

STETSON UNIVERSITY

duPont-Ball Library

Message from the Library Dean

Susan M. Ryan, Betty Drees Johnson Dean of the Library & Learning Technologies

With my planned retirement later in 2023, this will be my last newsletter. As I near the end of my 12 years as the Betty Drees Johnson Dean of the Library and my 34 years as a Stetson librarian, it may come as no surprise that I have been a bit reflective. When I started my Stetson career in 1989, the library was bursting at the seams with huge bookstacks that came all the way to the front doors. The building was not well lit, it was uninviting, and hard to use. Students needed librarians to guide them to books and journals for their papers and research because finding information was difficult and tedious. At that time, information meant paper or microfilm or microfiche. No internet, no online – and little student access to computers.

But change occurred rapidly, and a decade later we had renovated and expanded the library – adding 13,000 square feet that opened the main floor for seating, group study, and computers. We started using CD-ROM databases, then the Internet and online databases. The information age was upon us. We went from 1,300 print journal titles to tens of thousands of electronic journal titles. The library became a destination where students wanted to be – to study, to use our online resources for research, and to meet friends. By the time I became Acting Library Director in 2011, and then Library Dean in 2012, the library had begun its transition to a modern academic library. We were ready to move forward and create the best student-centered library possible.

I hope that we have accomplished what we set out to create. Students respond positively to our collections, services, technologies, and facilities. In my years as dean, our collections have become far more electronic, but we still have a core collection of more than 150,000 print books. As the library became a community hub for students, library hours expanded with additional late-night hours and more open hours on the weekends. To meet students “where they are,” librarians help students in whatever way works for them: in-person, email, phone, text, zoom, and social media. To ensure that students can find help any time, we have created online tutorials, and research and course guides to help them navigate our wide variety of curated information resources. *(Continued on page 2)*



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*Break time is over, Frank!
Dr. Everett says get back to
hitting the books.*

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Perhaps the most visible changes in the library over the past decade has been the reconfiguration of physical space. We have empowered the students to tell us what they want and need in their library. Major space renovations include:

2013 Innovation Lab: The Lab has been one of the library's great success stories in terms of both innovation and collaboration. The tangible outcomes from our Lab are many, and the library has won two major library innovation awards for our collaborations with teaching faculty: The NEFLIN (our regional library consortium) Annual Innovation Award and the Florida Library Association's Annual Innovation Award.

2013 Writing Center: The low-visibility ground floor Flagler Hall space occupied by the Writing Center for many years impeded student access. Moving the Writing Center to the library not only gave it the central campus location it needed, but it created synergies between the Writing Center staff and the library staff.

2015 Hollis Family Student Success Center: With the success of our Writing Center partnership, the library invited a new partner into our building in 2015. The Hollis Family Student Success Center opened with 4,500 square feet in the library "to foster personal growth and development, promote an accessible, inclusive community, and support each student along their individual path to success."

2016 Café duPont: In response to student requests for a coffee and snack option in the library, Café duPont opened in 2016 with financial support from both donors and the Student Government Association.

2017 Quiet Study Area: Although we have long had designated "quiet" zones, the library created a new Quiet Study Area on the ground floor with student input throughout the design process.

2018 Nemecc Courtyard and Sensory Garden: The renovation of the Nemecc Courtyard provided library staff an opportunity to experiment with outdoor study spaces.

2021 Gallery duPont: Managed by a library staff member with a Digital Arts degree and background in the arts, the Gallery duPont features rotating exhibits from members of the Stetson arts community.

2022 Bert Fish Room: Based on an agreement with the Bert Fish Foundation to gift its museum collection to Stetson, the Bert Fish Room was created in the library as a glimpse into the political life of alumnus Bert Fish (Law 1902).

2023 Greenlaw Special Collections Room: Our most recent renovation turned a large office space into the shelving area for two of our special collections: the M. Jean Greenlaw Children's Literature Collection (1,800 first editions signed by authors and/or illustrators) and the Treasure Collection (the library's rare and valuable books).



