

# Among Friends

A Mabee Library bi-annual publication

Volume 13, Issue 2 Fall 2010

## Dean of University Libraries Dr. Alan Bearman, Ph.D.



Dear Friends:

It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I write for this edition of our newsletter because I do so as the permanent Dean of Libraries at Washburn University. In January 2008, I agreed to serve for three years as the Interim Dean of

Libraries in an at-

tempt to begin the process of creating a

century learning environment

the libraries of our institution.

comprehensive nation-

find myself committed

d of service well beyond

the years that I originally

ed to spend in the librar-

Thanks are due to so many of

you for both encouraging me to

apply for this position on a per-

manent basis, and for the roles

that several of you played during

the search. When President Farley

offered me the permanent position of

Dean of Libraries, I was honored be-

cause I knew it was his, and the university community's, endorsement of the efforts of an incredible library staff who for 2 ½ years sought to revitalize our libraries. Further, I decided to accept the position because it meant continued work with you—The Friends of Mabee Library. Your ongoing desire to see the libraries remain as the intellectual center of our learning community inspires me to both work hard and dream big.

Mabee Library  
Friends.pdf



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### Inside this issue

New Dean of University  
Libraries 1-3

Library Transitions 4-5

Highlights 6

Thomas Fox Averill 7

Membership Form 8

Not acquainted with Mabee Library?

## Become a Friend!

Membership at every level is very important to the library.

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## The Washburn University Libraries are busy!

In 2009, if you recall, Mabee Library saw a 20% increase in usage over 2008. Well, in 2010, it looks like we will see a 20% increase in usage over 2009. The first week of the fall term just concluded and students are everywhere in our building. Usage is an important way to understand the value of the Washburn Libraries because students need to study.

Such a statement is hardly news, but sometimes we forget this in the digital age with our highly mobile students. With your support, the Washburn Libraries are constantly looking to connect students to information regardless of their physical location—to this end, to support the health sciences at Washburn we recently purchased a subscription to the point-of-care product, UpToDate. However, as I informed every family member who brought a student to Summer Orientation—students not only have to study, they have to study somewhere.

Where better to study than in the library—where different learning styles are accommodated as students are surrounded by both the information they need to be literate in the Information Age, and the people, Librarians, who will teach them how to learn from said materials in an effective manner.

The Washburn Libraries play a leading role in preparing students for success in the Information Age and students increasingly realize this fact that so many of us take for granted. Increasing usage of the libraries tells me that students know that to be successful they need to spend time, and lots of it, in the Washburn Libraries.

Likewise, in the Fall term of 2009, our librarians taught almost 200 students how to be information literate in the for credit course: IS 170: Library Research Strategies. In the term just begun, Fall 2010, students are taking credit courses from librarians in even larger numbers. Currently, exactly 300 students enrolled in IS 170, while 61 enrolled in a new three credit hour course, IS 110: Information Literacy, Technology & the College Experience. All of these students are seeking to become information literate in order to be successful university students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Teaching this many students is a large undertaking for our librarians, and they responded with great vigor in supporting a project that they know will create lifelong learners. Knowing that large numbers of students were enrolling in these two courses, during the summer months we undertook the redesign of the classroom in Mabee Library. I asked our Information

## Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection



Tom Averill, professor, writer in residence, interim chair of the English department, and former director of the Center for Kansas Studies, has been collecting books written by Kansas authors and books about Kansas for more than 40 years. In 2009 he initiated discussions about transferring nearly half of his collection to Mabee Library as a way to make this unique resource available to students and (future) researchers.

On April 21, 2010, the Libraries dedicated the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection.

Over 100 people gathered to hear Steven Hind, Kansas author and poet, read a selection of poems from his works, becoming the inaugural speaker in a lecture series that will highlight the rich history and diversity of Kansas, its people and its writers. Washburn University Foundation also announced the creation of an endowed fund to support the preservation of materials and cover the expenses of bringing speakers to campus. More information can be found at this website:

*Martha Imperato*

[http://www.washburn.edu/mabee/special\\_collections/averill.shtml](http://www.washburn.edu/mabee/special_collections/averill.shtml)



During the summer months, the Library and its services played a leading role in New Student Orientation, Welcome Week and New Faculty Orientation. The coming weeks and months will see us beginning a program of assessment and revising our strategic plan to ensure that it meshes appropriately with the University's newly adopted plan. It is with great energy that we launch ourselves into this new academic term because, through your support, the Washburn Libraries are crucial to the daily life of our learning community.

Historically, libraries serve as the center of a university's culture of academic success. The Washburn Libraries are playing this role today because of your support. Our staff is working hard in a difficult budget environment to support both student and faculty success at Washburn University, so your support of the Friends makes a crucial difference in our efforts. As the new school year begins, let me thank you for both your past and future support.

