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Wayne State University Library System

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REFLECTIONS ON G. FLINT PURDY

A Library namesake, a prestigious award in his honor-- who was the man behind the name?

Nestled in the middle of the ever-changing Wayne State University campus, the Purdy Library has been a mainstay of the university for almost 55 years. Though it’s a name familiar to nearly everyone on campus, its namesake, G. Flint Purdy, may not be as well known to the new generation of Wayne State students, faculty and staff.

Purdy received a bachelor of arts degree from Iowa State Teacher’s College and a bachelor of science degree from Columbia University. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Purdy joined Wayne State University in 1936 as the director of libraries.

“In those days, men got really good jobs coming out of library school,” said Ted Manheim, former head of the Wayne State Education Library in the 1950s. “There weren’t that many men in the field then.”

Manheim recalled that before Purdy came to Wayne, the library on campus took up four floors in Old Main. Books were housed where space was available. In 1931, when Wayne State was still known as the Detroit Teacher’s College, three teachers combined forces to demonstrate the need for functional classrooms in a library so all the books were housed in a basement classroom of Old Main and the three instructors held their classes in this room and shared responsibility for the care and circulation of the books.

Purdy firmly believed in the need for functional classrooms in the library, and he incorporated this idea into the planning for a library building on campus. “Purdy worked with the architects and secured the funding sources—he was really involved in the project,” said Lothar Spang, Wayne State librarian and Purdy’s former assistant.

In 1953, Wayne State University General Library opened to students. The library had four floors with administration, reference and law collections on the first floor; literature, arts and a rare book collection on the second floor; social sciences on the third; and education, including children’s books was on the fourth floor. The Kresge Science Library connected to the General Library by a corridor on the first floor.

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In addition to serving as director, Purdy taught Library Science courses in the College of Education from 1936 to 1949. He was active in the Michigan Library Association, receiving the Librarian of the Year award in 1968 and serving as president. He served the American Library Association (ALA) as a councilor for almost three terms, chairman of numerous ALA committees and as a consultant to ALA to design a national plan for library statistics.

At Wayne State, Purdy served on the University Council, and served as Chairman of the Editorial Board of the University Press for 28 years. He was the initiator of the Detroit Metropolitan Library Project, a study of cooperative public library service financed by the United States Office of Education.

“He was a very common man, very down to earth,” said Spang. “I remember him as a real power broker on campus—he could wheel and deal and get things done.”

“He was truly a wonderful human being,” said Manheim. “He was a macho guy but he had a soft heart.”

Manheim recalled a time when he was hospitalized and Purdy paid him a visit. He said it was out of the ordinary for Purdy to visit because, although he was a very caring, considerate individual, he didn’t attend funerals or make hospital visits. “It just wasn’t his way,” said Manheim.

Purdy walked into Manheim’s hospital room and surprised him by tossing a cigar on his bed and asking “How are you doing, Butch?”

“Then he left,” said Manheim. “But it was the fact that he came that meant a lot—he didn’t do that kind of stuff.”

In September of 1969, G. Flint Purdy passed away after collapsing in a Wayne State parking lot.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in the library when we learned that he had passed away,” said Manheim.

Though Purdy is gone, his name will forever live on at Wayne State. In 1972, The Wayne State Board of Governors approved the renaming of the General Library to the G. Flint Purdy Library in honor of Purdy’s dedication to libraries and Wayne State. Since 1974, 20 people have been presented with the G. Flint Purdy Memorial Award, an award given to a member of the University community in recognition of significant contributions that further the work of the Library System.

“It’s such an incredible honor to receive this award,” said Karen Bacsanyi, retired Wayne State Librarian and the 2008 recipient of the G. Flint Purdy Memorial Award. “As a librarian, it is truly very special.”
In a ceremony held in June, retired Wayne State University librarian Karen Bacsanyi became the 20th person since 1974 to receive the G. Flint Purdy Memorial Award, an award given in recognition of significant contributions that further the work of the Library System. It is typically given to a Wayne State librarian, Wayne State Library and Information Science faculty member or Wayne State faculty member.

