Fifth anniversary celebration marks five years of successful collaboration

In February 1997, San José mayor Susan Hammer and San José State University president Robert L. Caret announced their intent to collaborate on a library that embraced lifelong learning through its vision and presence. During the planning phase, the library was strategically designed to welcome the community through its Fourth Street entrance, and students via the campus entrance facing historic Tower Hall. In August 2003, the library officially opened its doors and librarians greeted students, staff, faculty, and the community with a standing ovation on the first floor beneath the Koret Atrium.

To share its continued success with the entire community, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library kicked off its fifth anniversary celebration on September 6, 2008. Opening ceremonies in Caret Plaza included congratulatory speeches from university and city dignitaries, including San José City Council member Sam Liccardo, SJSU provost Carmen Sigler, SJSU library dean Ruth Kifer, and San José Public Library director Jane Light. Festivities continued with performances of music and dance by Sandoshin Taiko, Vo Vinam Martial Arts and Lion Dance, and Las Cruces Baile Folklorico.

Visitors also participated in lively discussions in the library’s Special Collections area. William Meredith spoke on “The World of Beethoven,” bringing Beethoven’s music to life through demonstrations on five instruments: the Sperrhake clavichord, Dulcken fortepiano, Broadwood grand fortepiano, Jakesch fortepiano, and harpsichord. In the Steinbeck Center, staff member Sttos Tez intrigued the audience with his talk on “The Salacious Steinbeck,” drawing parallels between John Steinbeck’s life and his contributions to the literary world.

The “Five on Fourth” celebration continued throughout the month with an exhibit on the history of libraries in San José, musical concerts, activities, and a University Scholars Series presentation featuring SJSU professor Randall Stross on his new book, Planet Google.

The celebration was cosponsored by San José State University, the City of San José, and the San José Redevelopment Agency, with generous support from the Friends of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the fall issue of LibraryNews! Over the past several months, we have been busy with celebrations at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library at San José State University. In May 2008, 28 graduating SJSU student library employees were honored at a special ceremony where each selected a new library book, and a bookplate honoring the student was placed into the book. In June, the first King Library Dean’s Circle dinner was held on the eighth floor of the library. Our special collection of guests was entertained by SJSU graduate harpist Ruthanne Adams and an engaging conversation with KQED radio host Michael Krasny.

In September we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, a watershed moment for San José State and the City of San José. University students, faculty, and community members commemorated the day with a ceremony in Caret Plaza, festivities throughout the library, and entertainment by musicians and dancers. Launching the collaboration that created our world-renowned and award-winning library was a bold and decisive action that has forever changed the life of the library for both the university and the city. Across the country and around the world, we have become the model for innovation and collaboration between a major public library and large public university.

This year the library is aggressively digitizing unique documents, photographs, personal papers, diaries, and other one-of-a-kind treasures from our Special Collections and Archives unit. First to be digitized is an extensive group of historical photographic prints and negatives produced by a local photographer. Created between the turn of the twentieth century and the early 1950s, this collection chronicles the history of downtown San José and the early San José State College. Our entire community has access to these materials onsite in our beautiful Special Collections suite on the library’s fifth floor, but making these images available digitally on the World Wide Web will open access to scholars and researchers around the world. The process of digitizing our unique resources will be extensive and ongoing.

Today we are moving the library to the next level of excellence by increasing access to, and creation and use of, digital collections. We are utilizing emerging technologies to provide every individual in our community with a twenty-first century library environment. All of this is possible because of generous library supporters like you. As always, you have my gratitude for your support.

—Ruth Kifer, SJSU Library Dean

Introducing Marianne Quarré Dean, new library development director

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a member of the SJSU library team, the director of development.

I am a ninth-generation Californian, born in Bakersfield, with an extended family based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Growing up, I was influenced by my parents’ love for the land. My father was in the cattle business and my mother (now 81) is still an avid horsewoman who trail-rides several times a week in the coastal range of the mid-peninsula with her lipstick always in place and her hair perfectly coiffed.

I graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor’s degree in design and worked briefly for architectural firms. Quickly realizing that I was no Philip Johnson, I returned to school for an MBA from the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia. A few years later, I earned a director of development certificate from the University of San Francisco.

I have worked in the nonprofit world for many years, both as a volunteer and as a professional. Most recently I served as the major gifts officer at Santa Clara University’s School of Law.

Having only been at SJSU since the middle of August, I have been amazed at the transition from the quiet summer session (as quiet as an urban campus can ever be!) to the bustling fall semester. While navigating through the university’s pathways, I am exhilarated by the community on campus. There are 100 different languages spoken, and I have already seen many multicultural events and activities, such as bocce ball games with Chinese students. While many universities just encourage students to study abroad to become “global” citizens, you could argue that SJSU is already global!

The most rewarding experience has been getting to know the King Library. Every week reveals another wonderful aspect that helps me to fully appreciate the extraordinary vision that went into creating this collaboration between SJSU and the City of San José. Here, free WiFi to every visitor is coupled with the rich resources of books, databases, periodicals, events, and classes from both the university and the public library. It is a joy to see it all being appreciated more than ever during this time of economic slowdown.

I also am very pleased to be working with Dean Ruth Kifer. She is truly an extraordinarily accomplished woman with an unmatched passion for continuing to build and strengthen our library.

I look forward to speaking with each and every one of you, either as a group or on a one-on-one basis, about your love and commitment for this institution. If it has been a long time since your last tour or you have friends who would like to experience this remarkable place, please contact me. I would be pleased to arrange a tour.

—Marianne Quarré Dean
408-924-1474, Marianne.Dean@sjsu.edu
Coming events and exhibits

For more information on these public events, visit the Special Collections website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/.

“From George Washington to George W: Presidents Getting Verse” exhibit
Open all library hours through November 30, second floor exhibit area

Joe Illick, woodcarvings artist and emeritus professor of history from San Francisco State University, presents an exhibit of 30 woodcuts of the 43 presidents of the United States, accompanied by rhymes about each president. For more information, call (408) 808-2011.

“Caste, Ethnicity, and Race in Spanish California” lecture
Wednesday, December 3, 7:00–8:00 P.M., Schiro Program Room 550

Vladimir Guerrero, author of The Anza Trail and the Settling of California, will speak on caste, ethnicity, and race in Spanish California. Guerrero uses original eighteenth- and nineteenth-century material from California and Sonora, Mexico, to relate the terminology of caste to the racial make-up of the California “Spanish” population at the time of the 1790 census. Sponsored by the California Room, this presentation is part of the First Wednesdays series of public lectures and presentations. Admission is fee, but seating is limited. To arrange for an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, call (408) 808-2136 or (408) 808-2130 TTY at least 48 hours in advance.

“Open My Eyes, Open My Soul” exhibit
Open all library hours through December 21, Cultural Heritage Center, fifth floor

In 2003, the Cultural Heritage Center opened in the new King Library. While the center is now celebrating its fifth anniversary, the diverse local cultures, SJSU cultural studies departments, and individual collections housed in the center are much older and hold rich histories. For more information on the exhibit, contact Kathryn Blackmer Reyes at (408) 808-2097.

“Community Gardens, Local Foods, and Urban Agriculture: Bringing Back the Valley of Heart’s Delight” lecture
Saturday, December 13, 1:00–2:00 P.M., room 255, second floor

Silicon Valley was once known as the “Valley of Heart’s Delight” because of its stunning climate, rich soils, and bountiful harvests. Through the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s, the valley began to develop engineering and business initiatives, moving from its agricultural heritage to an information technology powerhouse. The new millennium has seen a renewed interest in community gardens, backyard gardens, locally produced food, and healthy, sustainable living.

Presented by SJSU Department of Environmental Studies chair Rachel O’Malley, PhD, this program will introduce participants to the many opportunities to eat locally grown food—and even grow your own food—in Santa Clara County. O’Malley will also review new research on the social and environmental effects of maintaining “food security” by producing food near urban centers.

