

OFF THE SHELF

SPRING 2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UWEC LIBRARIES

ISSUE 97

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Director's Desk

Around the Libraries

Recent Acquisitions

Staff News

FIND US ON



@UWEC_LIBRARY
@UWECBCLIBRARY



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire



There's More to the Story

The buzz about artificial intelligence (AI) in recent months has generated a range of reactions from anxiety to amusement, curiosity to consternation, fascination to fear. It invariably prompts the question, will I still have a job? As someone whose profession faced this same question 25 years ago with the advent of Google, my prediction is yes, but not by doing the same thing in the same way. Adapting is key.

National Library Week, April 23-29, is celebrating the adaptation of libraries with its theme, "There's more to the story." The theme recognizes that libraries are filled with stories, many of them in books, but that's not where the library stories end. This issue of *Off the Shelf* highlights a range of library stories, including and transcending books. There are the stories of important exhibits, highlighting the experiences and accomplishments of people not always seen or celebrated. There are the stories of digital collections and pop-up libraries that make resources available beyond the walls of the library. There are the stories of library makerspaces, connecting students to the tools and skills they need to create and explore.

There are the stories of our library student employees, all sharing the common thread of balancing work and studies. A student's work experience is often a necessary part of their academic experience, and we work to make it a transformative one. Each year we recognize a student colleague by awarding the McIntyre Library Student Employee Scholarship. Generous donations from library staff and supporters enable us to continue this tradition.

Libraries share stories through events and programming, and we are thrilled to be a part of hosting two acclaimed writers this spring, poet Naomi Shihab Nye, and novelist Toya Wolfe, who will be sharing their work and craft with the UW-Eau Claire community. When UW-Eau Claire holds the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April, bringing 4,000 visitors from around the world to Eau Claire, McIntyre Library will be a part of that story. We will host a version of our annual After Dark party for conference attendees, treat them to visits with our popular therapy dog friends, and welcome them into our Makerspace for creative opportunities. We will open our space as a literal canvas to NCUR student artists who will collaborate to design and paint a mural on a 3rd floor library wall.

There are stories reflected in the everchanging use of library space. Each year library staff conduct space studies, where we gather data on how library space is used. We note study and seating preferences on the six floors of the building, during different times of day and days of the week. In recent years, the demand for individual spaces has increased significantly. UWEC students love individual study rooms, and Barron students love the individual pod seating and cozy nooks. A story can change one's perspective, and expand one's capacity for empathy. Where once library staff bemoaned students sleeping in the building, we have come to realize that busy students sometimes just need a place to nap. The Barron library has a popular hammock; McIntyre Library is looking into getting some. Rather than resisting the inevitable, we can embrace the reality and address the need.

Which brings us back to AI. The meteoric advances in AI technology are impacting how we work, teach, learn, and create. Librarians, still here after all these years, are now addressing AI as they continue to guide students and researchers in navigating the practical and ethical challenges of an ever-evolving information landscape. I can say with confidence that there will be more to this story. ■

Jill Markgraf,
Director of Libraries

Behind the Cover Image: our new bookshelves

When we began our search for custom bookshelves, we never expected it might take years. But some things are worth the wait! One of our challenges was finding a design that would utilize the concrete pillar that greets everyone as they enter the library. After several false starts, we found our solution. Aaron Wallace, founder of [Oxbow Designs](#), built two beautiful bookcases: one that encircles our concrete pillar and one that stands across from it, against the wall.

Aaron's inspiration for these two complimenting pieces came directly from nature and his personal passion for using locally harvested wood. The strategic cuts masterfully highlight the beautiful grains in the wood and serve a very important purpose. Our bookshelves were constructed without a single traditional fastener like screws or nails. Comprised of 200 wooden parts and around 250 joints, the shelves are held together with what looks like magic but is really fantastic structural design. Thank you to Aaron for these great additions to the library! ■



Photo Credit: Kong Yang

ChatGPT, what are you?

By **Robin Miller**, millerob@uwec.edu

Shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday, a company called OpenAI released a new product called ChatGPT. You're not alone if you heard about ChatGPT and thought, "Whatever that is, they should give it a snappier name." Nonetheless, ChatGPT was a sensation among media pundits, educators, and of course, librarians.

