SUNYLA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—BILL JONES

It has been a great year working with you all while serving as president. I’m glad to have been able to see some of you throughout the year during SUNYLA Council meetings held at Albany, FIT, Stony Brook, and my home institution, Geneseo. This is my final newsletter update as president, after which I will be passing the torch over to Carrie Fishner (Delhi) and the incoming board.

One of the most interesting experiences this year was being a part of the Ithaka S+R Steering Committee to help design a new governance model for the SUNY Council of Library Directors (SCLD). Through many meetings with individuals within SUNY libraries and with the steering committee, the Ithaka S+R team developed a proposed plan for reorganizing the governance of SCLD. That plan passed and resulted in the creation of the SUNY Libraries Consortium (SLC). Patrick Callahan (Purchase) chairs the SLC Board; members include Tim Arnold (Jamestown), Carey Hatch (OLIS), Holly Heller-Ross (Plattsburgh), Curtis Kendrick (Binghamton), Evangela Oates (Sullivan), and Christine Rudecoff (Morrisville). I’m really looking forward to seeing where this new organization will take our libraries.

A forthcoming change for our libraries in the very near future is the migration to a new library service platform (LSP) that will replace Aleph. Shannon Pritting is serving as the LSP project director to lead initiatives related to the procurement and planning for the implementation of an LSP that will replace the current SUNY-wide library system. This is an exciting time for SUNY and I personally am looking forward to what this new system can offer our library network.

I hope that you plan to join us at this year’s SUNYLA conference being held at Stony Brook University on June 14–16, with the theme “The Global Library: Diversity Through Collections.” Thank you to Jennifer DeVito and the SUNYLA Planning Committee for their hard work in pulling together so many important details to ensure another excellent conference. This year’s SUNYLA conference will be especially interesting because the newly formed SUNY Libraries Consortium (SLC) conference will be overlapping with our conference, offering an opportunity for extended collaboration across administrators, faculty, and support staff alike.

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SUNYLA 2017: The Global Library: Diversity Through Collections, Spaces, & Services

Jennifer DeVito, 2nd VP/Conference Chair, Stony Brook

Stony Brook University Libraries is excited to be hosting the 2017 SUNYLA conference June 14–16, 2017. The Programming and Local Arrangements committees are working hard to create an engaging conference.

The conference theme—The Global Library: Diversity Through Collections, Spaces, & Services—is a timely one, as many of us are examining how our libraries can be more inclusive and responsive to all patrons. Whether we are renovating physical spaces for today’s students, building collections that are accessible anywhere, or developing programs and policies to meet the changing needs of constituents, librarians, and library staff, this theme plays an important part in creating libraries that are equitable to all.

This year's conference differs slightly from previous ones in that the newly formed SUNY Libraries Consortium (SLC) is holding its meeting on Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13. There will be an opportunity for SUNYLA members to meet with representatives of the SLC on Wednesday, after the pre-conference sessions, to hear more about how the Consortium will operate.

Stony Brook University Libraries is particularly excited to be hosting the conference, in part, to highlight our recently renovated Central and North Reading Rooms. Both spaces were redesigned to make the library a welcoming and engaging space that also allows students to work together in groups or study individually. The spaces feature increased seating, flexible learning spaces, and improved access to technology and outlets (!). We are also quite proud of our single-service points in each reading room, with representatives from Access Services and/or IT and/or Reference. More information and pictures can be found at http://library.stonybrook.edu/redesigned-spaces/

In addition to the traditional SUNYLA conference program, the Local Arrangements Committee is planning a number of events that will highlight the local flavor of Stony Brook University, Stony Brook Village, and Long Island. Attendees may also want to take advantage of our close proximity to New York City and a Long Island Railroad line that serves the campus to plan some time in the city (after the conference, of course!).

If you choose to stay on campus, there is still plenty to do. In addition to a bike/jogging path on campus, there are two art galleries, the Paul W. Zuccaire Art Gallery and Simons Art Gallery; the Seawolves Marketplace; and University Bookstore and a new Starbucks. If you venture off campus to nearby Stony Brook Village, you will find a number of restaurants, a spa, and clothing and specialty shops (http://www.stonybrookvillage.com/).

Port Jefferson is a 10-minute drive from campus and boasts Harborfront Park and the Village Center, with waterfront bars and restaurants. Spend the evening walking by the water, enjoying seafood, and watching the boats coming into and out of the harbor (http://portjeff.com/visitor/).

Conference attendees who choose to stay in the dorms will be housed at Nobel Halls, the first Gold LEED-certified residence hall on campus. The Nobels were built in 2010 and feature three-bedroom suites with one bathroom and a

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A new degree—Information Technology Cybersecurity—will start enrollment in Fall 2017. Students will learn multifaceted discipline concepts in criminal justice, law, and evidence handling. The program offers internships for hands-on experience with regional businesses and specialized coursework towards industry certifications. The degree will prepare graduates for immediate entrance to the workforce or transfer to a four-year program.

Progress continues on the new building projects: a $17 million building for NSTEM (nursing, science, technology, engineering, and math) and a $9.7 million Adirondack Regional Workforce Readiness Center will be attached to the college’s existing science building. Construction started in October 2016. NSTEM construction will run through August, with a scheduled opening for the Fall 2017 semester. Construction of the Adirondack Regional Workforce Readiness Center has a projected completion date for the Spring 2018 semester.

Scholes Library is happy to announce the latest addition to our team, Deborah Rollins, as our Administrative Assistant. At the same time we are sad to report that Eva Sclippa, our Art Librarian, has moved on to a position at UNC Wilmington. Depending on who you ask, she has either been “reshelved” or has “Sclippa’d away.” Scholes Library will soon be announcing the search for an art librarian to serve as a part of the New York State College of Ceramics.

Scholes Library recently created a small pop-up space in an underused copy room adjacent to the Circulation Desk.
John Hosford, Digital Projects Librarian, worked with Eva Sclippa, Art Librarian, to create an exhibition program which will enable faculty in the NYSCC to be guest curators for a semester. This past academic year had exhibitions focusing on student and faculty work as well as the Scholes Library collection. Michael Haleta facilitated an exhibition entitled “Micro Collections 01: The Onderdonx Archive” with curator Andy Robertson (@onderdonx). The exhibition focused on lesser-known artists from the 1960s and 1970s, pulling posters, journals, and monographs from Andy’s personal collection along with selected items from the Scholes physical collection. Katarina Riesing, Assistant Professor, Foundations, curated a show in February that focused on artist books, and multiples created by students and faculty at Alfred University. The exhibition titled “Books on Books on Books” closed with tarot readings by visiting lecturer Emmy Bright; using her handmade “More Stupids: A Tarot,” she provided readings for 14 students and faculty. The Pop-up Space has enabled faculty and students to interact with the library in new and positive ways, and we are looking forward to new exhibitions in the fall that highlight the creative practice of the students and faculty, along with a strengthened connection to the holdings of Scholes Library.

