in Lending Services in 2005 and also in the Portland branch while completing my BFA. After graduation and a brief stint elsewhere, I was hired on as permanent staff in 2012. I love working with our student employees and seeing the diverse paths they take while they’re here. It’s really neat to see how they evolved from when they start at the UO to who they are when they’re leaving the UO. They are quite inspiring!”

A month after graduation, Slight-Gibney started a full-time position in the acquisition department which kicked off four decades of working as a staff member, graduate student, librarian, and assistant dean. After 35 years at UO, Slight-Gibney is now retiring. Her wealth of practical experience and institutional knowledge have guided the UO Libraries through growth and transition and shaped the careers of countless colleagues. Still, she credits her success to the libraries and librarians she encountered along the way. “I’ve had an excellent career,” she said, “guided and supported by some amazing mentors. And I still don’t know of a better place to work.”

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Clara Piazzola '15
OIMB Library Clerk
Loyd and Dorothy Rippey Library, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB)

It started with a soupfin shark and a crummy apartment. “We had seen a shark in the boat basin during my ecology class,” Clara Piazzola said. “I spent half my lunch break scanning through the Loyd and Dorothy Rippey Library’s shark collection to try and figure out the species.” Piazzola was in her first year at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in the small coastal town of Charleston, Oregon. Because of her crummy apartment—“no internet or temperature control”—Piazzola soon began spending most of her time in the library, often staying past midnight to collaborate on projects with classmates or do her own research and reading. “Nearly every good memory I have from that first term at OIMB happened in the Rippey Library.”

When Barb Butler, the former OIMB librarian, casually mentioned that her student assistant was graduating, Piazzola volunteered that she was already spending more time in the library than at her apartment. With a five-minute interview and a handshake, the two agreed that Piazzola would begin work in the spring. Originally, Piazzola had come to OIMB to pursue a career in marine biology but found that she disliked lab and field work. Thankfully, she still loved the science, and Butler’s offer was exactly what she needed. Piazzola fell in love with the library work, and the projects she worked on as an assistant helped her get both research and authorship credits early in her career. Encouraged by her experience as an OIMB student and student-employee, Piazzola floated the idea of getting a masters degree in library science to Butler who, with great enthusiasm, helped her through the process and wrote her a recommendation. Half-way through that program, Butler decided to retire, and Piazzola returned to the library that had become her true home.

Piazzola is clear about the way the library has changed her life: “I would not be the person I am today without the Rippey Library. It has provided me in turn with both a safe space and a career when I most needed them. This library is my roots, and no matter how far I grow or where I stretch my proverbial branches, it will always be because I came from the Loyd and Dorothy Rippey Library.” It’s also clear that the library would not be the same without her.

Jimmy Murray
Technology Specialist and Student Supervisor
Math Library and Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library

Jimmy Murray did not come to UO for a career in libraries. “I was the first person in my family to graduate high school,” he said. “I wanted to become a high school history teacher.”

As a student employee, Murray’s first position in the libraries was shelving books at Knight. (Coincidentally, he was hired by Neil Wilson; the two had gone to the same high school, though a decade apart.) Still studying history and planning for life as a teacher, Murray found the supportive library culture essential to his acquisition of new organizational and research skills. “I am not confident I would have been aware of what was available to me or [been] as successful a student without my experience working in the library.”

Murray became full-time staff in 2004 and to his surprise and delight, he felt like a teacher: he worked closely with college students on their research and provided mentoring and career development opportunities to “a constantly refreshing batch of amazingly bright and passionate student employees.” Murray’s story also exemplifies the way in which dedicated employees create future generations of library lovers and leaders: Neil Wilson, who hired Murray, was also a former library student employee who became full-time staff. In turn, Murray now hires and supervises many incoming student employees.

Lauren Goss ‘11
Accessioning and Processing Archivist
Knight Library

“As a Thomas intern, I worked for 18 months on processing the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics films collection stored in Special Collections and University Archives. I gained basic film conservation skills, learned about archival processing, and worked with library development to fundraise for the stabilization of the collection. After completing my MLIS degree in May 2017, I began my new full-time position in SCUA as the accessioning and processing archivist.”
Tribal News is Oregon History

By David G. Lewis '97, MA '00, PhD '09

The last eight years have seen huge growth in the availability of Oregon's newspapers in a digital format. Historic Oregon Newspapers (oregonnews.uoregon.edu) now offers dozens of papers from throughout Oregon. Many of the newspapers are not offered in their full run, and the available issues may have physical and previous reproduction flaws, but for historians, these media records from the 19th and early 20th centuries are invaluable. The Historic Oregon Newspaper site was created by and is operated by the University of Oregon Libraries' Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP), and offers a fully searchable database.

I have used the site for many of research projects as a practicing public anthropologist. Besides the regular Oregon community newspapers, there are some tribal publications on the site that should interest researchers in tribal histories.

In 2013 I was working as Tribal Historian with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and began talking with the ODNP personnel about placing our newspaper Smoke Signals on the website. As a former student of the UO, I knew that Knight Library had hard copies of most of the back issues archived with its extensive newspaper collection. With the support of Grand Ronde's Public Affairs Director, Siobhan Taylor, and through the generosity of donors, I was able to arrange the digitization of the newspaper by UO. In 2014, the full run of the Smoke Signals newspapers (with a few rare issues missing) became available on the Historic Oregon Newspapers site.

For the UO newspaper archives, I also found copies of the earlier missing issues in tribal member collections—I even was able to find copies from when it was published on the tribal mimeograph machine, as single page newsletters, in the collections of Greg Archuleta and other tribal members. These tribal members were working and organizing the tribe in the period of time when the tribe was being restored from federal termination (final restoration occurred on November 22, 1983). Archuleta began the newspaper and it was instrumental in helping organize tribal members for all manner of restoration needs, including meetings, tribal news, funding opportunities, and educational opportunities. Finding those early issues helped complete the Grand Ronde Cultural Department's own historic Smoke Signals collection.

