Welcome back! We have spent the summer getting ready for the coming year but before I tell you about some upcoming changes I’d like to share some news about our staff and faculty librarians.

I am very pleased that our donors have given me the opportunity to recognize the hard work that allows us to provide the outstanding service we deliver every day. We were able to recognize some of our best student workers with a scholarship and set in place a selection process to select three outstanding Auburn students and hardworking student assistants. Seth Perry and Rachel Bush received the AU Libraries Scholarship and Heather Crabtree received the Marcia L. and Timothy R. Boosinger Endowed Scholarship. Other donors have allowed us to establish a faculty award and this year we recognized librarians Liza Weisbrod, Adelia Grabowsky and Barbara Bishop for their outstanding work in establishing a collection development organization to insure we continue to build the research collections each of you depend upon. Yvette Rivera and JP Pendleton received the Library Excellence awards while the university recognized Adam Chalkey with an Employee of the Year award. I am very proud of these members of the library faculty and staff and everyone who goes the extra mile to be sure you and your students have access to the very best library services possible.

Over the past decade and even before, Auburn University Libraries has focused on being a center of learning for Auburn’s students while supporting the teaching and research for the faculty. The university, with Board of Trustees’ support, recognized this role when the initial proposal for the Mell Classroom Building was approved.

Initially this was to be a facility contiguous with the library housing about 14 state-of-the-art classrooms with accompanying service and study areas that would leverage the relationship with the Ralph Brown Draughon Library and areas such as the popular Learning Commons. In fact, recent library projects such as the Learning Commons helped shape the Mell Classroom Building project.

Over the past six months, the university realized that the relationship with the library could be taken even further to the benefit of the library and teaching and learning on campus. Most importantly they recognized that the project could leverage the relationship between library services and teaching and learning to the benefit of Auburn’s students. A new version of the project went before the Board of Trustees, nearly doubling the number of classrooms and placing some of them in the library. With the new concept, it is possible to further integrate services offered in the library, bringing some of them into the public areas of the Mell Classroom Building. AU Libraries will take responsibility for the information desk planned for Mell, expanding its role from simple directional information to a full-fledged library circulation point with expert assistance and the ability to circulate books and other items, such as laptop computers.

Once classes end for the day, all of the space in both RBD and the Mell Classroom Building will be available for study and collaborative work. The project will also provide the opportunity to change some library spaces. For example, the library has long hoped to renovate the group study areas on the third and fourth floors of RBD. Most of the classrooms will be located on these two floors and, as part of the project, new group study rooms will be integrated into the area. These study rooms will be available to small groups during all regular library hours, with the classrooms available evenings for larger groups or quiet study.

AU Libraries is an active participant in planning for the project. To help us think about how the changes to the library can benefit Auburn’s students and faculty, the libraries will use some of a major gift to engage an internationally recognized consultant to study library

(continued page 2)
spaces and their relation to the teaching and learning that take place in the Mell Classroom Building. Don’t miss Marcia Boosinger’s article about this in this newsletter.

A change of this nature brings with it challenges. The staff and faculty in the libraries have been very busy over the summer, and will continue to work very hard to prepare the building for these changes and plan to make the two facilities a success and an integrated whole for the benefit of the students and faculty.

In order to do so, the library faculty and staff are participating in the planning of a third building project: the Offsite Library Archiving Facility (OLAF). In the next few months the librarians will be reviewing materials to go to OLAF with minimal impact to the faculty. We will also be putting in place procedures to ensure retrieval and delivery should anyone need to access to the materials in the facility. As the provost mentioned in his letter, we expect that most of these materials will be available in electronic format for immediate access, with the paper available for back up or specialized use.

Provost Timothy Boosinger summed up the challenges for the libraries in his July letter to the faculty.

