REGULAR FEATURES

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It is with great honor that I sit down to write this opening message to you as the Interim Audrey Geisel University Librarian. As another successful fall quarter comes to a close, I’d like to share a few key updates about how the UC San Diego Library is evolving and preparing for the future.

The most evident sign of change at the Library has been the continued physical transformation of our flagship building. As part of the Geisel Library Revitalization Initiative (GLRI), Geisel’s 8th (top) floor closed in September to create a modern space for silent study. Construction crews have also started renovating the restrooms on floors 4 - 7 to include gender-neutral and ADA compliant restrooms. Floors 4 - 7 will remain open throughout the construction and the 8th floor is anticipated to reopen in spring 2018.

Within the past few months, we have welcomed several new strategic librarians to the Library. These individuals—highlighted on page 5—bring a fresh perspective and a wealth of knowledge to our campus that will allow us to continue to offer specialized research services and support the development of our collections. With the hiring of a scholarly communications librarian, we are further expanding our services to educate and support the university’s academic community in new ways, which you can read more about on page 3.

Our Q&A features Rob Knight, renowned researcher and faculty member in the Departments of Pediatrics and Computer Science & Engineering, and the director of the UC San Diego Center for Microbiome Innovation. Knight collaborated with the Library in October on a lecture about the importance of the microbiome and its impact on our health. You can view his talk on the UCTV Library Channel at uctv.tv/library-channel/.

As we look back on 2017, this is also a time to look at what lies ahead. The search for a new University Librarian is well underway, and campus has received applications from high-caliber candidates nationwide. Interviews for Students Affairs, and the UCSD Alumni Association, recognizes students who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate an incredible ability to identify, evaluate, and synthesize information resources and use them in the creation of original work. Awards are given in two categories: Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Physical and Life Sciences. They also include a cash award of $1,000 and $500 for first and second place, respectively.

"It’s very rewarding to see the students’ passions, growth as scholars, and their special relationships with their faculty mentors," said Tammy Nickelson Dearie, Interim University Librarian. "While the winning entries showcase the rich intellectual diversity of student research taking place across campus, there’s a common thread. Each of these students deepened their research experience by investing extra time and effort in using the resources in the UC San Diego Library."

In the Life and Physical Sciences category, First Prize was awarded to Yuanhao (Jerry) Qu, a Warren College sophomore, for his research on the role of HPV in the pathogenesis of head and neck cancer through piwi-interacting RNAs (piRNAs). Qu conducted his research in Dr. Weg Ongkeko’s lab at the Veteran’s Hospital. Maryanne Beckwith, nominated by Professor Lisa Levin at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, won Second Prize for her research on demersal fish communities in the Gulf of California. Beckwith utilized and translated some of the Library’s scientific studies that were only available in Spanish.

First Prize in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities category went to Sarah Prentiss for her research on women and feminine identity in plays during the Restoration period in England. Her advisor was Professor Janet Smarr in the Theater Department. Second Prize was awarded to Megan Finch, nominated by Sociology Assistant Professor Kevin Lewis, for her analysis of the impact of divorce on college students’ behavior and identity in romantic relationships.

Faculty are encouraged to nominate qualified students. For additional information and the criteria for submissions (due in spring 2018), please visit lib.ucsd.edu/undergrad-research-prize.
The systems of scholarly communication in higher education are undergoing rapid changes, and the UC San Diego Library recognizes there are diverse opportunities to shepherd these transformations on our campus.

To support the academic community at UC San Diego, the Library has recently hired a scholarly communications librarian, Allegra Swift, to develop resources and services to improve the reach, impact, and sustainability of scholarship and research produced at this university.

Partnering with the existing Scholarly Communication Working Group (SCWG), and librarians and specialists across the Library, Swift has begun to define strategies to support scholars and researchers from different disciplines and career stages as they navigate the evolving scholarly communication landscape.

The changes in the systems in which authors create, collaborate, evaluate, disseminate, and preserve their research and scholarship present new challenges and opportunities. The proliferation of steep author processing charges is an increasingly common obstacle to publishing in the fields of science, technology, and medicine.