During the project, I also suggested that they digitize early issues of the Chemawa American newspaper, created at Chemawa Indian School. I was able to find a bound copy of early Chemawa American newspapers, 1914–1915, and these are now digitized on the website. The records consist of articles by students, records of student activities, and photos, many of them of Oregon Natives. There does not appear to be anywhere in any archive a full collection of the Chemawa American newspapers extant.

Just recently, ODNP also made available a large run of the Spilyay Tymoo newspaper out of Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, running from 1986 to 2011. This tribal newspaper features similar news, community events, funding opportunities, and educational opportunities, which helps the tribe organize and get the news out to its tribal members.

Having these tribal newspapers available and searchable online makes researching the history of tribes so much easier today than in the past. I have not seen the like, on any other websites, where tribal newspapers are part of the regional newspaper collection. University of Oregon’s project is the most inclusive by far, which offers to researchers another set of perspectives about the history and events in the State of Oregon.

Too often, tribal history and culture in the state have been ignored, made invisible, and passed over in all manner of historic writings. There are nine Oregon tribes, which are confederations representing more than 70 tribes in Oregon, and they are significant parts of the cultural fabric of the state of Oregon. I hope that the other Oregon tribes consider placing their newspapers on this public website for the benefit of all.

David G. Lewis is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and a professional anthropologist, ethno-historian, archivist, and educator. He is an adjunct professor with Chemeketa Community College and serves as a member of the Oregon Heritage Commission.

Thank you to the generous donors who supported the digitization of Oregon's Tribal News.

Smoke Signals and Spilyay Tymoo: Andrea and David Arlington
Chemawa American: Carol James

We are all Salmon People

For Native American Heritage Month, the UO Libraries created Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum: We Are All Salmon People, an exhibit honoring Oregon’s tribal communities and their traditional cultures, knowledge, and lifeways that have sustained them since time immemorial.

Selected photographs from the Jacqueline Moreau papers were featured. These images document the Native American peoples along the Columbia River and their fight to secure fishing and water rights in the 1980s and 1990s. Thanks to their hard work, dedication, and determination, the salmon continue to thrive in their natural waters, preserving an ancient bond.

Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum: We Are All Salmon People was created by Jan Smith (Klallam) and Jenifer D’Neal (Grand Ronde), Danielle Mericle, and Mandi Garcia. blogs.uoregon.edu/scua/2017/11/22/new-exhibit-wy-kan-ush-pum-we-are-all-salmon-people/
And the Oscar for best adapted screenplay goes to . . .

**UO Alum James Ivory!**

By Jason Stone

The UO Libraries cheered as James Ivory, a 1951 UO graduate, took home the Oscar for best adapted screenplay for *Call Me by Your Name* at the 90th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

The award-winning filmmaker’s papers are held in our Special Collections and University Archives. Many film aficionados would argue that his Oscar was long overdue. For decades, as half of the famed Merchant Ivory Productions, he co-authored, produced, and directed numerous critically lauded films that garnered 31 Academy Award nominations and six statuettes. In past years, Ivory had received best director nominations for *A Room with a View*, *Howard’s End* and *The Remains of the Day*, but the 2018 screenplay award was his first Oscar win in an individual category.

“For both his incredible body of work and the beauty of this film, James Ivory certainly deserves the lasting recognition this Oscar brings,” said Michael Aronson, head of the Department of Cinema Studies. “He wrote a masterful script of a universal story, about figuring out your way in the world and falling in love for the first time.”

In his award acceptance speech, Ivory noted, “Whether straight or gay or somewhere in between, we’ve all gone through first love, I hope, mostly intact.”

The Oscar winner is also a recipient of the Lawrence Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

In the question-and-answer session that followed, Ivory explained that he first became involved in the project only intending to serve as an executive producer. But when Italian filmmaker Luca Guadagnino signed on to direct, he suggested that Ivory consider co-directing the movie with him.

“I never co-directed with anybody and I wasn’t even sure how you would do that,” Ivory said. “I thought surely you would get into disputes in front of everybody, particularly the actors, and that would be terrible.”

Despite his reservations, Ivory agreed to the collaborative directing arrangement on one condition: that he be allowed to write his own screenplay. Working from André Aciman’s novel, he spent the better part of a year refining it. Guadagnino was impressed—although he would end up directing the film on his own due to some issues with investors, he still decided to shoot it from Ivory’s script.

“When it comes time to write an adapted screenplay, there are advantages to having been a director,” Ivory reflected. “You have the book in hand. There is the dialogue; there is the set-up; there is the emotion for the scene. Basically it’s all there in front of you, but you have to reorganize it somehow. I said right off, ‘I’m going to make these cuts.’ I thought some things in the book were unnecessary to the film, or they would be impossible to do. I just proceeded from there and I had to make up things as I went along sometimes.”

Set in Italy during a single, idyllic summer, *Call Me by Your Name* tells the story of the love affair between 17-year-old Elio, growing up in a cosmopolitan family of academics, and Oliver, the American graduate student who boards with them and assists Elio’s father with his research.

The highly internalized, first-person narrative of the novel proved challenging to adapt for onscreen storytelling, Ivory said. The finished film contains elements from the book, plus elements that he added as screenwriter and elements reflecting Guadagnino’s decisions as director.

Ivy explained, “An example of a scene with a lot of dialogue that I took pretty directly from the book is the scene between the father and the son near the end. All of that was written out by Aciman. But there weren’t that many scenes with extensive dialogue of that kind.