The talk will be hosted by King Library General Collections and cosponsored by the Friends of the King Library and the SJSU Environmental Studies Department.

“My Neighbors: A Photographic Exhibition”
Open all library hours through January 31, 2009, second floor exhibit area

Photographer Joe Claus presents 100 black-and-white photos of San José’s diverse small businesses and the proprietors who run them. Shot within a four-block radius, “My Neighbors” celebrates the small business owners of San José who are often overshadowed by the large businesses in the area. An artist’s reception will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. on December 7 in rooms 255–257 on the library’s second floor. For more information, call (408) 547-7326.

University scholars share their knowledge through lecture series

The University Scholars Series provides an opportunity for SJSU faculty members to share their recently published research. Several talks are scheduled for the coming months:

February 24, 2009, noon–1:00 P.M. “Mentoring and Making It: A Guide for Newcomers to the Ivory Tower,” by Elena Klaw, SJSU Department of Psychology.

March 17, 2009, noon–1:00 P.M. “Cool Cuisine: Taking the Bite Out of Global Warming,” by Eugene Cordero, SJSU Department of Meteorology.


This popular noontime series, cosponsored by the provost’s office, the campus bookstore, and the King Library, is held in the library. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Elisabeth Thomas at (408) 808-2193.

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year SJSU librarians conducted 726 class presentations, teaching research skills to more than 18,000 students.

“Valley of Heart's Delight” sign with wooden letters and illustrations.
Electronic databases provide access to full-text information, images, and even video in many disciplines, and the SJSU library continues to add new online resources for faculty and students.

FREE, ONLINE RESOURCES
These two collections are accessible to everyone via the web.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org) provides natural history and herbaria library collections for immediate research and for multiple bioinformatics initiatives. For the first time, this important content is available to a global audience through a web-based, open access interface.

The Civil Rights Digital Library (http://crdl.usg.edu/voci/go/crdl/home/) delivers web-based educational content on the civil rights movement, and promotes an enhanced understanding of the movement by helping users discover primary sources and other materials from libraries, archives, museums, public broadcasters, and others.

NEW LIBRARY DATABASES
The resources below can be found through both the library’s online catalog and the Articles & Databases web page at http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases. Community users may access these resources when visiting the King Library.

American Film Scripts Online contains the text of 1,000 film scripts—more than 100,000 scenes of human experience—along with a biographical database of directors and writers. Extending back to the earliest silent films and progressing to the present, the collection presents the medium’s reflection of American attitudes and life.

Applied Science & Business Periodicals Retrospective: 1913–1983 contains more than 4.5 million articles published in more than 2,000 periodicals. The database includes the complete content of Industrial Arts Index, published from 1913 to 1958. Later content comes from Applied Science & Technology Index and Business Periodicals Index.

Biography Index Retrospective: 1946–1983 includes 623,000 articles and book citations, interviews, and profiles related to 300,000 history makers. The database covers writers, artists, statesmen, sports figures, politicians, religious leaders, scientists, educators, military leaders, teachers, actors, business people, and more.

BNA Tax Management Portfolios includes the following subsets on tax regulations, codes, and comprehensive resources: estates, gifts and trusts, international or foreign income, U.S. income, and multistate income.

Dance in Video includes 47 streaming videos of dance productions and documentaries by influential performers and companies of the twentieth century. Selections cover ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, experimental, and improvisational dance as well as forerunners of the forms and the pioneers of modern concert dance.

eHRAF World Cultures, the Human Relations Area Files Collection of Ethnography, is a full-text database that contains information on the culture and social life of ethnic groups throughout the world.

Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI) features unpublished information-gathering tools discussed in clinical journal articles, such as questionnaires, interview schedules, tests, checklists, rating and other scales, coding schemes, and projective techniques. More than two-thirds of the materials are in medical and nursing areas such as pain measurement, quality-of-life assessment, and drug efficacy evaluation.

