First Word
BY JEFFREY GAYTON

AS I WRITE THIS, I’m finishing up my fourth week as the new University Librarian and Director of the Learning Commons here at Hannon Library. People in the library, on campus, and even in town keep asking me how it’s going so far. I tell them that it’s been wonderful — that it’s encouraging to find so many dedicated people on campus pulling in the same direction; that it’s rewarding to talk to disparate people who have similar ideas about how to make Southern Oregon University even better; and that it’s exciting to think about ways Hannon Library could bring these people together and help them put their ideas into practice.

I also tell people that if they really want to know how it’s going, they should talk to the people I work with — students and librarians, faculty and staff. The measure that really matters is people.

So far, most of what I’ve done as University Librarian is meet people. I’ve met an enormous number of people, and somewhat surprisingly for me, I’ve managed to remember more than a few names along the way. I’ve also learned a lot about how Hannon Library and SOU operate. That said, there are still many more people to meet and much to learn. So far, it’s been a joy getting to know people inside and outside of Hannon Library, and I can’t wait to really start working with them.

Being able to work usefully and helpfully with people is the main reason I made the long voyage from Madison, Wisconsin to Ashland. I spent over a decade at the flagship library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I loved serving students and faculty there, but increasingly felt that I needed to work more closely, more directly, with people than was possible at such a large institution. To be able to serve SOU and Hannon Library, two smaller institutions so deeply committed to undergraduate education, is for me, if you’ll pardon the cliché, a dream come true.

I’m fortunate that my predecessor, Paul Adalian, built such a strong foundation at Hannon Library. Paul cultivated a tremendously knowledgeable, encouraging, and welcoming staff. He tirelessly promoted library services and events that served students, faculty, and others. And he helped make Hannon Library a focal point for campus and community. I’m deeply indebted Paul for his hard work, and keenly aware that I have big shoes to fill.

The measure that really matters is people.
First Fridays at Hannon
Join us for another year of First Friday Artwalks, held monthly from 6-8 p.m. Hannon Library’s art collections include an impressive variety of permanent and temporary exhibits, including renowned works by Betty LaDuke, Meera Censor, and Russell Beebe.

Hannon Goes International
Hannon Library has begun a new project to translate library handouts and patron information into multiple languages. Hannon Goes International should contact Fela Winfrey at winfreyfe@sou.edu.

A Reading Room!
Construction is nearly complete to create a reading room for researchers using materials from Special Collections. The building project was financed with a generous donation from a community member, Dr. John Barton, of Ashland. The new reading room will provide a space for researchers to securely view materials and for displays.

Resource Update
Hannon Library Receives Extensive LGBT Collection
In August, the Medford-based Lotus Rising Project donated more than 500 books to Hannon Library. Originally, the Lotus Rising Project inherited the collection from the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center, which closed in 2010. This donation, which is currently being processed, will supplement the library collection of books with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender themes. Library staff are pleased to have the collection which supports the campus commitment to GLBT students and will be a resource for gender studies classes. After processing, books will be findable in the library catalog by searching for “Lotus Rising Project.”

In Memoriam: Kay Atwood

Kay donated the bulk of her research material to Hannon Library in 2011, adding additional material earlier this year. Kay’s generosity of spirit and contributions to regional history will be long remembered. The finding aid to her papers can be viewed from the Special Collections website.

New York Times Historical Archive
Hannon Library now provides access to the online New York Times through the ProQuest Historical Newspapers interface. Searchable digital content includes all issues published between 1851 and 2010. Full-text and full-image articles are easily downloadable as pdfs. With news, advertisements, diaries, editorials, and more, the New York Times historical archive is valuable for research in many disciplines.
E-resources can be accessed from the library’s website: hanlib.sou.edu. For information, call 541-552-6442.

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First Fridays at Hannon have grown to include large-scale exhibits like The Craft: The Art of OSS. Artwalks also feature live performances, such as the award-winning pianist Tatsiana Asheichyk and campus favorite Raccoon Venom. Artists and performers looking to be seen or heard should contact Fela Winfrey at winfreyfe@sou.edu.

Hannon Goes International
Hannon Library has begun a new project to translate library handouts and patron information into multiple languages. Intent on providing the best possible service to SOU’s international students and community patrons, the library hopes to represent major languages spoken on campus. Capable translators interested in helping with this project should contact Library Administration.

Big Changes to Online Library Catalog
On June 16 Hannon Library went live with the new Ex Libris catalog interface. The interface is part of our migration to a new platform for all library systems including circulation, Summit borrowing, cataloging, acquisitions, serials, and E-resource management. Twenty-five other Orbis Cascade Alliance member libraries in the Pacific Northwest have already migrated to this new shared Ex Libris platform along with us. The final ten will be migrated by January 2015.

While the migration is exciting and we expect major improvement in functionality, some features of the new system are still in development. It will take us some time to get everything working just as it should, so please be patient with some of the rough spots. We will be working over the next two to three years to expand and enhance this new system.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jim Rible at rible@sou.edu, or Emily Miller-Francisco at millerf@sou.edu.

Wine Archive Receives Grant Funding
Hannon Library was awarded grant funding from the Erath Family Foundation, of Portland, Oregon, to create a digital archive documenting grape growing and winemaking in Southern Oregon.

Southern Oregon’s rich viticulture tradition began in the 1850s with Peter Britt of Jacksonville and John Reesor of Talent. In the 1970s and 1980s orchards gave way to vineyards and winemakers like Porter Lovejoy, John Gustafson, Roger Leyton, Susan Davis and others began growing grapes and making wines. New generations of Southern Oregon grape growers and winemakers have continued the tradition, firmly establishing the Rogue, Illinois and Applegate Valleys as unique terroirs, producing world class wines.

Thanks to the generous Erath Family Foundation funding, advocacy of key individuals like Greg Jones, Willard Brown, Porter Lovejoy, and Mike Shoup, and participation of Southern Oregon’s winemakers and grape growers, Hannon Library is well on the way to a new digital collection, “Wine of Southern Oregon” (hanlib.sou.edu/wine), with text and images freely available to all, telling the story of Southern Oregon viticulture.

Save this Date! The First Friday Artwalk on November 6 will feature a photograph exhibit highlighting the history of wine production in Southern Oregon (Hannon Library Retzlaff Gallery).

Celebrating the Written Word! BookFest 2014
The library held its third annual Ashland Book and Author Festival on September 20, featuring authors and publishers from throughout Oregon and Northern California. The festival, sponsored by the Friends of Hannon Library and SOU Alumni Association, filled all three floors of the library with storytelling, workshops, author readings, panel discussions, and more. Hundreds of visitors from the community came to enjoy this day of literary celebration.

We want to thank all volunteers, participants, sponsors, and library staff members who contributed to this great event. Looking ahead, we welcome any presenters or sponsoring organizations interested in becoming involved with the 2015 festival. Visit the festival website at hanlib.sou.edu/bookfest to learn more.

FROM THE VAULTS: Special Collection News

AIFF Collection Acquired
Papers, posters, programs, merchandise, and miscellaneous materials that trace the founding and growth of the nationally acclaimed Ashland Independent Film Festival (AIFFS) have been placed in Special Collections where they are available to researchers. Founded in 2001 by the Southern Oregon Film Society, the AIFF now serves over 10,000 patrons annually, including the 7,000 attendees of the five-day festival. The AIFF collection covers years 2001-2013; content will be updated. A finding aid will be available soon.

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