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From the Director

On March 11, 2020 the Furman bubble popped when we received a communication from the President’s Office that spring break would be extended and that there would be no on-campus instruction at least through March 27. We never imagined that it would be five months before students returned to campus and we resumed face to face instruction.

In the immediate aftermath of this change the Libraries scrambled to support our students and faculty virtually. We maximized access to online resources, developed virtual research assistance and instruction, worked with legal counsel to provide digital access to text books and library resources, and offered curbside pick-up services.

When the Libraries reopened in the fall of 2020, we focused on our physical spaces: re-arranging furniture and computers to encourage social distancing, providing ample signage, and even offering a thermometer at the library entrance. We quickly adapted to this new reality all while balancing the struggles of our own personal pandemic existence, and grieving the illnesses and deaths of colleagues, friends, and loved ones.

With the arrival of spring and the vaccine, the world, and Furman, began to open. We celebrated our first public event on April 16th, 2021 with the Joseph Vaughn Plaza and Statue Dedication in front of the Duke Library (see the article on page 3). The opening of the Plaza symbolizes an epoch in the evolution of the Libraries as we move into a period of strategic planning, focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We do this with open minds, open hearts, and a new empathy for struggle and understanding of equity, learned throughout the pandemic. We don’t know what the future holds, but we know that we have the tenacity and flexibility to face whatever comes our way.

Caroline Wells

Celebrating Our Library Staff Member, Robyn Andrews

Every year, Furman University presents several prestigious awards to Furman University staff members. The Staff Member of the Year award recognizes “those members of our campus that go above and beyond. Those that have a love for our campus, students, and employees. Those that share their passion for helping, improving, and caring for the people and the mission of our University.” The Meritorious Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion recognizes “individuals who have demonstrated an emerging or sustained commitment to advance Furman’s value of diversity, equity and inclusion, and multiculturalism on campus.” Each of these awards has a rigorous nomination process, and receiving one is a great honor to the individual and a mark of distinction to the department that they serve.

This year Robyn Andrews received both of these awards! Robyn has been the Circulation Supervisor for the Furman University Libraries for 13 years, supervising and mentoring hundreds of student assistants during that time.

As the inaugural Diversity Coordinator for the Libraries, she began implementing the Inclusive Artwork initiative in 2020, which brings artwork representing people of color to the libraries.

Robyn is a Pathways Academic Advisor for 1st and 2nd year students and a facilitator for the ACS CREATE program (Conversation-Rich Education for Anti-Racist Teaching/Learning Environments). She has served on the university’s Staff Advisory, Diversity & Inclusion, and Benefits Committees.

Join us in congratulating Robyn for receiving these awards and in thanking her for her leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus, as well as her tireless efforts to support the Furman community!
April 23, 2021 - A Record Breaking DiNS Day!

On Dins Day 2021 the Furman University Libraries received the most donations of any academic department at Furman, raising $13,900. This was in great part due to a generous matching gift challenge of $10,000 donated by Dr. Janis Bandelin, Furman University Director of Libraries Emerita, and her husband Bill Fitzpatrick.

Donated funds will support and enhance the Libraries’ ongoing initiatives to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion. Slated projects include:

- Supporting the efforts of our new visiting Archivist/Digital Collections Librarian, who will focus on Furman’s racial history and diversity.
- Enhancing our Inclusive Artwork Project.
- Transcribing/captioning video and audio files in support of digital equity.
- Purchasing resources for LGBTQ+ history and research, including additions to the Queer Zine Collection.
- Expanding the Furman Oral History Program as a means of archiving diverse perspectives and experiences.

Our vision is to ensure that all visitors to the Libraries are supported, feel valued, and know that they have a place. For the generous contributions from all of our friends and library constituents on Dins Day 2021…THANK YOU!

