TRANSITIONS

Every year, the University of Idaho Library goes through a number of transitions. This year is no exception. Transitioning leadership, a remodeled space, new furnishings, a new cohort of U of I students and refreshed university branding breathe a lively energy to the library, whose principles have guided the state of Idaho’s premier research university through 126 years of exemplary service.

In June, Library Dean Lynn Baird retired after four decades of service to the university. From the days of the card catalog to today’s world of data and systems, she instituted policies and practices to ensure the U of I community continues to participate in global scholarly communication. Lynn holds a Master of Public Administration and a doctorate in adult and organizational learning and leadership, both from U of I. Under Lynn’s leadership, the U of I Library launched several new initiatives and partnerships, and her service extended well beyond the U of I Library. She was awarded Athena’s prestigious Women of the Year award for her continued dedication toward women’s professional enhancement at U of I.

Lynn will be missed, but she is proud of the innovative programs she brought forth during her time as dean, the interdisciplinary partnerships she developed, the $2 million transformative remodel of the library’s first and second floors and the cultivation of new lines of financial support. After so many years of living and working at full speed, Lynn is going to focus on spending time with her family, especially her young grandson.

Ben Hunter, U of I associate dean and alumnus, now leads the library as interim dean. Hunter was named 2017 Idaho Library Association (ILA) Librarian of the Year and was also recently appointed to the American Library Association (ALA) Steering Committee for the ALA Organizational Effectiveness/Governance Review Process.

Hunter received his Bachelor of Music from U of I’s Lionel Hampton School of Music in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and also has a Master of Music from the University of Oregon and a Master of Science in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a doctoral candidate at Simmons College in Boston.

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In the modern academic library, we accept and welcome change as a constant. We are always finding new ways to fulfill our time-tested mission as we help our users navigate the rapidly shifting worlds of information, data, and scholarly communication. In recent months, we’ve experienced some big changes within our organization.

The big news is, of course, Dean Lynn Baird’s retirement. Lynn has been an amazing leader, mentor, colleague and friend to so many of us for so long that it’s hard to imagine the library without her. We’ve also seen some of our staff and faculty retire and leave for other opportunities in recent months. Among those is Erin Stoddart, our (former) head of Special Collections and Archives. Erin is a familiar face to loyal Towers readers as she has done some extraordinary work for us. Though we’re sad to see her go, we wish her luck in her new role at the University of Oregon.

What this means for me is that my first weeks as interim dean have been a flurry of goodbyes, search committees and welcomes as new people join our faculty and staff. However, despite this turnover, the library remains strong. The library’s team is rich with talent, energy and enthusiasm. We have an excellent mix of experience and fresh energy, and as we bring in new faculty and staff, they’ll be fortunate to join a truly outstanding group of people.

Even as the faces change, the library remains dedicated to our core mission of serving U of I, the state and the region. This is an exciting time for academic libraries, and the U of I Library is well-positioned to continue partnering with our community members as they teach, learn, create and explore.
THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO LIBRARY
INCREASES SCHOLARLY IMPACT AND VISIBILITY
THROUGHOUT THE STATE, NATION AND BEYOND

To heighten the visibility of the University of Idaho’s research, innovation, scholarship and creative works, an open access publishing fund (OAPF) has been created by a partnership with the U of I Library, Office of the Provost, and Office of Research and Economic Development. The OAPF supports U of I’s vision to make the innovative research conducted at U of I as widely accessible as possible and reduces barriers to access.

Open access models of publication provide readers with “free, immediate, online” access to content, such as scholarly research articles. Open access removes price barriers for readers and is compatible with peer review, copyright, preservation and other qualities associated with traditional models of scholarly publication.

The university’s OAPF supports all U of I authors in their efforts to publish in peer-reviewed, open-access journals and has allocated $30,000 to pay for article processing charges during the pilot year. The OAPF also employs specific eligibility criteria to verify publishers and journals adhere to responsible, sustainable and non-exploitative publishing behavior. By supporting open access models of publication, U of I demonstrates that we embrace equity of access, which is a catalyst for increased impact and visibility throughout the state, nation and beyond.

NEW, BOLD U OF I BRANDING

The University of Idaho has a new, refreshed brand image that is focused on solidifying the university’s brand position in an evolving higher education landscape. You will notice the transition on the library’s website, signage, and digital and print communications. The ultimate goal is to expand the university’s intellectual and economic impact and make higher education relevant and accessible to qualified students of all backgrounds. The U of I Library supports this goal with a unified visual and editorial experience.

The fall 2018 cohort of U of I students is part of the independent and entrepreneurial Generation Z that makes up 25 percent of the U.S. population. A combination of digital information at one’s fingertips and bold images resonates best with the largest percentage of the library’s users. The updated university branding breathes a fresh energy into the library’s guiding principles that have propelled it through 126 years of exemplary service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASHLYN VELTE -
Publishes in American Archivist

Assistant Professor Ashlyn Velte with Library Special Collections and Archives published a study titled “Ethical Challenges and Current Practices in Activist Social Media Archives” in The American Archivist Vol. 81, No. 1 Spring/Summer 2018 112–134. Velte’s first publication in the top journal describes ethical challenges regarding acquisition and access to activist social media archives. Results from the study may help decrease the risk that these important records of modern activism will be left out of the historical narrative.

OLIVIA WIKLE -
Digital Initiatives Librarian

The U of I Library welcomes the new Digital Initiatives Librarian Olivia Wikle. Olivia began her position on July 2. She completed her Master of Library Science degree at Indiana University, Bloomington in May 2018. Prior to studying librarianship, she earned a Master of Arts in musicology from The Ohio State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in music from Truman State University.
Jim Becque came to the University of Idaho from the Midwest after serving four years in the U.S. Navy stationed with the Marine Corps as an interpreter in Vietnam. He graduated from U of I with a Bachelor of Science degree in plant science in 1976. While at the U of I, Jim founded the Plant and Soil Science Club which still to this day raises money to fund student scholarships, local charities, and student field trips. Recently retired from 17 years at Home Depot in suburban Chicago, Illinois, Jim lives in Ingleside, Illinois. Jim is a longtime donor to U of I Library Associates with 22 years of giving and has a major gift for the library in his estate plan. Thank you, Jim Becque, for your generous support of the U of I library that will help students discover new knowledge, solve new problems and build the future.

There can be significant advantages to donating assets to the U of I Library as part of an estate plan. When you support the U of I, you show that you value the innovative thinking, community engagement and transformative education at Idaho's land-grant research university. A gift in your will, trust, or in some other way, will put your values into action and inspire futures for generations to come.

Please contact Associate Vice President for Development Kim O’Neill at 208-885-5371 or kimoneill@uidaho.edu to donate and/or for more information.