What is ChatGPT? First, it's a chatbot. Users enter text and the bot responds to the statement or question. For example, we asked ChatGPT, "What is a Blugold?" The bot responded:

"Blugold is a term that refers to a student, alumni, or fan of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire), a public university located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA. The term is a combination of the university's colors, blue and gold, and is often used to refer to the university's athletic teams as well."



Second, "GPT" stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3, a language model that allows the bot to create human-like responses to questions. Joining ChatGPT in the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots are Bard (Google), Sydney (Microsoft), and others. In a recent op-ed published in the New York Times, Noam Chomsky explains tools like ChatGPT this way: "They take huge amounts of data, search for patterns in it and become increasingly proficient at generating statistically probable outputs—such as seemingly humanlike language and thought." When prompted to explain "Blugold," ChatGPT searched its dataset for relevant information.

Because ChatGPT is capable of responding to a question or statement with relatively clear and understandable prose, many fear that students will outsource research, writing, and learning to AI bots. In a recent discussion series at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), more than 50 UW-Eau Claire faculty and staff gathered in person and virtually to learn about AI and its implications for teaching and learning. Some participants suggested that text written by ChatGPT could be a significant time saver while others argued that using AI tools is academic dishonesty. In CETL discussions, faculty and staff grappled with reports that ChatGPT produced passing answers to a final exam at Penn's Wharton School of Business. We also discussed tools like ZeroGPT, which help educators, and readers in general, determine the likelihood that text was generated by a human—or a machine.

Though our newsfeeds brim with editorials and stories of funny, novel, and sinister applications, AI tools do not yet pose existential threats to libraries. In addition to reasonable fears about academic dishonesty, people testing out AI chatbots have observed factual errors, misinterpretations, and omissions. For example, when asked to elaborate about the history of the Blugold, ChatGPT could not replicate the research of retired archivist Lark Keating-Hadlock, whose [2016 Off the Shelf article](#) revealed the origins of the term. If anything, AI tools seem to have introduced a new information literacy problem to discuss when we meet with students about their research. How do these tools work? Where do they get their information? Who owns the data in the language models? Can bots have editorial policies and fact checkers? ChatGPT tends to demure when asked questions about itself, so McIntyre Library faculty will continue to explore and question AI tools. ■

Who's the Judge? You be the judge!

By **Helena Sumbulla**, sumbullh@uwec.edu

The Wisconsin Supreme Court race has already broken records as the most expensive judicial race in US history. On April 4, Wisconsinites will cast their ballots to determine the leanings of the highest court in the state. While judicial races are officially nonpartisan, it is widely accepted that the Wisconsin court has a 4-3 conservative majority. Justice Patience Roggensack, part of that conservative majority, is retiring in July 2023, which opens up a spot for a candidate to sway the leaning of the court. Judicial races not only go under many people's radars, but candidates tend to make an effort of appearing neutral in this nonpartisan race. All bets are off in this race, with both candidates shedding any pretense of neutrality. There is much at stake; the candidate that gets sworn in would be able to influence rulings on issues such as voting rights, abortion, criminal justice reforms, and the environment for the next 10 years. Still deciding on who to vote for? We have made a helpful [Spring Election LibGuide](#) that can guide your research. Make your voice count! ■



Onwueme Display at Black Essence

By **Sarah Beer**, beersj@uwec.edu

The recent Black Essence event hosted by Multiculture Student Services brought Black creative expression to the forefront by featuring spoken word, music, and art. It also afforded the Special Collections and Archives department the opportunity to share one of its premier collections: the Dr. Tess Onwueme collection.

Born in Nigeria in 1955, Dr. Tess Onwueme is a pre-eminent international playwright, poet, and scholar, who incorporates themes of social justice, feminism, and African culture into her work. The display at the Black Essence event focused on one of Onwueme's most popular plays: *The Reign of Wazobia*.

"Wazobia" tells the story of a woman who rebels against the customs of her people in order to challenge the male-dominated society. The drama has received critical acclaim and has been performed worldwide. The contents of the Black Essence display included costumes and photographic stills from an early 2000s film production of "Wazobia," as well as a recording of UW- Eau Claire's 1994 theatre production.