“An example of something I worked very hard to create, because it’s not in the book, is the whole business with the statue. I had to find something for the father to do; in the book he’s just smoking and going through his papers all the time. So I made the father into a Classicist and then I invented the thread of the statue being found underwater.”

In addition to sharing insights about his screenwriting craft, Ivory also reminisced about growing up in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

“It was a western town dominated by lumber and cattle. My father owned a saw mill . . . I went to the movies constantly. My first film I went to see in Klamath Falls, when I was five. It would have been the summer of 1933.”

Ivory began creating miniature “rooms-in-a-box” when he was 13, and by the time he was in high school, he decided that he wanted to be a set designer for the movies. However, he had no clue how to break in. When he asked a family friend for advice, the man suggested that studying interior architecture might be a good starting point.

“I knew the University of Oregon had a terrific architecture school, so it was on to Oregon.”

Ivory studied architecture and fine arts. Looking back, he said that he enjoyed his time in college, although fellow art students of the era tended to deride his dream of working in the movies.

“If I had wanted to be a great painter or sculptor or something like that, perhaps they would have been more approving.”

While he was in school, Ivory recalled, he designed stage sets for a French-language play starring another Duck who would go on to an acclaimed career in cinema, James Blue. He also created an architectural diorama that is still retained in the permanent collection of the Special Collections and University Archives. (See back cover.)

After graduating from the UO, Ivory earned a master’s degree in filmmaking from the University of Southern California. For his thesis project, he wrote, photographed, and produced a half-hour documentary, “Venice: Theme and Variations.” It was named by the *New York Times* as one of the 10 best non-theatrical films of 1957, launching Ivory’s professional career.
“Wild Wild Country” of Rajneeshpuram

As one of the most unusual incidents in Oregon's recent history gains renewed attention through a popular Netflix program, discussions about Rajneeshpuram have also been rekindled on the UO campus.

For viewers whose interests were piqued by the series and want to learn more, the UO Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives holds a definitive collection of historical documents and artifacts related to Rajneesh and makes these resources available to the public as well as scholars and researchers.

Debuting on March 16, 2018, the documentary series *Wild Wild Country* tells the story of the conflicts that arose when the controversial Indian spiritual leader Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and thousands of his devoted followers attempted to establish an intentional community in rural Central Oregon.

In 1981, the group purchased a 64,000-acre property near the small town of Antelope. Their ambition was to raise a permanent city, Rajneeshpuram, ground-up from the arid ranch land. They quickly succeeded in establishing a thriving community—however, it didn't take long for tensions to arise between the newcomers and some longtime residents of Wasco County.

Public figures including Dave Frohnmayer and Bill Bowerman became involved and, within just a few years, the conflicts would escalate from legal battles over land-use issues to charges of illegal surveillance, arson, attempted murder, and bioterrorism.


“*I also interviewed devotees in Portland, Eugene, and Salem, as well as a number of ranchers and Antelope residents during the early 1980s.*”

Goldman admitted that, like many others, she recently got caught up in binge-watching all six hours of the *Wild Wild Country* Netflix series.

“My overall impression is that the documentary was beautifully done. It’s got a great narrative hook—irreconcilable differences, and only through good luck was violence avoided.”

However, Goldman also noted that some choices made by the producers have rendered their version of the story less than complete.

“*Their major sources seem to have consisted of the most sensationalized news clips of the day, and some of the interview subjects they picked as major spokespeople were not unbiased.*

“Also, there’s nothing substantive about Bhagwan’s teachings and philosophies that drew so many people—including a large number of high-achieving women—to his work and to Rajneeshpuram. I wish there had been more time devoted to the ordinary followers who might have provided more perspective on day-to-day life in the community. In many ways this was not a stereotypical ‘cult.’ Tourists were welcomed, and residents were free to come, go, and host visitors.”

At the same time, Goldman said the historical record makes clear that Rajneeshpuram committed many violations against Oregon land-use statutes, and that some community members, including leaders, eventually were convicted of far more serious crimes.

“Dave Frohnmayer [attorney general of Oregon at the time of the controversy] and the attorneys in his office were committed to implementing consistent communications and the rule of law. Frohnmayer’s opinion on the City...”

This robe that once belonged to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh was part of a 2014 exhibition of the collection materials in Knight Library.
of Rajneeshpuram’s violations of the constitutional separation of church and state was vital in bringing a peaceful denouement to the Rajneesh years. Moreover, his patience and meticulous implementation of the law safeguarded everyone involved. It was a model of restraint.”

For serious researchers as well as the merely curious, Goldman pointed to UO Libraries as a great resource of information.

“Special Collections houses the most balanced, comprehensive collection of manuscripts, publications, and ephemera of the Rajneesh years in Oregon,” she said. “It balances materials from opponents with official Rajneesh documents and personal communications from non-Rajneesh supporters.”

Linda Long, UO Libraries’ curator of manuscripts, worked together with Goldman to assemble many of the collection materials over a period of years. In 2004, they videotaped a day-long interview with Sheela Birnstiel (aka Ma Anand Sheela) at her residence in Switzerland. And in 1999, they were among the last people to visit the Rajneeshpuram property before it was transferred to new owners.

“We saw the console where they did all the wiretapping,” Long recalled. “In Sheela’s bathroom there was a button she could press that would lock all the doors into the building. There was a false back in the closet in her hot tub room, with a steep ladder that went down to the basement where they brewed the salmonella culture. We were down there in the dark and Marion backed up against a bookcase—and it springs open, too! It was sort of like being in a Nancy Drew mystery.”

