Please join us in congratulating Carolin Bigwood and Kevin Cassidy, winners of the 2021 Roy and Isabel Tullis Library Student Employee Scholarships. Applicants must be a current student library employee with a GPA of 3.0 and above. The winners were chosen for their one-page essays describing their experience working at the library and how it has impacted their future goals.

According to her supervisor, Bigwood has shown continuous growth, focus, and dedication since being hired in April 2019. She has become the much-coveted perfect student employee. Her attention to detail and willingness to ask questions has given her the opportunity to take on special projects. Bigwood is also a great peer mentor to incoming student employees. She is caring, respectful, and patient. Bigwood’s experience in Access Services influenced her decision to minor in library and information science. She now sees a future in library science.

Cassidy’s supervisor reports, “Kevin has been instrumental in scanning and uploading CWU masters theses. He has scanned, edited, and assured the highest quality for over 30 theses since joining us in February 2020.”

Jenna Skinner is the 2021 Library Services Dean’s Award winner. Skinner is an exceptional member of the library team. A Primate Behavior and Ecology Student, she’s brought a terrific perspective as a College of the Sciences graduate student to the libraries. Her willingness to learn new roles, take on different tasks, and propose creative ideas has been central to her work approach. Skinner has created memorable topical exhibits which have engaged our library users — quite an accomplishment in our pandemic times. We are fortunate to have worked with such a positive, intelligent, and considerate person and we will miss having Skinner on the library team as she goes to the next stage of her academic career.

Congratulations to all! The library is fortunate to have such talented student employees.

Ongoing work to address and improve DEI across the university and CWU Libraries has taken place throughout this academic year. CWU Provost Michelle DenBeste created a Provost’s Diversity Council in summer 2020 comprised of about 20 members from departments and offices across the university. This includes a library representative. The first initiative implemented was the “One Book, One Campus.” Black Lives Matter was the theme chosen by the Council for the books selected for each quarter this year. The fall read was *So You Want to Talk About Race* (author Ijeoma Oluo), the winter read was *Me and White Supremacy* (author Layla F. Saad), and the current spring book is *How to Be an Anti-Racist* (author Ibram X. Kendi).

Fifty copies of each book were purchased by the CWU Libraries and the Provost’s Office for the fall and spring reads, while the winter read was available as an unlimited users ebook through the library catalog.

Programming for these books occurred each quarter with book discussions and speakers hosted by Students with a Purpose (SWAP), the Diversity and Equity Center (DEC), the Provost’s Office, and in individual departments. Ibram X. Kendi was featured in a live webinar on May 12, 2021.
Greetings to spring!

We are having an exciting spring quarter. We recently virtually welcomed Washington Poet Laureate Rena Priest at our National Poetry Month reading. We also received the welcome news that our Cultural Conversations partnership with the Ellensburg Public Library received an American Library Association Libraries Transforming Communities grant.

Even as we’ve adapted to and adopted virtual life, we are looking forward to being able to meet our friends again. We are eagerly preparing for next academic year with social distancing guidelines relaxed and ultimately removed. Over the summer we’ll be bringing back our usual number of chairs, and there may be an upgrade or two to enjoy. While waiting for the day we have robust in-person interaction again, I took advantage of the quiet stacks to visit the book titles of some colleagues and friends. The pictures here are the documentation of that visit.

As always, I’d like to encourage you to read about how you can directly contribute to our efforts to support our students, faculty, and community on the Libraries' giving page at cwu.edu/p/

library/giving. You can read about the good work being done through different funding opportunities in this issue. Until we meet in person, best wishes and be well.

- Rebecca L. Lubas
Dean of Libraries

The Westside Center Libraries’ COVID Experience

Like most departments, the westside center libraries experienced numerous shifts in services this past year driven by the need to transition from face-to-face to online interactions. Virtual services were implemented to maintain real-time connections with students and faculty, provide continuous delivery of reference and instruction services, and to address anticipated demand.

Although the academic research needs of students and faculty at the westside centers remained primary, library specialists Brenda Gardner, CWU-Lynnwood and Christine Bertie, CWU-Des Moines joined the new virtual services team to provide live online chat reference assistance across all CWU locations. Regular chat operators’ training proved immeasurable preparation for utilizing CWU Libraries’ expanding electronic collections and literacy skills for conducting research. More advanced instruction sessions targeted specific library information resources to fulfill higher level academic research assignments. Online research guides and video tutorials were created upon request to increase student engagement. Faculty noted that virtual library instruction provides students fundamental knowledge for accessing resources, retrieving information, and utilizing essential tools for independent learning and research.

