As with higher education institutions in general, academic libraries today are coping with an array of changes: increasing financial pressure, lowering enrollment, and increasing concerns about student retention and graduation rates.

While some see these issues as challenges, I see opportunities to reframe with issues and ponder them in a fresh way. As Einstein’s said: “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.”

A year ago, on a snowy day in April 2016, I visited Lesley for the first time as a candidate for the position of Dean of the University Library. My public presentation focused on reimagining, and reengineering the academic library. That talk can be summed up in this way: It should be a space that is as inspiring as it is welcoming, and serve both as an incubator of creativity and a monument to the human intellect.

During my more than 25 years working in academic libraries I have come to understand the Library as a key lever to addressing the changes confronting academic institutions. Moreover, as the largest classroom on campus, the Library can provide unrestricted access to resources and information, with educators skilled in research techniques and historical context so critical to gaining insight and knowledge.

Since I arrived at Lesley 8 months ago, my Library colleagues and I have worked to implement a vision for how the Lesley University Libraries can fulfill its mission of promoting creativity and intellectual curiosity, and thereby strengthen student retention and success:

- Community Building
- Access/Discovery and Information Literacy and Critical Thinking
- Preservation of Institutional Memory
- Becoming a Center of Innovation and Exploration

**Community Building:**

We have begun to collaborate with Nathaniel Mays, Dean of Students, and his colleagues in Student Life and Academic Development to provide space for our on-campus undergraduate and graduate populations, as well as commuter students. Among other programmatic innovations we have begun a Library lecture series featuring a variety of campus and external speakers.

We also initiated a **Friends of the Library group**, and are grateful that Patricia Payne, the previous Library director who served for 20+ years here, accepted our invitation to head the group given her deep regard for Lesley and the Library. We hope that, under Pat’s guidance, this group will help raise awareness of the Library’s resources and programs.

**Continued on page 2**
Dean of University Libraries—Hedi BenAicha continued

We also now have a Library Ambassadors program, started by three first-year students who wish to be more engaged with the Library by promoting its programming and services to their peers. The Library has embraced this student-generated initiative.

**Access/Discovery and Information Literacy and Critical Thinking:**

The Library has worked to create a seamless and intuitive gateway to promote teaching and learning by enabling students and other users to better access knowledge and information.

- We are reengineering information access points through a new webpage using “my library” link on Blackboard
- We have incorporated EBSCO Discovery Service as primary tool for searching all Library resources
- We are developing global access to provide access to reputable open-source academic material
- We are working on facilitating Information Literacy and Critical Thinking

My colleagues and I will work with eLearning and Instructional Support and the Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship to develop faculty workshops on availing themselves of these resources, as well as many other topics.

**Preserving Institutional Memory:**

The Library is adopting the Digital Commons platform to provide digital asset management (DAM) to better curate and share archival content to enrich teaching and learning and to showcase Lesley’s history of academic innovation for researchers in the digital age. This platform will also enable faculty and student research to be discoverable through Google, and will be a useful means of promoting the University’s scholarly output.

**Becoming a Center for Innovation and Exploration:**

We will enable students and faculty to make best use of the Library’s extensive resources:

- We will work to strengthen the relationship between librarians and faculty and to find innovative ways to incorporate Library resources into classroom activities
- Under the stewardship of librarians, the Library will provide a technology lab not tied to specific curricula so that students and faculty can use technology for creative exploration
- We will provide a vibrant forum for students to develop, discuss, and debate ideas and concepts with the guidance and support of librarians.

