Student employees are essential to operations

Librarians create STEM tutorials

A look behind the Libraries’ doors
Ever had the sense that there’s more to an organization than you’ve seen... the proverbial tip of the iceberg? That’s what I’ve experienced firsthand in my new role as interim dean of Binghamton University Libraries.

Students likely know faculty and staff who work in circulation and at the research help desk and maybe someone who has done a presentation on Libraries’ services in a class. As a faculty member in biological sciences, I have used the Libraries’ interlibrary loan service to get electronic articles for my research and placed books and other materials on reserve at the Newcomb Reading Room for my classes. But these just scratch the surface of what the Libraries do. Intuitively, I knew there must be more people under my radar; I just had no idea how many more faculty and staff were essential to the Libraries’ job of supporting the teaching and research mission of the University. Boy, was I surprised when I took over as interim dean in mid-June and proceeded to talk with each of the 77 faculty and staff members here. Aside from the sheer number of people, I knew I had a lot to learn about the “under water” part of the Libraries.

I’ve met people who find appropriate material for faculty based on their requests or the librarian’s own knowledge of the academic and research programs. There are people who place orders, pay invoices, put bar codes on new material and update catalogs. In addition, there are people updating and maintaining library databases, website materials, journal subscriptions and student tutorials, as well as searching for new resources. People in another area carefully repair damaged materials, seamlessly returning them to our shelves for student and faculty use. I also discovered a great resource in Special Collections, which houses an incredible volume of archived material, including rare books, letters and posters available for others to use. The people who serve as the “face” of our Libraries, front and center, at our service desks, support all these actions.

It has been a great experience so far, and I am still learning about the Libraries and the activities of the people who make it all happen. As one library faculty member noted, “We’re a bit like a duck gliding along on the water, with our feet madly paddling under the surface.” I invite faculty, staff and students to check out the Libraries’ website or to stop by to learn more about what’s going on under the water line!

**Susannah Gal**
Interim Dean, Binghamton University Libraries

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” —Helen Keller
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www.binghamton.edu/libraries
Search for new dean of libraries underway

In November, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Nieman convened a committee to lead the search for a new dean of libraries. Anne McCall, dean of Harpur College of Arts and Sciences, chairs the committee, which includes 10 faculty members (five chosen by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and five chosen by the provost). Nieman also selected six non-faculty staff to serve on the search committee, including representatives of the Binghamton University Foundation board of directors and the Alumni Association board of directors, as well as an undergraduate student and a graduate student.

Susannah Gal, professor of biological sciences, has been serving as interim dean since June. It is expected that a permanent appointment will be announced in April 2015.

Celebrate someone special through Honor with Books

Celebrate a special occasion. Honor a friend, family member or favorite professor. Acknowledge an accomplishment. A Binghamton University Libraries’ Honor with Books donation is the perfect way to provide a lasting tribute to a special person in your life while also helping the Libraries meet the ever-increasing demands placed on an institution of excellence in higher education.

There are two ways you can honor someone with books. Either pick a newly published book in the subject area of your choice, which will be purchased and added to the Libraries’ collections, or select an old favorite from over 2 million titles in the Libraries’ catalog.

Julie Wang awarded 2013–14 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship

At the University’s Excellence Awards Dinner held Oct. 24, 2014, Associate Librarian Julie Wang received the 2013–14 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship in recognition of her “consistently superior professional achievement in the field of librarianship.” The Libraries congratulates Wang on her receipt of this prestigious and meaningful award.

In the Excellence Awards event program, Wang is described as “a tireless advocate for students and faculty in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies.” The program adds, “Through creativity and ingenuity, she has developed a remarkably strong collection in East Asian studies and is known as a global partner in her field.”

Wang holds a bachelor’s degree in Chinese language and literature from Beijing Normal University in China and a master of library science degree from Southern Connecticut State University.

Since joining the Libraries in 2007 as a subject librarian for Asian and Asian American studies, Wang has persistently and successfully sought funding to support the department, including grants from the Nippon Foundation, Academy of Korean Studies, Korea Foundation and Lois B. DeFleur International Innovation Fund. Her efforts have greatly enhanced the significance of the University’s East Asian Studies Collection.

Also active outside campus, Wang participates in a number of professional organizations and founded both the Southern Tier Chinese School and the Southern Tier Chinese Culture Association.