“This month began with the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, where several items affecting our academic enterprise were approved. The Board approved a proposal to expand the scope of the Mell Classroom Building to better integrate the new facility with the RBD Library to create additional classrooms. The new design will support the seamless classroom access to library resources and librarian expertise and promote active and engaged learning. While construction will not begin until late fall, preparations to open space and connect the two buildings has already begun as library personnel:

- Identify unneeded duplicate materials;
- Plan to relocate physical materials that are available in electronic format, are seldom used, or require restricted access to preserve for future generations;
- Prepare an off-campus storage facility, to be completed in early spring 2016, with daily delivery of requested items to campus; and
- Shift remaining collection materials and rearrange study and work spaces.

This project will require a lot of extra effort by the library faculty and staff, and I encourage you to support them in these efforts as we work together to improve the teaching and learning environment at Auburn University.”

All of us in the libraries are eager to take this next step in our work to be the center of Auburn’s students and faculty academic lives. Disruptions come with any construction project, but it is our hope to minimize the impact to the extent possible while working hard to maximize the many benefits this new design will bring once it is completed.

Artist’s concept of the front of RBD Library as it will look from inside the Mell Classroom Building. (subject to change)

AU Libraries Starts Campaign
Leah O’Gwynn, Director of Development

This past April, Auburn University publicly launched Because This is Auburn — A Campaign for Auburn University, a $1 billion fundraising effort that is the largest in Auburn’s history. At the library, we are thrilled to have the support of many donors, which has allowed us to start the public phase at 90 percent of our campaign goal. The gifts received thus far are of all levels and are for many purposes — all of which will allow AU Libraries to emerge from this campaign better positioned to meet and exceed the expectations and needs of all of our students and faculty. The stories of each of these gifts are as unique as the individuals who gave them. Our donors have allowed us to create endowments to support collections in perpetuity, buy whiteboards for the students, acquire rare documents, create new study spaces, award our first scholarships to library student workers, and much more.

Why do people give? Because they believe in the work we are doing and because this is Auburn! There are many ways to give to the libraries or to any area you most care about. I encourage you to learn more about the libraries’ goals in this campaign and how Because This is Auburn will impact Auburn now and for many years to come by visiting because.auburn.edu/libraries. We are so thankful for your support of the libraries, and we encourage you to visit us in person or at our digital library. War Eagle!
Studying Library Spaces to Enhance Teaching and Learning

Marcia Boosinger, Associate Dean for Public Services

Auburn University Libraries will be undertaking an exciting project during the fall semester. We want to redesign a portion of the main floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library in conjunction with construction of the Mell Classroom Building adjacent to the library entrance. We plan to propose this redesign specifically with undergraduate teaching and learning in mind. The area will be configured primarily for students and faculty who will be teaching and learning in the Mell Classroom Building; however, others may use the spaces, too; therefore, libraries’ staff and partners will also participate in the participatory design process. The libraries intend that the redesigned space will enable students to continue the work they begin in those classrooms, whether completing assignments and studying for exams or, increasingly likely, extending group activities from active learning classrooms into nearby library spaces.

During the week of Sept. 15-19, a number of faculty members, particularly those of you who have taught classes using active learning pedagogies and in the EASL classrooms, will be invited to participate in a participatory design process. A team of library faculty and staff will work with consultants from Ithaka S+R to conduct a work-practice study to engage the people who will use the spaces on the second floor in the design process, to capture expert knowledge of their work practices and needs.

The study will involve faculty in two ways. The first will be in 45-minute to one-hour faculty expectation interviews with 12 faculty members who already use active learning teaching approaches and hope to teach in the new classroom building, three each in four different departments. Next, 20 faculty currently teaching active learning classes will be recruited, along with 20 undergraduates currently enrolled in active learning classes and 20 library faculty and staff volunteers, to attend any of the drop-in design workshops that will ask participants to draw an ideal library space to support their classroom activities. Finally, 60 students will be asked to respond to questions in 10-minute snapshot interviews to gather information about the ways in which they do work for a class outside of the actual class period, while another 150 students will receive simple survey cards that will be distributed in selected areas of the library to collect information about the ways in which they currently make use of the library. All told the project will involve nearly 300 participants.

