

Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice

News

Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

Jacob Gordon

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2024 Pennsylvania Library Association Award Winners

Library of the Year Award:

Weinberg Memorial Library, University of Scranton

Trustee of the Year Award:

Philip Whitehurst, Clymer Library

Elected Official Award:

Timothy DeFoor, Auditor General

New Professional Librarian Honors Award:

Sara Kern, Engineering Library, Penn State University - University Park

Certificate of Merit Award:

Brenda Beikert, Knox Public Library

Emily Reed, Madlyn L. Hanes Library, Penn State University - Harrisburg

Heather Weleski, Avalon Public Library

Distinguished Service Award:

Melinda Tanner, Westmoreland Federated Library System

Sue Kellerman to Retire from Penn State University Libraries After Decades of Leadership to Preserve Newspapers and Library Collections Through the Commonwealth



Sue Kellerman outside the Penn State University's Pattee Library Mall Entrance. Photo provided by Bethann Rea

After nearly 40 years with Penn State University, Sue Kellerman, Judith O. Sieg Chair for Preservation and head of Preservation Conservation and Digitization, retired on June 30, 2024. Penn State University Libraries and professional communities have benefited immeasurably from her contributions. She earned tenure in 1995, was named the Judith O. Sieg Chair in 1999, and was promoted to full Librarian in 2004.

A Penn State alum, Sue started as a project site librarian for microfilming Pennsylvania newspapers, and throughout her career has also served as Serials Record/Binding Librarian, Acting Head of the Receiving Section, Preservation/Serials Librarian, and as Penn State's inaugural Preservation Librarian. Sue created Penn State's digitization program, preservation program, and a conservation program, and helped bring in significant endowments and grant funding. Her research interests and scholarship covered various preservation topics, including digitization, and historic Pennsylvania newspapers.

Fulfilling a decade's-old vision, Sue established the Penn State University Libraries Conservation Centre in 2019 with the goals of preserving and conserving collections; providing conservation services for Penn State's campuses and museums; mentoring students and preparing them for careers in conservation, libraries, and museums; and establishing a center for collaborative and cross disciplinary scientific research.

In retirement, Sue plans to travel to Scotland, Paris, and Alaska and to attend as many family and friend outings as possible including playing badminton with her great nephew. She also intends to volunteer at local historic preservation organizations.

Submitted by Bethann Rea and Jane Ingold, Penn State University Libraries

New Head of Research Instruction & Outreach For Widener University

Widener University is delighted to announce that Heather Burychka has been promoted to Head of Research, Instruction, & Outreach at the Wolfgram Memorial Library. Heather brings extensive experience from her work in the academic libraries of Gwynedd Mercy University, Delaware County Community College, Newman University, and

the University of Pennsylvania. Her commitment to advancing our information literacy program, research support, and outreach initiatives is commendable.

Since joining Widener in August 2023 as the Information Literacy Coordinator, Heather has significantly enhanced the Information Literacy program and expanded the librarians' understanding of pedagogy, assessment, and best practices.

In her new role, Heather will be responsible for the development and implementation of innovative research services, instructional programs, and outreach efforts designed to promote academic excellence and community engagement. Her leadership will be crucial in furthering the library's mission to align with the educational objectives of our institution. Her strategic vision and collaborative approach will undoubtedly strengthen the library's position as a pivotal center for academic resources and support.

Submitted by Molly Wolf, Wolfgram Memorial Library at Widener University

Meyersdale Library has "Got News??"

When Meyersdale's local weekly newspaper, The New Republic, shut down, it left an information void. While the Gannett-owned Daily American still published, it relegated most information about local events to its online version. With the digital divide running deep through Somerset County, the Meyersdale Public Library stepped in to fill the gap. The free "Got News??" newsletter was born!

Library Director Terri Foster created the first issue Thanksgiving week of 2022, to highlight local events for the holiday season. The first distribution was at the Meyersdale Christmas at the Manor/Small Business Saturday event. It was a resounding hit, and the library has continued to assemble and print it weekly. Volunteers deliver newsletters to area businesses that are willing to make them available.

"Got News??" has grown from a single letter-size publication to a folded legal-size newsletter, and finally --thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to purchase a new printer -- to a folded 11x17 sheet. Occasionally, there is an added insert. It is also available online at www.meyersdalelibrary.org/got-news.



Terri Foster holding an issue of *Got News??* in the Meyersdale Library. Photo provided by Terri Foster.

High school senior Hannah Roush is now the volunteer "Got News??" Editor, with Library Director Foster stepping back to Executive Editor tasks of general oversight. "Got News??" publishes community events by public schools and nonprofits in Southern Somerset County, and local/county government notices. It does not carry for-profit advertisements, nor does it take editorial stands.

"Got News??" has created much goodwill for the library at a time when many libraries struggle with challenges. People note their love for "Got News??" when they send Annual Appeal donations. The local Merchants Association donates funding for paper. Borough Council members praise the newsletter. It may be the most popular thing the library has ever done!

Submitted by Terri Foster, Meyersdale Public Library

Penn State University Library New Hires for 2024

C.R. Elliott has accepted the position of STEM Librarian in the Fletcher L. Byrom Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS) Library at University Park. Their start date is July 11, 2024. Elliott will be the subject specialist and liaison for the departments of Geography, Geosciences, and Meteorology. Elliott earned their Master of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS) from Valdosta State University following a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Information Technology from Middle Georgia State University. They have published on science information literacy, equitable pedagogy, and are currently editing a book on cognitive overload and learning.

Salaheldin (Salah) Seoudi has accepted the position of Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian on the University Park campus starting on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Seoudi will play a key role as the liaison to the College of Liberal Arts, particularly for the Departments of African American Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and the African Studies program. Salah holds a Master of Science in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from the American University in Cairo, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Sussex.

Katie O'Hara-Krebs has accepted the position of Communications and Business Liaison Librarian in the Schreyer Business Library on the University Park campus. She will be serving as the subject specialist and liaison for advertising/public relations, telecommunications, and marketing starting on Monday, September 23, 2024. O'Hara-Krebs has worked at the University Libraries previously as Library Assistant in Microforms and Government Information and as an intern in Reference Services and Library Learning Services. O'Hara-Krebs earned her Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from the College of Communications at Penn State and her Master of Science in Information from Drexel University.

Submitted by Jill Shockey, Penn State University Libraries