

Spring 2013

## Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Spring 2013

Portland State University Library

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## *From Marilyn K. Moody, Dean of the University Library*

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Dear Friends,

We're up to the challenge! The last few months have been an exciting time at Portland State. As part of a larger initiative to "reTHINK PSU," Provost Sona Andrews challenged the campus last fall to develop innovative proposals to "serve as a catalyst for exploration, collaboration, testing of ideas and risk taking." In order to support this Challenge, three million dollars in one-time funds were made available, and a development and review process for the proposals was developed.

Library faculty and staff have been actively involved in the Provost's Challenge from the beginning. In addition to collaborating with others on campus in developing and shaping proposals, we've used our expertise to more generally support the work of the Provost's Challenge.

And what is the "reTHINK PSU" initiative all about? The reTHINK PSU initiative looks to creatively address some of the challenges facing us at PSU. As Provost Sona Andrews notes, "U.S. public higher education faces increasing challenges, including: changing models of educational delivery, declining state funding, alternative credentialing, demographic shifts in student populations, questions concerning the relevancy of the curriculum, increased cost, and increasing external scrutiny. Portland State is not immune to these challenges. We should proactively work on how we might reTHINK PSU to address these challenges."

How have we been involved in the Provost's Challenge? When Provost Andrews requested a way to identify and make available articles and reports regarding the issues facing higher education, the Library jumped in. Two of our Library faculty, Sarah Beasley and Joan Petit, quickly created an online guide to current articles and other resources that helped those creating proposals (see <http://guides.library.pdx.edu/rethinkpsu>).

Continued inside...



Stay in touch with the University Library through Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PortlandStateLibrary> and follow our news @PSULibrary and our historic PSU pictures from the Archives @PSULibArchives on Twitter.

162 proposals from all areas of the university were initially submitted for the Challenge (see <http://www.rethink.pdx.edu>). Library faculty and staff were involved as proposal leads or collaborators on 18 different proposals. To give you a flavor of the topics of these proposals, here are some examples:

- PDX Open: Reducing Student Textbook Costs
- Digital Badges for Creativity and Critical Thinking
- Humanities on Demand: Increasing Access to the Humanities for Individuals of All Abilities
- Expanding the PSU Sphere of Influence: A Vision for Increased Access Through Highly Effective Online Programming in Business Education
- University Studies Online General Education Pathways

The entire campus community was encouraged to read proposals and post comments online. During three days in January, lead presenters were given minutes to present their ideas in a capsule format to the Provost as well as an interested audience—which included many of us from the Library.

As Dean of the Library, I was part of the vetting process for finalists, and 20 finalist proposals have now been identified. A Library faculty member will continue to work closely with each project as the proposals receiving awards are implemented. We are also archiving the reTHINK PSU website and other items associated with the initiative as part of the University Archives collection.

The Provost's Challenge has been a great opportunity for us to work more closely with our PSU colleagues. Join us in being a part of the innovation and creativity as we "reTHINK PSU!"

The Portland State Library *News Update* is published bi-annually to promote the services, collections, and programs of the Portland State University Library.

Contributors:  
Kait Heacock  
Marilyn K. Moody  
Jennifer Wilkerson

Best Wishes,  
Marilyn K. Moody

## Corey and Stacy Lohman: Supporting Student Success and Scholarship

The PSU Library supports nearly 30,000 students as they explore, learn, and engage with their various fields of study. Each student has an individual experience with the library that we strive to consider with every decision we make about services, instruction and information resources. Our partners in the Colleges and Departments have a long history of supporting individual students with scholarships and financial support and the Library has not been able provide this kind of support. Until now.

With the average student graduating from PSU with nearly \$27,000 in debt, we have decided to find another model for supporting our students with direct financial support.

In January we awarded the first ever Special Collections Research Fellowship (SCRF) to Beth Cookler. There are two goals to this new fellowship program. We want to directly lessen the financial burden of our students and we want to encourage use of our Special Collections and University Archives as rich primary resources for theses and honors projects. With her fellowship support, Beth receives one year of tuition while she finishes her master's project. By lessening her financial strain, Beth has been given the gift of time. Time not spent working can be spent on developing her ideas to change how history is taught in Portland.

Beth Cookler is a history teacher on sabbatical from Beaverton School District and working on her master's in history. She is working on a project that will utilize our archives to teach her students national



University Archivist and Head of Special Collections Cris Paschid shows highlights from Special Collections to the Lohmans.

“Working with Special Collections is exciting because I am able to discover local documents that illustrate the larger concepts and themes of American history.”

—Beth Cookler,  
Special Collections Research Fellow

historical narratives as they took place in Oregon. “As a history teacher, I am always looking for ways to understand the story of American history through the place in which we live,” Beth says. For example,

Beth will be able to create a lesson plan about segregation in Oregon by utilizing the Otto and Verdell Rutherford Collection, as opposed to a story that takes place in another state less familiar to our students.

“I plan to bring the collection of documents I’ve mined from the

archives back to the classroom so that students can work hands-on with the history of this place, the place in which they grow up,” Beth explains. Her goal is that by teaching “place-based” history and educating students about their own communities, they will grow up to be engaged and active citizens.

This fellowship award is possible because of the investment of Corey and Stacy Lohman who took a leap to be the first donors to this unique way to support PSU students and the Library. Corey Lohman is the President of Emerick Construction



and a life-long lover of libraries. Emerick Construction works on many exciting projects around the state, including our very own Learning Ground and Sandbox renovation. Corey found sanctuary in his local library growing up and has a passion for supporting people making a difference in our communities. The SCRF combines his interest in helping people with his affinity for a place that helped him as a child growing up. He sees the PSU Library as a place where ideas can take flight and believes our students are creating solutions that change our communities.

