The national search for a dean of Library Services was successful with Rebecca Lubas accepting the position this past November. She began her deanship on February 1. Lubas has served as associate dean of the library at the Claremont Colleges in California since 2014. In that role she led and coordinated Scholarly Information Resources, Special Collections and Libraries, and Digital Technologies and Scholarship. She also had a leading role in strategic planning and budgeting. Lubas provided oversight of a multi-institution Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Hidden Collections grant awarded in January 2017. Prior to Claremont she served as director of discovery, acquisitions, and consortial services and was an associate professor at the University of New Mexico, head of cataloging and metadata services at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and catalog librarian at Ball State University. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies from the University of Notre Dame, a master of library and information science degree from Louisiana State University, and a master of arts degree in English from Ball State University. Lubas's long record of scholarship includes serving as editor of Practical Strategies for Cataloging Departments (2011), co-editor of Practical Strategies for Academic Library Managers: Leading with Vision through All Levels (2016), and co-author of The Metadata Manual: A Practical Workbook (2013) and The Complete Guide to Acquisitions Management (2015). She has authored several book chapters as well as peer-reviewed articles for Journal of Library Administration, Cataloging and Classification Quarterly, and Journal of Library Metadata. Her strong record of professional services includes serving as a delegate to the International Federation of Library Associations’ Global Vision process that began in 2017. Lubas received a Fulbright Specialist Grant in 2016 to work with the National Library in Kosovo. She has also been active in Shared Print Initiatives that enable libraries to share responsibility for preserving collections efficiently, and she led the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium’s Shared Print efforts. She has presented at numerous international and national conferences including the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the American Library Association (ALA).

Welcome Dean Rebecca Lubas

CWU’s Brooks Library Receives Second NEA Big Read Grant

CWU’s Brooks Library is the recipient of a $6,490 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant to host the 2019 NEA Big Read in Ellensburg. An initiative of the NEA in partnership with Arts Midwest, the Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. This is the second Big Read grant awarded to the library, following the 2017 Big Read program centered around Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*.

Ellensburg’s 2019 Big Read will focus on Yu Hua’s novel *To Live* (English translation by Michael Berry). Activities will take place in February and March of 2019 and began January 31 with a Chinese Celebration Kick-off in conjunction with the Ellensburg Public Library Chinese New Year’s Celebration at Hal Holmes Community Center. There was also a book distribution table at the February 8, CWU Chinese New Year’s Celebration at the Student Union and Recreation Center. Additional activities include a February 10 visit from the book’s translator, UCLA scholar Michael Berry, a film series including the lauded film version of the book on February 26, a month-long exhibit on Chinese persecution in the Pacific Northwest at the Brooks Library, co-created by students from the CWU Museum of Culture & Environment, a book discussion and panel presentation at the Brooks Library on February 19, and a program entitled “Chinese Mythology and the Night Sky” at the CWU planetarium on March 4.

A limited number of free copies of the book will be distributed at all Big Read events. For more information on these events and other aspects of the Big Read, visit https://libguides.lib.cwu.edu/ToLive or contact Gerard Hogan at Gerard.Hogan@cwu.edu.
Meet Lauren Wittek
User Experience and Assessment Librarian

Have you ever considered what goes into creating a positive library experience? As Brooks Library’s new user experience and assessment librarian, I am lucky enough to contemplate this question on a daily basis. While many associate user experience with online shopping, the field has expanded to include any interaction an individual has with an organization or company, both in-person and virtually. This can include effective digital and print signage, how many clicks it takes to find an article, cultivating an interesting social media presence, understanding students’ study preferences, and much more. In other words, I identify how to make the Brooks Library a more useful, accessible place using qualitative and quantitative data to make informed decisions. In addition to these tasks, you can also find me on the reference desk throughout the week as well as teaching information literacy classes and answering virtual reference questions via email and our 24/7 chat service.

A little bit about me: I am originally from the East Coast; however, I lived in Seattle before moving to Ellensburg. I earned my bachelors of science in marketing from the University of Maryland and my MLIS from the University of Washington. My favorite hobbies include trying out new vegan recipes, hanging out with my partner and our two chihuahuas, and roller skating. I look forward to getting to know the CWU community better, so please stop by and say hello.

Cultural Conversations

A diverse community is a respectful community, rich in ideas and shared experiences. Cultural Conversations is a new program co-sponsored by Brooks Library, the Ellensburg Public Library, and CWU’s Office for International Studies and Programs (OISP). Cultural Conversations, modelled after a similar program from the City of Bellevue, provides the opportunity to hear a different view, to practice empathetic listening and speaking, to learn a new culture through storytelling, and to explore deep and relevant topics together. The program’s objective is to build community through connection, and to learn more about a variety of cultures. It is a community event designed to complement the OISP International Cafes held every quarter on campus.