For more information or to access a donation form, go to binghamton.edu/libraries/about/gifts/honor-with-books.html
More information is coming to your fingertips in 2015

The University Libraries has partnered with University Communications and Marketing to bring five interactive, electronic information kiosks to the University. Each information center includes a campus directory and map. In addition, the two kiosks within Glenn G. Bartle Library will provide a building directory and floor plans, service and collections information and the ability to browse the Libraries’ website. Three additional information centers will be located in the University Union atrium, the Tillman lobby and the new Admissions Center, offering access to campus news, events and social-media feeds.

Friends in our future

The Friends of the Binghamton University Libraries, once an ongoing source of enrichment to the Libraries’, supported the Libraries by assisting in the book sale and collections maintenance. Members were given borrowing privileges as well as invitations to special library lectures and events. The organized group may not be ready to start until the new dean is installed, but the Libraries can always use help from “friends” for various projects.

“...that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

―Albert Einstein

FOR MORE INFORMATION see binghamton.edu/libraries/about/gifts
Science Library welcomes new access services coordinator

In September, Shannon Miranda joined the Science Library as the new access services coordinator. She is responsible for maintaining the stacks and periodicals as well as working with items in the map room. The Science Library houses research materials in the fields of astronomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, technology, environmental sciences, geology, nursing, psychology and physics. The collections include books, journals, newspapers, maps, reference materials and oversized materials.

Fun fact about Miranda: She and her husband have 11 tarantulas and a Persian kitty named ZuZu!

SENIORS GIVE LIBRARIES THE WORLD

Before they headed off to jobs, graduate school and other new beginnings, Binghamton University’s Class of 2014 gave the Libraries a map of the world to honor their time spent at the University. Presented by members of the Senior Class Council, the map symbolizes the University’s commitment to diversity, the Libraries’ dedication to sharing and spreading knowledge from around the world, and the Class of 2014’s pledge to make a difference in the world following graduation. The map hangs on the second floor landing of the Glenn G. Bartle Library.

“The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man.”

—T. S. Eliot

Binghamton’s Class of 2014 donated a map of the world to the University Libraries at the end of the academic year. Shown here at the presentation of the gift are (from left) Susannah Gal, interim dean of libraries; Donald Nieman, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; Keyla Garcia Cabrera, 2014 senior class council; Harvey Stenger, University president; and Michael Carroll, 2014 senior class council.
GROUP STUDY ROOM RESERVATION SYSTEM
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Libraries offer several spacious rooms within Glenn G. Bartle Library and the Science Library that are available to groups for collaborative study, class work and research. These rooms can accommodate groups ranging from six to 12 people.

FOR A LIST of available rooms, details about each space's amenities and access to the reservation system, go to binghamton.edu/libraries/locations/study-spaces.html#bartle

Road Map funding helps Libraries support TAEs

Binghamton University’s strategic planning initiative, the Road Map to Premier, focuses on making Binghamton the premier public university of the 21st century. A key element of this plan was the decision in 2013 to focus on five areas of research and scholarship in which the University has significant existing strength and can achieve international prominence.

Known as the Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence (TAEs), these five cross-disciplinary themes address important scientific, social, technological, cultural and policy questions that can best be answered by teams of faculty from multiple disciplines. They are: Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging; Health Sciences; Material and Visual Worlds; Smart Energy; and Sustainable Communities. (To learn more, read this article about the development of the TAEs: bit.ly/1yhjxdk.)

Much of Binghamton's recent faculty recruitment has been linked to the TAEs, and other resources are being aligned with this initiative as well. University Libraries received funding from the 2013-14 budget to obtain additional print and electronic resources to support the TAEs; these new resources will be used to promote the research and scholarship of faculty members associated with these areas of excellence.

MORE AT binghamton.edu/president/road-map and binghamton.edu/tae

FIND MORE LIBRARY NEWS AT library2.binghamton.edu/news
Interim Dean Susannah Gal used the image of an iceberg to describe her discovery of the number of people and activities supporting the Libraries from “below the surface.” Student workers represent a large part of that, and their contributions are vital to the Libraries’ operations. In fact, several supervisors rely on student employees to accomplish their daily work.
Inside the Libraries asked a group of students who work at the Libraries to answer a few questions about their experience on the job. Before we get to their comments, let’s meet our student panel.

