Uncovering our past in the University Archives

During the past year, continued interest in our university’s history has brought many students, faculty and staff to Special Collections to look at the University Archives. Whether to complete a research paper, settle a bet, or sate a curiosity, researchers can find answers about many things Stockton-related in the University Archives.

Some of the questions asked recently – and the sources from University Archives used to answer them – are:

♦ What are the threatened and endangered species on Stockton’s Gallo-way campus? (Forest Plan, 2012)
♦ Was there an EMS (Emergency Medical Services) group on campus in the 1970s? (Bulletin)
♦ How does the geothermal system work? (Facilities records)
♦ How was Richard Bjork selected as the first president? (Board of Trustees minutes)
♦ My dad was a Stockton grad. Do you have a picture of him? (Reflection [1981 yearbook], Argo)
♦ Who was the first faculty member granted emeritus status? (Board of Trustees minutes, Bulletin)
♦ May I have a copy of the first Self Study for GENS? (copy provided)
♦ Do you have photographs of the parking lots from the 1970s and 1980s? (Graphics photograph collection)
♦ Who were the performers at the first WoodStockton? (Argo)

-Pictures from the Argo

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5 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR BOOKS HEALTHY!

Treat your books nice, and you will be rewarded a longer time of your books. Here are some tips:

1. No food or drinks for your books: When you eat or drink, keep your books away. This would avoid mishaps to your books.

2. Comfortable environment: Keep your books in a comfortable environment where you feel comfortable. Like us, your books feel comfortable at a room temperature around 70 degrees or lower, with moderate stable relative humidity around 40-50%. Too much heat or moisture can speed up deterioration or encourage mold growth, such as the environment of a basement or an attic.

3. Standing up straight: Like us humans, books like to “stand up straight.” When you arrange your books, shelve them upright and support them with bookends. Leaning books will harm the book spines, and the book will slump.

4. No tapes! Pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes that are available in department stores can cause damage to your books. Keep them away from your books. Use adhesive that can be reversed such as glue made of wheat flour (adding water to wheat flour, stir, and heat it to make a thin paste).

5. No Post-it® notes, paper clips or rubber bands: Self-stick notes leave a sticky residue that is not good for paper. Paper clips can rust over time, and rubber bands can tear pages or, as they decay, even stick to the book. Instead, use a slip of acid-free paper as a bookmark.

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~Jian Wang, Cataloging Librarian

LIBRARIANS INVOLVED

In the beginning of May, Christy Goodnight, Outreach Librarian at Bjork Library, presented at a paper entitled “Resilient Teams Share More: The Link Between Shared Leadership and Resiliency.” Christy, who has completed all of her coursework for a DBA at the University of South Alabama and will take her comprehensive exams this June, participated in the Doctoral Student Consortium along with twenty other doctoral students from around the globe during the conference.

There were four other faculty members from the Stockton’s School of Business who were presenting at the EAM conference. They included Jane Bokunewicz; Noel Criscione-Naylor; Joy Jones, who presented in the same session as Christy; and Tara Marsh.
LIBRARIANS BRAVE WIND & SNOW FOR VALE!

Patricia Fazio, determined librarian, drove through the howling winds and snow on Friday, January 5th, in order to present a poster at the 2018 VALE (Virtual academic library environment) conference in New Brunswick. Also braving the snow to attend the conference were Joe Toth, Library Director and David Lechner, Assistant Professor in the Library.

The poster entitled “Collaboration: Helping Faculty Measure & Assess Scholarly Output & Research Impact” by Kerry Chang FitzGibbon and Patricia Fazio, intended to show how librarians could assist faculty by using the nontraditional citation metrics tools, Altmetrics and PlumX, to track and evaluate their scholarly publications and research impact. Using research articles published by our Stockton faculty, we illustrate the two metrics methods, we compare how each calculates its scores, its similarities, differences, and finally, we offer tips to increase faculty altmetrics scores.

Despite the treacherous snowstorm the day before, there was good attendance at the VALE Conference. Many librarians stopped to chat and ask questions about our poster.

-Patricia Fazio, Electronic Resources Coordinator

Uncovering our past in the University Archives, continued:

The answers to other questions have been more elusive. Despite our best efforts, we are still trying to find sources to these:

♦ What type of rock is the Larry James touchstone?
♦ What is the history of the Freedom Tree?

Do you have materials that can help us answer these and other questions about Stockton’s history? Please contact Special Collections Librarian, Heather Perez, to evaluate the materials for inclusion in the archives.

-Heather Perez, Special Collections Librarian
LIBRARIANS TEACHING FULL SEMESTER COURSES!

