Grand Opening of Special Collections

By Carly Marino & Garrett Purchio

A new era of research at Humboldt State University is underway. On March 1, HSU Library celebrated the grand opening of the new Special Collections. Students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered on the third floor of the Library to usher in this dynamic research space.

“Special Collections represents local voices, unique knowledge, and the work of this area,” said Cyril Oberlander, Dean of the Library. Cyril went on to say that the future of this new space represents, “transformation, excellence in teaching and learning, research in scholarship, and student success.”

A performance by the Trumpet Consort von Humboldt kicked off the event. Ted Hernandez, Chairman of the Wiyot Tribe, blessed the new space. Ted was followed by guest speakers including the university president and family members of the late Susie Van Kirk, a prominent local historian. A ribbon-cutting opened the new space to over 170 guests in attendance.

Carly Marino, Special Collections Librarian, said the new Special Collections is, “A place where the students, the campus, and communities of Humboldt County can come together to foster a greater understanding of the history, people and culture of this region.” Carly went on to highlight the many partnerships that Special Collections has with the local community and how those create learning opportunities for students.

Archive advocates highlighted collections, exhibits, and resources available to researchers. This mix of student assistants and interns enabled guests to learn about the ongoing work in Special Collections. This includes the partnership with Redwood National Park and intern work on both the Lucille Vinyard and Susie Van Kirk Collections. The former home of Special Collections, the Humboldt Room, provided visitors a place to enjoy food, refreshments, and reminisce. The Humboldt Room was the home of Special Collections for 42 years, beginning in 1976.

All are welcome to use the new Special Collections space in the Library on the third floor. Visit library.humboldt.edu/about/hours.html to plan your visit to Special Collections.

Celebrating Community

By Victoria Bruner

A group of HSU students and children roar with laughter as Deborah Ketelsen, Discovery Program volunteer, and her crew come careening through the water. Children who are differently abled, and those in low-income households, cast themselves into this Y.E.S. (Youth Educational Services) House rafting program with gusto. By organizing group lunches, training, and storytelling on the river, Deborah (Journalism and Public Relations ’82), learned how to support equity and quality of life.

The Y.E.S. House has been described as a little cabin packed with campus-based/community resources and positivity. Amanda Ramirez-Sebree, Y.E.S. House intern and Environmental Science & Management undergraduate, has built a connection with children in the community with their Study Buddies program. Amanda has helped kids understand letter identification of the English alphabet.

Students, program consultants and directors of the Y.E.S. House invite guest speakers to their weekly knowledge-sharing meetings. This open communication has strengthened partnerships with Marketing and Communications, the Dean of Students, and Potawot Community Food Garden. Students at the Y.E.S. House are also developing a digital storytelling project for their 50th Anniversary. Library Scholar Interns are researching archival materials using Special Collections to publish a book about the Y.E.S. House this fall. Coming 2019 the Library will welcome the Y.E.S. House into a shared space on the lower floor.
Meet our Donors

Joan Berman

Joan Berman has seen the world of information evolve in the 42 years she worked at the HSU Library. She spent the last 17 of those years working as the Special Collections librarian and now she’s helping propel the HSU Library into the future through her giving.

“I gained a unique perspective when I worked in Special Collections because I was constantly trying to find funding for projects, so it was easy for me to see where donating could be strategically important for the Library,” Joan said.

Primary sources are what make Special Collections unique. They include historic local maps, photographs, rare books, and manuscript collections that cannot be found anywhere else. The materials are essential for students and other researchers studying the historical, geographical, and cultural dynamics that have shaped Humboldt County and the surrounding region.

Glen Atkinson

The “new” library opened the last year Glen Atkinson was on campus, 1962. These were the days before internet searches, downloading documents, or even photocopies were available. Glen appreciated the open stacks that allowed him to browse books and journals, something that is more difficult to do in large universities.

“HSU provided a solid background for me to pursue graduate school and then an academic career,” Glen said. “That was not my career goal when I entered college but I was inspired by my experience at HSU to continue my education. That provided an extraordinary quality of life for me and my family. This realization made me grateful and is a major reason we want to give something back.”

Glen visited with a group of interns who were bringing together the 50-year history of Redwood National Park, a subject of interest to the northern California population and potentially a wider audience.

This partnership was made possible by Glen meeting with the Office of Philanthropy to determine where his interests matched the needs of the campus, rather than simply writing a check.

Glen’s giving will enable future Library Scholar Interns to learn through projects integrated with academic study. This will provide students skills that will be valuable in their careers. The overall goal is to make the library a facility to support and encourage student and faculty research.