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New Scholarly Initiatives

Aaron Trehub, Assistant Dean for Technology & Technical Services

The Systems and Technical Services departments supported new scholarly initiatives at Auburn against a backdrop of rapid change, especially in the area of personnel. Among other positions, the departments acquired a new web designer, a new head of Technical Services, a new electronic resources librarian, and a new financial associate in the course of 2014-2015. Technical Services also lost two long-serving faculty members: Paula Sullenger left after 22 years at Auburn for a position at the Texas A&M Libraries, and Helen Goldman retired from AU Libraries after 30 years of service. The new head of Technical Services, Nadine Ellero, is reorganizing the department in response to these changes.

Elsewhere, the Media and Digital Resource Lab (MDRL: http://mdrl.lib.auburn.edu/), one of four campus support units for the university’s student ePortfolio initiative, extended its collaboration in that area with the Office of University Writing and the new ePortfolio coordinator. The MDRL also added a new resource: a collaborative consultation space for digital scholarship, including a MediaScape display screen with a multi-laptop docking facility. The Auburn University Digital Library (AUDL: http://diglib.auburn.edu/) added or updated four collections in 2014-2015. More digital collections are in the works for 2015-2016.

Two years after being launched in September 2013, the university’s institutional repository, AUrora (http://aurora.auburn.edu/), contains over 7,400 pieces of original research—articles, reports, and conference presentations—by Auburn University faculty members.

As in previous years, the departments’ activities extended well beyond Auburn. Thanks to outreach efforts around the state, AlabamaMosaic (Alabama’s digital library: http://www.alabamamosaic.org/) now contains almost 176,000 digital items—an increase of almost 20,000 items since August 2014. AlabamaMosaic’s robust growth and attractive user interface have opened new possibilities for engaging in public history, including collaborations with the Auburn-based Encyclopedia of Alabama, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission’s Alabama200 Project, and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

The Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet: http://adpn.org/) is upgrading its preservation hubs around the state. When this work is finished, the network will be able to preserve between 40 and 100 terabytes of digital content at each hub.

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There are few things more intimidating to students than their first days on a college campus. Even after they’ve moved into housing and figured out they’re not going to starve on their own, there are still those daunting first days of classes.

When Auburn University students hit the concourse at Haley Center looking for their classroom buildings, the librarians of Auburn University Libraries are there to help with maps, directions, and ice cold water to beat the summer heat.

For the past nine years, reference librarian Juliet Rumble has coordinated Information Oasis, an outreach event designed to make the first confusing days of the new school year just a little less daunting for new and returning Auburn students.

Rumble and her fellow librarians set up a tent near Haley Center during the first two days of classes and hand out campus maps and other information that can assist students in making the transition to independent, fully functioning college students.

Each year AU Libraries faculty distribute more than 2,500 bottles of water as they greet students and assist them in getting past those stressful first days of the school term.

Mid-August is hardly the most comfortable of times to stand out in the hot sun, but Rumble recognizes the value of making a connection with the students she helps.

“As we greet and interact with students, we hope to send a message that the libraries are the place to go to address information and research needs,” said Rumble. “If we can encourage students to use the libraries early and often in their college careers, we believe they will achieve greater academic success.”
Meet the Collection Team Librarians

It was 110 years after Auburn University’s chartering as the East Alabama Male College before Auburn University Libraries’ collection reached half a million volumes. It took only another 13 years to reach a million. Just 36 years after reaching that major milestone, AU Libraries holds over 3.6 million volumes.

The acquisition of knowledge by humans is accelerating. Ensuring that researchers at Auburn have the best and latest resources when they come to the library are the librarians of the Collections Team. The Collections Team is responsible for all aspects of collection development for AU Libraries. Chief among these is working closely with the various subject specialist librarians to ensure that the most important works covering all fields of study at the university are added to the library’s collection.

Funding the library collection is always a challenge, and the Collections Team is constantly working with the university’s development office to obtain more money to expand collections. Just as important as acquiring new items is the fostering of a culture of close assessment of the current collection: culling multiple copies of outdated works, ensuring there are no holes in the collection in specific study areas, and fully evaluating need before limited collections funds are spent on materials.