Goldman said the library collection will have enduring value for researchers because Rajneeshpurum was more than just an eccentric episode of the 1980s. Rather, it reflected a longstanding dynamic in the culture of the state and region.

“Oregon has attracted communal groups for over two centuries because there is no dominant church and until the 21st century land was relatively inexpensive. From the Jesus People (Shiloh Youth Revival Movement), to Lesbian Lands and Alpha Farm, alternative cultures and intentional communities have helped shape the state’s history.”

That Rajneeshpuram has reentered the national consciousness and rekindled conversations more than three decades after the community was shuttered has not come as a complete surprise to Goldman.

“For a while I thought this was an event that had been submerged in history, because in the end nobody died. But the public always seems to come back around to an interest in cults, and for people who are millennials it’s a new story.”
Allies not Enemies

When it comes to issues of censorship and information access, the library profession stakes out a clear position.

The American Library Association (ALA) Code of Ethics, Article VII, states: “We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.”

The code is clear, but interpretations still can vary widely in this era of quickly-evolving professional practice and often-divisive politics.

With the aim of fostering relevant conversations around these complex issues, the UO Libraries’ Biennial Symposium on Freedom of Expression and Information Policy in an Era of Change aims to bring national scholars and library thought leaders to the University of Oregon.

Held on the afternoon of March 5, the inaugural 2018 panel presentation and discussion was organized on the theme of Allies not Enemies: Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice. It was one of three campus events selected to launch the Office of the President’s Freedom of Expression event series—a program aimed at nurturing a productive conversation among UO community members who hold diverse academic, professional, and personal perspectives.

Distinguished panelists for Allies not Enemies were:

Jody Gray, the director of the American Library Association’s Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (OCLOS) and an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.


Emily Knox, an assistant professor with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Information Sciences, the author of Book Banning in 21st Century America, and a board member of the Association for Information Science and Technology, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and the National Coalition Against Censorship.

“Certainly, the perspectives of our distinguished librarian panelists have enriched the campus conversation about freedom of expression,” said Adriene Lim, dean of libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair.

Lim noted that the nature of all librarians’ work and their code of professional ethics have provided them with a unique perspective on free speech and social justice issues.

“For librarians, our focus on intellectual freedom and on the Library Bill of Rights has meant that we are on guard against any ideological bias or censorship in our work, even as we also cherish our values of diversity, democracy, and social justice. We know that to achieve intellectual freedom, the voices and histories of people who have been oppressed or marginalized need to be made accessible and preserved in the record.”

“Wherever we went, my mom was always proud of a community’s library and regarded it as a centerpiece. Reading was huge in our family.”

“Shes somebody who was impossible to forget,” reflected Peter Ward ’17, Mimi’s youngest son. “People looked up to her for the choices she made, for the life she lived. She was all about experiences and living life sincerely. She had endless time and patience for people and a lot of wisdom.”

Tragically, Mimi was diagnosed with advanced-stage cancer in 2010. Her dauntless spirit would be tested—even this terminal illness could never take away her zest for living, learning, and serving others.

After her passing in 2011, Mimi’s husband, Mark Ward, and her sons Matthew and Peter decided that one of the most appropriate ways of honoring her memory would be to establish an educational internship in her name, to help support the endeavors of students with similar goals and values. But where to establish it? And for what kind of program?

The answers would lead them to the UO Libraries, but the path was laid out by the family’s history together.

Mary Ruth Vollstedt—a kind of family friend and family as “Mimi”—was born in Albany, Oregon, raised in Coos Bay, educated in New Orleans, and lived all over the world. At various times in her life she worked as an attorney, a law librarian with the U.S. Department of Justice, and a full-time mother of two boys, bringing equal dedication and positive energy to all these roles.

Mary Ruth Vollstedt

Mimi and Mark met when they were both working as young attorneys in the Washington, DC area. Soon after they married, Mark secured a position with the United States Foreign Service. For 12 consecutive years, his work kept the young family overseas and moving frequently. At various times they lived in Egypt, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Russia.

Through it all, though, Oregon remained a kind of home base, if only for a few precious weeks per year. Every summer, the family returned to visit Mimi’s relatives in Eugene and to vacation along the Oregon Coast. During one of these visits, Peter was born at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene.

Sitting in the Ford Alumni Center, he reflected, “I’ve always felt proud to be an Oregonian, even though I never got to live here until much later.”

As Mark’s career progressed, the Foreign Service began deploying him to more dangerous areas of the world. He was unable to bring his family along, so Mimi and the children resettled in Washington, DC after more than a decade abroad. With the family more permanently settled and the boys now getting old enough to get along without a mom on duty full time, Mimi turned her attention to renewing her career.

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Dear Mr. Ward,

After studying literature and printmaking, I came to the University of Oregon from Southeast Idaho a few years ago to complete a graduate degree in art history. I had the good fortune to find a library student position in the conservation lab in the Knight Library, where I learned that my interests in history, conservation, and service were well suited to a career in librarianship. Being from rural Idaho, academic librarianship was not a career path I was ever exposed to and my positive experiences in Knight Library were central to my decision to pursue this path. Now that I am enrolled in my second semester of an MLS program, I am grateful for the continued job opportunities available in this library that have allowed me to stay in Eugene while I learn more about the profession through mentorship and invest my own research and energy into the completion of many important projects here.

My current work in Special Collections and University Archives includes processing an archival collection of original artwork by artist Scenic Scott, comprised of daily political cartoons drawn for The Oregonian from 1931-1949. I am writing the finding aid for this collection, and I’ve also had the opportunity to participate in the process of creating a corresponding digital collection from start to finish. This has required thoughtfully selecting works to adequately represent the collection through its digital surrogates and creating appropriate metadata for increased public access to a collection that provides valuable insight into our regional history. In addition to my work on archival projects like this one, I have been able to learn more about other areas of special collections work, such as public service, through writing blogs and website content in order to ensure that new and important materials in our collections are fully accessible to students, faculty, and the public.