“I hope our small contribution will help others discover and achieve their career goals,” said Glen. The appreciation Glen has received from campus officials has convinced him and his wife that their gift can make a big difference.

Supporting the HSU Library

I want to sincerely thank all our donors and friends who support HSU Library. We continue to transform to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. This year, we are focused on our goals of providing more paid internships to students, and reducing the cost of textbooks and other critical educational resources such as graphing calculators, laptops, and digital equipment. We are also seeking endowments for much needed information resources. Your support can help strengthen a subject area of your interest. For more information about our fundraising efforts, please visit library.humboldt.edu/giving.html or write to cyril.oberlander@humboldt.edu. We are committed to serving our campus community and sincerely appreciate the support of our donors. Your support of students and HSU Library can have a profound and lasting impact. Cyril Oberlander, Dean, University Library
Dean’s Statement

By Cyril Oberlander

There are unique times in the academic year when we pause to assess how far we have come and how much we’ve grown. In this way we are able to acknowledge the impact of our work and our progress. With this in mind, we are looking forward to ideaFest, a campus celebration of research, scholarship, and creative works on Thursday, April 19, from 3pm-5pm. ideaFest is about appreciating music, theatre, and dance performances, learning about research from hundreds of poster sessions, and viewing creative works along the sculpture walk. As we recognize the dedication and hard work of the campus community, we see that capstones and culminating experiences can have a profoundly positive impact on all of us. This special event, co-sponsored by the Office of Research, Economic & Community Development, Marketing & Communications, and the Library in collaboration with the colleges, is a unique two-hour celebration of outstanding work this academic year, and of the campus community as a whole.

Each year, the campus community grows stronger by connecting people and ideas, while thoughtfully developing learning opportunities that cultivates success. We recently celebrated over 130 HSU authors who have published in 2017/18. The Office of the Provost and the Library were honored to sponsor the 4th annual event on February 14. Impressive authors, included alumni, emeriti, faculty, staff, and many students. This event highlighted authors and their publications, as well as artists and their performances. The open mic was a wonderful way to hear the authors share their inspirations and their voices. Thank you to the many HSU authors who contributed a copy of their work to this invaluable collection, and everyone who attended and supported this event. We love authors and readers!

To view photos of this event and past events, visit http://library.humboldt.edu/about/HSUauthors.html.

Library Impact Stories: Designing with Data

By Cyril Oberlander

We are working diligently to improve the Library’s use of space through good design based on data about how our library is used, and how we can improve. We are able to better plan for the future, designing spaces that enrich the learning environment, experiences, and enhance outcomes. The HSU Library’s emergence as the lively campus hub for learning is an important story about the work of librarians, staff, and student assistants. Together, we have renovated spaces and services to powerfully support students and the campus community. We have implemented many innovations to foster success, and the following are a few highlights.

Make college more affordable

Students are struggling to afford college, and textbooks that cost $200 or more are part of the problem. HSU Sustainable Learning, an initiative led by the Library and Academic Technology, is part of CSU’s Affordable Learning Solutions. In the last two years, our faculty helped save our students over $1,000,000 in textbook costs. Through collaboration with faculty, Academic Technology, the Bookstore, and others, we have ensured equal access to required readings. This initiative supports students who might not be able to access textbooks, or may need to drop out of a class due to monetary constraints. To further reduce cost barriers, the Library’s Textbooks on Reserve program, partially funded by the Instructionally Related Activities fees, purchases much needed expensive textbooks and places them on Reserve for short-term checkout. We currently have over 1,000 reserve items, and as of March 14 reserve checkouts total over 24,000. Similarly, circulating laptops, Digital Media Lab equipment like cameras and microphones, and other resources are also making college more affordable.

Foster much needed skills

SkillShops are fostering learning of much-needed skills for our students, faculty and staff. This academic year, we had over 1,000 attendees in the 220 SkillShops that were offered as of March 14. After attending five SkillShops learners can apply to receive a Skilled Learner Certificate. When asked what they learned in a SkillShop that will help them as a student, a junior Zoology major responded, “All different styles and techniques to maneuver through college effectively.” A freshman Biology major encouraged other students, “Absolutely, go to as many SkillShops as you can. Most of them are only an hour long and you might really learn something useful that you wouldn’t have thought otherwise.” Currently, we are evaluating the impact of SkillShops on learning.

