DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN THE LIBRARY

By Laura Crain, Associate Director of Collection Services

In summer 2018, we established the Library Diversity Committee to provide improved coordination and emphasis on our diversity and inclusion efforts. As students with diverse identities & abilities intersect with the collections, physical spaces and services of the Library, the Diversity Committee is focused on providing inclusive services in the areas of race, ethnicity, LGBTQIA+, income inequality, religion, gender, and physical and learning differences. Seven members of the library staff and a student employee serve on the committee.

The overwhelming feedback the Library receives in its surveys of students is that our staff and services are friendly, instructive and helpful and that we do well in supporting our students. Still, we are committed to continually working toward ensuring that our library is a welcoming and inclusive environment -- physically & virtually -- for a diverse student population.

The Diversity Committee’s first event was on July 5. The SMC community as well as area residents gathered in the Library to take part in a communal reading of the July 5, 1852 speech in which abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass took exception to being asked to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The reading was part of a statewide effort in coordination with the Vermont Humanities Council and Community Change Inc.

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THE LIBRARY & THE PRESIDENT

Some thoughts about libraries from Dr. Lorraine Sterritt, President of Saint Michael’s College.

I really love libraries, especially the Saint Michael’s Library and the Princeton Library. When I was a student, I did most of my studying in the library. Walking into a library transports me to another world. I love the smell of libraries. I love browsing the shelves. I love thinking about the sheer volume (no pun intended) of wisdom that went into writing all the books, and the fact that it’s all at your fingertips.

I’m currently reading To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf. Some of my favorite books are Dubliners, Bleak House, Madame Bovary, L’Éducation Sentimentale, and Gargantua et Pantagruel.
Fun Fact: Students Like Pie

Durick Library and the Mathematics & Statistics Department hosted a Pi Day Celebration on 3.14. Faculty and staff from across campus baked and donated a variety of pies and nearly 90 people turned up for the event. Those who attended sampled pies such as raspberry, chocolate cream, sweet potato, and peanut butter, while students from the Math Department engaged visitors with mathematical activities exploring the infinite nature of pi.

-Beth Dietrich, Associate Director of Research & Instruction

Meet Pem

In August, Pembroke King joined the library staff as Evening Circulation Supervisor. Pembroke graduated from Endicott College in 2016 with a degree in International Studies. Pem most recently was the Access Services Specialist for Technology at the O’Neill Library at Boston College. An enthusiast for emergent technologies and media, Pem has already begun work with the library’s implementation team for the design of the library’s new website. In her free time she enjoys reading, exercising, traveling, or giving copious amounts of attention to her dog Bobo. When asked if she could be any animal in the world, Pem answered, “something utterly ridiculous-looking and Lovecraftian, undiscovered at the bottom of the deepest ocean. I imagine it’s very peaceful down there.”

–Anthony Bassignani, Research and Instruction/Circulation Librarian

A Familiar Face Joins the Library Staff

In March, Jamie Slater joined the library staff as our newest Weekend Circulation Supervisor, coming to us by way of Saint Michael’s Dispatch. Jamie graduated from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma with a degree in Special Education and previously worked as a paraprofessional for the Burlington School District.

Jamie spends her free time with her family camping, gardening, and cooking together. When asked her opinion on garden gnomes, Jamie responded “they are adorable and magical” and she will take all the help she can get in her garden.

-Anthony Bassignani, Research & Instruction/Circulation Librarian
GOODYE SCIENCE & WEB GUY

By Michele McCaffrey, Reference & Instruction Librarian (Retired)

For two and a half decades Steve Burks has been the go-to person for research in the sciences at the Library. In May Steve will retire to pursue his many interests which lie outside academia, such as spending time on Lake Champlain, running, tending his gardens, riding his motorcycle, and traveling the world.

Steve began working in the Reference and Instruction Department of Durick Library in 1994 after working for the Central Vermont Railway and as a librarian at the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury. At SMC, he has been the Web Coordinator for the Library and the liaison librarian to the science & math departments (and often to the Business and Accounting Department). Steve also picked up a MSA degree in the SMC graduate program and taught evenings for the Graduate Education program. He has collaborated on the Global Eyes exhibit and award ceremony for many years.

In addition to his professional expertise, SMC folks and especially the library staff will miss Steve’s gentle ways, helpfulness, great sense of humor, and infectious laugh.

INCREDIBLE INTERNS

Once again, the Library was fortunate to have a couple of outstanding interns this academic year. The Cataloging Department was lucky to have Lauren Stone ’18 as an intern in the fall. Lauren’s internship focused on learning the tools of the trade in cataloging and applying that knowledge to cataloging our gift book collection. Lauren brought her creativity, critical thinking and expansive personality to brighten the Library. She graduated in December with a BA in Sociology/Anthropology and is planning to pursue a masters in library science in the near future.

This spring, Shea Ingham ’19 is interning with the Research & Instruction Department. Among other projects, she is acting as a Teaching Assistant for LS 101 Research Skills and Strategies, helping to fine tune course content and leading the class through certain activities. Recently Shea was an integral part of organizing and staffing Frederick Douglass Day in the Library. She brings original ideas and a keen intellect to our library team. Shea will be graduating in May with majors in Political Science and Religious Studies.

