In February 2016, Missouri State University Libraries faculty member Grace Jackson-Brown facilitated the annual Springfield African American Read-In (AARI). The Read-In celebrates African American authors and promotes reading in the community.

The Springfield AARI is a 7-year partnership of five organizations: Missouri State University and MSU Libraries, Springfield-Greene County Library District, Springfield Public Schools, Drury University, and the Springfield chapter of the NAACP.

This year's event, *African American Memories and Stories*, kicked off with a live performance of traditional and contemporary music, poetry and storytelling at the Springfield Art Museum, and concluded with a panel discussion of current and former African American principals from local schools held at the Drury Diversity Center. The panelists shared their inspiring stories that led to their career paths as principals and spoke about the 2015-16 Missouri State University Common Reader: *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*.

In August 2015, Missouri State University Libraries hosted the annual meeting of the Route 66 Archives and Research Collaborative, a group convened by the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. Attendees discussed Missouri State University’s Route 66 oral history project, the 2015 ARC Action Plan and enjoyed a walking tour of a portion of Route 66 in downtown Springfield.

In celebration of the 800th anniversary of the document at the historic heart of English and American Constitutional Law, *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015*, a national traveling exhibit, was curated by the Law Library of Congress and produced by the American Bar Association. *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015* was brought to the State of Missouri by the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Foundation and hosted by Missouri State University at the Duane G. Meyer Library. The exhibit was on display from October 10 to 23, 2015, but the community-wide Magna Carta Project was launched months earlier in May, in conjunction with Law Day. Over 2,256 people toured the exhibit, and over 4,000 people total participated in twenty-four Magna Carta related events throughout the Springfield area. Dean Thomas Peters was presented with the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association’s Liberty Bell Award, which recognizes non-lawyers who encourage respect for our legal system, for Meyer Library’s involvement in the exhibition and programming (left).

In November 2015, a new archive for The Waldensian Foundation launched in Duane G. Meyer Library’s Special Collections and Archives unit. The foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit cultural and educational organization based out of Monett, MO, is dedicated to preserving immigrant history in Barry and Lawrence counties. The new archive at Meyer Library will provide the proper environment for long-term conservation of materials (including papers, photographs and digital media), while making them available for researchers and the general public.

The SIG program at MSU Libraries was developed to support MSU Libraries faculty and staff members who want to create or improve a service, a body of content, and/or a space (real world, online space, or virtual world). The competitive grants were funded at the end of the spring semester, and projects will be completed before the fall semester begins.
This past spring, Dean Tom Peters posed a question to the Missouri State University Libraries faculty and staff: “How can the MSU Libraries realign its mission, vision, goals, resources, activities, and organizational structure by the year 2020 to position itself to better meet the evolving information needs, expectations, and behaviors of the MSU community, the region, and beyond?” The resulting answers were developed into the Missouri State University Libraries 2020 Initiative. Working collaboratively, faculty and staff suggested and decided on twenty key initiatives that will be implemented before the year 2020. The initiatives cover four specific areas:

**Content** - Including focusing organizational resources on new content areas, supporting a multimedia culture in the library, and determining strategies for long-term print retention

**Services** - Calling for a consolidation of service points, the development of a full-fledge liaison program, and realigning our resources to support expanded library information technology and an integrated library system.

**Spaces** - Creating renovated, rich multimedia spaces, and examining the possibilities for infused online spaces and the possibility of additional library spaces on Missouri State’s Springfield Campus

**Organizational Matters** - Developing a culture of assessment, collaboration, research and scholarship among Missouri State University Libraries employees, while implementing an employee development plan that provides opportunities to gain new skills and deploy new services.

Thus far, two particular initiatives have been launched to answer the 2020 Initiative call:

**BearWorks Institutional Repository**

Missouri State University Libraries is leading a new institutional repository initiative. The repository, called BearWorks, will be an online archive for the intellectual output produced by Missouri State University faculty, staff and students. According to Dean Tom Peters, “A cornerstone of the Missouri State institutional repository will be worldwide access to both the metadata and the full text of electronic theses and dissertations from Missouri State, but it also will include many other types of scholarly, cultural, and artistic utterances.”