The first event was held on January 22 at the Hal Holmes Community Center, featuring guest storyteller, João Rodrigo Calarota. Calarota was born in Brazil of Italian immigrant parents, raised Roman Catholic, and heavily influenced by both Italian and Japanese cultures. He described how his cross-cultural experiences have affected his childhood and adult life, both in Brazil, and in the United States.

Join us for the next Cultural Conversation on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Hal Holmes Center. Bring your friends!
Friends of the Library

I just attended the fourth retreat of the Board of the Friends of the James E. Brooks Library held at the Pasta Company this year. Julia Stringfellow and Maureen Rust shared their research on library and friends relationships published in the journal, Collaborative Librarianship, last month. It is an excellent article describing our processes and the progress we’ve been making. Our president, Ronda Patrick joined them in New Orleans last June to present at the American Library Association conference. They also presented a session in Seattle at ALA Midwinter last week; both were well attended and enthusiastically received.

The January meetings are a great opportunity to set the direction for the year and learn from librarians the needs and desires that we have the capacity to address. All members are invited to our annual meeting June 4 held in the library at 3 p.m. Here we recognize departing Board members and welcome new additions while we celebrate and plan for our ongoing objectives; the FOL Annual Book Sale is an example. Save the date November 1-2!

Many thanks for the leadership and participation from departing Board members, Scott Templin, Lois Harrison, and Ginny Ann Blackson. We welcome to the Board: Patricia Erickson, our new secretary, Cynthia Pengilly, webmaster, Allie Sheldon, Kathy Matlin, J’Aime Wells, Gary Bartlett and Ray Wanlemvo, our first student representative. We appreciate the diverse range of experience and perspective they bring to the group.

Brooks Library offers many occasions for the Friends of the Library to support and celebrate many accomplishments throughout the year. We were honored to attend a reception at the new space for the CWU Archives and look forward to the Grand Opening of the 2nd floor space February 12 welcoming the new Dean of Libraries, Rebecca Lubas. Library staff presented a terrific session at the Washington Library Association I was privileged to attend, “How Information Shapes Perceptions of Land Use & Renewable Energy Resources.” It was a wonderful collaboration with Puget Sound Energy in offering our resources for historical context and future research problems.

Thanks for reading!
Diane Huckabay

For more information about the Friends of the Brooks Library, contact Diane Huckabay at 509-933-4051 or Maureen Rust, Library Liaison, at 509-963-2102

Open Educational Resource Grant

The OER Task Force, co-chaired by librarians Maura Valentino and Geri Hopkins, was awarded a $36,000 grant from the Washington Student Achievement Council’s Washington Open Educational Resources (OER) Pilot Grant Program. This grant program aims to reduce the cost of education for postsecondary students by supporting Washington’s public, four-year institutions of higher education in their efforts to replace high-cost textbooks with high-quality OER. OER are free, openly licensed educational materials including, textbooks, worksheets, problem sets, videos, interactive software and other modalities. Faculty can use these free materials instead of textbooks that may cost hundreds of dollars. Our project, the Zero Textbook Cost General Education Pathway Project incentivizes faculty at CWU to replace expensive textbooks with OER as part of the redesign of their courses for the new CWU General Education Framework, to be implemented for Fall 2019. The faculty are currently revising courses to fit within this new framework, which provides a choice opportunity to include OER in these courses. Students could then complete their entire general education requirement with no textbook expenses. It is hoped that this will increase retention at CWU. In order to promote and disseminate OER Pedagogy, the authors of the grant have encouraged Open Education Resources as a social justice issue that supports student success by providing their learning materials from the first day of class. Toward that end, for efforts of this proposal, the Social Justice Pathway will be the initial choice for OER adoption.

Selected faculty will receive a $1,000 stipend to replace existing expensive textbooks with OER materials. Librarians will assist faculty in locating materials to replace the existing textbook by reviewing the learning outcomes for each course and determining the best materials.

Contributors: Brenda Gardner, Gerard Hogan, Diane Huckabay, Maureen Rust, Julia Stringfellow, Emily Tickell, Maura Valentino, Lauren Wittek, Ben Woodruff

Upcoming Events

February 10: To Live Translator Visit
February 12: Welcome Dean Lubas and Commons Grand Opening
February 12: Big Read Film Series
February 14: #loveyFDL FREE Cookie Giveaway
February 19: Big Read Book Discussion: To Live
February 26: Big Read Film Screening: To Live
February 26: Family Literacy Night
March 04: Chinese Mythology and the Night Sky
March 05: Big Read Film Series
March 11: Paws & Relax!
March 12: Waffle Night

For more information, visit our event calendar at: lib.cwu.edu/events-calendar
Brooks Library & Friends of the Library cordially invite you to the

GRAND OPENING

OF THE BROOKS LIBRARY STUDENT COMMONS

&

Welcome Reception for Dean Rebecca Lubas

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
BROOKS LIBRARY | 2ND FLOOR
400 E UNIVERSITY WAY