Library Dean, continued from page 2

None of the improvements that we have made to our library would have been possible without our donors. Cash gifts, endowments, and wonderful donations of archival items have made our library better. Over the past decade, five new library endowments have been established that will help ensure the future of the library:

2013 Betty Drees Johnson Dean of the Library Innovation Endowment: Given by former Stetson library director and Professor Betty Drees Johnson ('59, '62), this endowment funded the first named dean position at Stetson University. As its title suggests, the endowment funds all types of innovation in the library – from the Innovation Lab to the creative use of space in the Nemece Courtyard to innovations in library instruction.

2014 Haire Family Library Endowment: Established by John ('68) and Shelia Haire, this endowment is used to enhance the library experience for students and has been used for everything from helping fund the Café duPont, to buying noise reduction study pods.

2015 Lewis Stetson Allen Archives Endowment: Gifted to the library shortly before his death, John B. Stetson's great-grandson Lewis Stetson Allen's endowment helps ensure the preservation and continuity of Stetson University's history with a particular nod to the wide-ranging contributions of the Stetson family to the Stetson University story.

2019 Lynn E. Wuesthoff Archives Endowment: Funded by alumna Lynn Wuesthoff ('79) in appreciation of the role of the Archives and special collections in preserving Stetson's past.

2023 Susan Ryan Archives Endowment: Given in honor of my Stetson career by Trustee Rich George ('76) and wife Lilis, I deeply appreciate this acknowledgement of my work at Stetson, especially my development of the Archives which has been such a labor of love over the decades.

Finally, it takes a village. And I have been privileged to have a remarkable village in which to work and to grow professionally. Our students have guided our team to make the best possible decisions for *their* library. The faculty have helped us shape our collections to ensure that we support the curriculum with the best resources possible. I have worked with staff in every corner of the University who have helped make the library a better and safer place.

My library colleagues believe strongly in the importance of libraries and learning, and they never forget their role in developing our students - they strive every day for excellence. My friend and mentor Betty Johnson not only made me a better librarian, but she has supported our library in every way possible during my time as her successor. Library Associate Dean Debbi Dinkins has partnered with me through thick and thin for the last 12 years to keep us moving forward. Over the years, we have had hundreds of donors who have believed in the library and our mission – those supporters have truly made the difference between an adequate library and an excellent library. It has been my honor to serve as a library faculty member for the past three decades.

Thank you, Hatters and Friends!



Dedication of the M. Jean Greenlaw Special Collections Room

On March 30, 2023, the University dedicated the M. Jean Greenlaw Special Collections Room on the ground floor of the library. The wonderful new space has been made possible through a generous gift from Dr. Jean Greenlaw ('62, '65). The room houses both the M. Jean Greenlaw Children's literature collection (first editions and signed copies) and the Treasure Collection of rare books.

Many of you who know our library building understand that "space is the final frontier." Our Special Collections have grown rapidly and have become important crown jewels in our physical collections of materials. To ensure the preservation and longevity of these types of books, an appropriate secure room is essential. Thanks to Jean, we now have that room.

Jean has been a friend of Stetson in many ways, but special to us, she has been a friend of our library for years. We have a beautiful Greenlaw Children's Corner on the mezzanine floor that is one of the more popular places to camp out in the library. We dedicated that space that Jean made possible in 2017. The space is filled with award-winning children's literature and young adult books which are especially popular with our students. For many years now, all the children and young adult literature books that we buy have been funded by Jean's annual gift to the library.

Jean has also funded the library's book club which includes buying a book for each student club member and providing snacks for their meetings. The book club idea started some years ago when some of our students showed interest in reading young adult fiction. We took the club online during the pandemic when we were looking for ways to stay engaged with our students. Now we are back to in person book clubs. The students who participate in the club are enthusiastic and seem to have a really good time - and they are reading books! Jean has made this possible and we thank her.