**Virtual Reality**

After receiving Summer Innovation Grant funding, Missouri State University Libraries’ Information Technology Unit purchased an HTC Vive virtual reality headset. The headset utilizes sensors within a small room, allowing the user to enjoy an immersive environment where they can walk around and manipulate objects in space. As part of the grant, LIT will be exploring the possibilities for educational applications. The VR room is set to launch during the 2016 fall semester.

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**Donor Spotlight:**

**Tearney’s Tiny Tot Table**

Thanks to the generosity of James and Mary Tearney, even the smallest library visitors have a place to sit and enjoy a good book. The Tearneys donated funds for the purchase of a child-sized table and chairs for Meyer Library’s Infant Through Grade 12 Resources unit.

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**Rare Wine, Rare Books Annual Dinner**

On July 22nd, 2016, Duane G. Meyer Library’s Special Collections and Archives will host its 8th annual Rare Wine, Rare Books wine tasting dinner. This year’s theme is “Small Presses and Small Wineries.” While guests enjoy dinner with six flights of wine, our guest speaker, William Garvin, Library Director at Drury University, will share the story of how small publishers left their mark on history.

Wine flights sponsored by donors include:

- Gruet Winery Brut Rose, New Mexico
- 2014 Laporte Sauvignon Blanc “Le Bouquet,” France
- Sean Thackrey Pleiades XXIV Red Blend, California
- 2014 Precedent Zinfandel "Evangelho Vineyard," California
- 2012 Il Fauno di Arcanum--Tuscany
- Emilio Lustau Pedro Ximenez Sherry "San Emilio," Spain

Proceeds from Rare Wine, Rare Books support the Rare Books Endowment at Missouri State University.
Game Nights

MSU Libraries hosted two game nights at Duane G. Meyer Library on November 13th and April 15th. Students, faculty, staff, and community members were invited to attend. Tabletop games from the Libraries’ collection, and the Smash Bros. video game tournament were enjoyed by the attendees. Following the initial Game Night, several new board games became available for checkout from Meyer Library's Infant-Grade 12 Resource Center, including: Apples to Apples, Candy Land, Checkers, Chess, Choose One, Eco Fluxx, Hanabi, One Night Ultimate Werewolf, Pictionary, Scrabble, Sushi Go!, Trophy Buck, Uno, Wonky and more.

24 Hours of Finals in “Club Meyer”

Study spaces are always at a premium in Duane G. Meyer Library, especially during finals week. But thanks to a new online study room reservation system, finding a study room is now a whole lot easier. The reservation system launched in January 2016, and by March the study rooms had been reserved almost 1,400 times. Missouri State students, staff, and faculty can reserve rooms up to two weeks in advance with a two hour per day maximum. In addition to having a quiet place to study, Meyer Library offered several other opportunities for students to relieve stress during finals week. Pet Therapy of the Ozarks certified therapy dogs lent a paw to students who needed a furry friend, and Foster Recreation Center’s massage therapist provided chair massages. The library stayed open 24 hours, offering coloring sheets, bubble wrap therapy, popcorn, and late night coffee.

Laura McHugh

Author Laura McHugh will give an author talk at Missouri State University in September 2016. Her new novel, Arrowood, is a gothic mystery set in southern Iowa. McHugh grew up in the Ozarks and set her first novel in a fictional, small Ozarks-like town called Henbane. The novel, titled The Weight of Blood, won a 2015 International Thriller Writers Award.

Ozark Jubilee Digitization Project

We are moving forward in our collaboration with the UCLA Film and Television Archive to digitize over 60 kinescopes of the Ozark Jubilee, and we need your help! The cost to digitize the remaining kinescopes is $2,500 per episode. You can contribute to the project by sending a check to the Missouri State University Foundation and specifying “Ozark Jubilee Digitization Project” in the memo. Corporate sponsorships are available. Help us preserve and distribute this local treasure!

What’s Brewing @ Your Library?

On December 11, 2015, Duane G. Meyer Library hosted its first ever “What’s Brewing @ Your Library” event for faculty and staff. Over 50 attendees enjoyed beer tastings from local breweries, food and live music by the Brookline Station Trio. Programming included an update by the Dean of Library Services, Tom Peters, on new features and initiatives at the library, as well as tours of the library and the carillon tower. Feedback from those in attendance was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, and Meyer Library is already looking forward to next year. Special thanks to the local breweries that supported this event: Piney River Brewing Co, Springfield Brewing Company, Mother’s Brewing Company and Leaky Roof Meadery.