Dr. Onwueme generously donated her life's work to the Special Collections and Archives department in 2014. For a description of her collection, and to learn more about this incredible woman, check out [the collection's finding aid](#). ■



Japanese Children's Literature Collection at McIntyre Library

By **Robin Miller**, millerob@uwec.edu

Every week, students enrolled in Dr. Tomomi Kakegawa's Japanese language courses visit the lower level of McIntyre Library to read and borrow Japanese children's literature. Dr. Kakegawa requires students to read independently outside of class, but Japanese books appropriate to beginner reading levels are not easily accessible in most bookstores or libraries. With funding from the Japan Foundation and UW-Eau Claire's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), Dr. Kakegawa has amassed a collection of nearly 600 books in Japanese. In 2017, McIntyre Library's Mary Hable began cataloging the Japanese books and this small collection is now one of the most popular in McIntyre Library. Dr. Kakegawa says the collection is an important resource for language learners, who need access to "authentic materials from the very beginning of their study and all along their language development." ■



Dr. Tomomi Kakegawa (seated) with some of her Japanese children's literature students. Photo Credit: Kong Yang



Makerspace + 3D Printing Lab Grand Opening

The UW-Eau Claire-Barron County Makerspace opened on our campus on March 8 with a grand opening event that included printing demonstrations in the 3D printing lab, three different crafting activities (plus access to all of our other crafting materials), and Indian Laddu sweets made by our staff in honor of the Hindu celebration of Holi. The Makerspace will be open to students and staff during regular library hours, and the 3D Printing Lab will be open for student printing one day per week and by appointment. ■



Student Worker Spotlight

By **Jennifer Duvall**, duvallja@uwec.edu

Clara Fettig came to work with us here at the UWEC-Barron County Library at the beginning of this academic year. She has been our one constant worker over the course of the year and has done everything from helping to inventory our collection to decorating the library for special events and holidays.

Clara says that she came to the Barron Campus because she felt that it would make her transition from high school to a larger campus easier, and she has enjoyed her time here. She joined the student government early in the fall and has found team-planning events like the Student Government Association (SGA) Fall Bash to be a highlight of her time at Barron.

Clara chose to join our staff because she liked the flexibility of the hours, and because she felt that the library would be a calming environment in which to be between classes. Her favorite part of the job has been the opportunities that she has had to be creative. She has been able to create a couple of book displays, and has been an integral part of planning library events and setting up our new Makerspace.

Her future plans include transferring to the Stout Campus next year to focus on early childhood education. She has been tremendously influenced by her time spent working with children in roles like Sunday School teacher and subbing for paraprofessionals in the public schools, and her goal is to make a difference as an educator in a small school in this area. We will miss Clara greatly next year, but we wish her all the best with her future plans. ■



Clara standing with one of the book displays she created.

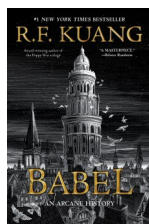
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

All titles can be found in the Popular Reading Collection on the second floor of McIntyre Library.