The students who participated are listed below with their school ranking, major and where they work.

**CRAIG BABCOCK**, senior, integrative neuroscience, Digitization Lab  
**ANNA DENG**, senior, computer engineering, stacks maintenance  
**COREY FUTTERMAN**, senior, graphic design, administration  
**JOSE GOMEZ**, sophomore, political science, Newcomb Reading Room  
**AMANDA KRAVITZ**, graduate student, circulation desk and University Downtown Center Library  
**PEDRO LORA**, sophomore, economics, stacks maintenance  
**LAUREN MUHLAUSER**, senior, computer engineering, stacks maintenance  
**MARITZA MINCHALA**, freshman, undeclared, Newcomb Reading Room  
**IMGUEL MORA**, freshman, undeclared, stacks maintenance  
**JAMIE RADHAYKISSOON**, sophomore; philosophy, politics and law; stacks maintenance

In the Newcomb Reading Room, 25 student employees work independently on nights and weekends to ensure services are available for all students. They also provide late-night desk coverage, enabling the Libraries to remain open until 2 a.m. during the University’s reading period and 24/7 during final examination week.

“They earn money to support their own studies while they support the learning goals of others,” says Carrie Blabac-Myers, assistant head of reader services and supervisor of the student workers. “I am always proud to receive notes from former students who go on to exciting professional careers, thrilling travel experiences and those who achieve further excellence in higher education.”

To serve its patrons, the Bartle Library reader services desk requires the assistance of more than two dozen students. Andrew Blaine, the student/weekend supervisor, is only half joking when he refers to these student workers as “highly-trained, undercover ninjas.” The desk is highly visible and is a central part of campus life, so student employees are trained to respond to a wide variety of people, questions and problems. Actions may be as straightforward as locating a building or a fax-machine, or as complex as searching out a specific, hard-to-locate book or article for a student on a deadline.

**What do students think about working in the Libraries?**

*Inside the Libraries* asked a group of students who work at the Libraries to answer a few questions about their experience on the job. Before we get to their comments, let’s meet our student panel.

The students who participated are listed below with their school ranking, major and where they work.

**WHAT APPEALS TO YOU ABOUT WORKING IN THE LIBRARIES?**

**MUHLAUSER:** “It’s a relaxed environment with a very flexible schedule. I’m able to work during breaks between classes and adjust times accordingly.”

**MORA:** “The vibe that studious students give off when they’re focusing creates this motive of wanting to do better academically.”

**MINCHALA:** “It allows for the opportunity to practice and excel in organizational and communication skills in particular.”

**MILLER:** “Because a library’s mission is not profit-driven, but driven on helping people get access to the information they need. They are institutions with the public’s interest in mind.”

**BABCOCK:** “I feel very connected to the University and what is going on since I see most of the news, events, articles, photos, etc.”
In addition to mastering Libraries’ training, it is imperative that each student employee possesses excellent customer-service skills, a significant attention to detail and the ability to work well under stress. Blaine summarizes the invaluable service that student workers provide: “The only way the library can stay open 24 hours or during emergencies is because students are so reliable and effective at their jobs.”

Stacks maintenance is another job that relies on the work of student employees, and Matt Tompkins, stacks maintenance coordinator, is the first to credit student workers for effective operations in his area. He speaks enthusiastically of his experience supervising student employees: “I have been impressed with the level of professionalism, reliability and initiative our students display, all while balancing their work-study and student-assistant obligations with their academic and extracurricular schedules.”

“I understand how important finding that one book or article can be. I get a lot of satisfaction out of helping patrons find whatever it is they’re looking for . . .”
—Zachary Miller
The value of their contributions cannot be overstated, but just how many student employees help keep the Libraries running “below the surface”? That number and the proportion of student workers to other employees may surprise you; both are shown in the accompanying graphic, created by student employee Corey Futterman.

Hard workers. Excellent resources. Friendly people. Student employees have a lot to offer their fellow students and the University. If you have not had a chance to interact with a student worker, do so. And, if you have not visited the Libraries, why wait? According to student employee Jose Gomez, “I would suggest you explore the library because it is our greatest resource at this school next to the professors themselves.”

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE LIBRARIES THAT OTHER STUDENTS PROBABLY DON’T KNOW.