Crystal Gale

LIS 101 Online: $4,553
Convert LIS 101 into a completely online course, adding videos, Collaborate sessions, new content and assignments, etc.

Nathan Neuschwander

Digital Signage: $1,400
Develop and test a prototype of a digital display system for individual group study rooms.

Jim Coombs

Scan Aerial Photos: $5,961
Scan additional Greene County aerial photographs, starting with 1968, then 1975, 1982, 1990, and 1996.
Polish Artist Exhibits

Thanks to a connection with Missouri State University Art+Design Professor Jacek Fraczak, two Polish art exhibitions were on display in Meyer Library. In September, an exhibit titled “Art of the Graphic Novel” featured works and an artist talk by Miroslaw Urbaniak. Urbaniak is a successful European artist and illustrator whose expertise embraces newspaper political cartoons, commercial TV storyboarding, and graphic novels. A collection of watercolor paintings by Nikifor Krynicki (1895-1968), a naïve painter from Krynica, Poland, was on display during the spring semester. Nikifor’s paintings display a wide variety of religious architecture, self-portraiture, and rural scenes. The watercolors were on loan from the Alfons Karny collection.

Library Renovation

As part of the current renovations in Meyer Library, the existing Computer Services open access lab is moving to the first level, northwest. The renovation includes the construction of new offices and multimedia rooms. Research & Instructional Services has relocated to the former Government Documents Desk, and the northeast space will be renovated into an Information Commons with areas for studying and research consultations. Starting during the Fall 2016 semester, the Cataloging and Content Management & Acquisitions units will relocate to newly constructed offices on the lower level, and their former space will be converted into a lounge and office space for Veteran Student Services.

New John T. Woodruff Biography

August 2016: The first biography of John T. Woodruff, a key figure in the birth and development of Route 66, will be published. Born into poverty in the rural Missouri Ozarks shortly after the end of the Civil War, John T. Woodruff (1868-1949) became the greatest promoter of civic and regional development in the history of Springfield, Missouri. Schools, colleges, hospitals, hotels, and resorts all owed their existence and location to Woodruff’s clear vision and indefatigable efforts. The Woodruff Building and the Kentwood Arms Hotel are two of his outstanding architectural achievements. Woodruff brought the Frisco West Maintenance and Repair Shops to Springfield, and he helped found and build the entire town of Camdenton near the Lake of the Ozarks. For decades Woodruff promoted and built good roads in the Missouri Ozarks and served two terms as the first president of the U.S. 66 Highway Association. Thomas A. Peters, Dean of Libraries at Missouri State University, is the author.

Oscar Carter Collection of Courtship Letters and Glass Plate Negatives

In the coming year, the Missouri State University Libraries will digitize, create metadata for, transcribe, and make publicly available the O.W. Carter Collection. The collection includes 70 images on 52 glass plate negatives, as well as handwritten correspondence from numerous young women in and near Stone County, Missouri, to O. W. Carter, a photographer and film projectionist from Marionville, Missouri. The letters from the women to O. W. Carter often involve courtship and other affairs of the heart, making for an interesting read.

Once the collection has been processed by Missouri State University Libraries’ Special Collections & Archives unit, the digital content will be made available online. The collection may be of interest to scholars, local history museums and individuals interested in a glimpse into the lives of women in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Missouri.
Retirements

**Ann Fuhrman**
UN Librarian
19 YEARS

**Byron Stewart**
Head of Research & Instructional Services
32 YEARS

Departures

**Dave Richards**
Head of Special Collections and Archives resigned to take the position of Dean of the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

New

**Dan Rose**
Library Associate I Circulation

**Tracy Stout**
Head of Research & Instructional Services

**Brooks Travis**
Information Technology Coordinator

**Sue McCrory**
Coordinator Testing Center

**Mitch Bess**
Administrative Specialist II Testing Center

**Kevin Wilson**
Testing Technician Testing Center
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