Joseph Vaughn Plaza and Statue Dedication

A dream deferred became a dream fulfilled on Friday, April 16th, 2021, as the Joseph Vaughn Plaza and statue of Joseph Vaughn, ’68, cum laude, was dedicated by President Elizabeth Davis and the Furman University Community in front of the James B. Duke Library.

The dream began in 2019 with Furman alum Adare Smith, ’20, who helped organize the initial celebration of Joseph Vaughn, the first African American undergraduate student at Furman. These actions, along with recommendations from Furman’s Task Force on Slavery and Justice, resulted in an annual observance in Vaughn’s honor. January 29th will always and forever be Joseph Vaughn Day.

The Joseph Vaughn statue was created by sculptor Steven Whyte. In his proposal for the Furman commission, Whyte wrote that he had become frustrated by the lack of diversity in subjects chosen for public works of art. “For more than a decade, I have been purposely seeking out projects focused on diversity and social justice”. Vaughn’s family member Marcus Tate commented that through this tangible symbol, prominently placed in the heart of the University, “everyone of color who didn’t feel connected and welcome can now do so.”

Inside the James B. Duke Library, to the right of the exit, is a photo of Joseph Vaughn and the proclamation from the City of Greenville and Mayor Knox White declaring January 29 “Joseph Vaughn Day”.

In addition to the Furman Community, a small group of Vaughn’s family and friends attended the unveiling.
**NEWS FLASH!**

**Digital and Resource Management**

- The Furman Libraries Open Access Fund is now accepting applications. For eligible publications, the Libraries will pay up to $1,000 in article processing charges (APCs) per faculty member per academic year. Read the full guidelines and apply online.

- Learn more about how the Libraries can support your copyright needs. Read our newly updated Copyright Guide and direct any copyright questions to copyright@furman.edu.

- The video/audio digitization policy for classes has recently been updated. The policy states that the Libraries will try to acquire an institutional streaming copy of the film; if that is not available then we cannot digitize it without permission from the copyright holder. Faculty may show DVDs in class or place them on reserve for their students to watch outside of class.

- Find It @ Furman celebrated its one year anniversary on June 1st, 2021. The new library catalog allows for searching print and electronic resources, a more intuitive user experience, and streamlined methods for ordering, describing, and checking out library materials. The system is shared by 55 other college/university libraries in the state of South Carolina.

**Outreach and Access Services**

- Through the pandemic, we bulked up our online services from implementing proactive chat to providing research assistance and instruction through Zoom. It is likely we will retain these options as we head into fall.

- Campus may be quiet but our graduate programs in Art, Education, and Community-Engaged Medicine kick off in May and June, and the librarians who are liaisons to those departments greeted incoming students and provided orientation to the libraries and their services.

- Willie Cornish (Music Composition ‘22) and Emma Mehigan (Church Music ‘22) are working with Music Librarian Patricia Sasser as Summer Research Fellows. Funded by Furman’s Office of Undergraduate Research, Cornish and Mehigan’s project is entitled “Documenting Repertoire.” They are examining musical repertoire performed at Furman over a 90-year period (drawing from nearly 6000+ individual recordings and programs) and the ways in which this repertoire can reveal institutional history and priorities.

- Users of the Furman Libraries may now return materials to the library using a new drive-up book drop conveniently located inside the back gate off Duncan Chapel Road.

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**On to a Degree in Librarianship**

Furman University Libraries is proud to announce that the 2021 recipient of the Ethel Carlisle Southern Scholarship for Library Science is Kristin Stewart ’19. Krissa majored in English ('19) and worked as a library intern and a student assistant. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Management in Library and Information Science (MMLIS) program at the University of Southern California.
“Cocktails With a Curator”

Last fall, inspired by The Frick Collection’s “Cocktails With a Curator” live streamed series, Jeffrey Makala organized an “Upstate Cocktails With a Curator” Zoom series on Friday afternoons for Furman’s OLLI membership. 6 half-hour talks, with an accompanying cocktail, were given by curators and professors from Upstate South Carolina institutions. The series was so popular it was continued in the spring with additional talks. The Zoom sessions have been saved as videos on the Furman OLLI YouTube channel and can be watched anytime.