Support is offered in the form of individual consultations, group events, departmental workshops, online guides and tutorials, and opportunities to partner on innovative scholarly communication initiatives on campus and in the wider academic community.

In the humanities and social sciences, the options for traditional monograph publishing are decreasing. In addition, publishers expect authors to promote their work, funders require public access to taxpayer funded research publications and data, and institutions must demonstrate the impact of research and scholarship outputs and report this impact to campus stakeholders, funders, policy makers, and the public.

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TAMMY N. DEARIE, THE INTERIM AUDREY GEISEL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

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The scholarly communications librarian is working on developing an initial set of services and resources that focus on:

- Copyright for both the users of and creators of copyrighted work
- Measurement and communication of impact metrics
- Reputation management and scholarly identity
- Visibility and access to academic contributions
- Publication opportunities
- Navigation of public access requirements and UC open access policies

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Input from faculty is necessary to ensure that the Library continues to support the needs of the UC San Diego academic community in effectively communicating the results of their research and scholarship. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. To learn more, visit lib.ucsd.edu/schol-comm. Please send your questions, comments, or requests to Allegra Swift at scholcomm@ucsd.edu.
Rob Knight, a renowned researcher and professor of Pediatrics and Computer Science & Engineering at UC San Diego, is also the founding director of the UC San Diego Center for Microbiome Innovation. As a top expert on microbiome research, Knight specializes in advanced computational tools and methods for reading microbial communities. His work has linked microbes to a range of health conditions including obesity and inflammatory bowel disease, has enhanced our understanding of microbes in environments ranging from the oceans to the tundra, and has made high-throughput sequencing techniques accessible to thousands of researchers worldwide.

Knight has published several hundred scientific papers and is the author of two books—Follow Your Gut: The Enormous Impact of Tiny Microbes (Simon & Schuster, 2015) and Dirt is Good: The Advantage of Germs for Your Child’s Development. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as the American Academy of Microbiology. In 2017, Knight was awarded the Vilcek Prize in Creative Promise for contributions in the biomedical sciences and in 2015, received the Massry Prize for his substantial contributions to the biomedical sciences and the advancement of health. How did you feel when you were notified about the award? What are your current research interests?

Q: It’s been two years since you were chosen to lead the Center for Microbiome Innovation following the launch of the UC San Diego Microbiome and Microbial Sciences Initiative. How is the Center furthering the university’s goal of advancing the understanding of microbial ecosystems?

A: The Center is uniting over 120 faculty across campus and an increasing group of companies with expertise in sample handling, data science, and applications to create and deploy the next generation of microbiome technologies. This enables a broad range of researchers to understand the role of the microbiome in settings from corals to cancers, from soils to steatosis, and from forensics to food.

Q: Could you update us on the research that has been done in the past two years?

A: We have published several hundred scientific papers, developed completely new pipelines for generating and handling microbiome data, and performed DNA sequencing and metabolomics for over 100,000 microbiome samples.

Q: Can you tell us about the emerging opportunities for microbiome research and current challenges in the field?

A: Some of the key challenges are making microbiome data acquisition and analysis faster and cheaper, improving workforce training, increasing integration of other data (e.g. wearable sensors and satellite imaging) and developing reference datasets and standards. Funding all these efforts and the inspiring group of students who work on them is also a challenge.

Q: This summer, you were one of three recipients honored with the Massry Prize which recognizes outstanding contributions to the biomedical sciences and the advancement of health. How did you feel when you were notified about the award? What are your current research interests?

A: I was astonished and humbled to be in the company of Dr. Jeffrey Gordon and Norman Pace, who are two of my scientific heroes and who have contributed so much to the field. My current research interests are focused around enabling large-scale studies of microbiome dynamics, and links to human and environmental health.

Q: Much of your work has been based on microbiome research, a field that has become a buzzword recently in medicine. When did you first become interested in microbes and their connection to our immune systems?

A: Microbes: as an undergraduate, learning about how Agrobacterium can naturally genetically engineer plants. Connection to immune systems: I recognize its importance but am still not personally interested in immunology, highlighting the necessity of interdisciplinary collaboration if we are to solve these hard systems-level problems.