Trevor Riley and Katie Bertel (Buffalo State College) were invited to speak at Computers in Libraries about the SUNY Guide on the Side pilot project. More information on the project can be found here: http://library.buffalostate.edu/gots

Finally, we are also happy to say that we are the most recent addition to the Empire Shared Collection Repository!

Binghamton
Laura Evans

The libraries have held a series of digital scholarship workshops for faculty, staff, and graduate students on campus. Workshops have included “Digital File Management” by Anne Larrivee and Laura Evans; “Copyright in the Classroom” by Elizabeth Brown and Aleshia Huber; and a “Technology Petting Zoo” with Julia Glauberman and Stephanie Hess.

Faculty Engagement Librarian Anne Larrivee has also hosted a number of Learning @ Lunch research roundtables this spring, bringing together scholars on campus to focus on such diverse topics as the narrative, climate change, and local community research.
The libraries’ Exhibits Committee is currently showcasing two impressive exhibits in Bartle Library: “From Cradle to Grave: Experiencing Life Cycle Rituals in Ancient China” and “Illuminated Lifestyles: Food, Sport, and Books in Medieval Life.”

Nancy Abashian was selected by the ACRL’s Chair’s Choice Working Group to present “Inventories Matter: Managing Collections More Manageable” at ACRL 2017 on March 24 in Baltimore, MD. She also has an upcoming article to be published at the end of May in a special themed issue of Library Leadership & Management, “Contemporary Library Leadership: A Holistic View.” Her article is entitled “Reorganizing a Library Department: A Case Study in Transformational Leadership.”

Brockport
Ken Wierzbowski

Friends of Drake Library held a fundraiser on April 8, a “Literary Feast.” The event started with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by the guests (over 70 in number) breaking into several groups to tour the library, where various faculty and students were presenting literary impersonations (e.g., English professor Janie Hinds as Edgar Allen Poe, reciting “The Raven” and so forth). This was followed by a dinner at which a reenactor portraying Susan B. Anthony visited the room and gave a speech! The Friends group here has been a tremendous success. Not only has it been great fun, but it raised money for things (e.g., snacks for students during late-night study hours and other projects) for which state funds aren’t available.

Brockport recently collaborated with the History Department to launch #History: A Journal of Student Research in our institutional repository, Digital Commons @Brockport. You can view it at http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu hashtaghistory.

Buffalo State
Leah Galka

National Library Week
Butler Library at Buffalo State celebrated National Library Week 2017 with eye-catching banners and an interactive display. Our Outreach and Engagement Librarian, Katie Bertel, coordinated the effort and students have been enthusiastic about telling us why libraries are important to them.

OER Initiatives
Butler Library continues to lead OER initiatives on campus. We recently hosted SUNY OER Services for a half-day faculty workshop on open educational resources. Buffalo State’s campus-wide, library-initiated Affordable Learning Materials
Initiative (ALMI) Committee also just announced the first round of ALMI Award winners. This award program recognizes the important work of faculty members who are taking steps toward improving affordability for their students.

**Speaker Event: Refugee Resettlement in Buffalo**

On April 4, we hosted a special guest speaker to highlight the experiences of refugees settling in America. Myo Thant from Journey’s End Refugee Services shared his personal experience as a former refugee from Burma and discussed the organization’s work resettling refugees in Buffalo. Donations of school supplies and personal care items were collected for Journey’s End Refugee Services.

**Revitalized Program: Cultural Café**

We have revitalized a former campus coffee hour program for international students. The revitalized program, Cultural Café, brings together international and domestic members of the Buffalo State community over conversation, culture, and coffee. Cultural Café offers campus members the opportunity to meet new people and find common ground with other globally-minded members of the community in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. This program is made possible through a partnership between the library, International Students Organization, and International Students Advisory Council.

**Bookmobile**

Thanks to a burgeoning partnership with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Butler Library hosted the Library on Wheels bookmobile in March. The event was a success with 36 visitors and 12 new users getting library cards! This has been a successful collaboration and a good example of a campus-to-community connection.

**Cobleskill**

April Davies

Van Wagenen Library hosted the third Annual Student Research Showcase April 12–13. The showcase aims to highlight the accomplished and talented scholarly work and research of SUNY Cobleskill students. More than 50 students presented on topics such as:

- A Modern Twist to an Ancient Practice: Use of 3-D Printers in Taxidermy
- Impact of Flood Mitigations to Stream Fish Populations in Schoharie County, NY
- Client Branding Study: Creating Healthy Schools and Communities
- Treating Leukemia With Methotrexate

![Scenes from the third Annual Student Research Showcase, April 12–13](image URL)
SUNY Cobleskill’s first Lifestyle Farming Conference was a big hit. This one-day event brought 129 attendees to campus for a full day of courses and workshops aimed at the home-based farmer. The sessions covered topics like beer brewing, apiary (beehive) management, yogurt and ice cream making, and wild edibles. They were accompanied by a specialized exposition of professional equipment and supplies as well as a tasting of beer, cider, wine, and spirits from around the state. SUNY Cobleskill will hold a Lifestyle Farming Conference each spring and fall with topics that match the farming seasons. The next conference is scheduled for November 11 with courses in cheeses, breads, ciders, and food preservation.

The National Intelligence Council came to Cobleskill on April 25 for a series of forums to discuss their newly released Global Trends Report: Paradox of Progress (https://www.dni.gov/index.php/global-trends-home). The NIC serves as the U.S. Intelligence Community’s center for long-term strategic analysis. Every four years, the NIC publishes a new assessment of how the economic, political, social, technological, and cultural forces collide. Critical to its insight and policy relevance have been meetings worldwide with government officials, scholars, business people, civil society representatives, and others in events designed to stimulate thinking about possible global trajectories and discontinuities over the next two decades. Having this event at SUNY Cobleskill and having our students, faculty, etc., be a part of the discussions was quite exciting.

April Davies is happily finishing her work as part of the committee working on the Periodic Review for SUNY Cobleskill’s Middle States accreditation. She and Katherine Brent will both be at Stony Brook in June for the SUNYLA conference.