The AU Libraries Collections Team is made up of both veteran Auburn librarians and new faculty with fresh ideas from other universities.

Barbara Bishop, subject specialist in theatre and the School of Communication and Journalism, earned her B.A. and M.A.L.S. from the University of South Florida. She started out at AU Libraries in 1988 and has served in a variety of areas including humanities, government documents, and as acting head of the architecture library.

Adelia Grabowsky, subject specialist in communications disorders, nursing, and pharmacy, earned her BS in Mineral Engineering and an MLIS from the University of Alabama. She also holds a certificate of advanced study in health sciences librarianship from the University of Pittsburgh. Before her three years at Auburn, Grabowsky was with the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Liza Weisbrod, subject specialist in music and government documents, earned a B.M. from the University of Missouri at Columbia, an M.M. from the University of Notre Dame, and an MSLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before coming to Auburn in 1990, she worked at the New Haven Free Public Library in Connecticut.

Barbara Bishop: communications, journalism, and theatre subject specialist

Adelia Grabowsky: communication disorders, nursing, and pharmacy subject specialist

Liza Weisbrod: music and government documents subject specialist
Library Faculty Achievement Highlights

Jaena Alabi, Reference Librarian – Alabi presented a program entitled “You Belong Here: The Importance of Cultivating an Inclusive Organizational Culture” at the 2015 Association of College and Research Libraries in Portland, Ore., with fellow reference librarians Bridget Farrell, Claudine Jenda, and Pam Whaley. They presented research on imposter syndrome, microaggressions, and burnout in libraries and noted the positive role that mentoring can play in mitigating the negative consequences of experiencing these phenomena.

Barbara Bishop, Reference Librarian – Bishop presented a poster called “Simplifying Library Value for Non-Library Development Officers and Staff” at the American Library Association annual conference in San Francisco. The poster expounded the need for framing library values without using library jargon. She has been asked to write a related article for Journal of Library Administration.

Tommy Brown, Assistant Archivist – Brown chaired the “Advocating for History Out Front and Behind the Scenes: SAA and Its Leaders Protect the Historical Record” panel at the annual convention of the Society of American Archivists in Cleveland, Ohio. He presented research related to the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act in a presentation entitled, “The Right to Know...or Not: The Freedom of Information Act, 1966–1976.”

Rob Buchanan, Head of the Cary Veterinary Library – Buchanan is coordinating statistics and assessment activities for the AU Libraries. Measurement of use is an important metric that can guide resource allocation. This past year he created local documentation for gathering and reporting statistics to the Association of Research Libraries, generated journal price and usage data reports, and developed timelines for library assessment and statistics gathering.

Toni Carter, Reference/Head Instruction Librarian – In collaboration with the libraries’ building manager, Bob Yerkey, Carter redesigned one of RBD’s instruction labs for use with the 600 to 700 information literacy sessions taught each year. The redesign includes digital projectors, glass boards, an AppleTV that can be used in conjunction with instructional iPads, and 30 wireless laptops. Furniture is moveable to accommodate group discussion and activities. Electricity is provided by the use of free-standing, repositionable power hubs connected to electrical threads under the carpet.

Dana M. Caudle and Cecilia Schmitz, Cataloging and Metadata Librarians – Caudle and Schmitz worked with Clint Bellanger from the Systems Department to take the new elements from Resource Description and Access (RDA), the cataloging rules implemented in 2013, and use them as the basis for reprogramming AU Libraries’ online catalog to do a better job of displaying information on a resource’s format. The findings were written in “Keep it Simple: Using RDA’s Content, Media, and Carrier Type Fields to Simplify Format Display Issues,” in a special RDA issue of the Journal of Library Metadata (2014) : 14:3-4, 222-238.

Midge Coates, Digital Projects Librarian – This year Coates rolled out the first major software upgrade for the Auburn University Electronic Theses and Dissertations collection since it was created in 2009-10. The new version is easier to use for both ETD submitters and end-users. She also launched the Hampton Roads Peace Conference Digital Collection and a new and expanded version of the Auburn: The Loveliest Village Photograph Collection.