Opera in Video is a streaming video database that contains about 250 important opera performances, captured on video through staged productions, interviews, and documentaries. Selections represent the world’s leading performers, conductors, and opera houses.

Oxford Islamic Studies Online includes more than 3,000 reference entries, chapters from scholarly and introductory works, Qur’anic materials, primary sources, images, and timelines. Users can search and browse by era, topic, or geographic region.

Proquest Historical Newspapers: The San Francisco Chronicle (1865–1922) provides comprehensive coverage of the San Francisco Chronicle, including full text and complete page images.

South and Southeast Asia Literature includes fiction, short fiction, poems, interviews, and manuscripts written in English by writers from South and Southeast Asia and their diasporas, beginning in the nineteenth century. Countries represented include India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Fiji.

DID YOU KNOW?
SJSU has added 54 new databases to the library’s collection in the last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information about these and other online resources, contact a reference librarian by phone at (408) 924-2100, online at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/referenc, or in person at the reference desk during regular library hours.
New library classroom provides high-tech learning space

Teaching SJSU students the necessary skills to find information, evaluate the source, and synthesize what they have found in such a way that they can successfully complete a research paper or tackle any real-life problem is what university librarians do every day. These information literacy skills are required of all SJSU graduates as they enter the information-rich world of work in Silicon Valley.

With this mission in mind, in fall 2008, the SJSU librarians, working closely with the library information technology staff, designed an up-to-date teaching and learning space to actively engage students in research. The new classroom is equipped with the latest technology, laptops, and large “smart” touch-screen monitors clustered on tables on wheels to capture the imagination and energy of students while they learn how to navigate digital information. The classroom has been a hit with students, faculty, and librarians, who enjoy the flexible learning space with embedded digital information resources.

Library welcomes digital futures leader

Dean Ruth Kifer is pleased to announce the appointment of John Wenzler, PhD, to the newly created position of SJSU library associate dean for digital futures. Wenzler comes to the King Library from the San Francisco State University library, where he served as electronic resources coordinator.

Wenzler’s experience with information technology and enthusiasm for emerging technologies are already being tapped. His vision: to move the King Library closer to becoming a world-class digital library that complements its award-winning physical presence. Bringing unique skills and knowledge to his new position, Wenzler aims to strengthen the digital future of the joint King Library.

Wenzler has a BA from the University of California at Berkeley, an MLIS from San José State University, and a PhD in American history from the University of Rochester. He also has prior experience at Innovative Interfaces, Inc., and at U.C. Berkeley’s Bancroft Library.
Special collection of donors attends Dean’s Circle event

On June 19, 2008, a special collection of university library supporters attended the first Dean’s Circle Recognition Dinner at the King Library. The evening began with appetizers, jazz piano, and exhibits in the Special Collections area on the fifth floor. For dinner, guests moved to the Grand Reading Room on the eighth floor, where they were welcomed by Dean Ruth Kifer.

Highlighted by a stunning sunset, the San José skyline provided the backdrop as more than 90 guests enjoyed a lively talk and conversation with Michael Krasny, host of KQED radio’s award-winning Forum program. Forum focuses on discussions of local, state, national, and international issues as well as in-depth interviews with guests. Krasny spoke of his interest in and support of libraries, engaging the audience with stories of his experiences both as a radio personality and as a professor in the California State University system.

For more information about the Dean’s Circle, contact Marianne Dean at (408) 924-1474 or Marianne.Dean@sjsu.edu.

ABOVE: Michael Krasny

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mary Lou and Benton White, Nettye Goddard and Patricia Nichols, Phil and Jennifer DiNapoli, Jim Noah and Bert Burns, Peggy Valentine
Join the Dean’s Circle

The King Library is honored to have many wonderful supporters who have helped us through our first five years as a world-renowned, trendsetting institution. To sustain our momentum, we have established the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library Dean’s Circle. The Dean’s Circle is a special community of the King Library’s generous benefactors who share a common dedication to supporting Dean Ruth Kifer’s vision on an ongoing basis.

