IJC Shines at 50th Jazz Fest

Items from the International Jazz Collections were on display in the Kibbie Dome and the new IRIC building during the 50th Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.

Special Collections and Archives was a campus leader in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival by hosting a variety of exhibits and events featuring the International Jazz Collections. During the festival there were six exhibits on campus and Moscow, the largest of which is still on the display on the library second floor.

50/50: Fifty years of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival uses materials from SPEC to celebrate highlights from each year of the festival. During the month of February SPEC held instruction classes for students who visited the jazz exhibits in the Library, including Ella Fitzgerald’s dress. Students attended festival workshops in the IRIC Building, where we had a marimba and balafon owned by Lionel Hampton on display. These exhibits allowed new people to engage with the collection.

Our most visited display was in the Kibbie Dome during the mainstage performances. The four-case display featured materials from prominent artists—such as Benny Goodman’s suit, Dizzy Gillespie’s shirt, and Ella Fitzgerald’s hat—and the National Medal of Arts given to the festival in 2007. People stood in line to view the displays throughout the day and before and after the evening performances.

Erin Stoddart and Ashlyn Velte from Special Collections led a Jazz Workshop on both the Friday and Saturday of the Festival. Teachers, faculty, and students from high schools and colleges learned about the history of the festival and had the opportunity to view materials from festival performers connected to the International Jazz Collections.

In addition to the Special Collections events, The MILL hosted a jazz-themed open house featuring DD printed instruments, banana pianos, and Makey Makey drum sets.
Student Success Initiative Welcomes New Librarian

The first three years of implementing the university’s new strategic plan will be focused on enrollment growth and student success. The Library is excited to contribute to these efforts by focusing our efforts on student-centric initiatives such as the Making, Innovating, and Learning Laboratory (The MILL), collaborations with other campus student-support units such as tutoring, open educational resources, and our revamped First-Year Experience program. Our First-Year Experience program expands our outreach to undergraduate students through both curricular integration and informal engagement with students at venues including academic fairs and residence halls.

Our newest member of the First Year Experience team is Resident Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kimberly Foster, who joined us this January. She is already busy teaching (many) sections of English 102 Library Week, collaborating on curriculum planning, and helping with other first year instruction and a variety of outreach projects, as well as working on the Reference Desk and helping update and revise our Research Guides. She is helping us in our efforts to continuously improve our services to all of our students, making sure we provide the best possible research help, instruction, and resources to support academic success. Our First Year Experience program plays a critical role in reaching students who are new to the University, helping them establish good research and information literacy habits as they begin their college careers. Developing these lasting skills helps our students be successful, contributing to their own successes as well as the success of the University, the state, the region, and every community they touch.

Kimberly grew up in Loveland, Ohio (near Cincinnati) and received a B.A. with a double major in History and Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 2014. She went on to earn her M.L.I.S. degree at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 2016, with a focus on academic librarianship. During her studies, she got great experience in her position as a Graduate Assistant, working the Reference Desk and providing workshops and instruction, particularly to ESL grad students. Kimberly’s hobbies include reading and occasionally skiing, which means she picked a great year to move to the Palouse. Welcome, Kimberly!

New Furniture is a Hit with Students

Since the renovation, the “Living Room” area on the Library’s first floor has seen constant use from students studying, relaxing, meeting, and sometimes even sleeping. The yellow charger stations (seen left) have proven exceptionally popular thanks to the many laptops, phones, and other devices that always seem to need charging during long days on campus.

Each time we walk through the crowded first floor, we are reminded of how lucky we are to have the opportunity, thanks to our generous supporters, to provide our students with the best spaces and resources to help them succeed!
New Gifts in Special Collections

The Michael Frome Collection

SPEC has received two new donations of significance to the conservation and environmental movements. The Michael Frome Collection is made up of approximately 33 cubic feet of materials related to the personal and professional career of conservationist and author Michael Frome. Frome was a travel writer for national magazines and newspapers before turning his focus to the environment. He wrote more than twenty books and numerous articles about environmental protection. Frome was known for arguing for “a national ethic of environmental stewardship.” In addition to being a writer, Frome was also an educator and faculty member at a number of universities, including a visiting professor at the University of Idaho from 1982-1986. The collection includes publications, correspondence, subject files, photographs and slides, and Frome’s personal library. This new acquisition builds on the Frome papers that SPEC received starting in 1989; more information can be found at: http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv74562.

The John and Rachael Osborn Collection

The John and Rachael Osborn Collection consists of approximately 300 cubic feet of materials related to forest conservation in the Eastern Washington, North Idaho, and Western Montana region from the early 1980s through the early 2000s, and water conservation from the late 1900s to the present. John Osborn is a Spokane physician and conservationist who was the founder and long-time president of The Lands Council, editor of the monthly journal Transitions, author, and testifier before local, state, and federal government bodies. Rachael Paschal Osborn is a public interest water lawyer in Spokane has been involved with protecting aquifers and rivers in the region and the legal challenge to the 1864 Northern Pacific Land Grant. The collection includes the newsletter Transitions and materials related to the Inland Empire Public Lands Council, The Sierra Club, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Washington Wilderness Coalition, Center for Environmental Law & Policy, and more.

Idaho Booker’s Dozen 2017 Comes to the Library

Idaho Booker’s Dozen, the state’s longest running juried traveling artists’ book exhibition, spent March 2017 on display in cases the whiteboard area on the first floor of the Library. This biennial exhibition, organized by the Idaho Center for the Book at Boise State University, will travel to twelve venues in schools, libraries, and exhibition spaces throughout Idaho, and visit other book arts programs nationally. Submissions came from all over the United States and Canada. This year’s jurors included Rachel Lambert, Director of the Black Bar Gallery in Boise, art historian Dr. Lawrence Shapiro, Anna Webb, a Boise-based reporter and mosaic artist, and Dried Zirensky, who writes and collects artists’ books. If you missed it, the exhibit will be visiting the Coeur d’Alene Public Library in the month of April.

(left): Some of the art books in the exhibit: “Circles” and “Empty Nest” both by Kristine Bouyoucos (Pittsford, NY).
“Really? Jazz in Idaho in February?” I’ve only had to respond to that question for ten of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival’s fifty years—and I can truthfully say jazz in Idaho in February is great! Kudos to everyone—from volunteers to student musicians to jazz masters—who has had a part in the Festival and the International Jazz Collections. We at the Library are so pleased to have an important role as keepers of a slice of jazz history. Our folks in Special Collections and Archives outdid themselves with exhibits and displays this year, creating a fitting tribute to the golden anniversary of jazz on the Palouse.

The Jazz Festival is a wonderful example of how the Library is an important partner in education on campus. We have librarians visiting the resident halls and welcoming prospective students; we have week-long instruction programs embedded in freshman English courses; we host book talks and hold workshops on innovations in education; and we work to provide affordable textbooks and educational resources. The Library is not just a building but a state of mind.

Your support helps keep these initiatives alive. We are looking to add furniture and finishing touches to our second floor, building on our success with the first floor renovation. These projects would be impossible without your support. Here’s a short video about one of our enhancements. Thanks for your continued investments. And let the beat go on!