By maintaining strong collaborative relationships with students and faculty, the westside library specialists were able to provide uninterrupted services during an unexpected transition to online only platforms. Although the past year had a few challenges, it underlined the value of adding virtual services and carrying them forward, contributing to student success.
Reflections from Our First Student Ambassadors

This year, we began a student ambassador program to build connections to library services through peers, beginning with social media posts and event coverage. Our student ambassadors, Yajaira Perez and Star Diavolikis, have front-line roles at our service point on the first floor, so they are amongst our welcoming (masked!) faces when you visit us.

Yajaira Perez is a third-year undergraduate student in the communication program pursuing public relations. Working as a student ambassador for the libraries includes reviewing databases, writing about her experiences while attending our virtual events, and writing appealing posts for the libraries’ social media. A big challenge that she has encountered, especially during this virtual time, is time management. Perez is notorious for procrastinating on her homework and project assignments; nevertheless, working as a student ambassador for the library has helped her for the better. Perez’s persuasive and informative writing skills have drastically improved, alongside her time management skills.

Star Diavolikis is a first-year undergraduate student pursuing a degree in digital journalism, and currently is the scene editor for The Observer, so she juggles a bit of writing and managing. Diavolikis has similar duties to Perez, including reviewing databases, attending virtual events and writing everything in tasteful ways for social media. A challenge she has encountered is the concept of making her reviews informative but also interesting for a social media post. Being an ambassador has helped Diavolikis discover more resources available to her from the CWU Libraries than she imagined and has become more familiar with the libraries website and how the CWU Libraries operate.

We appreciate Perez and Diavolikis’ efforts and applaud their work as our flagship ambassadors.

Friends of the CWU James E. Brooks Library

The Friends of the Brooks Library hereby offers an apology and a promise. We apologize that we could not hold our annual book sale for the 2020-21 academic year. Covid made it impossible. We promise, however, that we will hold an awesome book sale next year. But please don’t get the idea that a book sale is the only thing that Friends of the Library does. We continue to sponsor pizza nights three times a year, wherein we buy a ton of free pizzas and distribute them to students (100 pizzas handed out during winter quarter finals week!).

We also continue to support the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series by purchasing copies of works by visiting writers and distributing them to students. In addition, the FOBL provides prizes for student presenters at the university’s annual spring research conference, acronymically designated SOURCE (Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression). These prizes reward students who demonstrate exemplary use of library resources. Beyond that, we help fund important collections acquisitions and other library projects. As you might imagine, the success of our activities depends on the collective energies of our Friends of the Library executive board. We offer an enormous thanks to this year’s executive board: Bob Hickey, Andy Piascek, and Ronda Patrick. We also wish to welcome two new board members who will come aboard in 2021-22: Joe Powell (professor emeritus of English) and Carol Brooks Finley, who comes from a family with a longstanding dedication to the library (to say the least). We also wish to thank Bob Jones (emeritus library faculty and former FOL board member) for his generous donation of $2000 to our endowment.

We look forward to the 2021-22 academic year, when we will hand out more pizzas, award more scholarships, assist with more Lion Rock events, help pay for new library acquisitions and/or projects, and, perhaps most important, hold a rockin’ book sale! We might have some other tricks up our sleeve, too. Just wait and see.

-Dan Herman, board member
Friends of the CWU James E. Brooks Library

Supporting the Libraries

For over 125 years, the CWU Libraries have been a partner in transformative teaching, learning, and research. Throughout the years, donors have helped sustain the libraries’ progress—many of our most valuable resources and services have grown from contributions. Consider making a one-time or recurring donation to the CWU Libraries. As a donor, you can select where your contribution is invested, including scholarships, facility improvements, and student success. Your support helps provide:

- An atmosphere for collaboration and successful study.
- Care for our core collections in print and electronic form.
- The ability to create the best possible conditions for learning.
- Proud traditions, including the beloved Waffle Night and Paws & Relax.

