

David and Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ ■ Fall 2021, Volume X, Issue 1

## Women in STEM: Library Celebrates Women's History Month

As part of the 2021 Women's History Celebration, the Library organized a Pod-Talk in collaboration with the Math Club and faculty in the Mathematical Sciences Department. Pod-Talks were launched in the fall of 2020 as an additional program option offered to students for civic engagement credit. Participants listen to a selected podcast on a chosen topic then meet for a guided discussion. The episode that was selected for this Women's History Month event is from the Profess-Hers podcast series titled, "Math Class." The episode featured a discussion on several notable women like Grace Hopper and Katherine Johnson, who made significant contributions in STEM fields but are often overlooked in the history books.

The Math Club co-sponsored the event with President Anna Sand

and member Robert Graham who arranged for two faculty members, Dr. Eliana Antoniou and Dr. Christina Mouser, from the Mathematical Sciences Department to help guide the discussion. Dr. Antoniou and Dr. Mouser enthralled the student



Dr. Eliana Antoniou (L) and  
Dr. Christina Mouser (R)

attendees with their personal experiences and successes as women in STEM fields, and an engaging discussion about the prominent women noted in the podcast. After the

event Dr. Antoniou noted that many of the attendees were, "astonished with the stories shared in the podcast about the notable women in STEM fields." Many students expressed how they could relate to the professors' (Dr. Antoniou & Dr. Mouser) backgrounds and how inspiring it was to learn about their career paths. During the discussion, both professors shared their unique journeys within their chosen fields and reflected on common experiences as women in a mostly male-dominated field. Dr. Mouser was especially thrilled to have the opportunity to share her personal journey with students. She commented, "It's so important for students to see a strong female presence in the math fields to reinforce that women are equally inclined to excel in math and STEM careers."

The event was well-received and reflected in student feedback and serves as one of the most well attended events in our Pod-Talk series. One student noted that the selected podcast, "was a great topic to highlight the importance of equal opportunities." Having two faculty members with such a close relationship to the topic participate and lead the discussions made the event a memorable experience for students.

In the end Dr. Antoniou commented that the event was "an excellent idea and it [podcast] kept everyone engaged and interested. It truly was an amazing experience."

## Terhune Foundation Supports Juvenile eBook Collection in the Curriculum Materials Center

The David and Lorraine Cheng Library is grateful to the Albert Payson Terhune Foundation for its continued support and generosity. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC) received a \$1,500 grant from the Terhune Foundation for the purchase of new children's eBooks. The new materials will be added to the Library's existing *eBooks for Kids* database. The new resources will be easily accessible to the William Paterson University community as they engage with early childhood and ele-

mentary students virtually or in-person in schools throughout northern New Jersey. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to increase the size of the collection in the *eBooks for Kids* database. Several of the new eBook resources were used by participants in the Real Men Read program who conducted virtual readings with K-6 students. The Library plans to continue building its eBook collection to provide materials that can be accessed and read from any digital device with an internet connection.

# Real Men Read Program Goes Virtual in its Second Year

In April 2021 the Real Men Read initiative completed its 2<sup>nd</sup> year at William Paterson University. The goal of the Real Men Read initiative is to provide Pre-K-6 students, especially boys, the opportunity to meet male mentors from the William Paterson University community who have a love of reading and learning.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Real Men Read sessions were conducted virtually in 2021. This year the program continued to expand by including William Paterson students as readers. The Library collaborated with various student clubs, service fraternities, and sororities, and partnered with the Office of Campus Activities, Service, and Leadership and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to offer this great opportunity to interested students. Librarians, Neil Grimes and Gary Marks provided

virtual training for all participants and curated a collection of age-appropriate reading materials. Over 30 faculty, staff, and students read virtually to a total of 680 students in 34 Pre-K-6 classes at various schools throughout northern New Jersey. Several of the readings were conducted within the Paterson Public School District through partnerships with the Professional Development Schools (PDS) network in the College of Education. The participants had the option of reading a physical book or eBook to their class of students. For Pre-K-6 students, many of whom were learning remotely at home, having a member of the William Paterson University community read virtually to their class is an experience they won't soon forget.

The Library hopes to continue to offer the opportunity for faculty,



Provost Josh Powers reads to students at Paterson School 29.

staff, and students to join the Real Men Read initiative as we support and encourage literacy and a love for reading to young and emerging readers.

## *Promotions, Appointments, and Retirements at the Cheng Library*

The Cheng Library saw several personnel changes in 2021.

In June, Alandria Moore was hired as an Acquisitions Specialist in the Technical Services Department. Alandria previously served as a Principal Library Assistant in the Lending Services Department.