Don LaPlant will travel to Lexington, KY, in mid-May for the 45th Annual LOEX
Conference.

Circulation Assistant Dawn Foland begins working toward her library degree this summer via Rutgers University’s online MI (LIS) program.

Downstate
Violet Price

Get It Now, our new document delivery pilot program, is a document-delivery service that complements our Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service by providing library patrons with the immediate fulfillment of full-text articles from unsubscribed journals—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get It Now has been implemented as a pilot program with the expectation that selected faculty will utilize the service and provide feedback on whether the service meets their academic research needs. The feedback received will assist us in determining journal usage and whether particular titles (suggested or selected) should be added to our collection, as well as provide expanded access via the Get It Now platform. Additionally, the information obtained will be used to evaluate Get It Now to determine if the service will be beneficial to the Downstate research community. This project is being managed by Juannetta LeGree, Head of Access Services/Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery and Campus Copyright Manager.

Dr. Wayne J. Riley was recently appointed as president of SUNY Downstate Medical Center, effective April 3. Dr. Riley previously served as a clinical professor of medicine and adjunct professor of health policy at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Environmental Science & Forestry
Jane Verostek

The Moon Library Education and Outreach Team, made up of Jane Verostek, Ellen Edgerton, and Casey Koons, organized and held the first-ever Human Library event in Moon Library on April 6. Our theme was to have ESF alumni and current ESF graduate students be available as “books” to talk with undergraduate students. The conversations with our human library books were on a number of topics—how to apply to graduate school, what graduate school is really like, how did you get to where you are, do you have any tips for classes to take, groups to join, etc. We had 12 volunteer “books” and during the event, every book had one or more “readers.” To learn more about our first Human Library event check out our event site at http://libguides.esf.edu/humanbookshelf.

Jane Verostek, Associate Librarian, attended and presented at the MANY Museum Associations of New York Conference that ran April 2–4 in Saratoga, NY. Jane’s presentation was called “Creative Exhibits on a Shoestring Budget.”
Genesee
Michelle Eichelberger

Nina Warren has announced her intent to retire at the end of June 2017. Nina first started at GCC as a part-time librarian in 1992, becoming full-time in 1993. She served in Reference, Off-Campus Services, Instruction, and Systems Librarian positions, and was then hired as director of Library Services in 2007. She has been a campus leader among supervisors and is a positive role model for all. Under Nina’s leadership, the library transitioned to a seven-day-a-week operation in response to student demand, implemented writing tutors in the library, and developed a robust Student Library Council advisory group.

GCC hosted an Accreditation Team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education April 2–5 as part of our decennial review process. This year, GCC was one of two community colleges within the 15-member group selected to pilot revised Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation as part of MSCHE’s Collaborative Implementation Project (CIP).

Throughout the spring semester, the library has hosted Third Thursdays @ 3, a free monthly coffee hour for students. Signage and social media have been used to promote this flash event that has been very popular with students. The idea stemmed from discussions with our Student Library Council, which meets monthly throughout the semester.

Librarians Cindy Francis and Cindy Hagelberger worked with a wide variety of campus constituents to host exhibits featuring Phi Theta Kappa (http://www.genesee.edu/library/library-news/phi-theta-kappa-display-march-1-21/), ART105’s Book Altered Project (http://www.genesee.edu/library/library-news/book-altered-project-march-22-april-10/), and the campus’s two COIL (Collaborative Online International Education) partnerships with faculty and students in Lebanon and Glasgow.

Librarians Sarah Karas and Barb Biljan coordinated two themed roving reference weeks this semester, Week of Love (http://www.genesee.edu/library/library-news/week-of-love-roving-librarians/) and March Madness (http://www.genesee.edu/library/library-news/march-madness-roving-march-6-9/). This successful student engagement activity regularly generates over 175 entries a week for the daily trivia contests.

The library supported the second annual Scholars Symposium (http://www.genesee.edu/home/events/scholars-symposium/) celebration of research on campus. Michelle Eichelberger managed the libguide for the event and she and librarian Rich Bartl served as judges.

The library hosted a reception on January 26 to celebrate GCC authors who participated in the library’s second READ Poster Project (http://guides.genesee.edu/gcc_authors). The posters featuring faculty and staff who have published are prominently displayed on shelving units in the library’s circulating book collection area.
Geneseo
Daniel Ross

SUNY Geneseo’s Milne Library continued to add talented individuals to our staff in the last few months. Our most recent addition is Alexis Clifton, SUNY OER Services’ new Executive Director, who joined our Geneseo team in early February. Alexis brings experience helping community colleges and universities across the country establish effective OER practices. In her previous position at Lumen Learning, Alexis worked with faculty and administrators to identify their primary needs and shape OER content and programs effectively. Prior to Lumen, she worked for 15 years in higher education as a writing instructor, instructional designer, and course developer in the humanities. She abandoned textbooks in her composition classes at Tacoma Community College in 2008 and has been a passionate user and advocate of OER ever since.

Speaking of open access initiatives, Open SUNY Textbooks announced in March the publication of their 18th textbook: *A Concise Introduction to Logic* by Dr. Craig Delancey, Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at SUNY Oswego. *A Concise Introduction to Logic* can be downloaded as a PDF and an ebook and read online at http://textbooks.opensuny.org/concise-introduction-to-logic/.

In individual news, Brandon West gave a panel presentation at the 2017 ACRL Conference in Baltimore, MD, with Lee Ann Fullington (CUNY Brooklyn), Eamon Tewell (LIU Brooklyn), and Frans Albarillo (CUNY Brooklyn). The presentation was titled “Charting the Unknown Through Qualitative Research: Becoming a Practitioner-Researcher.” There were approximately 250 attendees at the event.


Hudson Valley
Katherine Jezik

Hudson Valley Community College is thrilled to welcome Stephanie Clowe as the new Online Media Specialist Technical Assistant. Stephanie holds a master’s in Information Science from the University at Albany, SUNY, and a BA from the College of Saint Rose. She is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and English as a Second Language as an instructor for ENGL115, Library Skills for Research. Stephanie’s previous experience includes working as a circulation
supervisor at Neil Hellman Library at Saint Rose and an internship at the Dwight Marvin Library as part of her graduate degree requirements. In her new role, Stephanie will support, promote, and manage media and library online resource integration and will work closely with faculty to support teaching and learning initiatives.

