University Librarian’s Message

Dear Faculty,

2006 was a banner year for the UC Davis General Library Special Collections Department. We received the Michael and Margaret B. Harrison Western Research Center Collection and dedicated its new home in the Shields Library in October. The collection is a wonderful addition of 21,000 volumes plus journals and archives to our holdings in trans-Mississippi/Western American history. It is conveniently located on the first floor of Shields Library, just contact Special Collections at 530-752-1621 for further information.

Great research libraries are defined by their unique special collections. In addition to the Harrison gift, the General Library has many other collections of value to researchers. Viticulture and enology, Native American materials, nutrition (especially the flavoring of beverages and chocolate), horticulture archives, British women poets, and the Gary Snyder papers are just a few of our many fine collections. These collections are for your research and for your students. Please feel free to use them.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Sharrow

New Associate University Librarian

Helen Henry has been appointed Associate University Librarian for Administrative Services. Helen received her B.A. in Social Sciences and her M.B.A. in Information and Decision Systems from San Diego State University. Helen comes to UC Davis from San Diego State University where she has served as Director of Library Administrative Operations since 1996. Prior to that, Helen held a wide variety of positions at the San Diego State University Library which have given her broad exposure to the diverse functions of academic libraries.

“I am delighted to have this opportunity to become part of the UC Davis community. The University’s reputation for innovation and quality education make it a particularly rewarding environment in which to work. This is an exciting time for libraries and I am thrilled to join a talented group of colleagues. The potential in such a dynamic and supportive environment is exciting.”

New Associate University Librarian

Amy Kautzman has been appointed Associate University Librarian for Humanities/ Social Sciences. Amy received her B.A. in literature from the University of Minnesota, her M.A. in literature from Northeastern University, and her M.S. in library science from Simmons College. Amy was most recently at the University of California, Berkeley where she served as the Head of Research and Collections at the Doe/ Moffitt Libraries since 2002. Prior to UCB, she was employed at the Harvard Library. She brings a wealth of experience as a library manager and in-depth knowledge of UC collections practices and issues in the humanities and social sciences. She has a strong record of service at UCB and UC systemwide as well as at Harvard, and is an active participant and leader in a variety of professional activities.

“I am thrilled to be a member of the UC Davis community, a place where the Library works in tandem with its educational, technology, and administrative partners. We are in the midst of profound changes and I am looking forward to exploring, with my peers, options in open access publishing, the expansion of online and print resources, and serving our students, faculty, and staff in the most relevant way.”
The advent of 2007 brings with it several changes to the General Library senior management team. New Associate University Librarian Helen Henry replaces retired AUL for Administrative Services George Bynon who has been filing in part time since his retirement in early 2005. The arrival of Associate University Librarian Amy Kautzman provides the opportunity for Associate University Librarian Gail Yokote to focus on the critical and dynamic changes occurring in the Sciences and Technical Services. Gail has assumed the Technical Services position temporarily while a national search is conducted for newly retired Associate University Librarian John Tanno.

To summarize the General Library Senior Team:

University Librarian
Marilyn J. Sharrow

Associate University Librarian for Administrative Services
Helen Henry

Associate University Librarian for Humanities/Social Sciences
Amy Kautzman

Associate University Librarian for the Sciences and Technical Services
Gail Yokote

Keir Reavie has joined the UC Davis General Library as Head of the Biological/Agricultural Sciences Department. He received his Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Western Ontario and has 15 years of experience in librarianship, including six years at the UC San Francisco Library. Most recently Keir was the Manager of Education and Information Services at the UCSF Kalmanovitz Library and Center for Knowledge Management. He has a wealth of experience in a variety of health sciences environments in the U.S. and Canada and is an active contributor to several health sciences professional organizations and Librarians Association of the University of California. In addition, he has authored and presented several papers on medical informatics.

Bruce Abbott has joined the Carlson Health Sciences Library as a Reference/Instruction/Outreach librarian. He received his Master of Library Science degree from Louisiana State University, and his background includes 30 years of experience in medical librarianship. He started his library career at the Charity Hospital School of Nursing in New Orleans, where he was Coordinator for Library Services. Subsequently he was a librarian at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Library in New Orleans. While there he served as Assistant Director for Public Services and most recently Assistant Director for Library Systems and Electronic Resources. After Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, he was at the University of Georgia Libraries in a temporary position assessing the research needs of the biomedical faculty at UGA and how the libraries are meeting those needs.