RADHAYKISSON: “We have more books than you can imagine.”
BABCOCK: “How many resources we really have. Special Collections alone is an amazing resource and most people don’t know what is there.”
GOMEZ: “You literally have access to just about any piece of literature. If it isn’t there you can request it and we pull from different places to find the books needed.”
KRAVITZ: “A lot of students don’t know about interlibrary loan; they can get most books free that way!”
MILLER: “Whatever you’re looking for in the library, librarians are some of the most eager people to help out. Just ask!”

MORE ABOUT becoming a student employee at the Libraries at binghamton.edu/libraries/about/employment/student.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS A LONG-TERM BENEFIT OR IMPACT FROM YOUR TIME AT THE LIBRARIES?

MORA: “The library language! I know that many school libraries, and public libraries as well, use the same or similar system to organize their books and the fact that I know about that system gives me an advantage.”
KRAVITZ: “Building customer service skills and being aware of what type of resources are available.”
GOMEZ: “Connections with people in the workplace whether it is the coworkers or supervisors. For me it is also realizing the resources I have access to as a student at Binghamton University.”

Libraries’ staff members extend their thanks to the students who participated in this article, as well as all the student employees across the organization.
It took three science subject librarians (Angelique Jenks-Brown, Lee Cummings and Elizabeth Brown) one year to create three online tutorials for the University’s new Freshman Research Immersion (FRI) program. These science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) tutorials launched this fall and focus on neuroscience, biofilms and smart energy.

Jenks-Brown, Cummings and Brown created the STEM tutorials to teach students how to navigate library research resources in these fields. They collaborated with course instructors to include content specific to the topics covered in their classes. The Libraries hired a computer science graduate student, Sai Kiran Rathan, to code the tutorial webpages. Rathan put his own spin on the project, adding functionality that enables students to take notes during the tutorials and save them as a text file at the end.

Five librarians have already begun working on tutorials for the fall 2015 FRI program. These will focus on biomedical biochemistry, molecular and biomedical anthropology, image and acoustic signals analysis, biochemistry and biomedical engineering. 

The STEM tutorials join the Libraries’ eight existing tutorials, which instruct users on conducting library research and thinking critically about research sources.

In a survey conducted last year, 70 percent of students who used the original tutorials (the survey was conducted prior to the STEM tutorials release) said the tutorials helped them accomplish their class assignments. Respondents were almost equally divided in the type of instruction they felt helped them learn the content best, with 54 percent saying it was the graphics and 46 percent saying it was the quizzes.

A few of the comments students noted on the surveys include, “I like having [the tutorials] always available,” “Article search and citations were my two favorites” and “[I] learned how to find books in the Libraries.”

All Libraries’ tutorials are available online at binghamton.edu/libraries/research/tutorials/webtutorials and on course pages in Blackboard under the “Library” tab.
STEM tutorials

- Avoiding issues of academic dishonesty
- Defining and comparing different publication types
- How to find books for research
- How to find articles for research
- Evaluating research resources
- Citing your sources
- Monitoring information and keeping it current
- Online privacy and social media

Angelique Jenks-Brown
Lee Cummings
Elizabeth Brown

3 science librarians + 1 year = 3 STEM tutorials
Binghamton University Libraries are the center of the University’s intellectual community, providing a welcoming environment for the creation and management of knowledge through innovative thinking, open inquiry and collaborative partnerships. Committed to providing easy, efficient access to research information in support of University coursework and research, the Libraries deliver a wide range of services to augment learning, teaching and research for faculty, students and staff.

Overview

The Libraries’ collection includes more than 2.4 million volumes, 93,000 journals holdings (electronic and print) and 1.8 million microforms. Binghamton University Libraries are the gateway to 234 online research databases and offer generous borrowing privileges. If the Libraries don’t own or have electronic access to the material a user seeks, interlibrary loan staff will search the world to locate it.

The Libraries also provide easy access to many print and electronic course materials.
The Glenn G. Bartle Library on the University’s Vestal campus contains collections in the humanities, social sciences, mathematical and computer sciences, as well as government documents. It also houses the Fine Arts Collection and Special Collections. The Science Library, also on the main campus, contains materials in all science and engineering disciplines, as well as a map collection. The University Downtown Center Library in downtown Binghamton houses a collection of books, government documents and current periodicals to support the University’s College of Community and Public Affairs. The Library Annex in Conklin, N.Y., houses other materials in the Libraries’ collection and is open to the public.