As the Acquisitions Specialist, Alandria is responsible for coordinating the purchasing of physical and digital materials for Library collections. Alandria also assists librarians in facilitating purchasing of resources aligned with their liaison and subject areas. When asked about this new role Alandria stated, "I'm grateful for this amazing opportunity. As someone who never thought they would end up pursuing and loving a career in Library Sciences, it seems like a great fit for me! I get to learn more about the world of libraries and librarians than I ever thought I would. My library



Pam Dews, Principal Library Assistant, retires after 46 years of service.

experience has provided a wealth of educational and fulfilling insight into what I want for myself as a writer. I can also see firsthand how important libraries are - not only to the people who enjoy literature- but entire communities who are able to have access to things they often would not."

In August, Sherri Tucker transitioned from her role as a

Principal Library Assistant in the Periodicals & Document Delivery Department to the Lending Services Department.

At the end of January 2021, Pam Dews retired after 46 years of service to William Paterson University. Pam served as a Principal Library Assistant in the Technical Services Department and was the longest-serving member of the Library staff at the time of her retirement. Over the years, Pam was invaluable to the Library's collection management processes including several comprehensive inventory projects. Pam's welcoming and friendly personality as well as her experience in the Library made her a valuable and cherished colleague.



# Through the Pandemic and Back: Welcome Back Pioneers!

*A Message from the Dean of Cheng Library, Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah*

As I walked through the Cheng Library on August 25, 2021, things felt different. The updated and inviting look of the ground floor reference and open study areas was a pleasant change to herald the beginning of a new semester and reinforce our concern for the environments in which our students learn, research, and socialize. However, the difference this time was not due to spaces and furniture only; there was a palpable air of normalcy, an unusual feeling for the past eighteen months. This was the first time in a long time that the library was opening its doors to a full and vibrant in-person experience for all William Paterson University students, faculty, and staff. It was a refreshing moment.

Yes, we still had to wear masks in the library building and across campus, but we were back as a community, back to doing things that just a year and a half ago felt so standard only to be disrupted by a pandemic with the magnitude and effect of which none of us could have imagined. While the spread of a new variant of the menacing virus still threatened a full return to past routines, it felt so good to see so many Pioneers back in their familiar and lively spirit, mingling and working, rushing to class, or just simply chatting and laughing.

In my previous (spring 2021) article in this newsletter, I wrote that COVID-19 had reinforced and added greater urgency to the importance of digital collections that are widely and easily available and accessible. I further noted the need for libraries to develop discovery solutions that empower users to operate independently in their information discovery, construct robust user education and support solutions that are appealing, effective, widely diffused, and adequately publicized,



Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah  
Dean of Cheng Library

and build effective virtual collaboration and communication channels. Throughout the pandemic Cheng Library lived up to the promise and expectations that such realities dictate. Our latest academic year was no different in that regard.

We were here when many campus activities and classes were predominantly online. However, being physically on campus did not mean a reduction in our virtual services or pursuit of online solutions. Your librarians and library staff worked even more on expanding and improving those services, understanding that the lessons of the pandemic provided further evidence for the wisdom in expanding such services and solutions in the areas of knowledge curation, mediation, dissemination, and access. Today's academic libraries were being reminded now more than ever that the need to be both virtual and brick and mortar is an existential imperative. Our users have informed us over the years of their overwhelming preference for several virtual solutions, just as they have continually expressed their appreciation for in-building experiences as well.

Consequently, fiscal year 2021 at Cheng Library saw a return to traditional operations, even as the continuation of predominantly remote teaching and learning on campus dictated persisting with many of the operational changes that had been made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was greater in-person presence of our personnel, even as our librarians engaged in more remote activities and worked a mixed shift that had them on campus in-person half of their scheduled days and the other half remotely from home. The library's support for student learning and success as well as faculty teaching and research effectiveness never waned; it proceeded without compromising quality or commitment.

A virtual campus scavenger hunt created by our Outreach Librarian received the 2021 NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Technology Innovation Award; the Library hosted/co-hosted several civic engagement activities that allowed 296 students to earn credit towards their WP LEADS Civic Engagement Badge. Library instructors conducted some 270 information literacy sessions virtually and in-person. Technical services and user services librarians worked together to implement programs and solutions that improve the user experience, enhance communication, and facilitate greater search efficiencies to ensure better and faster access to needed/requested materials. The library installed a self-checkout system to allow independent patron borrowing of physical items from the collection in support of greater user independence with checking out and returning library items. Other behind-the-scenes activities led to

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an increase in the size of our e-collections and improvement in their currency.

