Deborah Carver Named Philip H. Knight University Librarian

Deborah A. Carver, associate university librarian for public services and collections at the University of Oregon Libraries, has been appointed Philip H. Knight University Librarian effective July 1, 2002. Prior to her appointment, Carver served as interim university librarian beginning July 2000.

“Deborah Carver has played a critical role in the library’s growth and transformation into the Information Age,” says Lorraine Davis, vice president for academic affairs. “Her capable leadership, which initiated the library’s first system-wide strategic planning process, bodes well for the future of the UO Library.”

Carver, who is excited about this opportunity and feels privileged to be named the leader of Oregon’s premier academic library, is enthused about the future of research libraries.

“The UO Library is well positioned to play a leadership role in the transformation underway in how we produce, organize, and share information,” she says. “With our talented staff, engaged faculty, and the strong support of administrators and donors, we are empowered to continue our forward momentum at the forefront of these dramatic changes.”

Carver, the Oregon Library Association’s 1999 Librarian of the Year, has been a member of the UO faculty since 1990. Author of numerous publications and presentations, she has been active in state, regional, and national associations.

Recently, Carver was appointed by the Oregon Senate to the Interim Legislative Committee on Libraries, on which she currently serves. She also serves on Oregon’s Statewide Database Licensing Committee and represented Oregon as an elected member of the American Library Association Council from 1998 to 2001. The 1995–96 president of the Oregon Library Association, she served on its legislative committee and chaired its Vision 2010 Task Force.

A 1973 magna cum laude graduate in political science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Carver earned a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1976 and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, in 1984.

Carver will head up the largest research library in the state, consisting of the Knight Library and five branch libraries. The only Oregon member of the prestigious Association of Research Libraries, it also is a leader in automation and houses a collection of more than 2.4 million bound volumes and other materials.

Through donations of private materials and funds, the library’s areas of particular strength include 20th-century American politics, Native American literature, children’s literature, English history and literature of the Enlightenment, modern Chinese literature, and the Oregon Collection of Northwest books and reference materials.
Welcome to this issue of Library Notes. As the new academic term commences, we have several reasons to be excited about the 2002–2003 academic year.

First, this year marks the largest enrollment in the university’s history—more than 20,000 students have made their way to the emerald acres of campus. The 2002–2003 class is one of the strongest ever in terms of its diversity and academic talent, and the university continues to be a leader nationwide in the percentage of international students it enrolls. Increased use of the library’s services and resources is evident, and we expect this trend to continue.

Second, we continue to make significant progress in the library in the areas of facilities improvement, enhanced access to resources, and important additions to our collections. Some recent accomplishments are highlighted in this issue.

Third, the impact of technology on academia is enabling the UO Libraries to play a leadership role in shaping the future direction of scholarly communications and in encouraging the use of new educational technologies in the classroom. Teaching and learning are being enhanced in ways that dramatically improve the higher education experience. There has never been a time of greater opportunity for our students.

In all our endeavors, we continue to be inspired by the generosity and commitment of our alumni and friends. Thank you for your continuing support. You enable us to reach beyond our expectations and dream of what might be possible.

My best wishes from campus.

Deborah A. Carver
Philip H. Knight University Librarian
An exhibit entitled “Making a Difference,” which commemorates the UO’s 125th anniversary, is currently on display in the Knight Library’s south reading room. Some of the century.

Since its founding in 1872, the UO has been the academic home to hundreds of talented, devoted, and determined men and women. The exhibit profiles many of these individuals, including Minora Yasui, the first Japanese-American graduate of the University Law School; renowned opera singer Madame Rose McCreery; famed author Ken Kesey; and Nobel Prize winners William Parry Murphy and Walter H. Brattain. The exhibit tells the story of many luminaries from the UO’s earliest days, individuals whose names now grace university buildings—Reverend Thomas Condon, Luella Clay Carson, John Wesley Johnson, and Henry Villard.

Structured around a diverse set of topics that includes law and politics; innovation at the UO; student life and student activities; science, art, and humanities, the exhibit displays traditional artifacts, such as a microscope used by UO botanist Albert Sweeater in 1908, as well as more unusual items, such as freshman and sophomore beanie worn by UO students in 1910.