Jennifer Acker, Senior Clerk in Dwight Marvin Library, was recognized by the Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACCVB) as an Albany Ambassador for her work on the local arrangements committee for the 2016 IDS Project Library Resource Sharing conference. The award recognizes “dedicated volunteers [who] have provided the Capital Region’s economy with a tremendous impact.”

Maritime
Rebecca Hyams

The end of the semester is upon us! This semester has been really busy and exciting for us here at Maritime, but while we’re still in the middle of it this update will be short and sweet.

Renovations to the College Archives space were completed earlier this semester. The entire room was gutted and rebuilt to include proper climate control and plenty of compact shelving to house all of our archives and special collections.

We’ve been in the middle of a massive project to define, reconcile, and rehouse what we are now calling our Maritime Heritage Rare Book Collection. The collection consists of rare and specialized materials focusing on those related to the Merchant Marines, naval architecture, and the shipping industry. We hope to be able to market the collection better not only to our faculty and students, but to those in the maritime industry and maritime historians.

With Summer Sea Term approaching, we’ve basically rebuilt the entire collection of leisure reading that is kept in the Ship’s Library. As the Ship’s Library serves as the entertainment center of the ship, many of the books were well-loved, so the entire collection got a refresh. This past year we started bringing select books from the ship back during the school year, which has proved popular with the students when the ship isn’t at sea.

The library expanded its offerings of lectures and workshops this year, including a visit by author William Geroux of this year’s Community Read, The Mathews Men. As a cap-off, just this week (as I’m writing this update) we held our second annual Faculty Scholarship Reception in the library to celebrate everyone’s accomplishments during the year (complete with wine and cheese!).

Monroe
Katie DeRusso

We welcomed Anjali Parasnis-Samar to MCC Libraries as our Instructional Technology Librarian. Before joining
MCC, Anjali worked as a visiting assistant librarian at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and as a graduate assistant at Syracuse University, where she received her MSLIS. Before that, she worked as a teaching assistant while completing her MA in English at the University of California, Irvine, where she taught several undergraduate English courses. Anjali will be partnering with MCC's Virtual Campus Department on course design, library support for online courses, and OER adoption.

MCC Library Director Mark McBride accepted the Library Senior Strategist position for the Office of Library and Information Services in Albany, NY, and started on January 19. As the Library Senior Strategist, Mark will be actively engaged in the development and management of strategic initiatives that align SUNY-wide library activities with the goals of the System Administration Office of the Provost and will help move operational services to either cost-recovery models or third-party providers. Assistant Director Katie DeRusso has been appointed Interim Library Director for MCC.

MCC Librarian Andrea Kingston has accepted an invitation to join the Executive Committee of the Community and Junior College Libraries Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), which is a division of the American Library Association (ALA). She has also been named the chair of the section's Conference Program Planning Committee for the 2018 ALA annual conference.

The LeRoy V. Good Library on the Brighton campus hosted a “Human Library” event on April 26 from 12–4 p.m. The event is intended to challenge stereotypes and prejudices in a constructive and non-confrontational atmosphere of exploration and discovery. It will give students and faculty an opportunity to meet and talk with a wide variety of interesting people one-on-one or in small groups. Our catalog of “human books” is shaping up nicely. Use this library guide (http://libguides.monroecc.edu/humanlibrary) to stay up to date on The Human Library.


MCC’s Damon City Campus is preparing to move this summer to its new Downtown Campus building. The Damon City Campus Learning Commons/Library will be officially closed for the summer while renovations are completed and the collection moved before the fall opening of the new campus.

Morrisville
Adam Saunders

The Morrisville library space continues to change, both aesthetically and functionally. Our indoor library garden, a project that has been in the works for some time now, has finally been realized with the help of our horticulture program and students. By utilizing full-spectrum fluorescent bulbs placed under the winding library central stairs, these plants will function as a method to damper sound coming from our tutoring area and as a living display. In addition, we also purchased several new individual study pods, answering the students’ desire for more quiet single-study spaces. These modular units each have an individual desk space, power plugs, and storage for books and bags.
For the latter half of the spring semester our gallery wall has been displaying a collection titled “Thirtyfour Campgrounds.” Through a collection of contemporary, historic, and aerial photographs, Martin Hogue, who teaches landscape architecture at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, presents a study of how the American camping tradition and our desire to commune with nature have evolved into carefully staged and thoroughly equipped events. At the same time, the images take on the qualities of landscape photography that capture unique patterns of human interactions with nature and the marks we leave on the land. A reception for this gallery was held on April 12.

As the semester comes to a close, several events are scheduled in the library to help alleviate the stress of final exams. We have once again invited therapy dogs from PAWS of Central New York to come to campus. This event provides a space where students can come and unwind from their studies with some very friendly lap dogs. The event has always been a huge success in the past, with lines out the door before the dogs even arrive. In addition, students from the Massage Therapy program at Morrisville will be coming to the library and giving free chair massages to students. Not only does this help with the Massage Therapy students and their needed practice hours, but it also offers another relaxing opportunity in the library during a stressful time of the year.

Our very own Mandy Babirad, Instruction Librarian, was the recipient of this year’s ACRL Early-Career Librarian Scholarship. This scholarship provides “opportunities for academic and research librarians six years or less of post-MLS experience to expand their professional horizons and to update their skills and knowledge by participating in an ACRL professional development experience.” Systems & Electronic Resources Librarian Angela Rhodes is finishing up a subject analysis regarding the circulation of a particular part of our collection funded through a grant. The collection focuses on diversity, and our curiosity over what parts of the collection are being embraced and used was of great interest to the library. Her findings indicate a vested interest in social issues and crime in ethnic groups, as well as pointing out obvious holes in the collection (South American literature) that can be rectified through future collection development. Adam Saunders, the Online Learning & Instruction Librarian, will be presenting a poster session titled “Video Game Book Club: A New Spin on an Old Tradition” at the upcoming SUNYLA conference at Stony Brook.

