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Among Friends Library Newsletter

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Fall 11-2020

Among Friends Fall 2020 Vol 21 No 1

Friends of the Bethel University Library

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Recommended Citation

Friends of the Bethel University Library, "Among Friends Fall 2020 Vol 21 No 1" (2020). *Among Friends Library Newsletter*. 2.

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AMONG FRIENDS

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“STOP ME IF YOU’VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE”

2020 has been a year unlike any other ... that’s what everybody says, right?

On the morning of Monday, March 16th our staff dispersed with instructions to work from home. And every working day since then, my thoughts have gone back and forth between “is this weird global pandemic and lockdown really happening?” and “look at the amazing things the staff are getting done, even in the midst of all this weirdness ...”

A memory that is certain to last is how these times of uncertainty and disruption have underscored the value of what a library can do: it turns out that information, learning, curiosity, discovery - none of these are things people are willing to do without. Quite the opposite. Could we have known this in quite the same way without this pandemic?

Which makes me all the more grateful for how our staff has risen to the challenge over these past eight months (and counting)

FOR AGILITY

in adapting how we serve the community (online instruction and research support, shifting some of our acquisitions funds from print to electronic resources, etc.)

FOR INGENUITY

and resourcefulness in reconfiguring our spaces, always keeping a balance of welcome and of personal safety.

FOR A HOPEFUL OUTLOOK,

that with faith and diligence we can not only get through these days but find ways to thrive.

We’ve got our reconfigurations and our social distancing pretty well down by now, and we continue to add new, excellent resources, well-suited to the times we’re in.

Thanks to you, our Friends, for your constant interest, concern and support. We appreciate all that you enable us to do, more now than ever.

Gratefully,
David Stewart, Director

THANKS TO YOU

The Friends of the Bethel University Library have begun to annually award research prizes to three first-year students who have completed Inquiry Seminar or Humanities III. They are nominated by faculty members, for excellence in research and use of library resources. The 2020 winners are:



FIRST PLACE - \$300
Makenna Brown

*All Students are Worthy:
A Comparison of Special Education
Within Countries*



SECOND PLACE - \$200
Tavniah Dyer

*Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women:
How the Law has Disregarded Violence
Against Indigenous Women*



THIRD PLACE - \$100
Elly Olsen

Life-Long Benefits of Studying Abroad

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

In times of insecurity, budget cuts are inevitable. That is when your investment in the Friends makes all the difference. You made it possible to invest in new technology and community enhancing collections last year.

The least glamorous, but most expensive item was a video projection system control for the library Fireside Lounge. This controller will make the Friends-sponsored Prime-time presentations a more seamless process by allowing us to control the

projector from the sound station area.

The most fun purchase was a new game collection for our students. Staff and student workers made recommendations and a home was found for the collection near the DVD display. After a soft launch, the games have been in almost constant circulation!

The Friends also purchased a drawing tablet for the Makerspace. It was discovered and requested by a faculty member for online teaching use during the spring shutdown.

As of the end of May 2020, The Friends funded several projects for the University Library totaling \$2,765.

A library wouldn't be complete without new books! Some titles include *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue, *How to Invent Everything* by Ryan North and the graphic novel *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler. Thank you for your generous gifts!



Image courtesy of Wacom.com



Image courtesy of the New York Times



Image courtesy of Extron.com



Connie Larson Memorial Scholarship

In the midst of the Covid shutdown this spring, we needed to figure out how to honor the 2020-2021 winner of the annual \$300 Connie Larson Memorial Scholarship. We would normally invite the student to our staff meeting and surprise them with flowers and a certificate, but this year, that would not be possible.

Amy Carlson, InterLibrary Loan student worker, couldn't have been more surprised when a bouquet of flowers and a congratulations message were delivered to her Nebraska home with the news!

Amy's supervisor, Sandra Oslund submitted a glowing recommendation for this very well deserved honor. Congratulations, Amy!

It has been a pleasure to work with Amy. In many ways, she has taught me about interlibrary loan at BUL. I can go to Amy anytime if I have questions about an ILL policy or practice.

In addition to performing her assigned tasks very well, she is always willing to take on additional jobs. During interim when the number of ILL requests was lower, Amy helped with the discard project.

Her attitude of service has been very evident in our current COVID-19 situation. She is happy to continue her work in ILLiad remotely and expressed willingness to help with projects in other library departments, too. I highly recommend her for this scholarship.