Collaborative initiatives between the University Libraries and Information Technology Services ensure that each Information Commons is a computer-enhanced research environment that invites and attracts users to work together and to use the wide range of additional resources available in the library, including expert assistance. Information Commons are located at the University’s three libraries, but not in the Library Annex.

Above: Subject Librarian Lee Cummings teaches new graduate students how to use Binghamton University Libraries’ resources during the Scholarly Resources Orientation at the Glenn G. Bartle Library.

WEB EXTRA
Explore the Libraries’ Scholarly Resource Orientation for new graduate students at vimeo.com/104833233.
Academic assistance

The Libraries offer users multiple methods for finding relevant and quality research information and resources. This enables patrons to choose the method that works best for them. One option is the Libraries’ one-stop search tool called Find It!, which allows users to search for books, articles, videos, digital images and more, providing a scholarly “Google-like” search option. Faculty and students may also conduct searches of the library catalog, databases, journals and course reserves to access the materials they need.

The Libraries also provide research assistance in a variety of ways, including:

- Faculty and students may work directly with librarians by visiting the Libraries in person, calling the research help desk in Bartle Library or contacting the virtual reference services by text, e-mail, chat or Skype.
- Subject guides, created by librarians who are experts in the subject, are available on the Libraries’ website at binghamton.edu/libraries.
- The Libraries’ online research calculator helps students manage their time for their research projects and provides useful resources such as how to select a research topic, evaluate websites when conducting research or properly cite research sources.
- Online tutorials and guides provide instruction on how to find materials and how to conduct library research.

Subject librarians

Subject librarians collaborate with faculty and instructors to support teaching and learning, as well as purchase all materials in their areas. They design and teach course-specific and general library instructional sessions, as well as offer personal research consultations for individuals or small groups. Subject librarians also create web tutorials to demonstrate specific resources or to teach research skills (see related article on page 10).

Scholarly communications

Our Scholarly Communications program facilitates discussion of emerging publication and scholarship models to support faculty, students and staff. Libraries’ staff can provide assistance with copyright law and issues, data management plans, open-access publishing information and compliance with the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy requirements.

Digital preservation services

The Libraries utilize a state-of-the-art digital preservation system called Rosetta — the first academic library to do so. Rosetta enables faculty, students and researchers to preserve and provide access to digital collections and research data. It can also store and preserve material in a “dark archive” if restricted access is necessary. Items in Rosetta can be searched via Find It!.

Subject and reference librarians such as Anne Larrivee (above center) work closely with faculty and instructors to support teaching and learning. They also teach students how to get the most from library resources.
Library staff welcome new students

By Jill Dixon

As part of the New Student Programs’ Welcome Weekend events, library staff organized a fun, informative, self-guided tour at Bartle Library for incoming students. Students visited six service “stations” throughout the library to learn about available services and resources.

These stations were:

- **READER SERVICES**, which provided information about borrowing privileges, including how to renew books online;
- **RESEARCH HELP AND INFORMATION COMMONS**, which covered the many ways users can get research help (in person, by phone or virtually) as well as computing services available within the library;
- **LIBRARY STACKS AND GROUP STUDY ROOMS**, which demonstrated how to locate a book in the stacks and how to reserve a group study room online;
- **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**, which offered an overview of the Libraries’ unique, historical documents and rare books, including Civil War letters, late medieval manuscripts, University history and the oldest book in Broome County;
- **LIBRARY INSTRUCTION TRIVIA GAME**, which educated students about Libraries’ resources and services through an engaging combination of pop culture and library trivia; and
- **COURSE RESERVES**, which demonstrated how to look up course materials assigned by faculty and instructors.

While all the stations received positive feedback from students, the most popular were Special Collections and research help. One student said, “I’m really happy I went on this tour because I learned so much about the library.” According to a second student, “I thought it was very informative, and every freshman/transfer should take advantage of it.” A third participant summed it up this way: “Fun, informative and a great time overall!”

Students received pens, notebooks, earphones, water bottles, USB drives and more during the event. They also had the chance to interact with Binghamton’s award-winning mascot, Baxter the Bearcat, who got in on the fun! Students were entered into a raffle and had the chance to win one of three prizes; the grand prize was a book bag filled with a Binghamton T-shirt, umbrella, mug, headphones and other goodies.