Throughout my decades in academic inquiry and librarianship, I still have passion for the work we do, and I am excited by the potential of continually evolving technologies and the innovative ideas that they inspire. The Library staff and I hope that you will share this passion, and that you will join us in making the most of these opportunities.
The Lesley University Library is pleased to announce the addition of Credo Reference, a rich and continually updated database of high-quality reference books, topic pages, and other tools to kick start your research on any topic. Among these tools is an app called Mind Map, which helps novice researchers to organically develop knowledge of a topic and its connections to others areas. To explore Credo, click on any link above, consult our Databases List, or just search the library!
Our Students:

Temjennaro (Naro) Pongen

I would like to start by saying that I have a very unique experience of working at the Sherrill library. Being an international student studying at Episcopal Divinity School, the opportunity to work together with Lesley library staff and students has enriched my experience as well as helped me build relationships within and with out. When I first joined to work at the circulation desk in the fall of 2015, I was quite nervous not knowing how things work in personal and interpersonal level here in the United States. Everything was new as new can get!

On retrospection, I am grateful for the profound learning experience I have had. This is not just a job for me rather, it is a space where I am cultivating qualities as to how to interact with people on a day to day basis; helping people with questions and doubts, and, in the process, learning something myself. The space has also provided me the privilege of acquiring knowledge on database, catalogue and so much library related information which I would not have had if I were just a regular patron standing at the other side of the desk.

I have treasured so many fond memories and I can say without a doubt that Sherrill Library has been a blessing in the guise of a work and this will go a long way in my journey of self discovery.
Our Staff:

Philip Siblo-Landsman
Research, Instruction, and Digital Scholarship Librarian

Research and Teaching Areas:
My research focuses on emerging technologies, issues in scholarly communication, musicology, and information literacy. I am currently working on a paper that explores how Artificial Intelligence can be used to improve library services. I offer instruction in both information literacy and scholarly communication.

Past Life:
In addition to my life as a librarian, I have been a live sound and video engineer, an American English teacher in India, and a web designer.

Hidden Talents:
I am a composer and poet.

Hobbies:
My hobbies include cooking, reading, playing guitar, taking photographs, and traveling around the world. I love to learn about new cultures through: sharing food, discussing differences, and listening to music.

What You Wish the Lesley Community Knew About You:
I want to introduce myself to the Lesley community as an approachable librarian, who enjoys helping both students and faculty access information and understand scholarly communication. At Lesley, I want to help preserve the scholarly and creative works of the community. I am easygoing and I enjoy learning.

Literary Hero:
I do not really have a literary hero or heroine. I identify with Stephen Dedalus, the main character in Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, and one of the central characters in Ulysses, both by James Joyce. Stephen thinks deeply about the world, and its future. This is something that I do too. I regularly reflect on what kind of positive impact I can make on the world. And, like Stephen, I try to look beyond differences. There is a quote from Portrait that I really like, “When the soul of a man is born in this country there are nets flung at it to hold it back from flight. You talk to me of nationality, language, religion. I shall try to fly by those nets.”
Digital Commons @ Lesley

Dennis Flanders • Philip Siblo-Landsman

The Lesley University community will soon be able to use Digital Commons @Lesley. Digital Commons is a communication tool that can enhance the University’s online presence by showcasing Lesley’s unique voice of scholarship and service through the intellectual and creative output of its members.

Administrators, students, and faculty alike will be able to use Digital Commons @ Lesley in different ways. Students will have a permanent space to save their capstone projects and dissertations. Faculty will be able to store and view the impact of their work. Administrators will be able to show potential students what kind of impact they can have on the world as Lesley University graduates. These are just some of the uses of the Digital Commons platform, which we are excited to release to the Lesley community this summer.

Learn more about Digital Commons at: https://www.bepress.com/products/digital-commons/

Research News

This summer, we will be launching a redesigned library space in Blackboard, which will make it easier for students, staff, and faculty to find library resources, tutorials, and librarian research help. Please keep your eyes peeled for the beta version. We welcome questions and comments--for more information, please reach out to Sam Quiñon, research and instruction librarian, at squinon@lesley.edu.
Universe in a University
Periodicals available at Lesley University Library

17,000 Peer Reviewed Journals

44,000 Unique Periodicals

9,000 Open Access Journals

3,600 U.S. and International Newspapers

98% Digital

Periodicals are the primary publishing vehicle for scholarship, current information, and creative expression. Nearly all Lesley University Library journals can be accessed and explored anywhere, anytime.
The Lesley University Archives is celebrating its 10th Anniversary! If you didn’t know that there is an archive on campus, let us go back in time and introduce ourselves with this article that was originally printed in the Spring 2007 issue of Lesley Magazine.