Nassau
Christine Faraday

On March 24, three speakers from SUNY came to the A. Holly Patterson Library to introduce NCC to open educational resources (OER). Mark McBride, the Library Senior Strategist in the Office of Library and Information Services at SUNY, spoke about incorporating OER into classrooms and the benefits of using OER. Sophia
Georgiakaki, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Coordinator of Developmental Mathematics at Tompkins Cortland Community College, gave a presentation entitled “Experiences Teaching Algebra With OER, and Initiatives in Statistics, Calculus, and Computer Science.” Dr. Tom Priester, Director of Transitional Studies/Assistant Professor at SUNY GCC and author of the OER textbook *Foundations of Academic Success: Words of Wisdom*, gave a talk entitled “Reflection of an AuthOER.” The workshop was attended by over 40 faculty and administrators. A follow-up workshop, “Open Educational Resources—The Next Step,” will be held in June. NCC’s Rosanne Humes, Acquisitions Librarian-Extraordinaire, created an OER libguide as an additional resource, which can be found at http://ncc.libguides.com/open

Left: Open Educational Resources workshop

New Paltz
Matthew Laudicina

Emma Clausen joined the Sojourner Truth Library as a Research and Education Librarian in February. Prior to joining SUNY New Paltz, Emma served as a reference and instruction librarian at Pierce College in Washington State. Emma enjoys being in the classroom and at the Reference Desk and is passionate about telling the story of how the library impacts student success and retention. She received her MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Librarian Dr. Corinne Nyquist retired from SUNY New Paltz, Sojourner Truth Library, on January 1. Corinne was the first librarian at the Sojourner Truth Library to receive the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship. She has published a book about libraries and “Resource Sharing” as well as peer-reviewed articles. Corinne evaluated library school programs for the American Library Association’s accreditation process and served on several ALA committees. In addition to leading Interlibrary Loan for more than 35 years, Corinne had been the director of the former World Study Center in the Sojourner Truth Library, assisting faculty and local historians in their research on Sojourner Truth. She is currently doing research for a book on Sojourner Truth’s life. Corinne and her husband, Dr. Thomas Nyquist, have a charitable foundation for community award grants and they also provide and maintain a wildlife sanctuary of 56 acres, for use by the public, located off Huguenot Street in the village of New Paltz. We wish Corinne a happy and productive retirement—she will be missed at the Sojourner Truth Library!

Meet your patrons where it’s most convenient for them: on social media! The Sojourner Truth Library has relaunched its social media accounts, with a mission to create an engaging, library-centered online environment for its patrons. After researching how libraries have successfully used social media, library clerk Charlene Martoni (who is also pursuing an MLIS degree) designed a framework to help the library’s social media attain three goals: 1) market services/events/materials to patrons; 2) strengthen the library’s relationship with its community; and 3) maintain a positive image as a central resource for the SUNY New Paltz campus. Since implementing this framework, the Sojourner Truth Library’s social media accounts have seen a skyrocketing rise in both post engagement levels and follower rates. Stay tuned as Charlene and her interns analyze the new framework throughout 2017 and report on their findings! For more information,
feel free to contact martonic@newpaltz.edu.

**Niagara**

Jeanne Tuohey

Thanks to Archivist Jean Linn, the NCCC Archives’ collection of commencement programs is now fully searchable on New York Heritage! A small collection of Entricy Herald supplements was added to New York State Historic Newspapers. Many early sound and video recordings have been digitized and are starting to make their way online. A collection of oral histories from 1985 was recently published to the Archives’ website (http://libguides.niagaracc.suny.edu/archives/oh). The collection includes reminiscences from former NCCC faculty and administrators.

In March Mary Beth Morse and Jeanne Tuohey attended the ACRL conference in Baltimore, MD, where the featured speaker was Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress.

The full text of The New York Times, along with its archives, is now available to the NCCC community.

Progress continues on the renovation of D Building, which includes the Henrietta G. Lewis Library. We are winding up the first year in our temporary location, and look forward to moving back to an upgraded, 21st-century facility in 12–18 months.

**Onondaga**

Fantasia Thorne-Ortiz

On March 29 from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. we hosted a pop-up makerspace event, with a different activity available at each of our nine tables. The activities were 3-D printing, Arduinos, button-making, knitting, DIY virtual viewers, jewelry making, seed planting, and pottery. Photos are available at https://www.flickr.com/photos/coulterlibrary/albums/72157682472322625.

The Library Department, in partnership with the Common Read Committee, Honors program, and Architecture & Interior Design Department, hosted “Survival in the ‘Wild’: The Supply Box Challenge,” an escape room–type event, on April 5 and 6. An architecture class created mock trailheads that we used in our registration area. Two honors classes (history and math) had their students create challenge puzzles. More than 30 groups (50+ students) participated, including a group of high school students from the Spanish Action League. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, we are considering ways that we can make the resources available to faculty and staff to use in the future with their classes and/or for professional development. Photos are available at https://www.flickr.com/photos/coulterlibrary/albums/72157682473061515.

In celebration of Black History Month and Women’s Heritage Month, the library worked in collaboration with the Art Department to create a photo exhibit of faculty and staff, titled “Exhibit of Dreams.” The intention of the exhibit was to provide students the opportunity to become better acquainted with faculty and staff, as quotes were shared by the exhibit’s participants wherein they shared their inspirations and dreams.

On March 2, in celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday, librarian Fantasia Thorne-Ortiz helped coordinate OCC’s faculty and staff participation in Reading Across America at Syracuse’s McKinley-Brighton Elementary School.
The library renovation is complete, and has opened to the public!

The Children’s Books section on the second floor of the library has special artwork created by fourth-grade students at Syracuse’s McKinley-Brighton Elementary School. Students created the artwork with the college’s Interim Dean of Visual, Performing & Applied Arts, and were asked to draw a superhero.

Natalie Sturr to Retire

Natalie Sturr, Coordinator of Library Technology, will be retiring in July after 36 years at Oswego. Hired as a reference and science librarian, she embraced library technology as it evolved. Early projects included heading the library’s mediated search service, creating the library’s first gopher site, and creating online indexes of historical collections using WAIS technology—yes, all a long time ago.

She was involved with Oswego’s first online catalog (TOMUS) and worked on migrating from TOMUS to MultiLIS. She
learned to write MultiLIS reports (in French!) to share with other SUNY campuses. In 2000–2001, Oswego was a pilot site for Aleph. Natalie was involved with that migration project, sharing what she learned with OLIS. Since that time, she has spent part of her time working with OLIS to help support Aleph for the 57 campuses on the shared servers.

Within SUNYLA, she was a delegate in the 1980s, served as 2nd Vice President and planned the 15th annual conference held at SUNY Oswego in 1983, and later served as Secretary.

Many thanks to Natalie for her service and dedication. She will be missed! (Bonus: check out our Campus Technology note below for more on Natalie!)

**Easing Students’ Transition to College**

First-Year Experience Librarian **Michelle Bishop** continues to collaborate with K–16 educators to improve college transitions for high school students. In January, she was a member of a panel of college and K–12 educators who presented “College Ready? A Discussion With High School and College Educators” during SUNY Oswego’s professional development series. She will also be co-presenting a RUSA session called “Technologies That Enhance the First Year Experience” at the ALA Annual Conference.