List curated by **Carrie Butler Becker**, beckercb@uwec.edu

Babel: or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution

R. F. Kuang
PS3611.U17 B33 2022



Black Girls Must Be Magic: A Novel

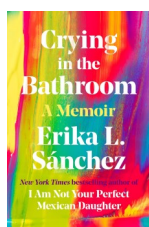
Jayne Allen
PS3601.L419 B53 2022

The Bodyguard

Katherine Center
PS3603.E67 B63 2022

Crying in the Bathroom: A Memoir

Erika L. Sánchez
PS3619.A517 Z46 2022



Demon Copperhead: A Novel

Barbara Kingsolver
PS3561.I496 D46 2022

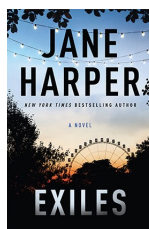


Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands

Kate Beaton
PN6733.B42 Z46 2022

Exiles

Jane Harper
PR9619.4.H3645 E95 2023



Flying Solo: A Novel

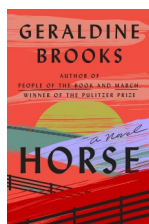
Linda Holmes
PS3608.O49435456 F59 2022

Fox Creek: A Novel

William Kent Krueger
PS3561.R766 F69 2022

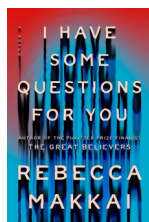
The Furrows: An Elegy: A Novel

Namwali Serpell
PR9405.9.S37 F87 2022



Horse

Geraldine Brooks
PR9619.3.B7153 H67 2022



How to Sell a Haunted House

Grady Hendrix
PS3608.E543 H69 2023

I Have Some Questions for You

Rebecca Makkai
PS3613.A36 I33 2023

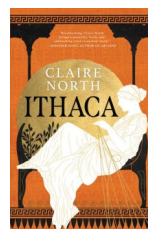
I'm Glad My Mom Died

Jennette McCurdy
PN2287.M54547 A3 2022



Ithaca

Claire North
PR6114.O777 I84 2022



The Last to Vanish: A Novel

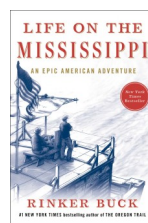
Megan Miranda
PS3613.I755 L38 2022

The Last White Man

Mohsin Hamid
PS3558.A42169 L37 2022

Life on the Mississippi: An Epic American Adventure

Rinker Buck
F351 .B83 2022

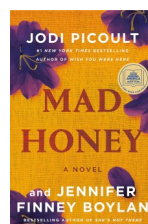


The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times

Michelle Obama
E909.O24 A3 2022

Mad Honey: A Novel

Jodi Picoult
PS3566.I372 M33 2022

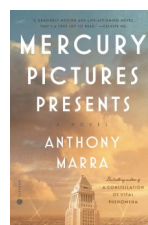


Marple: Twelve New Stories

PR6005.H66 M37 2022

Mercury Pictures Presents: A Novel

Anthony Marra
PS3613.A768726 M47 2022b



Number One Is Walking: My Life in the Movies and Other Diversions

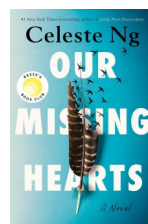
Steve Martin
PN2287.M522 A3 2022

Other Birds

Sarah Addison Allen
PS3601.L4356 O85 2022

Our Missing Hearts: A Novel

Celeste Ng
PS3614.G83 O97 2022



Rebel with a Clause: Tales and Tips from a Roving Grammarian

Ellen Jovin
PE1460 .J68 2022

Reminders of Him: A Novel

Colleen Hoover
PS3608.O623 R46 2022



Signal Fires

Dani Shapiro
PS3569.H3387 S55 2022

Small Things Like These

Claire Keegan
PR6061.E329 S63 2021

Someone Else's Shoes

Jojo Moyes
PR6113.O94 S66 2023

The Song of Achilles

Madeline Miller
PS3613.I5445 S65 2012

Spare

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex
DA591.A45 H46365 2023

Tales from La Vida: A Latinx Comics Anthology

Frederick Luis Aldama, editor
PN6725 .T35 2018

And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle

Jon Meacham
E457.2 .M479 2022

The Whalebone Theatre

Joanna Quinn
PR6117.U364 W47 2022

What If? Additional Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions

Randall Munroe
Q173 .M966 2022

What Moves the Dead

T. Kingfisher
PS3611.I597 W53 2022

Verity

Colleen Hoover
PS3608.O623 V47 2022

Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice

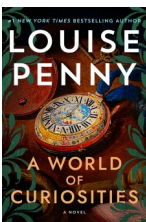
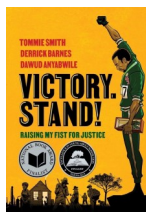
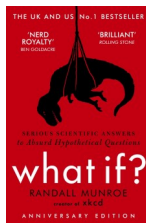
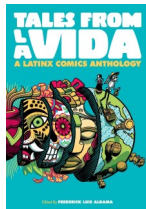
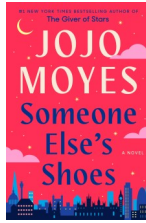
Tommie Smith
GV697.S65 A3 2022

The Winners: A Novel

Fredrik Backman
PT9877.12.A32 V5613 2022

A World of Curiosities

Louise Penny
PR9199.4.P464 W67 2022

**Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life**

Alice Wong
RC935.A8 W66 2022

You Made a Fool of Death with Your Beauty: A Novel

Akwaeke Emezi
PR9387.9.E42 Y68 2022

Ebooks and Audiobooks via Libby

Available to UWEC faculty, staff, and students.