2009 Centennial: Lesley University Archive Opens

“It couldn’t be 7:15 A.M. already! Why it feels as if I just turned off the lights an hour ago,” exclaims Ann, a Lesley College freshman, the protagonist of a short piece written for the 1958-59 student handbook by Susan Jaffee, one of the editors. Ann’s roommate, Sue, is an early riser, which prompts Ann to drag herself out of bed and race her roommate down the hall to the bathrooms. After washing up, “the girls get into their usual Shetland sweater and a wool skirt with knee socks, of course.”

It is no coincidence that a story of two students’ morning routine included a description of what the young women chose to wear to class. A half-century ago, a time marked by its formality and etiquette, a student’s appearance was a concern of the Lesley College community. The 1955 handbook for new students warns the young women against wearing “slacks or jeans,” which are more suitable to hayrides and “pretzel-type” studying, than they are for campus activities. Shorts are a must for tennis and a bathing suit is necessary for “splash parties.” But under no circumstances are the students allowed to wear “korchiefs, pin curls, etc.” in the classrooms.

These priceless quotes of student life in the 1950s are just some of the wonderful pieces that have been discovered since the Lesley University Archives was officially established in January of this year. Prompted by both Lesley’s upcoming centennial celebration in 2009-2010 as well as President McKenna’s departure in June, the University hired an archivist, Alyssa Pacy, to preserve Lesley’s unique history and make it available for research by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the public. The Archives serves the Lesley community, including the Art Institute of Boston (AIB), which has its own archive dating back to its founding in 1912, and strives to provide an educational environment that inspires creative teaching and learning.

Alumni, too, can help with the efforts of building the Archives and protecting Lesley’s history. The Archives is looking for materials (photographs, handbooks, course catalogs, yearbooks, scrapbooks, etc.), especially from 1960 or earlier, that illustrate student life at Lesley and AIB. “You’d be surprised at what is hidden away in basements and attics,” says Pacy. “An old photograph or a crumbled piece of paper, scribbled with notes, may help fill in the gaps of the Lesley Collection or it may have enormous personal value that wasn’t before realized.”

The Lesley University Archives Web site can be found at http://www.lesley.edu/about/archive/index.html. Eventually it will include a full listing of the archives’ holdings as well as online exhibits, chronicling Lesley’s history, as a way to make these treasures available to alumni across the country.

“The Archives is open all the time, for anyone to use,” says Pacy, and encourages alumni to feel free to contact her with questions, comments, or curiosities. However, please call ahead to make an appointment to view the university archives collections. This will ensure that staff will be available to assist you.

Marie Wasnock, University Archivist can be reached at 617-349-8573 or mwasnock@lesley.edu
Meet the Lesley University Library Ambassadors

First-year students Ella Jergenen, Kim Eldredge, and Laural Hite found themselves in the Lesley Library to work on group assignment from their Intro to Political Science class. This is a common experience for students at any level, but instead of conducting research, Ella, Kim, and Laural were working on a social media project in which they were to identify a situation on campus and develop short- and long-term goals for the semester to try to change the situation.

They decided that they would look into the Library’s hours of operation and whether they were meeting student need, so they set up a meeting with Dean Hedi BenAicha to discuss it.

Ella and Kim attended the first meeting, slightly nervous about how they would be received. “He’s a Dean! But all of a sudden he started cracking jokes and a good relationship blossomed.” Ella said, noting that she was soon joking about one day sitting at Dean BenAicha’s desk. During that first conversation Hedi bestowed the title ambassadors upon them and charged them with helping to bring their fellow students to the Library. The following week they returned, bringing Laural and an idea to help draw a good crowd: Laural’s dog, Ajay, who is being certified as a therapy dog. The Dean received the idea warmly.