In support of faculty scholarly efforts, we continued to administer the University's program for supporting open access publishing. We also moved online with a valued practice of honoring colleagues who publish scholarly and creative works in the previous year by holding a virtual university authors reception for our 2020 authors and included our 2019 authors, whose reception had been disrupted by the onset of the pandemic. You can watch the reception and hear remarks from the authors at <https://www.wpunj.edu/library/authorreception/2021-author-reception.html>.

With national and state conversations focusing on the cost of college education and the state of New Jersey promoting through legislation textbook affordability for students, William Paterson University committed to embracing those initiatives and helping our students by making textbooks more affordable through encouraging faculty to adopt open educational resources. This attempt at social equity and equal access through educational affordability employs the adoption of openly licensed, freely available, course materials as a tool to ensure that course texts do not become one of the many barriers or challenges to student success. In addition to the social and economic case for open educational resources, these solutions made increasingly efficient through modern technology also allow greater flexibility and customization. Instructors can be creative in dynamically personalizing materials, while being mindful of their students' budget.

Library faculty can be partners in the process of adopting open educational resources by collating and presenting materials in support of teaching faculty efforts and can become an integral part of the discov-

ery, selection, and adoption process in active collaboration with their teaching colleagues. It is a role that the librarians at the Cheng Library have embraced. They look forward to working with their classroom colleagues and have prepared guides, assembled tools, and hope to actively engage through the library's liaisons to the academic departments all faculty who elect to work with them on making their courses free of textbook costs or with lower textbook costs. Our efforts were recognized by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which noted in its MSCHE Visiting Team Self-Study Evaluation Report: "William Paterson University's Library did an excellent job during COVID of pivoting to Distance Education and implementing/assisting Open Educational Resources."

Progress in the development of open content has addressed many of the quality concerns that initially dogged adoption of open educational resources. In a 2015 study of over 16,000 students Lane Fischer, John Hamilton, Jared Robinson, and David Wiley (A Multi-Institutional Study of the Impact of Open Textbook Adoption on the Learning Outcomes of Post-Secondary Students) con-

cluded: "In three key measures of student success - course completion, final grade of C- or higher, course grade - students whose faculty chose OER generally performed as well or better than students whose faculty assigned commercial textbooks."

As we begin another semester unlike the semesters before, having lived through and learned from a pandemic that limited physical interactions and forced adoption of technological solutions to ensure continuity of content delivery and knowledge access, we are glad to say we have learned and are even better prepared for the challenges ahead. We have a better appreciation for the importance of remote services. Your library, which worked relentlessly to make anywhere anytime access to its resources and services a reality even when physical interactions were the order of the day, is as ready as ever to deliver upon the promise and demand for remote access, while still embracing the vital services that support the continued need for a physical presence. We look forward to your input so that we can serve you even better. Welcome back Pioneers! And this time welcoming back everyone feels so rewarding.





# University Authors Honored in a Virtual Reception

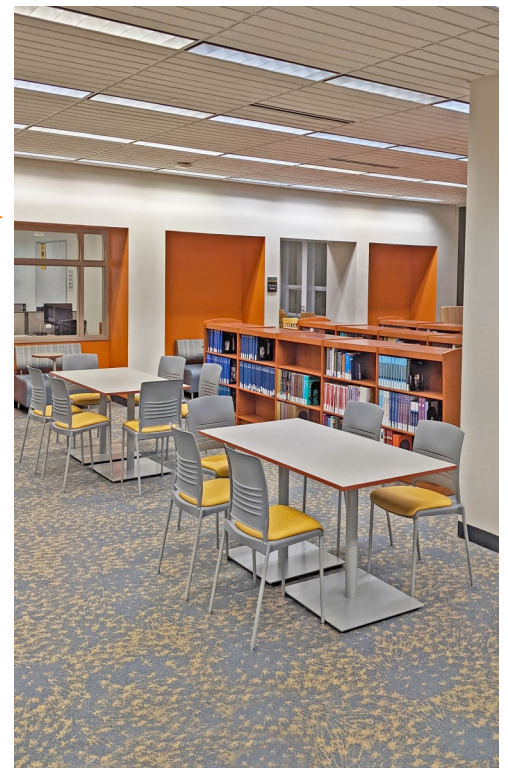
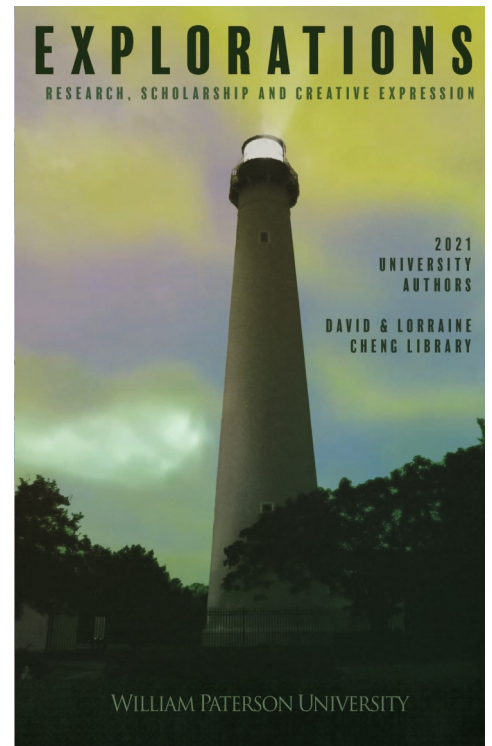
In April, the Cheng Library hosted the first virtual reception to celebrate the scholarly achievements of University faculty and staff and produced the 2021 Authors' Bibliography. The 2021 bibliography contains the works of University authors who published in 2020. The reception honored authors from 2020 and 2019 due to pandemic related disruptions.