While cash donations are the most popular, CWU Libraries also accept gifts of stocks and bonds, real estate, IRA charitable rollovers, and more. For more information, including an online donation form, visit the libraries’ giving page. If you have any questions, please reach out to libraries@cwu.edu. No matter the size of your donation, your financial support is deeply appreciated by current and future Wildcats!
The switch to increased online education has uncovered opportunities along with its challenges. It has also forced us to reflect and center on our core mission, services, and collections within the CWU Libraries. One of the services at our core has been, and continues to be, instruction and education about information literacy issues. Launched in winter 2021, the Research Smartz workshop series was created to provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community members to engage with a variety of topics on research and academic wellness. In a quickly moving information society, there are always new tools and skills to keep up with that can help aspects of academic and personal research; this series is about highlighting some of those areas.

As a series, Research Smartz offers some consistent workshops and has flexibility to add rotating workshop topics. Winter sessions included workshops on Google and Google Scholar, using Mendeley and Zotero, locating primary sources, and identifying misinformation. The spring offerings will include some new topics on organization strategies, financial wellness, and using government information.

Workshops are offered every quarter and can be found on the libraries events page: cwu.libcal.com/calendar/events

Collection Additions and Coming Attractions

The CWU Libraries have purchased several new databases and online collections to further help students, faculty, and staff with their research. New titles, descriptions, and date coverage are shared under the New/Trial Databases located at libguides.lib.cwu.edu/az.php. New titles include:

- Adam Matthew Eighteenth Century Drama: Censorship, Society and the Stage. “An archive of almost every play submitted for license between 1737 and 1824 from the Huntington Library John Larpent Collection. Also included are the diaries of Larpent’s wife and professional collaborator Anna, recording her criticisms of plays, as well as insights into theatrical culture and English society.”

- Alexander Street: Disability in the Modern World: History of a Social Movement. “Contains primary sources, supporting materials, archives, and video content in disability studies and the contributions of the disability community.”

- LGBT Thought and Culture. “An online resource hosting books, periodicals, and archival materials documenting LGBT political, social and cultural movements throughout the twentieth century and into the present day.”

- National Theatre Collection. “National Theatre Collection brings the stage to life through access to high definition streaming video of world-class productions and unique archival material offering significant insight into theatre and performance studies.”

- ProQuest Black Abolitionist Papers. “Primary sources from African Americans actively involved in the movement to end slavery in the United States between 1830 and 1865. The content includes letters, speeches, editorials, articles, sermons, and essays from libraries and archives in England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and the United States.”

- ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-2012). “This historical newspaper provides genealogists, researchers and scholars with online, easily-searchable first-hand accounts and unparalleled coverage of the politics, society and events of the time.”

- ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Norfolk Journal and Guide (1916-2003). “The only black newspaper to provide on-the-scene, day-to-day coverage of the 1930s Scottsboro trial, and was one of the best researched and well written black newspapers of its time.”

- ProQuest History Vault: Pinkerton’s National Detective Agency Records (1853-1999). “This collection contains materials relating to Pinkerton’s National Detective Agency, the oldest company of private investigators in the United States, and their most well-known cases.”

- ProQuest Periodicals Archive Online Foundation 2. “A major archive that makes backfiles of scholarly periodicals in the arts, humanities and social sciences available electronically, providing access to the searchable full text of hundreds of titles. The database spans more than two centuries of content, 37 key subject areas, and multiple languages.”

- Taylor and Francis Journals. “Provides full text access to journals published by Taylor and Francis. Includes access to their Education Modern Archive collection. Access is limited to subscribed content only.”

- Women’s Magazine Archive Collection 2. “An archival research resource comprising the backfiles of leading women’s interest consumer magazines. Coverage ranges from the late-19th century through to 2005 and these key primary sources permit the examination of the events, trends, and attitudes of this period. Among the research fields served by this material are gender studies, social history, economics/marketing, media, fashion, politics, and popular culture. CWU has access to Women’s Magazine 1 and 2.”

Coming attractions to the databases this Spring include:

- ProQuest American Periodicals Archive
- ProQuest History Vault: Office of Strategic Services
- ProQuest History Vault: Revolutionary War and Early America
- Seattle Times Archive (All Years)

Funding for these collections was made possible in part through the gift of Ellensburg native, Wilma (Bowers) Stellingwerf who passed away in November 2019.

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Print and online subscriptions to the newsletter are available by registering at lib.cwu.edu/newsletter.