Bacsanyi was selected for making the Wayne State Library System an outstanding facility in support of the teaching and research needs of the University community and her continued service in making the Library and Information Science Program an outstanding unit in support of University teaching and research goals. During her career with the Library System, she provided exemplary service and leadership to the libraries, university and the librarian profession. She established a pattern of consistent support and mentorship to emerging librarians and gave selflessly of her time and experience to help those beginning new careers in librarianship.

“Karen has touched so many lives in so many ways,” said Veronica Bielat, the Wayne State librarian that nominated Bacsanyi for the award. “Her name is spoken of with respect and admiration by those in the profession.”
VIRTUAL MOTOR CITY PROJECT ADDS OVER 20,000 IMAGES AND VIDEOS

After a six-month extension to an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, the Wayne State University Library System and the Walter P. Reuther Library finished adding around 20,000 images and over 400 videos to the Virtual Motor City photo collection. This online resource contains digitized images from the Detroit News collection, a photojournalistic resource held at the Reuther Library.

This is the first time that videos were digitized as part of the VMC Project. The new videos added are Detroit News newsreels from the 1920s and include footage from local events and people, to more well-known subjects like Babe Ruth and Helen Keller. The videos can be browsed at www.lib.wayne.edu/resources/digital_library/det_news/

The Web Development Team added more than 20,000 images since 2005, bringing the total number of images in the collection to over 36,000.

Donated to Wayne State in 1997, the full collection consists of more than 800,000 photonegative images, many of them on vintage glass plate. The Detroit News was a pioneer in the use of photojournalism equipment and techniques, which gives many of the early images recorded on glass and film additional historical significance. The collection is the largest single collection of graphic images of any kind at the Reuther Library.

LIBRARY SYSTEM INTRODUCES ENCORE SEARCH TECHNOLOGY

In the summer, the Library System premiered Encore, a new, unified search and access tool that functions like a search engine so users do not need to search by title, author or subject.

Encore will reveal content such as media and e-books, suggestions of
70 percent of all requests have been filled by ArticleReach libraries, with the remaining 30 percent transferred to traditional Interlibrary Loan.

Other members of the ArticleReach consortium include:
- Michigan State University
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Oregon
- Washington State University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- University of Glasgow (Scotland)
- Georgetown University
- University of Liverpool (England)
- University of Queensland (Australia)
- Australian National University

“The online option allows students the flexibility and accessibility to pursue an LIS education from a distance while attending classes at anytime from anywhere in the country.”

LIBRARY SYSTEM JOINS INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR GREATER ACCESS TO RESOURCES

The Library System recently joined libraries across the globe to bring patrons a new service called ArticleReach, which enables fast electronic delivery of journal articles between each institution by allowing users to make their own requests.

Users who cannot locate needed articles online from Wayne State Library System resources can request digital delivery from one of the print copies located in other member libraries’ collections. Since requests go directly to the lending library instead of being mediated by a person as in traditional interlibrary loan, the process from request to delivery is much quicker.

Since the start of the beta rollout of ArticleReach in 2007 over 11,000 articles have been delivered to Wayne State students, faculty, and staff from participating libraries while 6200 articles were scanned and delivered from Wayne State Library journals. The average turn-around time has been less than 30 hours. Approximately 70 percent of all requests have been

The online program is open to applicants from anywhere in North America but individuals working in Michigan libraries will be given preference as the program is first established. From there, the LIS Program hopes to expand to include a larger geographical area.

“The new online MLIS option is the LIS Program’s latest initiative to better serve our student body,” said Bajjaly. “It allows students the flexibility and accessibility to pursue an LIS education from a distance while attending classes at anytime from anywhere in the country.”

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY REDESIGN PROJECT

The Technology Resource Center’s Instructional Media Design (IMD) staff worked with faculty this year to redesign classroom equipment in State and Manoogian Halls. With funding from the Office of the Provost, IMD staff (formerly Media Services) studied the best practices in classroom technology and brought that knowledge into general purpose classrooms at Wayne State. The new instructor workstation is the result of these efforts, which included consultations with faculty groups and individual usability testing of the equipment by faculty with instructional media typically used in the classroom.