I want to sincerely thank you and your family for this generous gift that will support me and many future master’s library students. Such a contribution alleviates a significant financial burden for a full-time student and provides the opportunity for me to consider the library as a second classroom where I can further expand my knowledge of librarianship. This gift also allows me to complete my library studies here in Eugene and continue to serve a community that I love. I look forward to meeting your family and sharing more in May.

Sincerely,

Alexa Goff
Mimi Vollstedt Library Student Intern

Thank you!
Donella Russell
Vicky Curry
Kurt Vollstedt
Mathew Ward
Peter Ward
Jeannette Baker
Christy Vollstedt
Mark Ward

Friends and family of Mimi Vollstedt gathered at a Knight Library reception to meet Alexa Goff, first recipient of the UO Libraries’ Maryruth “Mimi” Vollstedt Library Student Internship.

Alexa Goff
Mimi Vollstedt Library Student Intern

As a graduate student, Peter Ward ’17 played the lead role in Eugene Oregin, a bilingual adaptation of Pushkin’s novel in verse. Produced in 2016 for UO’s Russian Theatre by the Department of Theatre Arts, Global Scholars of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies in collaboration with UO Libraries, Department of Theatre Arts, Global Scholars Hall, and University Housing.
Superstar Student Workers

Sandra Dorning
Editor-in-Chief, Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal (OURJ)

Major: Marine Biology
Minor: Political Science
Year: BS '17
Magna Cum Laude, Clark Honors College
Hometown: Portland, OR
Fun Fact: She studied the acoustic behavior of Omura’s whales off the coast of Madagascar.

From volunteer to student worker
“On the OURJ editorial board, the other positions are volunteer, but, thanks to donor support, the editor-in-chief gets paid a stipend. By the time I got to be editor-in-chief my senior year, it didn’t feel like a job; it felt like I was just doing work for OUR Journal that I would’ve wanted to do anyway! But I think the stipend is really important because that support is showing the editor-in-chief how much the Libraries values all the extra work you are putting in. It infuses a student-led organization with a huge vote of confidence.”

The editor-in-chief’s job is . . .
“Really important. You’re sort of behind the scenes making sure everything runs smoothly. You organize the whole publication process and work as a liaison between the faculty advisors and the editorial board. You’re the one managing the submissions coming in from students. As editor-in-chief, you are not editing the papers yourself—you are distributing those assignments to your editors, so that we can maintain the anonymity we need for double-blind peer review.”

Family of Ducks
“UO has been in my life, all of my life. My parents both went to UO, and they were both very happy when I decided to come here. I grew up spending summer vacations on the Oregon coast and decided I wanted to study marine animals when I was 11. When I found out we have a great marine biology program here at UO, I knew it was the perfect fit.”

Working together, learning together
“In my experience as a student, you spend a lot of time studying, you spend a lot of time doing research. I did a lot of my school work in a solitary setting, sitting in front of a computer screen. So I really enjoyed having a job setting where I interacted with people a couple of hours a day, formed relationships, and contributed to something together.”

Read more about Sandra at around.uoregon.edu/content/uo-grad-wins-prestigious-marshall-scholarship-study-abroad

Melissa Galvan
Library Student Assistant with the Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library

Major: Biology and Ethnic Studies
Year: Junior
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Fun Fact: Sometimes she misses the beaches back home—but in Oregon, she has learned to love fall.

A science library job is many jobs in one
“At the Science Library I staff the front desk; I answer students’ questions and help them find resources for their research projects; I ship and receive books; I check out laptops, videogames, calculators, and chargers; I am responsible for closing the Science Library at night; and I train students to use our Visualization Lab and Robert J. DeArmond MakerSpace.”

Learning the ropes in the DeArmond MakerSpace
“The library’s makerspace is an amazing resource. I love it because it’s a hands-on learning space, and it’s also a space for students to create their own personal projects. I need to know how each piece of equipment works in order to help people with their projects and make sure that safety rules are being followed. Through this job, I have grown less intimidated by machinery. Now I know how to work a big CNC router, an industrial sewing machine, a vinyl cutter, and a 3-D printer.”

Building confidence on the job
“Talking to different library users every day builds your confidence in how you handle situations. My work has definitely translated to my academics. I used to be shy in the classroom—I didn’t like asking questions or being called on. Now I’m a totally different person in class. I ask lots of questions and seek out the people and resources who can help me find the answers.”

Best thing about living in Eugene
“It’s my first time seeing all of the seasons! Now I can truly say that fall is my favorite time of year.”

Balancing work and school
“I thought it would be really hard to balance school and work, but it’s actually been easy. A lot of on-campus jobs are very aware that you are a student first and foremost, and they work with your schedule. They work around your classes. There is always going to be time for you.”

Watch a video about Melissa at around.uoregon.edu/student-jobs-melissa-galvan

The Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal (OURj) is an open access publication showcasing some of the best research and publications by UO undergraduate students across all disciplines. OURj is edited and produced by an undergraduate student editorial board, advised by Barbara Jenkins, UO Libraries’ coordinator of outreach and special programs.

Read more at blogs.uoregon.edu/ourj.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON AUTUMN 2017/2018
Fall 2017 exhibit of rare books from UO Libraries’ Special Collections marked the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, one of modern history’s formative events.

by Jason Stone
Photo captions from the exhibit text by David Luebke, Department of History

In the beginning was the Word.