Q: You’ve worked with a variety of departments on campus and have brought the scientific community together in order to be at the forefront of a rapidly emerging field that holds great potential for widespread social and economic benefits. What do you hope to see five, ten years from now? What’s the next frontier for the human microbiome?

A: The immediate next frontier is using the microbiome to help understand why different people differ so much in their response to the same diet, or drugs. Ten years from now I think we will see companion diagnostics on the market, and drugs that target the microbiome itself in the pipeline, likely in clinical trials. I hope we will provide tools to make each person’s microbiome visible to them so we can start to understand the impacts our actions have.

Q: What books are on your nightstand (or on your iPad) that you’d care to tell us about?

A: Currently: Atlas Obscura, American Gods, The Disease Delusion, and several other books on data visualization and statistics.
Within the last six months, some key staff members have joined the ranks of the UC San Diego Library. These new positions are in direct support of the objectives and initiatives of the Library’s Strategic Plan.

Allegra Swift, for example, has been hired as UC San Diego Library’s first full-time scholarly communications librarian. Swift joined the Library in June coming from the Claremont Colleges where she held the position of scholarly communications and publishing coordinator.

At UC San Diego, she will build on the foundation set by the Scholarly Communication Working Group and the Academic Services librarians who have worked part-time in this capacity over the last five years. In this position, Swift will continue to help educate the campus community on how to navigate the rapidly changing scholarly communication landscape and amplify the reach and visibility of the university’s research and scholarship.

“Our goal is to be a fully integrated resource for all stages of the research lifecycle, from planning to literature searching to data collection, analysis, and management to publication and promotion of one’s scholarly work.”

ANNELISE SKLAR

“This is a particularly dynamic time for scholarly communication. As we continue to explore new opportunities to share and publish research findings, we must understand what support academics actually need.”

ALLEGRA SWIFT

Annelise Sklar offers specialized research support to the university as Research Advisory Services’ assistant program director and research services coordinator. Sklar joined the UC San Diego Library in 2007. Throughout her ten-year career at the Library, she’s held many different roles including subject librarian for political science, law & society, international studies, and international government information; interim data services librarian; assistant department head for data, government information, and GIS; interim head of the former Social Sciences and Humanities Library; and social sciences collection coordinator.

“Academic libraries are striving to hit the right balance between print collections, digital collections, services, and study space,” said Sklar. “Our goal is to be a fully integrated resource for all stages of the research lifecycle, from planning to literature searching to data collection, analysis, and management to publication and promotion of one’s scholarly work.”

Nina Mamikunian joined the Library in July as the subject librarian for literature, theatre and dance, with responsibility for the continued support and development of the Archive for New Poetry. Mamikunian came from UCLA’s Charles E. Young Research Library.

“Whether it’s about books and databases or putting on events, we welcome faculty’s input and we love to try out new ideas.”

NINA MAMIKUNIAN

View faculty file online at library.ucsd.edu/about/pubs
where she was the humanities and social sciences liaison librarian. Mamikunian’s work with collection development and the Archive for New Poetry will enable Library users to interact with the Library’s Special Collections & Archives in new ways.

Mamikunian has incorporated her strong interest in rare books and archives into her liaison work. In addition, she teaches Library instruction sessions and provides individual consultations with faculty and students. As the curator for the Archive for New Poetry, she’s currently working on incorporating more digital projects that showcase the unique materials of this comprehensive research collection of poetry and poetics.

“I’m thrilled to see how the Library can be a partner in and champion for the work that faculty and students do,” added Mamikunian. “We’re always excited to talk to them. Whether it’s about books and databases or putting on events, we welcome faculty’s input and we love to try out new ideas.”

For more information relating to these librarians’ specialties and how they can support you, please contact:

- Allegra Swift at aswift@ucsd.edu
- Annelise Sklar at asklar@ucsd.edu
- Nina Mamikunian at nmamikunian@ucsd.edu

We Want to Hear from You

In an effort to better understand faculty needs and interests, we invite you to participate in our survey at bit.ly/FacultyFile by January 31, 2018. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve our services and communications. If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Kolupailo, editor.

Your feedback on faculty file is welcome

Please send your comments and suggestions to:
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