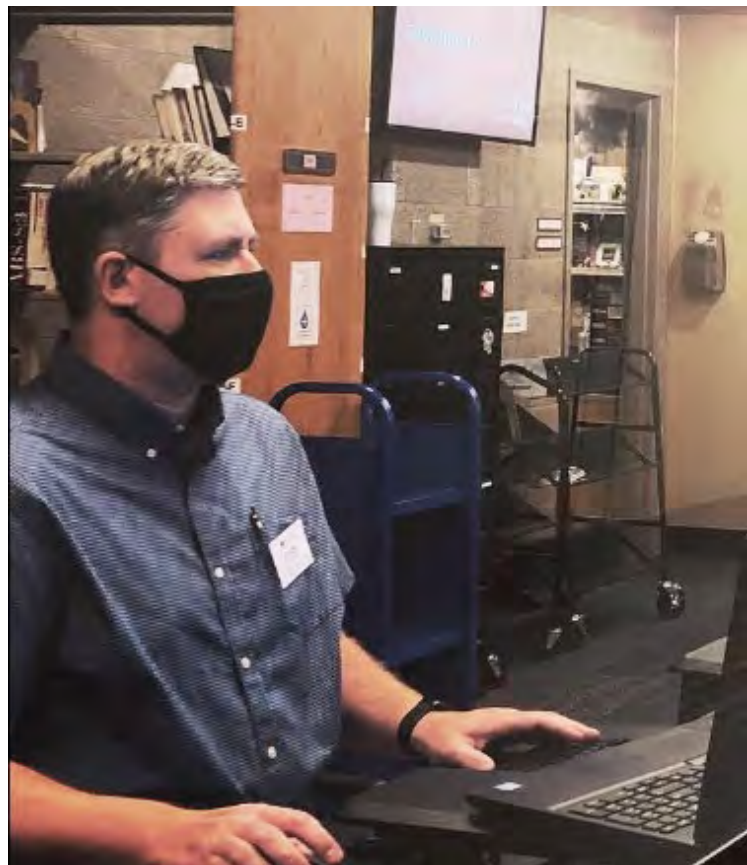
Sandra Oslund

COPING WITH COVID

We asked Lauren Gannon De Cleene, Public Services Manager, and Lyndi Fabbrini, Research Services Librarian, to tell us about how the library has responded to COVID-19 and its effect on library resources, services, and space.

What changes were made to library services?

Our services have been able to continue as usual with a few modifications. We're closing one hour earlier to allow Facilities Management more time for deep cleaning. Research Assistance is now at the Check Out desk- which is decked out in plexiglass sneeze guards (photo above). This move gives the Research Librarians a safer work space but also gives our patrons just one stop for questions—a



win-win! We've enhanced our online services as well—Research Assistance is using a new and improved chat system and ILL is digitizing book chapters for our patrons.

How were library spaces adapted?

Because the library is such a large space, most of our study areas were already set up for social distancing so we focused on reducing the capacity of each area. We put 194 chairs into storage, lowered the number of students who could be in our study rooms at a time, disabled computers in the lab, and spread out tables as needed (photo below left).

Planning for COVID kicked into gear some projects we'd been thinking about for several years. We removed periodical shelving to create a new study area in the southwest corner of the main floor. We also dismantled the service desks in the atrium and moved in study tables (photo below right).





“TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE MOST RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIBRARIES FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AS WELL AS OTHER MORE SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS LIKE OCLC, HAS KEPT US ON OUR TOES.”

How have library student workers been affected?

We were so excited to welcome our first student workers back over the summer! Since the library was closed to patrons, our summer student workers tackled a number of projects on-site and remotely, that helped get us well-situated to re-open.

This fall, with campus life resuming (almost) as normal, we welcomed about 30 student workers back to the library

with lots of sm-eyes-ing and socially distanced greetings. Students have been able to work in the library with a few changes to their everyday work, including wearing a mask or face covering and gloves for certain tasks, and working with a few revamped or additional processes including cleaning their workstations when they are done with their shifts.

How is the library managing materials?

Currently, we are implementing a 72-hour quarantine on all returned items.

Trying to keep up with the most recent recommendations for libraries from the Minnesota Department of Health, as well as other more specialized organizations like OCLC, has kept us on our toes.

Maintaining the safety and health of our patrons and staff has been the most important factor in our decisions, and the 72-hour quarantine is one way that we can assure our community that it is safe to check out items from our collection. We have re-purposed our staff room for quarantine materials as all meetings have been moved to online (photo right).

We also had to find a good balance between safety and accessibility. We knew early on that implementing a quarantine period on our high-use collections, such as our Bible Ready Reference collection and Course Reserves, and our browsing collections, like our DVD collection, would not serve our patrons well.

As a result, we decided not to quarantine items on the main floor of the library and instead equipped those areas with extra hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes and ample signage so patrons could make an informed decision to use (or not use) those resources and use them safely.





Image by Myriams-Fotos from Pixabay.com

THE BOOKS ARE WHISPERING

“IT IS THE BOOKS AND THE PHYSICAL NATURE OF THE LIBRARY THAT MOST SPEAK TO ME.”



Dr. Angela M. Sabates
Associate Professor
of Psychology

Dr. Sabates received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Northwestern University and has been at Bethel since 2003. She is the author of “Social Psychology in Christian Perspective: Exploring the Human Condition” (InterVarsity Press, 2013.) Her current research focuses on the possible connections between hyper-masculinity bias and endorsement of extremist ideology

My grade school principal sometimes visited our classrooms to help students with their schoolwork. Etched in my memory is her poise and that perfectly sharpened pencil she used to mark our work. I loved that pencil. If my memory serves me correctly, the principal also often had a book that she was reading snuggled under her arm. She juggled it effortlessly while working with students. I wanted to be like the principal with my very own sharp pencil and my very own book. Thus began my great love for pencils and reading.