Akata Woman (audiobook)
Nnedi Okorafor

The Beauty in Breaking (ebook & audiobook)
Michele Harper

Dial A for Aunties (audiobook)
Jesse Q. Sutanto

Enchantment (ebook & audiobook)
Katherine May

Honey and Spice (ebook & audiobook)
Bolu Babalola

How the Word Is Passed (ebook)
Clint Smith

The League of Gentlewomen Witches (audiobook)
India Holton

The Light We Carry (ebook & audiobook)
Michelle Obama

My Remarkable Journey (ebook & audiobook)
Katherine Johnson

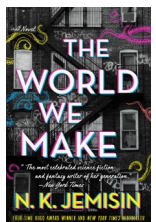
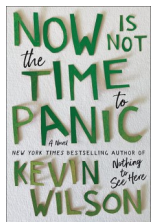
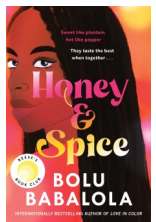
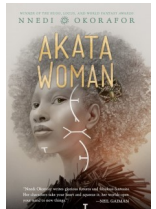
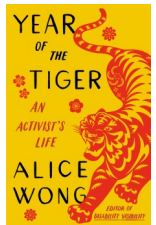
Now Is Not the Time to Panic (ebook & audiobook)
Kevin Wilson

The Right to Sex (ebook & audiobook)
Amia Srinivasan

Spare (ebook & audiobook)
Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

We Should Not Be Friends (ebook & audiobook)
Will Schwalbe

The World We Make (ebook & audiobook)
N. K. Jemisin



Save the Date: Toya Wolfe Author Talk + Workshops

By **Helena Sumbulla**, sumbullh@uwec.edu

McIntyre Library is thrilled to bring author Toya Wolfe to campus this spring! Wolfe's coming-of-age novel, [*Last Summer on State Street*](#), follows a group of girls living in the southside of Chicago as they manage the turbulence of changing friendships and community as their home, the Robert Taylor Housing Project, gets torn down. *Last Summer on State Street* was featured in Stephen Curry's Literati book club and has received wide acclaim in the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Publishers Weekly*, and more. Toya herself grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes and she earned her MFA in creative writing at Columbia College Chicago and is the recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston-Bessie Head Fiction Award.

Wolfe's visit is sponsored by McIntyre Library, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (OSRP), the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild, the UW-Eau Claire Center for Racial and Restorative Justice (CRRJ), The Center of EDI Training, Education and Development, and the Center for Excellence in Writing (CWE). We will be hosting two book clubs, one for UW-Eau Claire students, and one for UWEC faculty and staff, and community members. Toya will also host a writing workshop for students, as well as an author talk that is open to the public at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library.

[Book Clubs, hosted by McIntyre Library and the Center for Racial and Restorative Justice \(CRRJ\)](#)

Thursday, April 6 at noon on Zoom - Faculty/Staff/Community - registration closed.

Monday, April 10 at 3:00 p.m. in the McIntyre Library Writing Lab (2nd floor) - open to UW-Eau Claire students

[Writing Workshops with Toya](#)

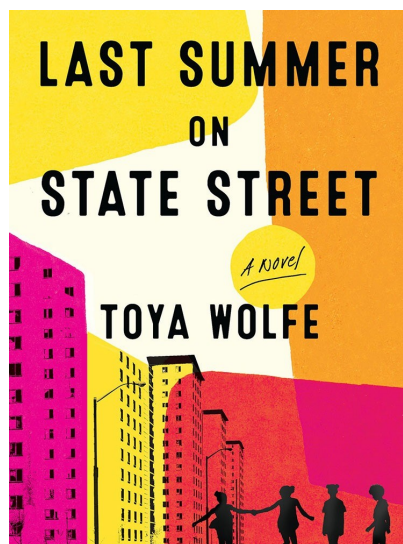
Tuesday, May 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Carnegie Room at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library - open to everyone

Wednesday, May 3 at noon in the McIntyre Library Writing Lab (2nd floor) - open to UW-Eau Claire students

[Toya's Author Talk-reading and discussion](#)

Thursday, May 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Riverside Room, L.E. Phillips Public Library - open to everyone and there will be time after for book signing