Photos:

Top: Professor Emerita Betty Drees Johnson, Sara Armstrong, President Emerita Wendy B. Libby, Jean Greenlaw, President Chris Roellke, Library Dean Sue Ryan

Middle: Jean Greenlaw and President Chris Roellke

Bottom: Jean Greenlaw in the M. Jean Greenlaw Special Collections Room



Blind Date with a Book

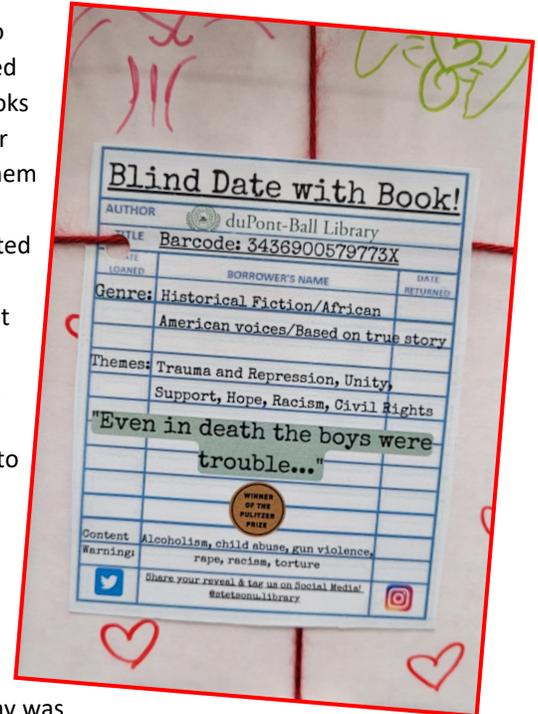
by Melissa Simon, Circulation Services Coordinator



Each month, the library highlights themed books on a display rack near the library entrance. The books may be taken from the display and checked out—we encourage reading! Typically, five to ten books are checked out from a display group of about 30 books.

In February, Melissa Simon, who creates our inviting displays, tried something new—she picked books she thought would appeal to our student readers and wrapped them in plain paper. Our student assistants and staff then decorated them with a Valentine's Day theme. Each book had a tag that hinted at the books contents: genre, quotes, etc. The library's social media tag hashtag was on each book tag inviting students to tag us on Instagram with their "revealed" books.

The blind dates apparently touched a Valentine's Day nerve. More than 50 books were checked out and the display was replenished over time with more than 80 wrapped books. We look forward to repeating this dating display again!



Library Wins Homecoming Door Decorating Contest!

Stetson's Quality of Service Council hosted a homecoming door decorating contest to encourage Stetson spirit across campus. Our library, using photographs from the Archives along with Circulation Services Coordinator Melissa Simon's art skills, won first place for our front desk door.

Congratulations to Melissa and the Circulation crew for representing us so well!



Library Research Prizes

Evans C. Johnson Prize:

Elle Henderson

R. Neil Scott Prize:

Desario Llaho



Each spring the library awards two research prizes: The Evans C. Johnson and the R. Neil Scott research prizes. The contest is sponsored by the library (and funded by donors in memory of the prizes' namesakes) to encourage the thorough, effective, creative, and ethical use of research resources in first year student papers. Winners receive a monetary award and an engraved plaque.

The 2023 Evans C. Johnson Research Prize went to Elle Henderson for her paper *The Impacts of Climate Change on the Sea Turtle Population*, written for the *Sustainable Energy Choices* course taught by Dr. Tandy Grubbs and Dean Sue Ryan. Desario Llaho won the R. Neil Scott Prize for his paper *The Effects of Wildfires on California*, also written for the *Sustainable Energy Choices* course.

We congratulate these talented students!

Photos:

Top: Dr. Tandy Grubbs with Desario Llaho and Elle Henderson; Top Left: Elle with her family; Bottom Left: Dr. Grubbs and Desario

Thank you, Friends!

For several years, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund has offered Stetson a chance to highlight one area of the University for a matching fundraising challenge. Chosen this academic year, the duPont-Ball Library solicited your support in November and you answered the call in a big way. Many of you contributed to either the Archives or the Innovation funds, and, as a result of your generosity, we received the maximum matching Foundation funds. We are using a portion of the donations to digitize or convert obsolete formats to usable items in our Archives. For example, we are converting old Stetson football films shot on 16mm film to electronic files. We are also converting significant programming, lectures, and other items that are on VHS or cassette tapes. We are preserving Stetson's history with your help—thank you!