Rare Book Acquisitions

Special Collections has made some significant acquisitions in African American literature over the past year. A newly-acquired rare first edition of Frederick Douglass’s My Bondage and My Freedom (1855), his second published autobiography, also contains early readership inscriptions and awaits a faculty/student research project.

We also acquired a number of 19th century works by William Wells Brown, a formerly enslaved man who became a fiction writer (Clotel, one of the first African American novels), editor, abolitionist, speaker, and historian of Afro-American contributions to the development of the United States.

A Truly Unique Look at 2020

Finally, to properly (?) commemorate the year 2020, we acquired this artist’s book by Minneapolis-based printer Todd Thyberg, titled 2020: A Fiasco. One of 25 copies, the book is housed in a hand painted mini plastic dumpster. The contents include a series of letterpress-printed cards featuring highlights – or lowlights – and other challenging global and national events from the past year.
Steve Richardson Retires After 35 Years at Furman

Following in the footsteps of three generations of his family, Steve Richardson graduated from Furman in 1977. He completed his Masters in Library Science at USC in 1982 and joined Furman as the Reference and Online Services Librarian in 1986. A year later Steve introduced the campus to digital resources and never looked back! Steve quickly got to know everyone on campus and built close faculty friendships that would last throughout his years at Furman. Over the years, Steve coordinated conferences and served on multiple self-study task forces, steering committees, and advisory boards, but his greatest passion has always been assisting students and faculty with research. Steve is so sought-out by students that “Where is Steve?” became a running joke at the Research Assistance desk, and co-workers toyed with the idea of attaching a GPS to him so he could be located in the stacks when needed. Trying to “stump Steve” (with a research question) became an ongoing challenge. His Library colleagues describe him as open, supportive, a “Renaissance Man,” humble, steady, even, gracious, encouraging, smart, respectful, mannerly, and kind.

“Steve is the best kind of librarian—the one who finds items and sends them to you because he knows your current project or interests; the one who is as tenacious as a terrier in finding an obscure item; and, the one who enjoys weaving a richly textured portrait of one of his projects—be it baseball, Simpsonville, the environment, or Furman. He has fed and inspired the curiosity of generations of Furman students while also being a dear friend to his many faculty colleagues.” - Glen Halva-Neubauer, Politics and International Affairs

“What impressed me most about Steve when I first came to Furman was his deep knowledge of our resources and the number of students he knew by name. It’s been almost 20 years and it’s still the same.” - Jenny Colvin, Associate Director for Outreach and Access Services

“Steve’s support for students at all stages of ability and motivation, his broad familiarity with many different disciplines and sensibility for interdisciplinary work, his unsurpassed local history knowledge, his gift for seeming to be like my own personal research librarian, and his unbounded positivity for the liberal arts are remarkable. Or, rather, indispensable.” - Lloyd Benson, History Department

“What a joy it always is to work with Steve. He is a Zen master with sources, and can somehow seek and summon them even when I don't know exactly what I am looking for. Steve is rooted in the Upstate, but his knowledge extends all around the world.” - Joni Tevis, English Department

Steve’s ongoing challenge to students and colleagues is to “stay curious.” Steve, we will miss you!

Newsletter Links  If you are reading this newsletter in print, you may need these URLs for websites mentioned in various articles.

Page 3: Dins Day 2021 - https://www.givecampus.com/schools/FurmanUniversity/rally-for-academics
Page 4: Read the full guidelines and apply online - https://libguides.furman.edu/oa-fund
Page 4: Copyright Guide - https://libguides.furman.edu/copyright/
Page 4: Ethel Carlisle Southern Scholarship for Library Science - https://libguides.furman.edu/southernscholarship
Page 5: Furman OLLI YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnB8NZyi_Bzw5sfiiQkdJ6g1Z3WVAu92Yo