This ancient article of faith, paradoxically enough, also serves as an apt descriptive salvo for the birth of the modern worldview. Co-sponsored by the University of Oregon Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives and the Kellenberger Library of Northwest Christian University, a fall 2017 exhibition illuminated multiple perspectives on Reformation history and thought through the display of authentic, period materials from our respective rare books collections.

“The explosion of book production between the 15th and 16th centuries was just astronomical,” noted Special Collections Librarian Bruce Tabb. “The UO Libraries is fortunate to have many of these primary sources in our permanent collections—everything from medieval manuscript codices to some of the earliest books mechanically printed with set type.”

As showcased in “Word Made Print: Reformation and the History of the Book,” the world’s first “media event” occurred when a scholar-priest living in Saxony published his lengthy list of criticisms against the Catholic Church’s selling of indulgences. Today there is some doubt as to whether Martin Luther literally “nailed his 95 Theses to the church door” at Wittenberg on October 31, 1517—what is beyond debate, however, is that his act of protest fomented social and theological ramifications that quickly spread to every corner of Europe, and that continue to bear consequences down to the present day.

“Few historical events have touched so many lives around the world, whether Christian or not,” noted UO Professor of History David Luebke, one of the exhibit’s organizers. “Together, Reformation and print generated a revolution in communication and accelerated the unprecedented transformation of Christianity into the first globe-spanning religion.”

The Protestant Reformation began as an attempt to reform the Church, by priests who opposed what they perceived as false doctrines and systematic corruption. In addition to the theological factors, however, the roots of the Reformation were intertwined with the advent of humanism, nationalism, heterodox education, and the Renaissance spirit of skepticism before tradition.

“Technological innovation played a vital role as well. With the invention and rapid spread of Gutenberg’s printing press, for the first time there existed the means to broadly disseminate written materials. Reformers embraced the new technology, producing inexpensive pamphlets, religious tracts, and Scriptures translated into the vernacular European languages. New uses, forms, and aesthetics of the printed word quickly developed, varying across the different Christian churches that were emerging. Consequently, the Reformation would play a decisive role in the promotion of literacy and the expansion of Christianity as a world religion.”

“It’s a really interesting idea to consider a socio-cultural event like the Reformation in parallel to the technological transformation in book production that occurred at around the same time period,” Tabb said. “The result is a fascinating exhibit that is both academically rigorous and visually appealing.”

Together, Reformation and print generated a revolution in communication. The proliferation of sacred and liturgical texts translated into the vernacular made complex religious controversies accessible to publics of unprecedented size. They also elevated and standardized vernacular languages like German, French, Dutch and English.

Books such as this made the physical appearance of church reformers known to the world. The Reformation was the world’s first “media event,” and Luther its first “media star.”
The fusion of print and reform accelerated another revolution – the unprecedented transformation of Christianity into the first globe-spanning religion. The contest with Protestant churches in Europe propelled Catholic expansion, already underway. Through print, authors could reach audiences and win converts all around the world. Athanasius Kircher, a member of the newly founded Society of Jesus, was able to draw on reliable sources through the global network of Catholic missionaries, as in this account of China. He did so from Rome, where he produced a landmark style of florid, encyclopedic works rich in images, read and imitated around the world.

When UO Libraries’ anonymous donors learned last summer that the UO Libraries was planning to mount an exhibit of authentic period materials to mark the quincentennial anniversary of the Reformation, the avid book collectors were eager to loan several of their own volumes to the display. The Word Made Print exhibit was such a success that it inspired them to make the arrangement permanent—and bigger!

Over many years, our benefactors assembled some 550 works ranging from first and other early editions of Martin Luther and his circle, to the last German-language Bibles printed in the United States. Other works in the trove of historic volumes range from a 1599 Lutheran hymnal, to one produced in New York during the Second World War for Wehrmacht prisoners interned here.

“After seeing the quality of the exhibition and meeting the outstanding professionals entrusted with the Special Collections, I told my partner how impressed I was. She suggested that the UO Libraries would be an ideal permanent home for our books. Our decision was made. We know that the Libraries will preserve our collection with as much care and love as we put into building it.”

Plans are to transfer the collection in sections to the University of Oregon Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) over the next several years. Accessioning the collection in portions, over time will best allow the library to prioritize cataloging the materials and making them readily accessible to scholars. The collection will be preserved in the Special Collections’ new temperature- and humidity-controlled stacks, a major renovation project that was completed in 2017.

This year, the UO Libraries will accession the first group of 50 titles from the collection, including works by Martin Luther, Johannes Dietenberger, Tobias Lohner, S.J., Johann Nicolaus Weislinger, Philip Melanchthon, and other seminal scholars and theologians.

“The generosity is astounding, and will allow us to preserve and make accessible this precious cache of rare books for generations to come,” said Adriene Lim, dean of libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair. “We are thrilled and thankful to be entrusted with this unique collection reflecting the history of printing and the Reformation, two events which were so closely entwined.”

David de Lorenzo, Giustina Director of Special Collections and University Archives added: “The scope and historical importance of these works are extraordinary. The works will enrich our current collections, which already contain early printing in Europe as especially seen in our Burgess, Homer, and Quayle collections. Together, these rare books will become a powerful resource in support of research and scholarship, especially in the disciplines of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Germanic Studies, and Classics.”

One of the three sets of the complete works of Martin Luther, the only seventeenth-century edition of his works, published in Altenburg from 1662 to 1964.

Latin Bible published by Franciscus Renner of Heilbronn (Germany) in Venice, 1482, just three decades after the invention of the printing press. These two pages, from the book of Job, are formatted just like a handwritten manuscript from Middle Ages would have been.