There is no other fellowship like this at any academic library in the U.S. We believe this is an exciting new model for libraries to partner with students on their educational projects through our rich and deep archives, but also to give them the financial freedom to truly focus on the work at hand. An important component of this fellowship is public outreach, and Beth plans to share her lesson plans online so her colleagues can download them and teach their own students Oregon's history using materials from the Portland State Library's Special Collections and University Archives.



Stacy and Corey Lohman with Dean of the University Library Marilyn K. Moody.

Our financial goals for this fellowship are two-fold. We would like to provide this fellowship opportunity on an annual basis for \$10,500 a year. This can be achieved in a one-time gift or a collection of many gifts from donors who want to contribute. Our ultimate goal is to endow the fellowship for \$262,500, which could be accomplished with a combination of cash, pledges, and/or an estate vehicle.

## Meet Beth Cookler

Special Collections  
Research Fellow



### What are you studying in school?

I'm pursuing a master's degree in history with a focus on Pacific Northwest history and public history. I plan to write my thesis on the impact of Measure 5 (limitation of property taxes) on equity of public education in Oregon.

### How do you plan to incorporate Special Collections into your studies?

For my thesis work, the Special Collections houses a collection on the ballot measures in Oregon as well as Barbara Roberts' personal papers, both of which I aim to use in my exploration of the effects of Measure 5 in the 1990s.

## Accessing the Millar Library 24/7

PSU students have a lot to balance between school, work, and personal lives. In an effort to be more accommodating to students' busy schedules, the University Library is offering 24-hour access for students during dead week and finals week. Proving successful during a pilot in spring quarter of 2012, the 24/7 access has continued this year with equally high usage and positive feedback from students.

During the all-hours opening, Library staff performed head counts every other hour to determine how useful late-night access is to our busy students. "Our heaviest usage is always on the Sunday of finals week," explains Access Services Manager Molly Blalock-Koral. On the Sunday of finals week during fall term, 257 people utilized the building at midnight. In winter term there were 295 people in the building at 1am. With marketing to students early in the quarter, many people have been able to take advantage of the free and open study spaces (it beats paying for drinks at a coffee shop or falling asleep in a home office!). And, we were able to partner this winter with Campus Security and Student Housing to provide scheduled escorts to residential students as well as designated parking structures throughout the late hours.

"Students really appreciate having the extra time to study when finals are coming up. They don't have to worry about whether the library is open or not, they can just study when they need to!" Molly adds.



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## Upcoming Events at the University Library

Sy Adler Book Celebration	Thursday, May 16, 4:00pm
Welcome Back Event for Library Emeriti and Retirees	Tuesday, June 11, 3:00pm
In an Antique Land: A Book Discussion with Bishupal Limbu (Event held at the Multnomah County Library)	Friday, May 24, 2:30pm

To stay up to date on what's happening at the University Library, visit:  
<http://library.pdx.edu/blogs/>.

## Meet a Library Student Employee: Chelsea Hunter

Senior Chelsea Hunter grew up in a small coastal town in Oregon. Moving to Portland and attending a university of 30,000 students was a big change for Chelsea, down to even the size of the library. “I was impressed with the size and amount of information. I come from Coos Bay, so I wasn’t used to this kind of library,” she recalls. While taking a Spanish class in high school, Chelsea became interested in the Mayan and Aztec cultures, thus sparking her interest in anthropology and studying how other cultures live.

Studying anthropology at PSU has helped her move from her small town roots to urban dweller to world traveler. As part of Chelsea’s International Senior Capstone, she spent a month studying in Ghana, West Africa. During the 3 ½ week trip, she and fellow students visited various historical sites and museums. Each student also conducted an independent research project.

Her project focused on the Ghanaian cocoa industry and how to find social, environmental, and economic sustainability. “Being an anthropology student has enriched my view of travel by allowing me increased perspective into the habits and customs of people different than me. It has allowed me insights into nuanced behaviors and occurrences that one experiences while abroad,” Chelsea explains.

When not traveling or in class, Chelsea works at the circulation desk in the Library. She started as a freshman living on campus, so the close proximity to work was a plus. She also loves books, so working in an environment where she can be surrounded by them appealed to her. “Being at the library, I’ve found it very interesting to look at how people interact with each other and with information,” says the perpetual student of anthropology.

Following her upcoming graduation, Chelsea plans to take a year off and spend one month traveling to Thailand. She wants to continue her education by studying applied and environmental anthropology in graduate school. She wants to focus on working with people on natural resource use and how to manage resources, and she has also considered teaching. For now, Chelsea is focused on her final quarter of school and her remaining months working at the Library. “Being at the Library, I can work with information that helps broaden my knowledge. I’ve picked up a lot of random facts.”



Chelsea stands beside her favorite statue in Millar Library, “Shrine of the Deep Woods,” by Rebecca Sylvan.

To learn more about ways you can contribute to Library student employees’ success, visit:  
[http://library.pdx.edu/support/giving/library\\_student\\_employee\\_fund.html](http://library.pdx.edu/support/giving/library_student_employee_fund.html).

### Portland State University Library

Post Office Box 1151  
Portland, OR 97207-1151  
1875 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201

[library.pdx.edu/support.html](http://library.pdx.edu/support.html)

[libdev@pdx.edu](mailto:libdev@pdx.edu)  
503.725.4509



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