“Fun, informative and a great time overall!”
—Student participant

WEB EXTRA Check out this video of the Libraries’ Welcome Weekend activities at bit.ly/library-welcome.
Bartle Library’s newest study space is already becoming a favorite among students. The South Reading Room, which opened for the fall 2014 semester, adds almost 1,600 square feet of quiet study space to the Libraries’ offerings.

Located on the second floor of Bartle Library (up the stairs to the left), the South Reading Room features new furniture consisting of broad tables and comfortable seating for more than 90 people. A screened terrace seats an additional 30 people; the terrace is open when weather permits. There is also a group study room that accommodates up to 12 people. Groups may reserve this room through the Libraries’ new online group-study room-reservation system at libroomreserve.binghamton.edu. Like the rest of Bartle Library, the South Reading Room offers free Wi-Fi.

Student feedback about the South Reading Room has been overwhelmingly positive. According to one user, it is a “comfortable and quiet space, nice and modern, too.” This student adds that the new space is “definitely needed.” “I like it, more open space,” says a second student, while another adds, “Had been studying in a tight desk on one of the upper library floors. I like this open space better.” Finally, this student wants to keep the new area a secret, saying, “Don’t tell anyone else about this space!”

By Lisa Havtur
Designated quiet study spaces within Bartle Library also include the East Reading Room on the first floor, the North Reading Room on the second floor, and individual study carrels on the third and fourth floors as well as in the fine arts area and the Newcomb Reading Room.

WEB EXTRA Reserve group study rooms online at libroomreserve.binghamton.edu.

Above: The new South Reading Room, on the second floor of the Glenn G. Bartle Library, is fast becoming a favorite study space for students.

Alumni recall favorite places to study on campus

Whether cramming for an exam or just getting coursework done, students have always found nooks and crannies on campus where they like to study. Recently, on the University’s alumni Facebook page (facebook.com/BinghamtonUniversityAlumni), we asked alumni to divulge their favorite study spots.
Meet our new librarians

Nancy Abashian
Nancy Abashian has served the Libraries in a number of capacities since she first began in 2006 as the information services coordinator in the Science Library. In 2008, Abashian joined the administrative staff in Bartle Library and assumed the role of physical facilities coordinator. Following that, she moved to the Acquisitions Department. Since 2010, Abashian has been the head of reader services in Bartle Library. After completing her master of library science degree at the University at Buffalo in 2013, her professional position expanded into a faculty position and now includes oversight of resource sharing.

Laura Evans
Laura Evans joined the Libraries in March 2014 as the metadata and cataloging librarian, which means she describes information resources so library users can locate them. She works with digital resources that are accessible through Rosetta, the Libraries’ digital preservation system, as well as with physical items that are housed in the stacks. Her favorite part of the job is interacting with interesting materials from across the Libraries’ collections, and she is passionate about making those materials discoverable and accessible to users.

Prior to arriving in Binghamton, Evans earned a bachelor’s degree in classics from Smith College and a master’s degree in information studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She then worked as a cataloger in a public library in Texas and as an English teacher with the Peace Corps in Ukraine.

Outside work, Evans enjoys traveling and learning new languages.

Melissa Perez
Melissa Perez joined the Libraries as resource sharing coordinator in August. She has a bachelor’s degree in history and psychology from the University of Miami and completed a master of library and information science degree from Valdosta State University in 2012. Perez worked for the Georgia State University Interlibrary Loan Unit for eight years before coming to Binghamton. The resource sharing coordinator is her first librarian position and she is excited about finding new ways to help patrons.

In her free time, Perez enjoys going to concerts, crafting and volunteering at conventions.
Q&A with the new librarians

Reference librarians in America’s public and academic libraries answer nearly 6.6 million questions every week. We settled on three questions to get to know our new librarians a little better.

HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO PURSUE A CAREER IN LIBRARY SCIENCE IN GENERAL OR SPECIFICALLY AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY?

ABASHIAN: I had been working in the Binghamton University Libraries in a variety of positions for about five years when I knew for sure I had found a professional “home.” It was a logical next step to pursue an MLS [master of library science] degree.