On December 11, 2006 the new UC Davis Health System Education Building and Blaisdell Medical Library (http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/hsl/) were officially dedicated. The modern facility was recently recognized as the best Northern California higher-education construction project in 2006 by California Construction Magazine.

The Blaisdell Medical Library is named in honor of Dr. F. William Blaisdell, a UC Davis emeritus professor and a founding father of modern trauma care. His private collection of Civil War medicine titles is housed in the library along with the library’s current collection of health sciences books and journals and licensed electronic resources. The library occupies approximately 15,000 square feet on the first floor of the south building and offers high-end computer workstations which allow medical school and UC Davis Health System personnel to create multimedia presentations for teaching and research purposes. In addition, four collaboration rooms feature state of the art technology used for teleconferencing and group sharing of electronic files with individuals anywhere in the world.

The Blaisdell Medical Library staff invites you to visit and experience the new facility.

F. William Blaisdell, M.D. Medical Library

More information about the new education and library building can be found at:
Important Horticultural Research Collection Donated to Special Collections

The Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation (SHRF) donated their archives to Special Collections at the General Library, along with $40,000 for creating a finding aid to the collection. University Librarian Marilyn J. Sharrow accepted the donation at a special event hosted by the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences on December 11, 2006. A larger donation to the University included a 1.15 million dollar donation for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences that was accepted by Dean Neal Van Alfen to establish the Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment. The endowment will support research and educational programs that foster the introduction of new and improved plant materials for California gardens and landscapes. The SHRF archives donated to the library will be instrumental in supporting research for these future projects.

The Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation was formed in 1952 by Californian horticulturalists whose goal was to improve and introduce new species of shade and ornamental trees and native western shrubs to our local landscapes. After successfully accomplishing many of their goals, along with the help of nurseries and the landscape industry, the SHRF board decided to disband.

The SHRF archives, approximately 50 linear feet, contain the records of the organization as well as plant propagation and description records, nursery records, plant photographs and slides, and plant evaluations. This collection will be of interest to faculty and students in the plant sciences, as well as avid gardeners, landscape historians, and others who are curious as the origins of modern California landscape trees and shrubs. Daryl Morrison, Head of Special Collections, notes that the processing donation will expedite access to this major research collection. It will be used to hire an archivist to arrange and describe the collection and create a finding aid that will be mounted on the Online Archive of California http://www.oac.cdlib.org/; where many Special Collections finding aids reside. SHRF President Carol Barrie, Secretary Michael Reid (professor of plant sciences at UC Davis), April Halberstadt, and other members of the SHRF board were instrumental in the careful determination that the General Library at the University of California, Davis would be the best repository for their collection. Their decision was partly based on the major strengths in biological and agricultural research collections held by Library’s Special Collections and Bio/Ag Sciences departments.

Albert T. Bottini Chemistry Collection Endowment

In memory of a revered professor emeritus of organic chemistry, the family of the late Albert T. Bottini has created a chemistry library collection endowment bearing his name. This endowment pays tribute to Professor Bottini’s great love of teaching, his commitment to his students and his active participation as a member of the university community. As professor of chemistry at UC Davis from 1958 to his retirement in 1993, Al Bottini nurtured the intellect of his students, both graduate and undergraduate, and inspired in many a life-long fascination with organic chemistry. His research interests ranged from the study of phytoxins to the isolation of the oils and extracts of medicinal plants collected in the Central Himalayas and in California. He was fully engaged with his students and, by example, instilled in them and his co-workers a value system, both personal and professional, of the highest order.

Since his passing in 2002, his widow, Marilyn Bottini and their sons, David, Philip and John, wanted to find a suitable way to memorialize him and perpetuate his legacy. They chose the creation of a collection endowment in order to ensure the quality of chemistry teaching and research that was a hallmark of his work at UC Davis.

In announcing the gift, University Librarian Marilyn J. Sharrow remarked that “endowment funds are the life blood of the General Library. This gift means everything to the health and value of our chemistry collection and to the quality of teaching and research that it supports. We are delighted and honored to be the recipient of the Bottini family’s thoughtful and far-reaching generosity.”