In addition, the Library Ambassadors have developed a survey that will be distributed with the help of Nathaniel Mays, Dean of Students, to help gauge student satisfaction and interest in extended hours.

Ella, Kim, and Laural have developed a lot of long-term goals for their new role, including increasing library use for evening hours, having Ajay the dog will more present and visible, and working to upgrade the paper maker space at Sherrill into a more craft-oriented space that will allow for student creative expression in a variety of media, possibly including a sewing machine.

Dean BenAicha is pleased with the beginning of this initiative. “It is really wonderful to have such an interest in the library from our students,” he said. “We are all looking forward to their involvement and the wonderful energy and humor their presence brings.”
On the morning of March 20, 2017, over one hundred and twenty 4th and 5th grade students from the Graham and Parks School in Cambridge filled the largest classroom in Sherrill Hall to meet acclaimed children’s author (and Lesley faculty member) Tracey Baptiste and to hear her read from her novel *The Jumbies*. The excitement was palpable as the students filed in and saw Tracey – several kids shouted out “Look! She’s really here!”

Every student in the room was deeply engaged in Tracey’s presentation; they brought their copies of the book and lined up to have it signed by the author while Library Dean Hedi BenAicha and his staff handed out water and fruit to the visitors.

Later that evening, Ms. Baptiste presented a different talk for an audience of Lesley students, alumni, faculty, and administrators, a talk that addressed the power of stories, and the power inherent in those who decide who has the right to be a storyteller. Drawing from Census Bureau data research on diversity in the world of children’s literature, Tracey shared the following information:

Out of 3400 children’s books reviewed only 736 books had characters of color. That breaks down to 21.6%, or slightly more than one in five.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonwhite children 0-17 in 2016 (Census Bureau estimate)</th>
<th>Books by “own voices”</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2% African/African American</td>
<td>15% African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2% Asian/Pacific</td>
<td>5.5% Asian/Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7% Latinx</td>
<td>24.9% Latinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6% First Nation/Native</td>
<td>1.6% First Nation/Native</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tracey ended her presentation by showing the art for her upcoming book, *Rise of the Jumbies*, and connecting the black mermaids on the cover to ancient rock paintings from Karoo, South Africa, recognizing the importance of allowing universal truths to be told by universal tongues.
Writing a poem and stuck on a stanza?  
Lines breaking in all the wrong places?  

FREE POETRY CLINIC  

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 | 10AM–5PM  
Sherrill Library, Siegenthaler Atrium | 89 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA  

Michael Mercurio recently received his MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University and serves as Associate Editor of The Naugatuck River Review. His editorial approach has been praised by professors and peers alike. Plus, it’s hard to argue with the price.

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Gigi Priebe ’84  
Children’s Author  

Adventures of Henry Whiskers  

Monday, April 24, 2017  
Sherrill Library  

- 9:30 am  
  Discussion with Author and local area school children  
- 6:00 pm  
  Author Lecture Open to the Public
NEED TO DESTRESS?

COME TO SHERRILL LIBRARY AND MEET OUR OFFICIAL AMBASSADOR AJAY!

Where?
Atrium, 1st floor of Sherrill Library on Brattle campus

When?
Sundays 1pm to 8pm (other availability will be posted)

Make sure to follow @sherrill.library_ambassador on Instagram for more Updates!
BOOK LAUNCH

Join us for a reading & celebration of Lesley University student Nicole Mello’s new novel, Venus!

Nicole, Class of 2018, is majoring in Creative Writing & American History in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

MONDAY, MAY 1 @ 7 PM
SHERRILL LIBRARY | BRATTLE CAMPUS
BOOK SALE & REFRESHMENTS

Lesley University Library

Tote Bag Design Contest

We’re looking for designs/illustrations for our new collectible tote bags!

Submit Your Original Design to library@lesley.edu, Following These Guidelines:
- Includes “Lesley University Library” and “Sherrill & Moriarty Libraries”
- High-resolution JPEG file
- 8x12” design, either orientation
- One color only

Prizes will be awarded for winning design!

NEW Deadline is April 30, 2017