I'll see you in the stacks.  
Best Wishes  
*Alan Bearman, Ph.D.*

## New Writing Center

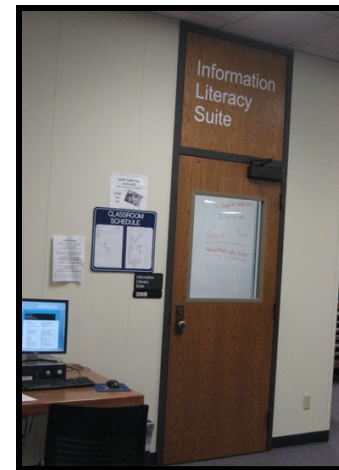
Students have shown increased awareness and use of tutoring services since the Academic Success Center (ASC) relocated to Mabee Library. In part to build on that success, the English department in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences and the Library moved the Washburn Writing Center from its long-time home in Morgan Hall into the room that until recently housed the Koch Collection. Tutors, librarians and staff anticipate a surge in Writing Center traffic in its new home similar to the increase the ASC experienced in its first full semester in Mabee Library. To take advantage of Library hours, tutors will continue to provide services afternoons and evenings during the week but plan to provide some tutoring services Sundays to accommodate the needs of students seeking assistance outside more traditional scheduling. The change in hours and the move into an increasingly vibrant and vital Mabee Library illustrate our commitment to serving more students and becoming another vehicle for Washburn University student success. Next time you visit Mabee Library, please take a peek at the Writing Center to see our new home and experience our renewed dedication. We think you'll be as excited as we are.

*Sean Bird*

## Electronic Classroom Renamed Information Literacy Suite

Changes to the Libraries' Electronic Classroom include more than a name change. The laptop computers and furniture previously in the room were replaced with PCs, desks and chairs given to the Libraries by the School of Applied Studies. The seating arrangement was changed from classroom style to six-desk pods where students face each other in order to facilitate collaborative work on assignments and projects. The ceiling-mounted data projector was replaced with a Promethean interactive whiteboard, a presentation device that interfaces with a computer. Instructors, using a pen-like stylus, touch the board's surface to make the computer respond as if a mouse button was pressed. The computer images are displayed on the board where they can be seen and manipulated, allowing instructors to create multimedia experiences designed to engage all types of learners.

*Judy Druse*



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## **“The Wonderful World of Washburn”**

Is the theme for Washburn’s Homecoming the week of October 18<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Library will play a big role in festivities this year. Not only will we have entries in the Top Hat competition and the Homecoming Parade, we will sponsor two competitions that will have students flocking to the library.

The Library will be in the spotlight Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>. We begin the day with teams of four golfing our 18 hole miniature golf course, hoping to land a place in the tournament that evening. At 7:00 pm the top six teams will be paired with a local TV or radio celebrity to golf a final round for homecoming points. The first place team will receive 20 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place team 17 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> place team 14 pts.

Immediately following the golf tournament the Student Friends of Mabee Library will host Washburn’s first ever text messaging contest. This competition is expected to draw a large crowd. Washburn students will have their fingers flying on their cell phones texting phrases to the library’s new “Text A Librarian” number. The person that survives 6 rounds of texting will receive a new Apple iPad.

*Lori Rognlie*

## **“Text A Librarian”**

Is a new software program that delivers an efficient virtual reference experience. It helps the library connect with more patrons everywhere. Text messaging is the easiest, most patron-accessible way to expand the walls of a library. Come and join the contest and win a new Apple iPad.



Literacy Librarian Keith Rocci to research classroom design for me, to find a model of what a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning space to teach information literacy looks like. With support from our friends in the School of Applied Studies who donated computers and furniture to us and, of course, you—we are now teaching in our “Information Literacy Suite.”

This classroom/suite located on the main level of Mabee Library is a digitally advanced space designed to prepare students for life in the Information Age. It is an impressive space, where the librarians use the latest in technology to teach students about being successful in their university studies. In near constant use during the day, the Information Literacy Suite also serves as an open computer laboratory for students in the evenings (except when booked for additional classes). The creation of the Suite was, however, only possible with the support of our Friends—so, thank you!

Creation of the Information Literacy Suite is not the only physical project in which we engaged during the summer months. Now housed in Mabee Library is an expanded Academic Success Center. A joint project with the Center for Undergraduate Studies and Programs (CUSP), the Center provides tutoring assistance for students in a wide array of subjects. In addition, working with our colleagues in the Department of English, the University Writing Laboratory is now located in Mabee Library. Now students have easy access to these important success services in modern locations that are well located and accessible at a variety of times beyond the normal daily operations of the university.

While we are changing the physical within our Libraries, we continue to build a collection of materials necessary to support the curriculum. I already mentioned UpToDate, but with support of the Friends, we have recently purchased digital access to ArtStor, the NAXOS music database and the Sabin Americana series. Mabee Library now proudly houses the growing Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection, which is located alongside the Koch Art History Collection in a series of beautifully constructed glass faced shelves in the basement adjacent to the University Archives. Recognizing, however, it is impossible for us to own all of the materials that users request of us—we have unveiled our greatly enhanced Interlibrary Loan software. Flawlessly, Marj Murray and Farhan Makda implemented the Illiad software to ensure that our Interlibrary Loan operations are 21<sup>st</sup> century ready, and the immediate response from all users is that Illiad is a success.