Volumes from the first edition of the Latin-language works of Luther, Wittenberg, 1545-1860. The first volume was published in the year of Luther’s death.
Art task force calls for students’ creative responses to controversial library murals

By Jason Stone

As certain historic murals on display in the library continue to inspire a spirited and at times contentious campus discussion, the Knight Library Public Art Task Force has announced an open call for student work to be included in a juried exhibition of art that will better express the values of our campus today.

“We are moving forward with plans to mount a display of contemporary creative works responding to the content of the controversial panels,” said Adriene Lim, dean of libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair. “Our aim is to showcase creative expressions promoting the culture that students of today aspire to have.”

The theme of the exhibition will be “Show Up, Stand Out, Empower!” The art will be displayed in a variety of Knight Library spaces from October 15, 2018 to March 15, 2019.

“From now on it must be a climb if our nation is to hold its position among the nations of the Earth. It means conservation and betterment not merely of our national resources but also of our racial heritage and of opportunity to the lowliest.”

First-year student Francesca Smith is among those who petitioned the UO to take down the “Mission of a University” mural. In November 2017, she posted a petition at change.org entitled “LET’S GET THIS RACIST MURAL IN A FEDERALLY-FUNDED UNIVERSITY LIBRARY REMOVED! #TEARITDOWN.” More than 1,750 signatures have been collected to date.

In the petition, Smith stated that she and a number of her concerned peers found the mural to be “extremely offensive and degrading to students of color, denigrating our very existence on this campus.”

Smith argued that the work was not only offensive, but that it also exerted a deleterious effect on the education process. “Upon reading this mural, I immediately felt unwelcome and disconnected from a sense of fellowship and safety in the space meant for learning.”

The process we’ve designed in the Libraries is about contextualizing the art, not removing it,” Lim said, while affirming that the issues involved were highly complex.

“As a woman of color and former activist myself, I fully understand why the work is offensive for many members of our community, but I also believe that this art can be useful for us, in terms of motivating us to engage in much needed dialogue about intellectual freedom, cultural memory, historic preservation, and social justice.”

Lim explained that, at the time when she arrived at the UO a few years ago, the murals were already a point of discussion at the Knight Library and the subject of a small number of community members’ complaints. In January 2017, she assembled the Knight Library Public Art Task Force to provide better documentation about the historic building and to identify opportunities to respond to the art while upholding the university’s values of intellectual freedom and artistic expression.

The task force is comprised of librarians, faculty members, campus partners, and students. During the first phase of the project, the group created “Historic Knight Library: Art and Architecture,” a comprehensive online guide to the building, the art that adorns it, the people who made it, and the historical contexts in which the various works were created.

Among the artworks described in the library guide are those that have inspired the protest activities.

Painted in 1937 by Nowland B. Zane (1885–1944), the mural that has caused the most offense is one of two panels depicting text inscriptions—as conceived, they were intended to be “reminiscent of medieval missal manuscripts.” Like the Knight library building itself, this mural was commissioned and funded through the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) federal employment program.

Prominently exhibited in Knight Library’s west stairwell, “The Mission of a University” enshrines a text written by Frederick G. Young (1858–1929), former dean of Oregon’s School of Sociology and a founding member of the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. Painted on canvas and affixed to a niche in the wall, the text states, in part:

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Painted in 1937 by Nowland B. Zane (1885–1944), the mural that has caused the most offense is one of two panels depicting text inscriptions—as conceived, they were intended to be “reminiscent of medieval missal manuscripts.” Like the Knight library building itself, this mural was commissioned and funded through the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) federal employment program.

Prominently exhibited in Knight Library’s west stairwell, “The Mission of a University” enshrines a text written by Frederick G. Young (1858–1929), former dean of Oregon’s School of Sociology and a founding member of the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. Painted on canvas and affixed to a niche in the wall, the text states, in part:

“From now on it must be a climb if our nation is to hold its position among the nations of the Earth. It means conservation and betterment not merely of our national resources but also of our racial heritage and of opportunity to the lowliest.”

First-year student Francesca Smith is among those who petitioned the UO to take down the “Mission of a University” mural. In November 2017, she posted a petition at change.org entitled “LET’S GET THIS RACIST MURAL IN A FEDERALLY-FUNDED UNIVERSITY LIBRARY REMOVED! #TEARITDOWN.” More than 1,750 signatures have been collected to date.

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At the invitation of the dean of libraries, Smith is serving on the Knight Library Public Art Task Force, representing the voices of concerned students at the table.

Although the “Mission” panel has generated the majority of protests, a pair of figurative murals, “Development of the Arts” and “Development of the Sciences,” have on some occasions also been accused of reflecting white supremacy.

These panels were created by artist-brothers Arthur and Albert Runquist, UO graduates whose works are displayed in museums throughout the Pacific Northwest. While the Runquist brothers were regarded as politically progressive artists in their own time, activists of today have raised serious issues concerning the dynamics of gender, race, and privilege depicted in these library murals.

Addressing the library murals and the controversies surrounding them, Laura Pulido, professor and head of ethnic studies, spoke at a January 30 forum, “Public Art, Cultural Memory and Anti-Racism,” held in the Knight Library Browsing Room.

“The only way to move forward, to not be held hostage to our past, is to engage the past,” Pulido said. “I understand that many want to tear down racist symbols of the past for reasons I respect. But I am opposed to such erasures. To dismantle the racist symbols of the past is to eradicate the evidence of a violent, white supremacist history. This is exactly what we don’t need.”

“Please do not take this mural down. This mural is part of the great reckoning. YOU are part of the great reckoning,” Pulido said, referring to UO community members. “This mural is a powerful indictment of the past.”