**Faculty Teaching and Research Collections Grant**

This spring Penfield’s Special Acquisitions Committee awarded more than 15 grants to faculty members in 13 different subject areas. Grant recipients selected up to $500 worth of materials to add to the library collection. These materials will be used for everything from supporting new classes to enabling faculty research. We’ve really enjoyed this opportunity to support and celebrate the college faculty.

**Faculty and Professional Staff Recognized for Scholarly and Creative Activities**

On April 5, we held our 28th Annual Display to Archives Celebration. The Display to Archives program is Penfield Library’s ongoing effort to collect, recognize, exhibit, and promote access to the creative and scholarly work of SUNY Oswego’s faculty and professional staff. Our 2016 contributors included 30 faculty and professional staff from 19 departments, who collectively submitted 53 items to the College Archives.

**Community Service Maker Event**

We’ve been growing the library’s Maker Services for about a year now, including features such as a makerspace, maker events, and maker equipment that patrons can borrow. In February, Learning Technologies Librarian **Sharona Ginsberg** organized Making Kindness, an event bringing together creative “maker” skills with outreach and community service. Making Kindness brought together students interested in using creative skills to give back to the community.

The event was a huge success, with over 100 students attending. Projects included making cat and dog toys for the local animal shelter from old, repurposed clothing and
fabric scraps; creating cards and buttons for senior citizens at the local nursing home; and 3-D printing assistive devices for people with disabilities or limited physical ability. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and creativity from our students! We hope to run the event again next year and will look for even more ways our Maker Services can bring people together for good.

**Campus Technology: 20 Years Ago**

From 1997–2002, SUNY Oswego’s campus TV station ran a live show called Bits & Bytes that featured reports and interviews on campus technology. Coordinator of Library Technology Natalie Sturr has been digitizing the surviving episodes of Bits & Bytes, which are now available for streaming on Penfield’s website ([https://www.oswego.edu/library/bits-bytes](https://www.oswego.edu/library/bits-bytes)). Check out the episode from December 3, 1997, to see Natalie herself discussing technology in Penfield Library, demo-ing telnet access to the library catalog, and more.

**Penfield Loves You**

We held our annual Penfield Loves You celebration on February 14 this year! The focus of this event is to show our customers that our work isn’t just about helping them—we care about them, too. This year, we invited several student support services to staff tables at this event, so that students could ask questions and get help while availing themselves of tasty snacks and beverages. People also enjoyed the maker activities that were running during this event; many students made Valentine cards or buttons to share with their loved ones.

**Plattsburgh**

**Michelle Toth**

Library and Information Technology Services (LITS) created a Wellness Committee to engage faculty, staff, and students employed in the division with information, resources, and opportunities to improve wellness in a variety of areas, including physical activity, healthy eating, and mental and emotional health.

Construction continues on the elevated walkway adjacent to Feinberg Library this semester and will continue through the summer.

At the beginning of the spring semester **Michelle Toth** piloted a project for conducting online course-related one-shot library instruction sessions, with Joyce Miller (SUNY Adirondack) facilitating one of those sessions.
SUNY Polytechnic
Rebecca Hewitt

Allison Fiegli, Library Services and Resources Supervisor, successfully completed the ALCTS Fundamentals of Cataloging Web course in March, and continues to copy catalog new acquisitions. Thank you, Allison!

Shannon Pritting, Director of Library and Learning Resources, accepted a half-time appointment as Library Services Platform Project Director with the SUNY Office of Library Services. He will be working throughout the spring and summer on this project. Along with SUNY colleagues Carrie Marten and Jennifer Acker, Shannon is serving on the OCLC Advisory Group for development of the next-generation interlibrary loan software, Tipasa.


Rebecca Hewitt, Research, Outreach & Instruction Librarian, joined the SUNY Poly staff in October 2016 from Hartwick College. In March she coordinated two events to educate the SUNY Poly community about fake news: a workshop titled “Don’t Get Fooled Again: Avoid Ending Up a Fool on Facebook and a Twit on Twitter,” and a panel discussion, “The Ethos, Pathos, & Logos of Fake News.” The events attracted about 60 students, faculty, staff, and community members. Also in March Rebecca attended the 2017 ACRL Conference, where she was delighted to meet up with former mentee Amanda Mitchell (Delhi).

All at Cayan Library have been working diligently to build up our institutional repository and publicize faculty and staff research. In the first three months of 2017, 432 SUNY Poly documents from DSpace were downloaded and the library published 95 original tweets.

Purchase
Carrie Marten

Purchase College migrated over to a new website in March and we wanted to recognize the hard work of Marie Sciangula and Kimberley Detterbeck in making sure that the library’s web presence was ready for the change. The lead-up to the transition was challenging and the work has been ongoing since the switch. Thanks, Marie and Kim! Check out the new site at http://www.purchase.edu/library.

We want to welcome Kristen Heinrich to the library. Kristen joined the library in early January as the Interlibrary Loan Assistant/Circulation Supervisor. She has already had a positive impact in her role(s) and we are happy to have her here at Purchase. Kristen is currently finishing up her MLIS degree with University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She also will be attending the SUNYLA Conference, so you can all meet her there!
The library held its spring book sale April 18–19. Our book sales are always popular with students, faculty, and staff, and are held both in spring and fall.

On April 4, Purchase College Library hosted “Start Smart: Women’s Pay Negotiation Workshop.” This event, co-sponsored by the Career Development Center, the Purchase College Library, the Multicultural Center, and the SAF Diversity Committee, focused on practical information and building skills to help students secure fair salaries.

The Digital Collections Center (DCC) at Purchase has been busy. Formerly the Visual Resources Center (VRC), the office was renamed last fall to reflect an expanded scholarly communications mission. The DCC now serves faculty, staff, and students by providing educational resources for classroom teaching, research, and scholarship. Renewing the mission meant new scanning equipment, staff assistance, and collection diversity. The center also now has digital preservation protocol in place. Since onboarding full-time curator Mégan Oliver in January 2016, the DCC has expanded to include a part-time paid assistant, a recurring digital humanities internship every fall and spring, and an archives internship over the summer, plus several art history catalogers. All support staff at the DCC is student-based. This approach to running the center is two-fold: digital production is vastly increased, and emerging professionals are given training on library and archives standards, technical equipment, and content management systems.