Last Summer on State Street: a novel, and author, Toya Wolfe

Forum Special: Naomi Shihab Nye

By **Greg Kocken**, kockeng@uwec.edu



Author and editor, Naomi Shihab Nye

Ten years ago, the library, with support provided by the Foundation, acquired the Frederick G. and Joan Christopherson-Schmidt Robert Frost Collection. This important archival collection housed in the Special Collections and Archives Department contains over 44 first editions of Robert Frost's volumes of poetry, 22 signed by the author, and unique Robert Frost manuscript materials. Since the acquisition in 2013, dozens of classes and hundreds of students have engaged with materials from the collection. The collection is among the most significant archival collections preserved and accessible through McIntyre Library.

Every year McIntyre Library, English Department, and Foundation co-sponsor an event which honors the gift of the collection, donor Joan Christopherson-Schmidt, and celebrates American poetry. This year, the Frederick and Joan Christopherson Schmidt Robert Frost Celebration of American Poetry is held in conjunction with a special Forum Series event. We are welcoming the poet Naomi

Shihab Nye to campus on **Thursday, April 6**. Naomi Shihab Nye is the award-winning author and editor of more than 30 volumes. The presentation is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Schofield Auditorium. Tickets and more information is available online through the [Forum Series webpage](#). ■

Updates from the Blugold Makerspace

By **Blugold Makerspace staff**, library.makerspace@uwec.edu



Join us for our Earth Month celebration this April! We organize one month of eco-themed projects each semester, and April is focused on repurposing, repair, and recycling. Make a reusable lunch bag, a quilted bookmark with fabric scraps, and more!

Spring 2023 Open Hours

Monday - Friday

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All UW-Eau Claire students, staff, and faculty are welcome to use the Blugold Makerspace. Certain membership levels of our McIntyre Valued Partner (MVP) program can also attend Makerspace workshops. Contact us for more information. ■

EARTH MONTH APRIL WORKSHOPS



Paint a Pokémon

Stop into the Makerspace and pick one of our pre-made Pokémon to paint. Using the magic of lasers, we will prepare a series of 3-4-inch-tall pocket monsters out of recycled cardboard. Open to all UWEC students, faculty, and staff who gotta catch 'em all.

April 3: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

April 5: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

April 11: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

April 17: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

April 21: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

April 24: 2:00-3:00 p.m.



Macrame Plant Hanger

Learn basic macrame knots and create your own plant hanger! Blugold Makerspace experts will teach you the square knot and gathering knot to create a macrame hanger that will be 2 feet long and fit a 4-inch pot or jar. Pre-registration is required; please click the date below to reserve a spot.

[Tuesday, April 18: 12:30-1:45 p.m.](#)



Earth Claire Workshop: Marbled Paper

Join us at the annual Earth Claire celebration on the campus mall for paper marbling!

Monday, April 24: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Scrap Fabric Bookmarks

Learn how to upcycle scrap pieces of fabric, quilt batting, and ribbon into a cute fabric bookmark. This beginner-friendly project is a great way to use up leftover materials and learn the basics of sewing.

Tuesday, April 25: 2:00-3:00 p.m.



T-Shirt Tote Bag

Recycle a T-shirt to make a fun, environmentally-friendly tote bag. Bring your own T-shirt or upcycle one of ours! Open to all UWEC students, staff, and faculty with your Blugold ID.

Wednesday, April 26: 2:00-3:00 p.m.



Decorate a Bookend

Join us for a fun upcycling project using former library bookends! Decorate your metal bookend using paint, paper collage, or whatever brings you joy. Limited to two bookends per participant and they are yours to keep after the workshop.

Thursday, April 27: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Digital Exhibits @ McIntyre Library

By **Greg Kocken**, kockeng@uwec.edu



An image of several Hormel Girls featured in "Marching Beyond the Kitchen: SPAM and the Women Behind the Can" digital exhibit.