The workstation has the latest features in classroom technology, including a computer as well as a hook up for an instructor’s laptop, a DVD/VCR player, a ceiling-mounted projector, two ceiling-mounted speakers, an audio connector for Podcasting, several USB ports and a touch panel control system. Sophisticated electronic security and a “doorless” design will enable faculty to walk up and begin using the equipment immediately. The new systems are being installed in State Hall and the first floor of Manoogian Hall throughout the fall semester.
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMMITTEE 2008-2009

Dean Sandra Yee recently announced the newest University Library Committee (ULC) members. The ULC advises the dean, and all of the departments of the Library System on operations and policy issues. The ULC for 2008-2009 includes:

Claude Schochet, Chair ULC
Professor, Mathematics
College of Liberal Arts & Science

Gina DeBlase
Associate Professor, Teacher Education
College of Education

Kim Dunleavy
Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Program
Pharmacy & Health Science

Diane Featherston
Assistant Professor, Adult Health/Administration
College of Nursing

Marion Jackson
Professor, Art & Art History
Fine & Performing Arts

S. Helena Kuivaniemi
Professor, Center for Molecular Medicine/Genetics
School of Medicine

Mbodja Mougoue
Associate Professor, Finance
School of Business

Simon Ng
Professor, Chemical Engineering
College of Engineering

Mary Sengstock
Professor, Sociology
College of Liberal Arts & Science

SHIFFMAN MEDICAL LIBRARY TO REOPEN IN 2009 AS PART OF EDUCATION COMMONS

Construction is underway for the Shiffman Medical Library, which will be a part of the 53,000 square-foot, three-story Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons complex that will serve as the nucleus of all programs for undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education in the School of Medicine.

Some of the features at the new Shiffman Library will include:

- A new building entrance from the Canfield side of the building;
- The majority of the print collections housed in compact shelving that will be open to patrons;
- Combined services at one central “Super Service” desk;
- An addition that includes an atrium with library spaces connected to the School of Medicine via a bridged walkway;
- Part of the space on the ground floor dedicated to an on site cafe.

The projected opening of the Education Commons is scheduled for spring 2009. For more information, or to stay updated on the project, visit http://educationcommons.med.wayne.edu/

JACOB LAWRENCE AND THE LEGEND OF JOHN BROWN: A TRAVELING DISPLAY

The Wayne State University Library System received grant funding from the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET) for an outreach project involving the creation of an informational display. The display includes digitized images of artwork by notable African American artist Jacob Lawrence, as well as descriptive text that explains and puts into historical context, his important series The Legend of John Brown, a suite of 22 silkscreen prints. The prints currently reside on the 2nd floor of the David Adamany Undergraduate Library.

The traveling display will be a free standing modular display system that will include descriptive text and graphics, along with an accompanying informational brochure, title list and bibliography. Over a three-year period, the display will travel to libraries throughout the state of Michigan and to other non-profit organizations and institutions.

“This display will allow us to bring culturally significant art to libraries that are not equipped to display original works of art,” said Diane Sybeldon, Wayne State librarian and coordinator of the grant.

For more information, or to reserve the display for your institution, visit www.lib.wayne.edu/geninfo/news/jacoblawrence/
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
SHIFFMAN MEDICAL LIBRARY
DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN
AFTER 15 YEARS

In April, Ellen Marks stepped down as director of the Shiffman Medical Library and the Learning Resources Center to take a position in the Wayne State Library and Information Science Program. In the LIS Program, she will be developing online courses and continuing her research and collaboration in health information and scientific communication including continued development of Michigan Health Go Local.

“Although Ellen will be missed at the Shiffman Medical Library, we are glad that she will continue contributing to the Library System through her work with the LIS Program,” said Sandra Yee, dean of the Library System. “Her continuing research will benefit not only the Library and Information Science Program but the entire community.”