The Albert T. Bottini Chemistry Collection endowment will enable the Physical Sciences & Engineering Library to continue to build its holdings and to make them accessible to future generations through careful acquisition and preservation. It will be used to support items such as reference sets, chemistry journals and reference databases, whose increasingly prohibitive costs continue to escalate. Karen Andrews, head of the Physical Sciences & Engineering Library notes, “This wonderful gift will pay tribute to a professor who inspired many generations of students. It will provide a crucial margin of excellence for the faculty and students at UC Davis and for acquiring unique resources that we can share with the entire UC system.”

The creation of a collection endowment fund is a superb and lasting way to pay tribute to an individual while supporting resources that are fundamental to UC Davis’ mission.

For information about endowing a named collection fund in an area of your choice, please contact Library Administration at (530) 752-2110.
Opening of the Michael and Margaret B. Harrison Western Research Center

The opening of the Michael and Margaret B. Harrison Western Research Center in Peter J. Shields Library occurred on October 3, 2006 with much fanfare. The Harrison collection consists of over 21,000 volumes on Western history and also includes a rich sampling of paintings, Native American baskets and pottery, sculptures, and other rare items. The card catalog of over 700,000 cards is housed in the room where it will lead researchers to a wealth of detailed subjects on the American West.

The audience of several hundred people, that included friends and associates of the Harrisons, University officials, representatives from the book clubs that Michael Harrison had been associated with (including the Book Club of California and the Sacramento Book Collectors Club), faculty, university and library staff, and students were greeted by University Librarian Marilyn J. Sharrow.

Professor Inés Hernández-Ávila of Native American Studies and the Chicana/Latina Research Center opened the ceremony by honoring Michael Harrison with a Navajo prayer. Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef spoke of the University and Library's close connections with the Harrisons over the years. Professor Louis Warren, W. Turrentine Jackson Chair of Western U.S. History, spoke of Mike Harrison's love of research and the importance of the collection to the History Department and students. Daryl Morrison, Head of Special Collections, described the acquisition and invited all present to return for a more extended research visit.

All joined in the celebration of this remarkable collection with the official ribbon cutting leading to tours of the collection, viewing of special exhibits, and the introduction of a newly developed Harrison website: http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/ul/libcoll/harrison/

Library staff have been cataloging this sizeable collection so that researchers may access it via Harvest, the library's online catalog. To date, over 11,000 titles (monographs and serials) can be found in Harvest and already researchers have begun to make use of the collection.

For information about the Harrison Western Research Center contact:

Daryl Morrison
Head of Special Collections
dmorrison@ucdavis.edu
530-752-2112

Please Support Us!

Although the Harrison collection came with a generous endowment to continue building the collection, the Library needs funding to staff the Center, to preserve the collection, and to digitize the famous card catalog. We look for your support so that we are able to do all that is necessary to publicize and service this unique collection.

Antolin Raventos IV, M.D. Endowment

A significant augmentation to the Antolin Raventos IV, M.D. Endowment Fund was received in 2006 thanks to the continuing generosity of Anne Gray, retired University of California, Davis administrator and widow of Antolin "Rick" Raventos.

Dr. Raventos was Professor Emeritus of Radiology at UC Davis and founding Chair of the Department of Radiology in the School of Medicine. He died in August, 2000.

Anne and Rick established their intention to create an endowment to support the provision of library materials and services for the Carlson Health Sciences Library on the Davis campus in 1996 and consistently contributed funds in support of the endowment since that time.

Anne's gift on October 1, 2006 formalized the Antolin Raventos IV, M.D. Endowment Fund. The General Library is most thankful to Anne for her largesse which will benefit the UC Davis Library and is an excellent way to honor Rick's memory and his commitment to a superb learning environment.

Sons of Italy Continued Support of Birth Defects Collection

For over 27 years, the Sons of Italy Western Foundation and the members of the Grand Lodge of California have generously supported the UC Davis health sciences libraries with their annual donations. This long tradition was continued with a $2,565 donation received at a reception on October 21, 2006, which brings their cumulative gift to over $109,000. With the mapping of the human genome, birth defects and how to treat them has become a rapidly growing area of research and therapy. The sustained support from the Sons of Italy has been beneficial in helping the health sciences libraries maintain a strong collection of books and serials in this area of knowledge to support the research, teaching and patient care mission of the university and healthcare system. The UC Davis General Library is most appreciative of the continuing relationship we have with the Sons of Italy.