April is Financial Literacy Month by Nicole Rivera, Research Librarian



This is a great time to reflect on our financial achievements (big or small) and look for opportunities to share financial tips with the young people in our lives. Financial literacy, also known as financial education, is the ability to understand **and** apply key strategies to manage money effectively. Given the rising costs of food, housing, and other necessities, staying on top of finances has never been more crucial. While this topic can stir up some serious emotions in all of us, financial **ill**iteracy is the culprit of budget deficits and acts as the main barrier to long term financial success. With the right tools and skills, however, the “live for today, not tomorrow” can easily pivot to “live for today and still save for tomorrow!” Receiving guidance on earning, spending, saving, investing, limiting debt, and upholding good credit will help teens grow into financially intelligent adults.

Some fast facts about financial literacy within the U.S.:

- 87% of teenagers in the U.S. admit to not understanding their finances.
- 74% of Americans with a college degree are financially literate compared to 55% of those without one.
- Only 23 U.S. states required high schools to teach financial literacy.
- More than half of high schoolers feel that money management was the course that would most benefit their lives.
- In March 2022, Florida passed the Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act requiring students to take a half-credit financial literacy course to equip them with skills to make better money decisions.

A growing body of research shows that literacy curriculum in schools is essential. Studies also tell us, however, that social media is becoming increasingly popular on how people connect with information and learn. In March of 2023, Forbes Advisor commissioned a market research company to survey 1,009 U.S. adults of the millennial and Gen Z generations to see how they obtain financial advice. According to the survey's results, **79%** of the participants admitted to receiving financial education from social media. While social media can help with educating individuals on financial topics, it is important to remember how to evaluate the authority, accuracy, and currency of the source. Be careful about online deception. People can falsify their credentials and expertise on a subject matter, some invoking a “get rich quick” scheme that is not legitimate.

Consider some of these resources when building your short/long-term financial goals:

- Banks, credit unions, and specialty groups such as the better business bureau
- Financial magazines: Forbes, The Economist, Investor’s Business Daily, Baron’s, and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance
- Government websites: FDIC: Money Smart-A Financial Education Program, Consumerfiance.gov, and the Occupational Outlook Handbook for career guidance

Welcome New Library Staff

Welcome Beth!



Beth Maycumber joined us in March as our new Archivist. Beth holds a master's in library and information science (USF) and the M.A. in History (UNF), with a Digital Archives Specialist Certificate from the Society of American Archivists. She comes to us from St. Johns County Public Library System and has held archives-related positions at the University of South Florida, Flagler College, and the U.S. National Park Service. Beth is soaking up all things Stetson as she begins to manage the large archival collections.

A New Role for Lauren!



Lauren Westmoreland (Stetson class of 2010) joined the library staff in September 2022 as our Weekend Circulation Supervisor. Lauren came to us with experience in libraries, working at our library as a student and at Seminole State College for seven years. She now takes on the full-time role of Acquisitions/Interlibrary Loan Specialist in the duPont-Ball Library. Welcome to your new position, Lauren!

Are You Interested in Supporting Our Library?

We would not be the innovative library that we want for our students if not for our supporters.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the library, we encourage you to consider a donation to either the duPont-Ball Library Enhancement fund, or one of our endowments.

- (1) Enhancement Fund: Go to stetson.edu/administration/development/library.php
- (2) Endowments: Go to stetson.edu/administration/development/library.php and use the drop-down designation menu to choose one of our endowments.
- (3) Other Gifts: Go to stetson.edu/administration/development/library.php and use the drop-down designation to choose "other" and specify how you would like your gift used.
- (4) Gifts by Mail: Make check to "Stetson University," specify the gift, and mail to the address below.

Want to share a Stetson memory with us? Send us a note:

duPont-Ball Library
Stetson University
421 N. Woodland Blvd., Unit 8418
DeLand, FL 32723
Phone: 386-822-7181
E-mail: sryan@stetson.edu

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