For over a decade, McIntyre Library has supported digital humanities projects at UW-Eau Claire. These projects range from the creation of accessible humanities collections to curated digital exhibits. Recently, the library launched a webpage to serve as a platform for presenting digital exhibits supported by and connected to McIntyre Library: library.uwec.edu/archives/digital-exhibits/

Two projects, recent collaborations with Public History courses at the university, are currently presented on the new webpage. One project, "The Individual, the Collective, and the Crisis: Public Health in Rural Wisconsin," explores a silence in our understanding of public health in Wisconsin. A lot of attention is focused on public health in urban areas while neglecting what happens in rural areas. Using archival sources the exhibit explores the 1918 pandemic, inequality in access to health care, fluoridation, mental health, opioid use, and the COVID-19 pandemic. A second project, "Marching Beyond the Kitchen: SPAM and the Women Behind the Can," launched earlier this year. This digital exhibit follows the journey of Eleanor Jones who, in the years following WWII, participated in a musical troupe known as the "Hormel Girls," traveling the country promoting and selling Hormel products.

These two exhibits use the digital humanities platform Omeka-S, a tool hosted and supported by McIntyre Library. McIntyre Library is eager to support the digital humanities projects of scholars and courses from across disciplines. Please reach out to McIntyre Library for more information about how we could be a partner for your own digital humanities projects. ■

2022 Student Employee Scholarship: Stephanie Much

By **Jenna Vande Zande**, vandezj@uwec.edu

We awarded our seventh annual McIntyre Library Student Employee Scholarship to Stephanie Much. Stephanie has worked in Special Collections and Archives since spring 2021 and she is a Public History major with a European Studies minor. During her time in Special Collections, she assisted with cataloging and labeling the LaBelle Miller Southwest Pottery Collection and cataloging and repairing the map collection.

In her application essay, Stephanie talks about her job as solidifying her decision to be a history major. "If it wasn't for my job in the library within Special Collections, I would probably be on a completely different career path and possibly even a different major entirely," she writes. She also wrote about the value of having an on-campus job as a first generation student (without a car) who is funding her own education. Stephanie acknowledged the role her library job has played in helping develop a sense of belonging. "Coming into college at the height of the pandemic made finding my place and fitting into the campus community difficult. Working on campus in the library has made me feel more connected to campus and has given me a small sense of community...."



Congratulations, Stephanie, and thank you for being a member of the Special Collections and Archives team!

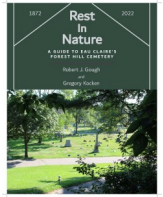
While the experiences gained working in McIntyre Library help students make connections and prepare for their careers, we are happy to help make college a little more affordable for Stephanie and future student employee recipients. We are excited to announce that this year during National Library Week (April 23-29) we will be hosting a donation drive for our student scholarship! Celebrate your love of libraries by directly supporting our amazing student workers and the impactful projects and learning experiences they participate in during their time with us. Thank you to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation for helping us organize this great crowdfunding event! Go to Impact.uwec.edu/library for more details. ■

Library Staff and Student News: October 2022 - March 2023

Roxanne Backowski, head of user services, **Liliana LaValle**, digital learning librarian, and **Kate Hinnant**, head of communications, co-authored the paper "[Writing library database descriptions in Plain Language](#)," which has been published in the journal *College & Undergraduate Libraries*.

Greg Kocken, head of Special Collections & Archives, published an article titled "[Waldemar Ager, Realism, and Woman Suffrage](#)," in the peer-reviewed journal *Norwegian-American Studies*, vol. 40 (2022) in November.

Kocken also published a guidebook to the Forest Hill Cemetery titled [Rest in Nature: A Guide to Eau Claire's Forest Hill Cemetery](#), with emeritus professor of history, Robert J. Gough. The guidebook was published by the Chippewa Valley Museum Press in December.

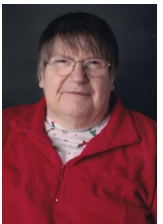


Jill Markgraf, director of libraries, presented the three-part webinar "[The Reluctant Library Advocate: Fall Series](#)" in November and December at the invitation of several Wisconsin public library systems. The series provided continuing education for public library staff and trustees throughout the state.

Robin Miller, head of collections and discovery, was invited to give the address "Government Information: Moving Forward" Dec. 12 at the annual meeting of the Ohio Government Documents Roundtable.

The staff of McIntyre Library is excited to welcome **Anna Zook** as our new arts librarian. Anna will begin in this position in May, and a full write-up will be included in the fall 2023 issue of *Off the Shelf*.