Examples of innovative technologies developed or used at the UO are also on display, including the now-famous waffle iron and shoe molds similar to those used by Bill Bowerman and others to produce some of the first “high-tech” running shoes, and an early recording device, a Dictaphone, used by UO staff around 1900.

Curators for the exhibit are James Fox, director of the library’s Division of Special Collections and University Archives, and Larry Fong, associate director of the UO Museum of Art. Most of the exhibited items are permanently housed in the archives section of the library’s Special Collections Division, which helps keep the UO’s history alive and well by preserving and storing rare and historically valuable print manuscripts, books, photographs, and other materials.

The exhibit will continue through January 2003.

Recognizing Excellence: The Solari Library Faculty Fellowships

Shirin Chappell, head of the Access Services Department, and Christine L. Sundt, visual resources curator, are the second recipients of the Solari Library Faculty Fellowships funded by Richard and Mary Corrigan Solari.

Nominated by library faculty and other UO community members, Chappell and Sundt were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the library and information technology profession. The 2002 awards, worth $3,000 each, were the first funded through the Solari endowment.

Shirin Chappell’s contributions have included consensus building, creative thinking, collection management, and collegiality. Her work with Orbis, the regional consortium of academic libraries, and the library’s Intranet has been especially valuable. As department head of Access Services for more than 20 years, she has provided excellent service to the library, campus, and the region.

Donors have contributed a total of $6,650,000 so far for the new furnishings. An estimated $450,000 more is needed to refurbish the rest of the library. Major contributors so far include John and Patricia Bentley, Albert and Barbara Bullier, Gary Harbison, Phillip and Jill Lighty, Sally and Paul McCracken, David and Nancy Petrone, and the estate of Charlene LeFebre.

For more information, contact Lisa Manotti, director, library development, (541) 346-1823, lmanotti@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The Finishing Touch

When the $27.4-million expansion and remodeling of Knight Library was finished in 1994, patrons were delighted by the stunning architecture. The only jarring note was created by the old furnishings that remained, the 1950s plastic study tables and torn Naugahyde chairs blighting the new interior landscape like weeds in a flower garden.

There wasn’t enough money for new furnishings. But thanks to the generosity of donors, the library has been able to refurbish the main public areas. In the light-filled south reading room, upholstered chairs are grouped around cylindrical cherry-finished tables. Long wooden study tables and ergonomically correct chairs for computer workstations fill the reference area. New desks, tables, and chairs brighten the Okabayashi Reserve Reading Room.

The new furnishings have led to a “dramatic increase” in student use of these spaces, says University Librarian Deh Carver. “The library will always be a special place, the physical center of the academic community. Students want to be here, and the new atmosphere has made it more comfortable, more inviting, and more conducive to both collaborative work and quiet reflection.”

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FITT for the Real World

Student employees throughout the UO Libraries hold positions that benefit them both in their coursework and after graduation. A shining example is the Faculty Instructional Technology Training (FITT) Center, where paid students offer individual consulting and training to UO faculty, staff, and graduate teaching fellows free of charge.

Students majoring in art, journalism, and computer science find that the library’s instructional technology support positions enable them to acquire technical expertise in using a broad range of multimedia and instructional tools that will be helpful to them professionally. They also get the opportunity to sharpen their communications skills by collaborating on projects and learning customer service, consulting, problem-solving, and training techniques.

Clients clearly benefit from the expertise of student consultants. Faculty and GTFs from more than 100 departments have made more than 2,000 visits to the FITT Center since it opened in summer 1999. They have learned consulting, problem-solving, and training techniques.

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RECENT VISITOR COMMENTS

I have come here about 3-4 times . . . . The service was extraordinarily wonderful. Thank you very much!

Excellent service. I could do everything I had planned and went away with even more ideas.

The help I’ve been given here over the past year and a half has been extraordinary. The staff is the best. They are friendly, knowledgeable, and very patient. Thanks.

The FITT Center is located in Media Services Room 18 on the ground floor of the Knight Library. For more information, browse the web site at http://libweb.uoregon.edu/fittc or call Kathy Heerema at (541) 346-1717.