And excitingly, the DCC is growing digital collections in a few ways with a few different platforms. Utilizing ARTstor’s Shared Shelf, archival collections on campus (oral histories, faculty music, art historical imagery, lectures, and campus publications) are now cataloged, published, and preserved for continuous online use. Purchase College Library is also working on a new collective access–based repository (currently in the beta stage) to provide access to senior projects. To date, these student-produced works span 44 years of Purchase history, and are vital in contextualizing contemporary and future research at the college. Finally, the DCC maintains a public-facing Omeka site, showcasing non-copyrighted collections. The Omeka site is especially useful in displaying digital works that promote diversity and inclusion. The Digital Collections Center at Purchase College Library is actively supported by both staff and administration, which allows operations to grow and succeed. If you have any questions, want to chat about methodology, or collaborate on future projects, conference presentations, or papers, please get in touch. The curator would love that: megan.oliver@purchase.edu OR lib.digital.collections@purchase.edu. SUNY Purchase Omeka: http://sunypurchaselibrary.omeka.net
University Libraries Dean Constantia Constantinou was elected as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect to the Americas Regional Council Executive Committee of the OCLC Global Council. Dean Constantinou was also elected to the Board of ARL Directors for the 2017–2020 term.

**Women’s History Month**
In honor of Women’s History Month, the Stony Brook University Libraries hosted a series of events, including a panel discussion highlighting the past, present, and future of women in STEM fields; literary karaoke in which participants read works by female authors; a panel of four scholars exploring the intersections between gender and other influential aspects of the human experience; and an engaging talk called “Managing Power & Load: A Primer for Working Women,” which explored McClusky’s theory of power-load-margin and its relevance for today’s working woman.

**Art Crawl**
The University Libraries was part of a campus-wide art crawl on April 7 from 3–6 p.m. This free guided tour of galleries included two areas in the Melville Library. Special Collections showcased an exhibit titled “Revolutionary Long Island: Early Manuscripts, Maps, and Art,” collections that document the history of Long Island from the earliest settlers through the present, with a strong emphasis on the period of the American Revolution through the War of 1812 (1764–1812). In the newly renovated North Reading Room, “Boisterous: Fine Arts Organization Student Exhibition” featured art by talented Stony Brook University students.

**Open Access**
The Stony Brook University Senate adopted an open access policy on February 6. This policy shows SBU’s commitment to disseminating the fruits of research and scholarship as widely as possible. Open access policies increase authors’ rights, readership, and citation rates for scholarly articles. The opt-out provision ensures that all faculty authors have the freedom to publish in the journal of their choice.

The key features of the policy include:

- Increases readership and citation rates
- Honors academic freedom and copyright
- Facilitates compliance with NIH and other public access policies
- Scholarly articles and conference proceedings
- Utilizes Green Open Access—accepted manuscripts after peer review—thus no article processing charges

The policy comes out of 18 months of close work between the SBU Senate Research and Library Services Committees and the SBU Libraries Center for Scholarly Communication.
The Open Access @ SBU site (http://library.stonybrook.edu/openaccess/) provides access to the open access policy, instructions on how to deposit articles, the policy FAQ, and the form to request a waiver, embargo, or addendum.

Suffolk
Dawn K. Wing

Dawn K. Wing, Media Librarian at SCCC’s Ammerman Campus, organized the successful “Making Origami Bookmarks” event on April 5. Students of the Asian Culture Club, co-advised by Dawn, participated in the event as well as students passing by the busy library lobby that day. Dawn, Professor Vera Hu-Hyneman (Department of Mathematics), and Professor Sheila Fox (Library) assisted in showing students how to make various origami bookmarks in the shape of a cat, samurai hat, and heart. To encourage exploration of this popular Japanese paper-folding art, origami books from the library collections were displayed.

To celebrate National Poetry Month, Dawn Wing helped the library kick off its inaugural Newspaper Blackout Poetry contest. Collaborating with the Society of Writers, the library promoted literary expression using lo-fi tools: markers, scissors, and old newspapers. On April 12, Society of Writers members and students passing through the library lobby came together to create newspaper poetry with Dawn’s assistance. The contest ended on Monday, April 17, and winners were determined by open ballot voting. Winners and prizes were announced on April 19, where special guest Nuyorican poet Jesus Papoleto conducted a special poetry writing workshop. Mr. Papoleto’s workshop was sponsored by the Association of Latin American Students and co-advised by librarian Lisa Melendez. Newspaper blackout contest entries will be displayed in the library lobby until the end of April.
The library’s SUNY-IITG grant-funded 3-D printer and One-Button Studio (OBS) are now up and running. Students of the Biology Club used the library’s 3-D printed smartphone microscope clips for a demonstration during the second annual STEM Club celebration on March 19. On April 26, Dawn Wing ran a Teaching and Learning Center workshop to show faculty how to use OBS equipment and edit videos using WeVideo. For faculty unable to attend this workshop in-person, Dawn promoted this resource at faculty department meetings and shared an informational video about the OBS she had produced. The video can be found at https://tinyurl.com/ltus66n. The origami bookmark and newspaper blackout events were Dawn’s first library Makerspace and student activities collaborations she coordinated. She is grateful to head librarian Susan Lieberthal for her support, ideas, and promotion of these creative community engagement events at the library.

**Tompkins Cortland**

**Karla Block**

Adjunct librarian Ben Wrubel has begun a digitization project that will bring a selection of the College Archives to the SUNY Digital Repository. The project will digitize the early student newspapers of the college, providing an interesting look into student life at Tompkins Cortland Community College in the 1960s–70s. The first batch of newspapers have been uploaded and are viewable at https://dspace.sunyconnect.suny.edu.

Tompkins Cortland librarians have been working with faculty members to create course packets that serve as much cheaper alternatives to traditional textbooks using articles and stories available through existing subscriptions, documents in the public domain, and rights secured through the Copyright Clearance Center. The course packets can then be printed in-house at our print shop and sold at the bookstore for about $10–15, a fraction of the cost of a published anthology or course packet created by a third-party vendor. Other instructors have chosen to distribute the course readings to students electronically via Blackboard. In either situation, these course packets can save students more than $100 per course, which can then go to housing, food, and other living expenses. We hope that by saving students additional money on their textbooks, they will have the funds to stay in school and complete their degrees. Librarians presented the idea at a faculty meeting this fall, and since then we have seen interest in using course packets continue to grow. We have secured the rights for over 120 items for use in six separate course packets for the spring semester, and expect to create many more for the fall.

Librarian Karla Block will serve as an external award reviewer for larger outreach awards for the 2017–18 budget year for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Middle Atlantic Region (MAR).