We are sad to announce the loss of former McIntyre colleague, **Rita Sorkness**, who passed away at home in January 2023. Sorkness had a 30-year career as a librarian in Special Collections and Archives until her retirement in 2007. She was well known for encyclopedic knowledge of local history, a tremendous asset that made her invaluable to the local research community. Our condolences to Rita's family and friends.



Rita Sorkness

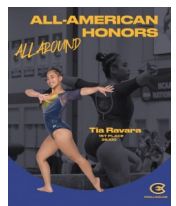
Emily Gerdtz, main desk lead student assistant, was awarded an internship at the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services (DHS) for the Ongoing section of Child Protective Services (CPS). Congratulations, Emily!

Maggie O'Brien, main desk student assistant, started a new position as a copy editor of *The Spectator*, the official UW-Eau Claire student newspaper. O'Brien was formerly a staff writer whose op/ed piece about oat milk brands gained so much attention, one of the companies reached out to offer her free product. Congratulations, Maggie!

Stephanie Much, student assistant in Special Collections and Archives, was awarded the 2022 McIntyre Library Student Employee Scholarship. (See page 10.) Congratulations, Stephanie!

Tia Ravara, main desk student assistant, along with assistant professor of biology, Dr Jennifer Smith, were interviewed for the March 1 WEAU-TV story "[UW-Eau Claire class studying how dogs understand the world](#)." The [story](#) also was broadcast March 3 on CBS News, Sacramento. Smith's animal behavior class performed course-embedded research examining the ability of dogs to understand human social cues as part of a new community partnership with emBARK dog training center in Eau Claire. As explained by Tia, "This research can provide more information on how dogs learn, so we can understand how to teach our dogs new tricks or even be a service animal."

Ravara is also a UW-Eau Claire Blugold Gymnastics athlete and competed at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) National Championships hosted by Winona State University in Winona, MN, on March 25. She won the all around national title with a final score of 38.100. She was the first to ever win an all around title for UW-Eau Claire and the first Blugold since 2012 to bring home a national championship. Congratulations for these amazing research and athletics accomplishments, Tia!



Alaina Steinmetz, cataloging student assistant, was awarded an internship at Athabasaca Minerals Inc (AMI) Silica in Hixton. Congratulations, Alaina!

Katelyn Zastrow, main desk student assistant, had her poem "was is an ugly word" published in the Fall 2022 NOTA issue, and a prose piece titled "The Obscurities of Life" was recently selected to be published in the Spring 2023 NOTA issue. [None of the Above \(NOTA\)](#) is a student-led literary magazine that has been produced each semester for the last 43 years. Congratulations, Katelyn!

Your gift to McIntyre Library will enhance student learning experiences and provide valuable library resources!



Students from the Honors course, 'A Queer Lens: Representation in Art, Photography, and Film' pictured with the sculptures they made in the Blugold Makerspace.

Thank you for considering a gift to UW-Eau Claire's McIntyre Library!

Donate online at library.uwec.edu/support-us

Thank you to our McIntyre Valued Partners (MVPs)

The following donors have contributed to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation McIntyre Library Funds from October 2022 to March 2023

Dr. Bethany J. Andreasen

Julia Benker

Cheryl L. Cutsforth

Blaine R. Dickson

Joseph Durczak

Nik Falk

Diana L. Germain

Jeremy Gragert

Mary & Dennis Hayden

Susan & Haskell Hinnant

Michael & Jean Jungerberg

Sarah & Gregory Kocken

Jill & Dr. Karl Markgraf

Sarita Mizin

Alexa E. Newman

Whitney Renee Osero

Hans Ronald Peterson

Lori Ruge-Jones

Chris Satz

Patrick Schaefer

Daniel Schierenbeck

Andrey Sichuga

Sarah Tweedale

Dr. Sally A. Webb

Dr. Daryl M. Wedwick

Midwest Institute of Scandinavian Culture Inc

L.E. Phillips Family Foundation Inc.



The *Off the Shelf* newsletter is published fall and spring semesters for friends of
McIntyre Library and the **UWEC Barron County Library**

Jenna Vande Zande, Editor - vandezjl@uwec.edu

Jill Markgraf, Director of Libraries - markgrjs@uwec.edu

Find the current issue online at: library.uwec.edu/about-us/off-the-shelf