Make spaces more effective

HSU Library’s annual assessment looks at how learners are using library spaces, through sample mapping to help determine if spaces are well-utilized and pinpoint spaces that are not. The annual assessment ensures we have enough variety and spaces for everyone. Any space that has 10% or less use is changed to match high-use patterns while any spaces with high-use or close to peak-use are expanded. This year, HSU Library hired computer science students to develop a website for library staff and students to easily collect and report the seating use data. The opportunities to foster applied learning and project-based learning are crucial to supporting student success.

Make the most resources available

Twice a year, the librarians and staff at HSU Library amass tens of thousands of data points to assess databases, journals, and other resources to determine what resources we must retain access to meet crucial needs on campus. In addition to cost and use, many other parameters are included in this assessment, including inflation rate. Publishers typically increase the cost of subscriptions 5-8% each year, necessitating thoughtful cuts. If you want to know more about library data, check out our data website: http://library.humboldt.edu/assessment.html.

The lively learning environment at the HSU Library is created by dedicated folks who work to understand Library users. We creatively collaborate and connect with the campus community, gather and analyze data and information, and cultivate and foster innovations. Every day, each of the thousands of visitors to HSU Library bring an opportunity to learn and share their expertise.
April Events

**Tues., April 3**  Global Cafe: Japan, 4:30-5:30pm, Fishbowl

**Fri., April 13**  Bryan Radzin Book Reading & Discussion, 6-8pm, Fishbowl

**Wed., April 18**  Global Cafe: Vietnam, 4-5pm, Fishbowl

Zev Levinson Poetry Reading, 7-8pm, Fishbowl

**Thurs., April 19**  ideaFest, 3-5pm, All floors of the Library

**Mon. - Fri., April 23 - 27**  National Poetry Month Events: Create your own poetry with word magnets (Library Lobby), blackout poetry with old copies of El Lenador (Out. Lib. 112), poetry exhibits, April 27 Poetry open mic, 5pm, Library Cafe

**Mon., April 30**  Bao Phi Poetry Reading & Book Signing, 3-5pm, Fishbowl

For a complete list of Library events and exhibits, visit library.humboldt.edu/news/exhibitsevents.html

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HSU Student Snapshots

**By Tim Miller**

**Your voice needs to be heard!**

What have been your experiences navigating Humboldt County? In what ways do you feel, or not feel, like a member of the community? Your story is important and you have something to share with HSU and beyond. If you have never made a video, this is your chance to learn how. We will be gathering your stories over the next few years and by sharing your voice, you will be helping to build an anthology of student stories.

We will be screening the first Student Snapshots videos at this year’s ideaFest on April 19, 2018. Submit your video by April 17 to be a part of this groundbreaking project. Learn how to create your video with the Digital Storytelling Skillshops series from March 27 to April 11 where you can also earn a videography badge.

HSU Student Snapshots is a project founded by faculty, staff, and students who care about the experiences of HSU students on campus and in the broader Humboldt County area. We hope to empower students to use their voice to engage with each other and with their communities by creating quick 1-minute stories that share their unique experiences in their own voice.

Learn more about the project, how to create your own video, and view the YouTube channel at http://libguides.humboldt.edu/snapshots. Contact us at HSUStudentSnapshots@gmail.com.

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Students are Talking

**LumberHacks**

*lumberhacks.org*

**By Rawan Almakhloog, Computer Science Major**

For the first time at HSU the Computer Science club will host LumberHacks, a programming competition. It is a three-day event happening Friday, March 23, through Sunday, March 25. During the event, students will be divided into teams and required to design and build a prototype program. The teams will be able to choose their own project. For instance, they could build an application that solves a problem in the spirit of social good, or perhaps the team has an idea for the next social networking application. Participants are even allowed to build a game using one of the gaming engines like Unity or Godot.

Everyone is invited to participate in the opportunity to polish and further enhance their computing and coding skills. The doors are open to all majors, high school students, and community members for registration. Events like LumberHacks will help all participants with organizational skills, increase creativity, and develop problem-solving abilities.

Apart from developing new skills, the event gives students a chance to engage with students of different ages and majors who are pursuing different careers in their academics. This event will also help students consider Computer Science as a future option to study.

Kris Anderson, Intern Developer Supervisor and Student Advocate at HSU, said, “The primary goal [of LumberHacks] is to have fun and push your skills beyond any limits. We encourage people to leverage the mentors and even people from other teams. Think of it as an open source community, building things together at the same time.”

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Have a story to share with the campus? Writing for the Library newsletter is easy! Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to contact the Library Marketing and Outreach Team at libmarketing@humboldt.edu to learn more about sharing a story in the next newsletter.