PEREZ: I don’t think there was ever a moment where it hit me that this is what I wanted to do. It was more gradual than that. I have always loved libraries. I did my community service at them in school, I worked as a student assistant in college and it was always an option after I graduated. Once I started working in a library professionally, I found that I really liked the environment and the people I worked with. That’s what prompted me to obtain my MLIS [master of library and information science] degree.

EVANS: I’ve always liked spending time in libraries. In college, I worked as a student assistant in the science library, and I loved helping other students use the library. I noticed that libraries played an important role in students’ success and that they provided a pleasant work environment, and so I decided to become a librarian.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE INTERESTED IN A CAREER AS A LIBRARIAN?

PEREZ: Get as much practical experience as you can. Volunteer or get an internship. Make connections with your classmates and coworkers. This really is a collaborative environment and you need to be able to work with people.

EVANS: Experience is essential. Many people don’t realize how competitive the job market for librarians is. It’s important to have customer-service skills as well as knowledge of how libraries work, so try to gain some experience even if it’s through a volunteer or student position.

ABASHIAN: The advice I would give someone interested in a career would be to lay a strong foundation in technology, leadership and organization to make the most of a career in libraries.

SHARE THE TITLES OF A FEW BOOKS YOU ESPECIALLY ENJOYED OR THAT HAD AN IMPACT ON YOU.

EVANS: Travels in Siberia by Ian Frazier, Assassination Vacation by Sarah Vowell and The Secret History by Donna Tartt.

ABASHIAN: Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer and The Color Purple by Alice Walker are at the top of the list.

PEREZ: American Gods by Neil Gaiman. This is my favorite book. I love the mix of weird Americana and ancient mythology. I get lost in it every time I read it. Gaiman has this amazing ability to write these strange and vibrant worlds. Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison. I read this book in high school. The last line has always stuck with me: “Who knows but that, on the lower frequencies, I speak for you?” I have a tie for the last two. The Savage Detectives by Roberto Bolano and 100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I read both of these during a summer trip to stay with my cousin in Mexico about a decade ago. The locations are so important to the narrative in these books. Being in Mexico while I read them enhanced the atmosphere.
Residence hall outreach program strengthens students’ research skills

By Benjamin Andrus and Anne Larrivee

Students are often weak in essential research skills and knowledge of library services. To address this, in spring 2011, faculty librarians Ben Andrus and Anne Larrivee began organizing a new program to provide library outreach to the Binghamton University residential communities. This was the beginning of the Library-to-Residence Hall outreach program.

For the first semester, Andrus and Larrivee collaborated with Residential Life staff to coordinate events across campus. However, the programs often felt forced and had low attendance. The librarians found that working directly with resident assistants (RAs) within the residential communities proved to be a much more effective approach, so the following semester they promoted the program directly to RAs.

Today, RAs are responsible for reaching out, planning and organizing the programs. Now that students are in control, attendance averages 15 students a session.

Here’s what some of the RAs who worked with Andrus and Larrivee on the program had to say:

“I expected an informative presentation in which students can learn to better their research habits and take advantage of the many resources the University provides for its students. I believe the [Library-to-Residence Hall] outreach program did meet these expectations. The presentation was very helpful to the audience as well as myself.”
“I believed that the program would help students navigate the library website and teach them new research tricks. The program met these expectations and more! I learned things even I didn’t know.”

“I didn’t have high expectations, but a good number of people showed up, found the presentation engaging and learned a lot on how to do proper research.”

“I expected this program to teach about methods of research and ways to streamline the research process. It definitely reached that goal! . . . I used the things [Ben Andrus and Anne Larrivee] taught me in a research paper and it made doing my citations so much easier! I think it was really valid and a great program.”

“I was a little afraid at the beginning of the program that people weren’t going to come, but we had a good turnout!”

“We had about 20 people, and for an academic-themed program, that is pretty good!”

One reason for the success of the program is that students can relax in their own space. Surrounded by friends and munching on snacks provided by the RAs, they are encouraged to ask questions about the library and the research process, as well as to discuss their research assignments. This open environment offers a comfortable atmosphere without any pressure. Program presentations usually last 15–20 minutes and include a slideshow highlighting Libraries’ services and a live demonstration of some of the core library resources.