Most of our teaching as librarians generally occurs as a guest lecture for our liaison department faculty within the courses that they teach. We schedule these library instructional sessions to teach a class of students about how to do research in their subject area or how to cite their sources once they find them or what plagiarism is and how to avoid it or a combination of these things. Usually, these library instruction sessions last one class period though sometimes we’re scheduled for follow-up sessions to help students with their research paper topics during your class periods.

Some librarians here at Stockton also teach full semester courses on a wide variety of topics. Some librarians have undergraduate degrees in English or History while others have their degrees in computer science or biology. Here at Stockton, our librarians come to us with a variety of different undergraduate degrees as well as additional master’s degree beyond their graduate library school degrees. With this variety of backgrounds combined with personal interests, several of our librarians have chosen to teach full semester courses which we take on as overload to our regular librarianship duties.

David Lechner, our Distance Education Librarian, has three different General Studies courses which he designed and teaches at various intervals. One of David’s courses is the freshman seminar called The Detective: Foreign Intrigues (GAH1065) about ‘the role of the detective in fiction from around the world.’ David’s other courses are History of German Cinema (GAH3256) which is a ‘survey of the evolution of German language cinema from its origins to the present day’ and Modern Scandinavia in Literature and Film (GAH3127) which is an ‘examination of the development of the Scandinavian nations in the 20th and early 21st centuries as depicted in their films and literature.’

Eric Jeitner, our Assessment Librarian, taught one section of FRST2120, Rhetoric and Composition, during the Fall 2017 semester. Eric enjoyed it so much that he proposed his own general studies course titled Role-Playing Games in which ‘students will consider what constitutes a role-playing game, how games confront players with issues of identity construction and storytelling and how players create a subculture.’ Eric’s course was approved this past semester so he will teach this course in Spring 2019.

Also, Christy Goodnight, our Outreach Librarian, will join these ranks this coming fall when she teaches a section of MGMT3124, Organizational Behavior. Our librarians are all keeping up to date in their subject areas to incorporate their knowledge into full semester courses as well as developing classes based on their interests. What will they think of next!
BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY AT THE RICHARD E. BJORK LIBRARY

On April 26th, the Richard E. Bjork Library hosted the twelve to fourteen year old age group during Stockton’s Bring Your Child to Work Day program. These young people met in the library where they observed a book repair and preservation demonstration by Stephanie Sussmeier and then participating in hands-on book repair which was followed by a tour of the Library’s Special Collections with Heather Perez where they learned about rare books. Originally, only nine signed up to participate, so when seventeen showed up the day of, it was quite a rush but a most welcome turnout! With some quick thinking, two groups were formed so that one group could view and participate in the book repair/preservation and hands-on part; while the other group visited Special Collections with both groups switching places afterwards.

The final activity was a library treasure hunt where all attendees went all around the library visiting the Help Desk in the Information Commons room, the Circulation Desk, and the stacks where the Young People’s Collection was located. At each location, they were asked to answer trivia questions about what they had learned such as: what is the oldest book at Richard E. Bjork Library (1695), and what things can damage books (water, insects, carelessness and more). Participants also did some research on the catalog where they located three books that were of interest to them, writing down the title and call number. When they were finished, each one received a prize as well as a goodie bag with a bookmark about taking care of library books and a pamphlet on how to manage and preserve digital media. Special thanks to Jian Wang for being the photographer for the event and to library staff and student workers for helping with the scavenger hunt!

-Stephanie Sussmeier, MLIS, Technical Library Assistant
WOODBINE BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE SCULPTURE

This three-piece glass sculpture was commissioned by Kathy Azeez as a special anniversary gift for her husband, Michael, founder of the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage. The museum, an entity of Stockton University, is the site of the former Woodbine Brotherhood Synagogue, built in 1893. The sculpture is currently located in the exhibition area on the main floor of the Richard E. Bjork Library and available for viewing anytime the library is open.

LIBRARY EXHIBITS—SPRING 2018

Service with a Purpose: Service-Learning at Stockton. This exhibit ran through the first half of the spring semester and included all sorts of posters, brochures, and flyers from past Service-Learning events and programming.

Special thanks to the Office of Service-Learning and their Director Daniel Tomé for contributing all sorts of documents and flyers, which they donated to our archives, as well as lending us their incredible trophy.

John Henry “Pop” Lloyd and the Negro League Baseball was our second spring exhibit. Every year Stockton hosts a weekend commemorating Pop Lloyd, including humanitarian awards, articles, paintings, brochures, etc. The Pop Lloyd collection, located in Special Collections on the ground floor of the library, includes historical and personal artifacts, as well as videotapes and photo albums.