“Our vision is to continue to excel at being a student-centered library that engages diverse learning communities by providing information resources, services, and programming through innovative uses of emerging technologies,” says Dean Kifer. “We strive to continue to raise the standard for community-based partnerships, to facilitate access to in-depth collections via our digital reach, and to serve as the model for the twenty-first century library.”

This coming year, Dean’s Circle funds will support the creation of a digital projects unit in the library, with the first project being the digitization of a collection of historical Silicon Valley photography. Digitizing our collections is a critical step in providing access to our unique resources for academic scholarship as well as cultural and historical understanding.

You can help Dean Kifer and the university library with this project by joining the Dean’s Circle through an annual leadership gift of $1,000 or more to the Library Discretionary Fund. You benefit in many ways, including:

• Being invited to the annual Leadership Recognition Dinner, an exclusive and elegant event in the library
• Becoming an insider and learning firsthand about the behind-the-scenes operations of a world-renowned library
• Being kept in the know so that you can become an effective ambassador for the library in the community
• Being recognized as a Dean’s Circle member in SJSU’s Donor Honor Roll, on the university’s website, and in other publications
• Receiving invitations to King Library events and programs throughout the year, with special opportunities to interact with the dean, the librarians, visiting speakers, and scholars
• Receiving regular communications from the dean, sharing updates and new information

For more information, please contact Marianne Dean at Marianne.Dean@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1474. If you have already decided to become a member of the Dean’s Circle, simply fill out the remittance envelope included with this newsletter, and make your annual donation at or above the $1,000 level. We look forward to welcoming you into the Dean’s Circle!

In memory of Hobert W. Burns

Hobert W. Burns (October 13, 1925—October 14, 2008), former university professor, academic vice president, and acting president of San Jose State University and former interim president of Sonoma State University, died on October 14 in his home in Los Gatos after a short battle with cancer.

Bert, as everyone called him, attended high school at Lowell High School in San Francisco, and was an educator, Fulbright Scholar, veteran of World War II, and Purple Heart recipient. He earned a degree from Menlo College and his BA, MA, and EdD from Stanford University. Bert is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia Rowe Burns, daughters Carol and Janifer, son Charles, daughter-in-law Annie Liedstrand, and four grandchildren.

Bert devoted his life to educational reform, teaching, and research. He published 9 books and 99 peer-reviewed, scholarly articles. During his administrative career in higher education, he always continued to teach. Retiring from San José State in 1984, Bert remained active in university affairs and was a member of the emeritus faculty association.

Bert and Patricia Burns were strong supporters of the King Library and the university’s special collections. Together they funded an annuity in support of the King Library. Patricia also funded an endowment to enhance the library’s collections on early California history, with particular attention to California’s early French settlers.

A memorial service, officiated by Dr. Burton White, was held for family, colleagues, and friends on October 26 at the King Library. As White said in his remarks, “The library was Bert’s church.”

“Bert and Patricia have been wonderful supporters of the library and have helped make the King Library what it is today,” said Ruth Kifer, university library dean. “Bert, a scholar and educator, and Patricia, a librarian herself, both loved libraries. I am honored that the family chose the library as the site for Bert’s memorial service.”
Make a difference

Honor your heritage with a named endowment

Endowments help fund library programs and collections that are vital to the university’s educational mission, and they can be designated to support a particular area of the library’s collections. By providing supplemental funding for the library in perpetuity, endowments provide annual income to enhance library services and resources in ways that go far beyond base budgets. In this issue of LibraryNews, we celebrate the Portuguese Heritage Collection Endowment, which recognizes the contributions and culture of the Portuguese to our local community and beyond.

If you would like to establish an endowment to honor your heritage, a particular area of interest, or a special person, contact Marianne Dean at (408) 924-1474 or visit our website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/support. Your support can help ongoing efforts to enrich the library’s collections and offer enhanced services that will foster student success for years to come.