WPUNJ faculty continue the fine tradition of producing great scholarship to improve their disciplines and enhance the teaching-learning experience at William Paterson University, even in a year in which the COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges to our lives and greatly affected how we do things.

The virtual reception was hosted by the Library and Dean Ed-

ward Owusu-Ansah and featured remarks from University President Richard Helldobbler and Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs Josh Powers. The virtual reception included commentary from several University authors about their publications and ongoing research efforts.

The 2021 Authors' Bibliography features 14 book publications and over 240 book chapters, scholarly articles, and published conference proceedings. The 2021 bibliography and video of the virtual reception are located on the University Author Reception website along with previous annual bibliographies: <https://wpunj.edu/library/authorreception>





# Your Library in Action

**Cara Berg (Reference Librarian & Co-Coordinator of User Education)** presented "Redefining First Year Information Literacy Instruction with Guided Lessons" at the 2021 *Information Literacy Summit*. Cara co-presented "Rapid Redesign: A New Approach to First Year Instruction in the Time of COVID-19" with **Tony Joachim (Instructional Design Librarian & Co-Coordinator of User Education)** at the *NJLA Annual Conference*.

**Linda Salvesen (Systems Librarian)** co-authored "Who Says I Am Coping: The Emotional Affect of New Jersey Academic Librarians During the COVID-19 Pandemic" with **Cara Berg** in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. Linda was recently elected as Member-At-Large on the New York Technical Services Librarians Executive Board.



## CONNECTIONS

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Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah,  
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online  
[www.wpunj.edu/library/connections](http://www.wpunj.edu/library/connections)

**Neil Grimes (Curriculum Materials & Education Librarian)** authored "Real Men Read—A Library Led Reading Initiative Program." in *College & Undergraduate Libraries* and co-authored "National History Day: A Partnership Between the David and Lorraine Cheng Library and the Paterson Public Schools—A Tale of Three High Schools" in *Teaching Social Studies*. Neil presented "The Use of Online Lib Guides and Smore Newsletters to Share Resources with Educators focused on Diversity, Equity & Online Teaching & Learning," at the *NJ Professional Development Schools Conference* and "The Smithsonian Learning Lab - Rethinking Resource Collection Development," at the *NJ Association of School Librarians Spring Conference*.

**Richard Kearney (Electronic Resources Librarian)** presented "Libraries and 'Open' Initiatives - Opportunities for Service Leadership" at the *Yeshiva University Libraries Staff Symposium*.

**Gary Marks, Jr. (Reference & Outreach Librarian)** presented "The Civic Literacy

Initiative at the David & Lorraine Cheng Library" at the *AAC&U Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference* and "Pod Talks: Podcasts to Start Conversations on Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice" at the *NJLA Annual Conference*. Gary was awarded the NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Technology Innovation Award for 2021 for his development of a virtual campus scavenger hunt using ArcGIS and received the William Paterson Student Government Association's Advisor of the Year award for his work advising Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

**Ray Schwartz (Head of Library Information Systems)** was recently appointed to the Joint IGeLU/ELUNA Analytics Community of Practice (International Group of Ex Libris Users/Ex Libris Users of North America)

**Robert Graham (Principal Library Assistant, Periodicals)** received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from William Paterson University in May 2021.



Gary Marks, Jr. (Reference & Outreach Librarian)  
NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ Technology Innovation Award