Thanks go out to all the RAs who worked with the Libraries to deliver these programs.
Fall exhibits focus on nature, comedy and the role art plays in science

By Jean Green and Andrea Melione

Each semester, Binghamton University Libraries showcase exhibits to increase awareness of the Libraries' rich and varied collections, services and events, as well as promote University-wide activities. Everyone is invited and welcome to enjoy these engaging, informative and uplifting exhibits.

**Inspired by nature**

This exhibit showcases the nature photography of Matthew A. Kull '05, MS '07. The collection of beautiful, full-color images is composed of scenes captured at the Binghamton University Nature Preserve. Other works on display include books from the Bartle Library collections on art, poetry and literature that feature nature as the theme. The exhibit is located on the second floor of Bartle Library.

**Mack Sennett: “King of Comedy”**

Producer and director Mack Sennett presided over a motley crew of comedic talent who slid, slipped and slapped their way across American movie screens. He was known as the innovator of slapstick comedy and film, and was once dubbed the “King of Comedy.” This exhibit features information about Sennett’s work, as well as stills from his movies taken from the John K. McLaughlin Collection of Popular Culture. The exhibit is located outside Special Collections in the North Reading Room on the second floor of Bartle Library.

**The intrinsic role of art within science**

The skilled artist’s hand has created works to both study and record scientific discovery and research for hundreds of years. This exhibit showcases the roles visuals play in science and celebrates the artistic merit of this imagery. View scientist biographies in graphic novel format, stunning botanical illustrations, microphotography that could pass as abstract expressionist paintings, lush nature photography and more. The exhibit is located on the first floor of the Science Library in the Information Commons.
Special Collections features Kurdish culture and Civil War

By Jean Green

Selection of materials for Binghamton University Libraries’ Special Collections is made on the basis of an item’s age, uniqueness or rarity, provenance, format and subject. Materials are acquired through both donation and purchase. Below we highlight two collections available for viewing during the fall 2014 semester.

Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Collection

Vera Beaudin Saeedpour was an American researcher and scholar who specialized in the study of Kurdish people. She started the Kurdish Heritage Foundation of America (also known as the Kurdish Library and Museum) out of her home in Brooklyn, N.Y., in the early 1980s. This special collection was donated to Binghamton University Libraries in February 2011.

The collection contains more than 3,000 books, journals and newspapers in Kurdish and other languages. There are also costumes, artwork, photographs and maps, including a 19th-century traveler’s account of Kurdistan. Jewelry, including necklaces, headpieces, bracelets and belts, provides a striking and artful display. Musical instruments, recorded music, and weavings, crafts, carpets and other textile art add to the allure of this extensive collection.

Earlier this semester, Patrice Howard, a television reporter and producer with Feature Story News in New York, interviewed Aynur de Rouen, curator of the collection. Feature Story News is a news agency reporting for clients around the world, including Rudaw Television in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Inquiries about the Vera Beaudin Saeedpour Collection or requests to tour the display should be directed to de Rouen at aderouen@binghamton.edu or 607-777-3944.

Civil War Collections

The University Libraries’ Civil War Collections contain more than 1,700 letters, diaries, photographs, account books, postcards and other ephemera. Letters are the largest component of the collections, and soldiers at the front or in Army hospitals wrote many of these letters to their family and friends back home.

At its core, the Civil War Collections are a local history resource with emphasis on collections pertaining to the counties in the Binghamton area, including Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins.

The Rare Books Collection contains a number of Civil War-era imprints, spanning seven decades. These books and pamphlets cover a variety of topics and genres, and include both works of nonfiction and fiction. For example, there are several personal narratives of military service by soldiers and commanding officers, wartime adventures by spies from both sides and signed titles by famous abolitionists such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Gerrit Smith.

The Local History Collections also contain books relating to the Civil War, including information about New York’s participation in the war and histories on military regiments from the Southern Tier and surrounding region. Of particular interest is the story of Elmira Prison and the conditions prisoners were subjected to, as well as a book that features letters by a woman who enlisted and fought in the war disguised as a man. A number of historical fiction books written by local authors are also featured.

The Civil War Collections are located in Special Collections on the second floor of Bartle Library.

Right: A traditional, 20th-century Kurdish outfit consisting of a woman’s multicolored chiffon fîstan (dress) under a black velvet ēlek (vest) with gold trim.

Watch the interview on YouTube at bit.ly/kurdish-collection.
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“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”

—Marcus Tullius Cicero