When asked to serve as president of the Friends of the Library, I was reminded of that sweet childhood

memory. It may seem like an odd connection; what does a state-of-the-art library with numerous online resources have to do with graphite pencils?

Most library goers use computers to write. And don't those fancy online resources overshadow the physical books in our library's collection? I am grateful for technology's innumerable advances for reading. I have consulted online resources for my own research countless times.

But it is the books and the physical nature of the library that most speak to me.

There is something sacred about the relative silence of a library, something distinctive about the furrowed

brows of students as they read intently. And, oh, that fireplace that beckons for one to sit with a hot cup of coffee to read. There are few places like this on earth.

I consider it a great privilege to serve in a community of people who also love both the technology and the physical space of our library. I aim to do all that I can to support the efforts to maintain and improve our library, where, as poet Charles Simic says, “the books are whispering.” And if it were not that the books therein are not mine, I would be tempted to underline as I read, using a newly sharpened pencil.

Book Review: **Be The Bridge**

Latasha Morrison's, *Be the Bridge* is an indispensable read for Christians who are endeavoring to better understand racial reconciliation. She speaks honestly of her own experiences in White churches and neighborhoods, and beckons the reader to join in the efforts to increase their own awareness of racial injustice and a Christian response to it. Specifically, Morrison addresses the need to humbly confront the truth regarding the extent of racial injustice and to confess it, the need

to repent and lament, and ways to restore broken relationships.

Though many authors and speakers address the important issue of racial reconciliation, Morrison's book is one of the relatively few that is explicitly and unapologetically based on the Christian tradition. For this reason, it can have a broad appeal in the American church, irrespective of denomination or theological persuasion. The book is both honest about the sobering nature of racial relationships in the U.S. and also hopeful.



READ MORE ABOUT IT

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE



For the past 3 years, Earleen Warner, Research Instruction Librarian and library liaison to the College of Adult and Professional Studies programs has coordinated an inter-disciplinary and inter-de-

partmental initiative whose goal is to help faculty identify low or no cost online resources for their classes which in turn can save students significant money as well as influence student success.

You can read more about it here:

<https://www.bethel.edu/news/articles/2019/november/zero-cost-course-resources>

PUBLISHED!



Kent Gerber, Digital Library Manager and two Bethel colleagues had an article published in The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy.

Their article, “Creating Dynamic Undergraduate Learn-

ing Laboratories through Collaboration Between Archives, Libraries, and Digital Humanities” demonstrates how they planned an integrated set of assignments and projects in an “Introduction to Digital Humanities” course

that introduced students to archival management and digitization of archival material.

You can read more about it here:

<https://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/tag/archives/>



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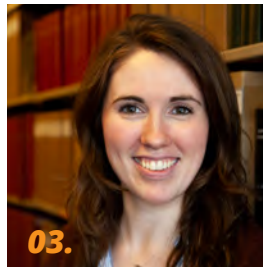
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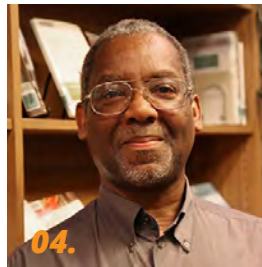
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FOOTNOTES

01. WELCOME!

In November 2019, we welcomed Cory Whipkey to our research instruction team. He came to us from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with experience in low/zero cost textbook initiatives.

02. GOOD-BYE!

In January, we had to say good-bye to Randy Swanson, Library Web Specialist.

In May, Tim Senapatiratne, Research Instruction Librarian left for a new challenge as Director of United Theological Seminary Library.

03. CONGRATS!

In July, Research Instruction Librarian Karen Dubay retired. She's enjoying finishing off sewing projects and dreaming about camping trips with her husband, Jim.

Lauren Gannon, Public Services Manager, married Neil De Cleene in October.

04. WORK-VERSARIES

25 Years:
Gene Kenny,
Library Technical
Services Specialist

10 Years:
Kent Gerber,
Digital Library Manager

David Stewart,
Director of Libraries



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Invest in Community

One thing that this past year has taught us is that community and connectedness is more important than ever. The Friends enhance the Bethel community experience by providing:

- A warm environment to share knowledge and experiences (Primetime programs)
- Collections (games, DVDs, recreational reading)
- Tools (virtual reality goggles, digital drawing pads)
- Student support (scholarship and prizes)

Won't you join us in helping bring the Bethel community together?

www.bethel.edu/library/friends-university-library/



BETHEL | Library
UNIVERSITY

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The Friends of the Bethel University Library enhance the quality of the library collections, facilities, and services by encouraging gifts, awareness of library resources, and participation in library programs.

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