Marks was responsible for introducing a number of health information outreach programs supporting underserved communities in the Detroit area. She worked to update the Shiffman’s focus on student needs, leading to the conceptualization and planning for the new Richard Mazurek, M.D. Education Commons to open in 2009. Marks was also a strong force in the advancement of the library’s move into electronic delivery of publications beginning in 1996. In 2007, Marks was selected as a 2007-2008 Georgia Clark fellow in the Association for Research Libraries’ Research Libraries Leadership Program.

Before joining Wayne State University in 1993, Marks served as director of Information Research and Development at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and as an assistant professor in the School of Information Studies at State University of New York at Buffalo.

DEAN OF LIBRARY SYSTEM ELECTED TO OCLC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As part of a new OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) governance structure designed to extend global participation in the cooperative, Dean Sandra Yee was recently elected to serve a six-year term on the OCLC Board of Trustees.

The changes in the OCLC structure will transform the former Members Council into a Global Council that connects with Regional Councils around the world. The transition is expected to take from 12-18 months and will be coordinated between representatives of the Members Council and the Board of Trustees.

“I look forward to helping smooth the governance transition by working closely with colleagues on the 2008-2009 Members Council,” said Yee, who will make the transition from Members Council President to Board member. “After reading the documents and listening closely to the discussions about this move, I am confident that OCLC is positioned to continue to grow and add value to the membership worldwide.”

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
NEEF LAW LIBRARY DIRECTOR RETIRES AFTER OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WAYNE STATE

After serving over three decades as the director of Wayne State University’s Arthur Neef Law Library, Georgia Clark announced her plans to retire, effective November 30, 2008.

“Georgia Clark has been an inspirational leader for the Law Library,” said Dean Sandra Yee. “She has helped take the Law Library to a higher level of service in research, reference, collection management and instruction.”

Clark was recently honored as the Special Treasure Honoree at Wayne Law’s 2008 Treasure of Detroit Gala.

Since its inception in 1998, the Treasure of Detroit has become the Wayne State Law School’s premiere event for honoring those who have made a lasting contribution to the growth and success of the Law School as well as to the practice of law.

Clark began her Wayne career in 1973 and has served as the director of the Neef Law Library since 1976. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Scholastica and her master’s degree in library science from the University of Michigan.
GREETINGS FROM DEAN
SANDRA YEE

My enthusiasm and eagerness to make the Library System the go-to place for information on campus only continues to grow as I watch the Library System gain momentum and maximize its potential at Wayne State. We’re constantly growing and expanding; offering increased and improved access to resources to our users as well as enhancing the overall library experience on campus and remotely.

As you’ve read throughout this newsletter, we’ve been redesigning technology in the classrooms, joining global collaborations in order to make accessing materials more convenient for our users, expanding search capabilities from our Web site and offering an online degree program. These and many other things are what propel us forward. Not only are we growing through the expansion of our services and access to resources, we’re seeing an overall increase in the numbers of students in the library buildings. This year, in the Undergraduate Library, Purdy/Kresge Library and the Science and Engineering Library we’ve seen an overall increase of 14 percent more people coming through the doors to use our study spaces and computers, attend classes and take advantage of the multitude of services that the libraries have to offer.

We’re also making strides in raising funds for the planned Special Collections and Rare Book Room that will be constructed on the first floor of the UGL in the space that formerly housed Kinko’s Copy Center. The room will be designed to provide scholars with an appropriate place to conduct their research as well as provide space for rotating displays of important books, artifacts and materials. In addition to securing several collections for the room, we’ve also received several monetary gifts from alumni and friends to begin making the vision a reality. Our Director of Development, Marguerite Carlton, has been working with a group of lead volunteers to organize our fundraising so that construction can begin on the space. Watch our Web site for future updates on the Special Collections Room as we progress in its creation.

It’s been a fantastic year and we couldn’t have done it without your support. Thank you to all of our friends for making us a success!

Sandra G. Yee,
Dean

www.lib.wayne.edu