Notably, the “twin” panel to Young’s “Mission of a University” statement, which hangs in the Knight library’s east stairwell, has remained uncontroversial. Also dating to 1937 and painted by Zane, “Opportunity for the Youth of Oregon” quotes Luella Clay Carson (1856–1938), the first chair of UO’s English department and namesake of Carson Hall.

In a lyrical counterpoint to Young’s entreaty for “racial heritage,” Carson offered words that now seem to echo from the ensuing decades, speaking directly to our contemporary struggles:

“It is a responsibility to tear down errors of the past and to put in their places new ideals. It is a greater responsibility to hold fast to the truth of the past, undisturbed, in the complex, experimental present.”

In thinking about the challenging issues raised by the mural protests, the dean of libraries said that Carson’s words seemed relevant today.

“Racism, misogyny, white supremacy—these things are real,” Lim reflected. “In my life I have experienced them firsthand. However, I also believe that it would be a grave mistake to remove all evidence of this history from our greatest cultural institutions, including libraries where censorship is against our most cherished values. I believe the most productive approach is responding to these particular works with our own creative expressions. This contextualization is the key to insuring that future generations of scholars and activists will be fully informed.”

In Memoriam: Ursula K. Le Guin

A longtime friend and supporter of UO Libraries, the world-renowned author Ursula K. Le Guin died at her Portland home Monday, January 22, 2018. She was 88 years old.

When news of the author’s passing broke, more than 50,000 people connected with the library on social media to share in the memories and tributes to her life and work.

Dean of Libraries Adriene Lim remarked, “I know that I speak not only for myself but for many of my library colleagues in saying that we were very saddened to learn of Ursula’s passing. She was a staunch advocate for fellow women writers, a champion of social and environmental justice, and a leading light for all readers who love imaginative literature.”

“I feel very privileged to have been able to spend even a brief time with Ursula over the last three years. She was amazing. A mind like a knife and a soul like the ocean. In these trying times, it can be something of a comfort just to know that the species can produce someone like her now and again.”

—Ben Saunders, professor of English

A Portland resident since 1959, Le Guin was a prolific poet, essayist, critic, and translator in addition to her most famous work in the realms of speculative fiction. She combined perspectives from anthropology, feminism, science, history, utopian thought, and Taoist philosophy wrapped up in narratives of exploration and self-discovery.

Le Guin won every major award in the field of speculative literature, including multiple Hugo, Nebula, Locus, James Tiptree Jr. and World Fantasy awards. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame inducted her in 2003, and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America named her its 20th Grand Master in 2003.

Le Guin also received the Pushcart Prize, the PEN/Malamud Award, and the National Book Award for Children’s Books. Her work also has been shortlisted for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. In 2000 the U.S. Library of Congress named her a Living Legend for her significant contributions to America’s cultural heritage.

Critics have often found it difficult to classify Le Guin’s work. While some consider her writing to be science fiction or fantasy, the author herself discouraged any narrow genre categorizations. She regarded writing as an act with moral resonance and was publicly outspoken in her advocacy of issues ranging from environmental stewardship to fairness and transparency in the bookselling industry. She also was heralded for her pioneering work in bringing nonwhite and nonstraight perspectives to speculative fiction.

“I feel blessed to have had the chance to work with her, learn from her, laugh with her, and share what I love about her novel The Left Hand of Darkness with students and theater audiences.”

—John Schmor, assistant professor of theatre arts

“Feminist science fiction is exceptionally well represented in our holdings of primary source materials,” said Linda Long, the UO’s manuscripts librarian, who knew and collaborated with Le Guin for more than 20 years. “Since she first began depositing her materials in our special collections in 1980, Ursula’s papers have been a major cornerstone in our developing those collections.”
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FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

DEAR LIBRARY FRIENDS,

This issue of Building Knowledge focuses on our
exceptional library student employees—past, present,
and future. Without them, the UO Libraries would have a hard time functioning. We rely heavily on student workers to help us
serve our faculty and students. The UO Libraries is the largest academic employer on campus, with
approximately 300 student employees throughout 7 libraries.

Many (many!) years ago, I was a library student employee. I was a work study student, so I had to
work on campus as part of my financial aid package. I had many options to choose from across campus,
but the library spoke to me. There was a branch library directly across the street from my freshman
dorm, so I became quite familiar with it. I found the main library overwhelming, with its floors and
floors of stacks. The branch library was intimate and manageable for me.

I felt fortunate to work for the library for the four years that I was an undergraduate. As my class
schedule changed, the library always accommodated my needs. It was a huge bonus when I was scheduled
to work at 8 a.m., as I could roll out of bed at 7:55 and make it to work on time. I learned research and
communication skills, customer service, problem-solving, and time management. I received wonderful advice and career guidance from my supervisors.

They were my mentors. They gave me the confidence in myself to understand what good research is and
how to go about doing it.

At the UO Libraries, I see this same relationship every day with our librarians, archivists, staff, and the
student employees they supervise. We do our best to place each student in an area of the library that suits
their academic interests or that builds on their skill sets to make them better citizens for when they are ready to enter the workforce.

We also listen and learn from them. Our students are bright and energetic and have great ideas! I have worked in the UO Libraries for over ten years and I have never tired of listening to what our student employees have to say about how they approach their work within the library.

One of our campaign goals is to raise $5 million in endowment funds to support our student employees. I hope that you can help us achieve this goal. As you can see in the campaign chart, we’re more than halfway there! Thank you for all that you do for the UO Libraries. Your support makes a difference every day.

GO DUCKS!

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UO LIBRARIES ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL 2017–2018

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On the Back Cover: Model stage design created by Academy Award-winning filmmaker James Ivory ’51 when he was a student of architecture at the University of Oregon. Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives.

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