Library Web Site Redesign Goes Live

The UO Libraries’ web site sports a new look this fall, offering “one-stop shopping” search features directly from the home page. The new front page allows users to immediately search the three major categories of the library’s offerings—UO & Other Library Catalogs, Databases andIndexes, and Guides to Resources.

“We conducted extensive usability studies on our web site,” says JQ Johnson, who headed up the implementation of the library’s new design. “Most users wanted quick and easy search features available when they first entered the site. That’s what we’ve tried to provide.”

In addition to the immediate search features, information about the library and library services can easily be retrieved on the home page by selecting topics from convenient drop-down menus. A newly upgraded section focusing on library news and events also appears on the top level of the site. The search pages and most first-level pages on the library’s web site have been reorganized, redesigned, and reformatted for consistency and ease of use. Additional content and design changes will be implemented in the coming months.

Visit the library’s web site at libweb.uoregon.edu.

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Bellotti Family Gives $25,000 to UO Libraries

Mike Bellotti, the University of Oregon’s head football coach, has always emphasized the importance of academics to his players. Now, he’s walking the talk with his own hard cash.

Bellotti and his wife, Colleen, saying they want to give something back to the university that has rewarded them in so many ways, have given $25,000 to UO Libraries.

Both the UO Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the UO College of Arts and Sciences have matched the Bellotti’s gift—creating a total gift of $75,000. University Librarian Deb Carver says the Bellotti Family Fund will be used to help UO Libraries become a leader in developing new technologies to support research, teaching, and access to information.

The College of Arts and Sciences’ $25,000 will be put to use immediately while the other $50,000 will be placed in an endowment. Carver hopes to grow the endowment to $1 million or more, with contributions from other donors.

“This university has been loyal to me and provided me with a great opportunity,” says Mike Bellotti, head football coach since 1995. “My family and I felt we were blessed and wanted to give something back to the university, both to the athletic department and to the university itself. We felt the library is something used by all students, so maybe our gift could do the greatest good there.”

The Bellottis also are giving $50,000 to Duck athletics for the Autzen Stadium expansion.

“Mike’s gift is one more confirmation of the kind of person he is,” says UO President Dave Frohnmayer. “He believes the most valuable award his student-athletes can take away from here is a Heisman Trophy or an entry in the record books but a college education. The university gave Mike its Pioneer Award this year because he embodies—and demonstrates through his actions—the values and ideals that we strive to communicate to all our students.”

“It’s hard for me to express my excitement,” says Carver, who learned about the library gift when Bellotti announced it unexpectedly during the May 11 dinner where he received the UO’s 2002 Pioneer Award. “We’ve been thinking for a long time that the library was in a good position to be a kind of bridge between athletics and academics. We have been exploring ideas for working with them more closely to help unify the campus in a meaningful way. This gift is a first step toward that unification.”

In deciding how to spend the earnings from the new endowment, Carver says, “We started thinking about who Mike Bellotti is, what he’s done for the university. Innovation and leadership were what came to mind. So we’ve earmarked the fund for innovative technologies. We’ll use that money to take a leadership role not just in purchasing new technologies but in developing them ourselves.”

UO Athletic Director Bill Moos says he was “impressed but not surprised” by the Bellotti’s library gift.

“Because this has been such an extraordinary year for Oregon athletics, I thought it would be appropriate to use some of the funds resulting from our success to match Mike’s gift,” Moos says.

“All students at our university can benefit from the library. I share with Mike the hope that our contributions will make a difference.”

Joe Stone, dean of the UO College of Arts and Sciences, says he decided to match the gift because “we wanted to help in underscoring the campus-wide importance of the library and the symbolic cooperation of Coach Bellotti, Athletics, and the College of Arts and Sciences in support of the library.”

Bellotti coached the Ducks last year to the most successful football season in UO history—winning the Pac-10 championship, racking up 11 Duck wins for the first time, and whipping Colorado 38-16 in the Fiesta Bowl to earn a No. 2 national ranking.

It’s unusual for a college football coach to make a private gift to the academic side of campus. Bellotti says he was influenced by the actions of another winning football coach—Joe Paterno of Penn State, who has made several contributions to the Penn State libraries and other academic programs.

For information on how to contribute to the Bellotti Family Fund for UO Libraries, contact Lisa Manotti, director, library development, (541) 346-1823.