Dwayne Cox, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections & Archives – Cox continued work on his history of Auburn University, scheduled for publication by the University of Alabama press in the spring of 2016.


Nadine Ellero, Head of Technical Services – Continuing her investigation of web scale library discovery systems, Ellero published an article, “Exploring Library Discovery Positions: Are They Emerging or Converging?” in the Journal of Web Librarianship. Ellero concludes that there are a small number of dedicated job positions and departments in large, research-level institutions dedicated to discovery and the literature suggests convergences in library technical and public services via teams for effective implementation and maintenance of these systems. Her work was listed in the “Literature and Bibliography” section of Marshall Breeding’s, “The Future of Library Resource Discovery: A white paper commissioned by the NISO Discovery to Delivery (D2D) Topic Committee,” February 2015.

Bridget Farrell, Reference Librarian – Farrell conducted a series of interviews with non-library partners that provide services to students at RBD in order to improve communication and collaboration. Results were published in the Reference Services Review article “Using Interviews to Improve Relationships with Library Partners: A Case Study,” summarizing what was learned and what changes were made as a result of the interviews.

Adelia Grabowsky, Reference Librarian – Grabowsky published an article entitled “Library Instruction in Communication Disorders: Which Databases should be Prioritized?” in Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship. She developed a list of commonly recommended databases and a list of core journals in the areas of speech-language pathology and audiology then compared indexing of the journals to discover which databases should be prioritized in library sessions.

Patricia Hartman, Reference Librarian – Hartman worked with undergraduate volunteers and student workers to revive and renovate the AU Seed Library. Members can come to the seed library to “check out” seeds. At the end of the season, they save seeds from their best plants and bring them back to the library. The goal is to create a self-sustaining collection of locally adapted heirloom vegetable and
native plant seeds. With support from the Academic Sustainability Program, she was able to organize and restock the seed library, give it a new look, and create a website (http://auburnseedlibrary.wix.com/auseedlibrary).

Claudine Jenda, Reference Librarian – Jenda has been re-elected to a three-year term as the Secretary of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN). USAIN is an organization for information professionals interested in the creation, storage, and dissemination of agricultural information. Working closely with the USDA and the National Agricultural Library, USAIN plays a leadership role in the formation of national information policy as it relates to agriculture and promotes cooperation among its members, most of whom are libraries at land-grant universities.

Kasia Leousis, Head of the Library of Architecture, Design & Construction – Leousis wrote an article “Creating an Interdisciplinary Materials Lab in the Design Library,” published in the peer-reviewed journal Art Documentation. This piece describes the efforts of Leousis, working in collaboration with the College of Architecture, Design and Construction faculty, to create and develop a centralized materials lab in the branch library, which is now integrated into the curriculum and used as a teaching tool for beginning design students learning about materials discovery and research.

Bonnie MacEwan, Dean of Libraries – MacEwan has joined the board of the Association of Research Libraries.

Nancy Noe, Reference Librarian – Noe presented a session entitled, “Just Say ‘No’: Empowering Ourselves and Our Pedagogical Expertise” at the LOEX (Library Orientation Exchange) annual conference in Denver, Colo., with Angela Pashia (University of West Georgia) and Kevin Seeber (Colorado State University-Pueblo).

Juliet Rumble, Reference Librarian – Rumble presented a session entitled “Teaching Students the ‘How’ and ‘Why’ of Source Evaluation: Pedagogies That Empower Communities of Learning and Scholarship” at the Library Orientation Exchange (LOEX) annual conference. The session highlighted strategies and classroom activities to help students reflect on the nature of their information needs and the appropriateness of various sources to address these needs, key components of information literacy instruction. Rumble and her co-presenters (Toni Carter and Nancy Noe) also contributed an essay to the forthcoming LOEX conference proceedings.

Greg Schmidt, Special Collections Librarian – At the Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference in Oakland, Calif., Schmidt presented a poster on his own and presented a paper with Kasia Leousis. The poster was on using historic English novels held in Special Collections to help Auburn students better understand modern book publishing and design. The paper presented was on how they changed Special Collections instruction to give students more opportunity to handle and interpret Auburn’s collections of medieval manuscripts.

