Spring 2011

Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Spring 2011

Portland State University Library

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Donor Spotlight: Governor Barbara Roberts

In the library world we often find that people are either “savers” or “spring cleaners.” Special Collections and University Archives depend on donations from generous “savers” to keep history alive and accessible to our current and future students, faculty and greater Northwest community.

Governor Barbara Roberts is one of those “savers” who generously donated her collection to the University Library as part of the Oregon Political Leadership Archives. Her collection includes personal papers, newspaper clippings, campaign materials, memorabilia, photographs, and public speeches from over 30 years of public life.

Barbara Roberts was elected the first woman Governor of the state of Oregon in 1988, serving from 1991 through 1995. She was reelected to that position in 1990, serving from 1991 through 1995. Roberts was one of an elite group of groundbreaking women leaders who will serve the city, state, region and nation. Gov. Roberts’s collection is heavily used and serves to greatly enhance what we already know about this great public figure.

For the last five and a half years, Gov. Roberts has been working on her second book, Love is Capital, a novel, to be published this fall. The book deals with many of her personal life and her work as governor—it is filled with stories she found challenging and at times emotional to write. But, the result is a truly inspiring account of her path from a small town girl to Governor of the state of Oregon. Gov. Roberts was one of the first 10 women to be elected to her own right to the position of governor in the United States and bar to the second gubernatorial mentor published from the柚e group of groundbreaking women.

Governor Roberts chose to donate her materials to PSU because “it felt like home.”

Portland State University Library: Excellence and Innovation in Teaching, Learning and Research Support

The Portland State University Library at the heart of the Portland State community, is committed to providing excellence and innovation in research, teaching, and learning support. Along with its diverse collection of information resources, the University Library offers special collections and archives that feature unique materials of regional and scholarly interest; produces an extensive array of un-costumed information services; and delivers a strong instruction program dedicated to improving students’ academic success. Located in an iconic building in the beautiful South Park Blocks, the Portland State University Library serves the largest student body in the Oregon University System, providing collaborative study spaces and technology-enabled environments designed to enhance students’ learning experiences.

Upcoming Library Event

Portland Friday Night Lecture Series
Lincoln Hall, Room 75, 7pm

Professor Scott Burns and Professor Mary J. Burns will present on the second edition of their book, Calcium in the Classroom. Book signing and light refreshments after the lecture.

The Portland State Library Update

Donor Spotlight: Governor Barbara Roberts

The Portland State Library Update is distributed bimonthly to promote use of the services, collections and programs of the Portland State University Library.

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Many of us find higher education on-fascinating daunting challenges, with some of these challenges rooted in shifting economic, social, and technological conditions. We at the Portland State Library have worked hard to turn these challenges into exciting opportunities for collaboration, improvement and innovation, focusing on unique resources and services that Portland State students, faculty, and staff need to succeed. I believe this ingenuity and dedication are what make PSU unique and has helped our University evolve from its beginnings as the Vanport Extension Center to the internationally recognized urban campus we know today.

The Library is evolving, too, to address rapid technological changes and new forms of research and scholarly communication. Core to this evolution is a continuing commitment to provide exemplary library resources, services and innovation. It’s a tall, exciting order and we try to exceed our users’ aspirations every day. Our Library Research Center is alive with learning activities, our computer labs are the most heavily used across the campus, and there is rarely an empty seat in our group study rooms. It is an exciting time to be here at the Library and to be part of this vibrant urban campus as it grows.

Our donors have supported many initiatives through gifts to the Library Fund. With your help, we have been able to mandate student access to information by increasing our online holdings and expanding access to unique campus resources and scholarly materials. Our librarians and technologists have developed cutting-edge searching tools and dynamic research guides to help students navigate our immensely complex digital world. There are many opportunities to support this great campus here at the University Library, and I invite you to contact us to get to know the Library more.

Thank you for your support of the University Library - Adriene Lim
Focus on Service: University Library Technologies

Alongside service points where Library and computers, scanners, and printers dedicated computer labs that offer The 1st floor and 2nd floors contain patrons, whether in-person or online. Effective and innovative use of technology has grown to encompass everything from desktop computers to infrastructure has grown to encompass patrons, the PSU Library's technology necessary to accomplish these new projects. As technology becomes increasingly changing needs. As the student population continues to increase, at greater numbers of students move to online courses, and at technology becomes increasingly embedded in the curriculum, the Library's technology needs will also evolve into even greater needs.