–Bethany Dietrich, Associate Director for Research and Instruction
DENISE GROLL: LIBRARIAN OF THE FUTURE

Denise Groll ‘15 will be completing her Master of Library & Information Science with a concentration in Archival Studies this fall. After graduating from St. Mike’s with a BA in History, Denise began taking online classes in library science from the University of Oklahoma. Denise has worked at the college since 2007 and has served as Assistant to the Director of Library & Information Services since 2014. Her position at Durick Library has given her the opportunity to work on special projects in Archives, Cataloging, and Web Development as well as providing backup coverage at Circulation and support services to a variety of library and academic departments. Denise also volunteers as a board member and archivist at the Essex Community Historical Society and Museum.

Congratulations to Denise as she completes this next step in her library career!

–John Payne, Director of Library & Information Services

Thursday, April 25th, 6:00pm—10:00pm in Library 246.
We know writing is hard, that’s why we’ve arranged a night to help you tackle your final papers. Librarians will be available to help you improve your research. Writing coaches will be available to strengthen your writing. Pizza will be available to keep you sane.
Open to all students.

WRITERS WORKSHOP

LISTENED TO ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

The Library now has streaming audiobooks. Audiobook titles we’ve purchased include Becoming by Michelle Obama, There There by Tommy Orange, Creative Quest by Questlove, What Truth Sounds Like by Michael Eric Dyson, Fruit of the Drunken Tree by Ingrid Rojas Contreras and Calypso by David Sedaris.

You can find our streaming audiobooks in one of two ways:
1) Search for audiobooks in the library catalog. If the audiobook is streaming, follow the “Listen Online” link for the title. This will take you to the audiobook vendor (EBSCO) site.
2) Or go to the EBSCO Audiobooks database to see the streaming audiobooks SMC owns. You can get to the audiobooks database from the library home page (select the yellow Video+Audio tab, Select Audio Books, then click Find Streaming Audiobooks).

To listen to an audiobook: at the EBSCO website, create a free EBSCOhost account. Sign in with your EBSCO account and check out the audiobook you want to listen to. Download and sign in to the EBSCO audiobook app on your mobile device. The title you borrowed will appear in the app ready to play.

These audiobooks are similar to having 1 copy of a print book: when an audiobook is checked out, it is out of use to other library users. Audiobooks can be signed out for up to 21 days. If the title is currently borrowed, the message will say “audiobook is in use” and you can place a hold. Need help?

Want a particular audiobook? Just ask a library staff member to assist you.

–Laura Crain, Associate Director for Collection Services
DIVERSITY, continued

In fall 2018 members of the Diversity Committee took a 3 session online course *Equity in Action: Taking Your Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives to the Next Level* offered by LJ Professional Development (an off-shoot of *Library Journal*). The course offered us tools for examining our programs, services & collections through a race and equity lens.

Dr. Raichle Farrelly of the Applied Linguistics Department lead a discussion at a library staff meeting in November where she offered specific advice and ideas on better serving our international students and English language learners. She had previously led a similar discussion for our student employees. Dr. Farrelly had collected informal survey data from her students which gave us ideas for resources and services. We quickly followed up by purchasing book and DVD recommendations, installing a multi-language **Welcome** poster in the front lobby of the library, and adding a push-pin world map for students to place a pin in the area they are from.

Additional programming includes adding more diverse titles to our Book Bingo activity and establishing an ongoing series of *Magic the Gathering* game nights to welcome and celebrate the neurodiversity of our student body.

Future projects include a diversity audit of the browsing book collection, continuing to diversify library artwork, additional staff and student employee training, ensuring accessibility of our spaces and resources, and an Archives page that highlights “firsts” for Saint Michael's College from the historical record (first woman president, first women students, first students of color...).

We are excited about this work and welcome your suggestions.

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**CAMPUS ACCESS TO THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

The Library is pleased to provide SMC students, staff & faculty with access to *The Wall Street Journal* via WSJ.com. Use the WSJ's Partner URL to receive full access to *The Wall Street Journal*. Once you have activated your WSJ account, you can access *The Wall Street Journal* on or off campus at WSJ.com and through the WSJ mobile app. For more information and to activate your account: go to the library home page, select **Articles + Journals**, select **Newspapers**. On the **Newspapers** page you will find the WSJ link.


Questions? Please contact Laura Crain (lcrain@smcvt.edu) or Beth Dietrich (bdietrich@smcvt.edu).

–Laura Crain, Associate Director for Collection Services
# ARCHIVES: ROOM TO GROW

By John Payne, Director of Library & Information Services

I often compare the main Archives room in the library to the secret warehouse in the Indiana Jones movies—box after box of mysterious relics and treasures. While that is at least somewhat true, the boxes in the Archives primarily contain written records of the history of the College and the Society of Saint Edmund—hundreds of thousands of documents in all. As of 2019, the Archives is nearly out of space for additional records—and if you visit it, you can see that the space shortage has already required some rather unconventional storage arrangements.

But thanks to the generosity of Michael and Geraldine Ready the Archives will soon have room to grow. The Readys have made a substantial donation for the purchase of movable, compact shelving in memory of Fr. Vincent Maloney, SSE. To be installed this summer, the new shelving will increase the capacity of the Archives by more than 50% and allow for easier access to records and expanded staff workspaces.

The Archives currently houses the records from the first 115 years of the College and the first 175 years of the Society of Saint Edmund; the new shelving should provide space through the end of the 21st Century. We are especially proud that Mike Ready ’58 was a library student worker for four years during his time at Saint Michael’s, so he’s one of our own!