Todd Shipman, Reference Librarian – Shipman wrote an article for Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian on the strategic development of juvenile literature collections in academic libraries and the use of selected projects to promote the use of award-winning juvenile books. It describes the development of a special collection plan for juvenile books, the accompanying promotions, projects to increase the visibility of the juvenile collection in the library and improve the findability of the juvenile books via the online catalog, and an online subject guide. Circulation and online usage data showed a resulting increase in the use of the collection and related information resources.

George Stachokas, Electronic Resources Librarian – Stachokas’ “After the Book: Information Services for the 21st Century” was published in 2014 by Chandos Publishing, an imprint of Elsevier Science & Technology. “After the Book” addresses the future of academic libraries, as well as challenges and opportunities posed by the increasing use of electronic resources.

Aaron Trehub, Assistant Dean for Technology & Technical Services – As the co-chair of the MetaArchive Cooperative Outreach Committee, Trehub drafted “Getting to the Bottom Line: 20 Cost Questions for Digital Preservation,” a list of suggested questions (http://www.metaarchive.org/cost-questions) for use by institutions that are considering digital preservation solutions. Trehub and MetaArchive coordinator Matt Schultz did an ASERL Webinar on the list in March 2015 (https://vimeo.com/121926212). They will also be giving a presentation on it at the annual iPRES conference in Chapel Hill, N.C., in November 2015.

Cayce Van Horn, Reference Librarian – Van Horn participated in the Biggio Center’s iPad Faculty Cohort Program to learn to maximize the use of the mobile platform in information literacy classrooms. She used the knowledge she gained to implement the use of mind-mapping apps such as Mindly to enhance student engagement with topic development and brainstorming activities in information literacy sessions.


Pambanisha Whaley, Head of Interlibrary Loan – Whaley made a panel presentation entitled “The Stories Behind the Numbers: Psychological Contracts, Microaggressions, and Incivility” at the Texas Library Association Diversity Summit in Austin, Texas, with Jaena Alabi of Auburn and Deborah Lilton of Vanderbilt University.

Andrew Wohrley, Reference Librarian – Wohrley presented “Engineering Virtual Libraries for Engineering Distance Education Students” at the American Society of Engineering Education-Southeast conference in Gainesville, Fla., which was also published in the conference proceedings. His paper dealt with creating an online collection that supported distance education students by leveraging as much legacy technology as possible.

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Our objective in this project will be to do as many libraries across the country have done in recent years and as Auburn University Libraries have done previously when developing the Learning Commons: identify key faculty expectations and student activities associated with undergraduate coursework and the ways in which the library spaces must support those activities. This will make it possible for us to develop a list of requirements for those spaces that can be shared with the designers. The work described here will serve to ground subsequent design work so that the new spaces support the identified work practices.

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Finally, I was named the program co-chair for the third Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation (ANADP) conference, which will take place in Berlin in 2017 (the previous conferences were in Tallinn, Estonia in 2011 and Barcelona, Spain in 2013).
Shared Digital Future Comes to AU Libraries with HathiTrust

In early 2015, Auburn University Libraries completed an agreement with HathiTrust Digital Library to bring its resources to all Auburn registered users. The mission of HathiTrust is to contribute to research, scholarship, and the common good by collaboratively collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge.

HathiTrust is a large-scale collaborative repository of digital content from research libraries. It includes content digitized as part of the Google Books project and Internet Archive digitization initiatives, as well as content digitized locally by member libraries. As of March 2015, the HathiTrust digital library contained over 13 million digitized volumes, of which almost five million volumes were in the public domain.

Access to the HathiTrust may be found in the current list of databases on the AU Libraries site. After selecting HathiTrust, click the login widget on the right-hand side of the page, select “Auburn” from the picklist of member institutions, click the “Continue” button, log in to the Auburn Shibboleth screen with your AU ID and password, and you’re taken back to the Hathi page with a “Hello, User X!” message that lets you know that your login was successful.