We celebrated student employees on campus in conjunction with National Student Employee Appreciation Week from April 3–6. The Library/Baker Commons employs approximately one-quarter of the student workers on campus. Activities were held...
throughout the week. On Monday, student employees were given a coupon for free coffee (donated by the Alumni Association and American Food & Vending). Tuesday featured a taco lunch (approximately 70 students in attendance), while Wednesday highlighted a murder mystery dinner (approximately 80 students in attendance, with each receiving a mystery gift bag including snacks, cleaning supplies, and more). Finally, student employees were treated to ice cream floats on Thursday. The library’s **Lucy Yang** and Baker Commons’ **Marilyn Webb** serve on the Student Employee committee, which was responsible for the week’s activities.

**Ulster**

**Marla Gruner**

**Judith Capurso**, Associate Librarian, and **Kristin Flynn** in the Fashion Department collaborated to inspire future designers. Judy brought a collection of art books to class as a pop-up library and the students used the artworks as inspiration for their designs. The resulting works were put into a display case in the library for all to see.

In Fall 2016, SUNY Ulster welcomed **Sapphire** for the Herbert and Sophia P. Reuner Library Writers’ Series. Sapphire is the author of two bestselling novels, *Push* and *The Kid*. *Push* was made into the Academy Award–winning major motion film, *Precious*. The film adaptation received Academy awards for Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress. Sapphire is also the author of two collections of poetry. Sapphire’s presentation, poetry, novels, and the film *Precious* all speak to issues of empowerment and overcoming adversity. After a packed morning Q&A and reading, Sapphire led a writing workshop with local high school students at the Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster.
Taylor Mali was the guest speaker for the Ellen Robbins Poetry Forum on April 6. Mali is one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement and one of the original poets to appear on the HBO series “Def Poetry Jam.” He is a four-time National Poetry Slam champion and the author of four books, including *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World*. After a morning Q&A and reading attended by Ulster students, staff, and faculty, as well as local high school students, Mali held a workshop with several Ulster English classes. Both events were made possible by Kari Mack, Director of Library Services, who worked with Dolores Quiles, Professor of English, and the Ulster County Community College Foundation. Somehow, they seem to get better each year!

Students are enjoying our LibCal upgrade which allows them to reserve online one of three group study rooms. Previously, the rooms were available only on a first-come, first-served basis. We are also seeing an uptick in requests for appointments with librarians.

Marla Gruner and Tess Hartman-Cullen will be presenting at SENYCON (Southeastern New York Library Resources Council’s conference). They will be discussing Ulster’s Partner Librarian program, instituted in Fall 2016.

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**President’s Message**

Our final council meeting of the year will be on June 14 at 10 a.m. at Stony Brook University. All SUNYLA members are invited to attend either in person or virtually. There will also be a brief general member meeting over lunch on June 15. I hope to see you all at Stony Brook’s beautiful and unique campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve SUNYLA as president. I have truly enjoyed my time as president of this great organization and have no doubt that Carrie Fishner will do a great job continuing to lead SUNYLA, and I look forward to working with everyone in the future to serve our library communities.

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**SUNYLA Conference 2017**

common area as well as a recreational/TV lounge and coin-operated laundry facilities.

Above all, come to SUNYLA 2017 to learn from and share with your library colleagues. We look forward to seeing you at Stony Brook University on June 14–16, 2017!

**National Model United Nations Conference Report**

Andrea Kingston
Digital Scholarship Librarian
Monroe Community College

I am grateful that a SUNYLA Professional Development Grant helped make it possible for me to accompany our Model UN student delegates and faculty to the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City in April.

At Monroe Community College, the Model UN program is an honors-level political science class rather than a club, and since starting in my position in September 2015, I have been the designated librarian for the course. As an embedded librarian, I get the students started on their extensive research by creating an in-depth libguide that they use throughout the semester and teaching a 90-minute class devoted to UN-specific research. I provide the students with their first assignment for the class, a team-based research project that culminates in an oral presentation. This gets them started on learning about their assigned topics for the conference. I also meet with each student at least once during the
semester to assist them with their research. After my first year, I realized that the missing puzzle piece for me was my lack of understanding about what exactly was involved in the five-day conference that was the culmination of the course. Therefore, I made plans to go to this year’s conference with the students and faculty so I could better assess the students’ information needs.

A chartered bus delivered our 13 student delegates, three other faculty members, and me to the conference hotel in midtown Manhattan on April 8. There our delegates—representing Samoa—joined approximately 2,500 other student delegates from around the world for the conference, which took place in two large hotels and culminated in a visit to the United Nations headquarters. During the opening ceremony, we were treated to a moving speech by Kenyan UN Ambassador Macharia Kamau about sustainable development and how individuals can make a difference in the world. The next day, our delegation had a private, 90-minute meeting with Samoan UN Ambassador Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia. Mr. Elisaia spoke to the students at length about Samoa, and then thoughtfully answered the students’ questions before posing for photos with each of them.

Committee sessions had commenced right after the opening ceremony and continued intermittently all week. Our students were part of six committees—three General Assembly Committees, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Assembly, and the UN Development Programme—and each team of two student delegates was prepared to discuss three pre-assigned committee topics. The end goal of each committee was to collaboratively prepare resolutions or reports to submit to the Model UN Secretariat, and this process involved a lot of debate and caucusing one-on-one and in small groups, which I was fortunate to be able to observe. On the final day, some of the committees held their last sessions in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters. Then the rest of us joined them there for the closing ceremony and awards. To our delight, our delegates received a Distinguished Delegation award, a much-deserved recognition for all of their hard work and professional demeanor.

Accompanying the students to the conference was a great experience. First of all, witnessing how far they had progressed over the course of the semester was very rewarding. Also, seeing them and other student delegates in action helped me understand what is involved in the Model UN process, something I did not participate in when I was a student. As a result, I am going to make several changes to how I help prepare the students going forward. For example, I am going to expand the scope of the libguide to include more information about potential regional and global partners of the country we represent, so the students have a better grasp of which countries are likely allies without having to hunt for that information. I am also going to create an interactive forum where the students can discuss their topics and research, as well as provide tips for future delegates. And I am going to add information about New York City to the guide, in order to help students make the most of their precious downtime during the conference. I am looking forward to brainstorming about other ways I can expand and improve the information resources I provide to the students. It’s a fun and rewarding project.
Submit contributions for the October 2017 issue to April Davies
DaviesAC@cobleskill.edu
Deadline: September 15, 2017

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