Today the Library continues to grapple with the same challenges and opportunities, but with a whole new set of technological tools. To meet the diverse needs of its patrons, the PSU Library's infrastructure has grown to encompass everything from digital services to curriculum-developed web applications. Efforts to redeploy and reconfigure technology has enabled the Library to offer an innovative, resources-rich experience to patrons, whether in person or online.

The Library building offers an increasingly technology-rich environment. The 1st floor and 2nd floor contain dedicated computer labs that offer computers, scanners, and printers alongside service points where Library and Technology staff collaborate to provide research, writing, and technology support. Students can take advantage of a number of technologies to support their studies, impact the World Wide Web, reflect the future, and risks for practicing presentations.

Focus on Librarianship: Professor Sharon Etetto

Associate Professor Sharon Etetto serves students throughout the Library. Throughout the 2010s after 50 years of dedicated service to Portland State University. There were many significant changes that occurred in the Library during her career. Sharon was the principal architect of technology and the staffing and infrastructure changes necessary to accomplish these new projects. The Library's efforts shifted towards the Library's future. Focus on Service: University Library Technologies

The Library's online environment provides patrons with a complementary experience through its executive and fruitful use of technology.

Access includes:
- 300 searchable databases
- 60,000 electronic journals
- 20,000 electronic books
- An online system to reserve group study rooms

With each passing year, the Library's dedication to innovative technology enables us to play a dynamic role for the university's changing needs. As the student population continues to increase, at greater numbers of students move to online courses, and at technology becomes increasingly embedded in the curriculum, the Library's technology needs will also evolve into even greater needs.

When asked about the highlights of her career So far, "Of course, having been granted tenure was an enormous milestone, but what primarily empires are impacts, an odd assortment of images and memories, such as an English major teaching me for recommending a book that helped her win a prestigious writing award, or a student emailing to me to say "you have an incredible gift to genuinely care about your students and to take a room of students.""

On receiving the Baker Award for Excellence in Library Service in 2002, Sharon was proud, but she was more gratified to learn that she had been nominated and supported by many others throughout the University. As the saying goes, "old librarians don't die, they just go on-branch." Sharon continues to work on a book project with Portland State's Fine and Performing Arts Librarian, Associate Professor Kate Knez. The project will result in a full history of the Portland State University Library, and it will yet another legacy held by Sharon for the entire community. We are honored to have had Sharon as a colleague and friend these many years and thank her for her many contributions to the Library and the campus.

Focus on Collections: Oregon Political Leadership Archive

The University Library, the Center for Women, Politics & Policy, the Department of History and the Black Studies Department have pursued to build a growing archive of political papers from Oregon’s malting women leaders. The Oregon Political Leadership Archive is part of Portland State University’s Special Collections and includes approximately 162 items of primary documents and original materials, representing items from six important women in Oregon’s political history. The Archive includes the papers of Honors Day, Hon. Arla Goodwin, Hon. Guion Kafoury, Hon. Vera Katz, Hon. Barbara Roberts, and Hon. Betty Roberts. The materials within this collection hold particular cultural and historical significance as they represent some of the first to hold elected office at the state and national level by a generously donating materials, these elected women hope to allow current and future generations access to papers and other documents from an important time in Oregon’s history.

Humor was my steadfast teaching partner. I will always remember the laughter I evoked when asking a class full of freshen to "float like a butterfly, sting like a wasp." Telling them we were about to enter a quest: an instant barrier breaker.

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Our students and faculty are constantly seeking access primary documents reflecting the dynamics of implementing, managing, and effecting change within our neighborhoods and cities. While many administrative documents reside in the history's official repositories, Portland State's Special Collections provides a unique and important supplement, bringing a kind of historical insight that can only be drawn from the personal reflections, photographs, personal notes, and memories, such as an English major teaching me for recommending a book that helped her win a prestigious writing award, or a student emailing to me to say "you have an incredible gift to genuinely care about your students and to take a room of students."

This one-of-a-kind archive provides access to the decision making and intellectual development of our nation's political leaders and teaches us how their thinking evolved over time, bringing the complete story of political life in Oregon to life.