Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library

What’s cooking at Briggs?

Goulash, chislic, jello salad — those family recipes you grew up with are finding a home online. Briggs Library is collecting South Dakota cookbooks to digitize and add to the institutional repository, Open PRAIRIE. Cookbooks compiled and distributed by South Dakota schools, churches, families and other community organizations are being accepted by Archives and Special Collections.

The seed for the South Dakota Community Cookbook Collection began with an offhand suggestion of the idea from Vice President for Information Technology and Safety Mike Adelaine. Archivist Michele Christian found a lot of excitement for the concept among her staff, and the project got rolling this summer. Since then, Archives has received 136 donated cookbooks, and that number continues to grow.

“It’s been going nice and steady. We get in a few dozen cookbooks a month, so we’re still in the collecting stage,” Christian said.

After cataloging the books and adding them to the Special Collections, library staff will seek permissions from the cookbooks’ creators and publishers. Then the materials will be digitized and included on Open PRAIRIE where they can

Notes from the Chief University Librarian

As we start a new year, library staff are looking forward to 2017 for a very special reason. SDSU’s Hilton M. Briggs Library building opened in the fall of 1977 -- 40 years ago. We are beginning a planning process to celebrate what the library has meant to the education, scholarship, and learning of thousands of SDSU students and faculty as well as the surrounding community. Our patrons use the building for a variety of activities ranging from sleeping on the couches to making significant discoveries (perhaps at the same time!). While we are glad to provide a place of respite from the toils of studying, we especially glory in those “aha” moments that occur from the juxtaposition of information and knowledge mixed with curiosity and insight.

Our goals for the 40th Anniversary Celebration include: recognizing the importance of Briggs Library to the university and regional community; acknowledging the contributions of past students, faculty, and library supporters; and looking forward to the library of the future.

For those of you who have hit the 40-year mark, you know that it takes a little extra effort to look your best. So, too, with our building. Thus, we are embarking on a process to refresh Briggs. There is a long history of good stewardship of the library building and materials. Indeed, our students are still using some of the same furniture that was original in 1977. While sturdy and durable, the chairs and tables are definitely starting to show their age after decades of use! With that in mind, we have contracted with an architectural firm (RATIO) to help us develop preliminary plans for updating the design and furnishings.

We welcome your suggestions on how the library can be refreshed. Also, as we move into this anniversary year, we would love to hear about your favorite memories of Briggs Library. Please feel free to reach out to us in person, by phone, by e-mail or through social media.

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Smithsonian exhibit on African-Native American identity arrives

History of the dual ancestry explored

The Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas has made a stop at Briggs Library on its national tour. The exhibit focuses on the seldom-viewed history and complex lives of people of dual African American and Native American ancestry. Through the themes of policy, community, creative resistance and lifestyles, the exhibition tells stories of cultural integration and diffusion as well as the struggle to define and preserve identity.

“The topic of African-Native Americans is one that touches a great number of individuals through family histories, tribal histories and personal identities,” said Kevin Gover (Pawnee), director of the National Museum of the American Indian. “We find commonalities in our shared past of genocide, alienation from our ancestral homelands, and the exhibition acknowledges the strength and resilience we recognize in one another today.”

The exhibit remains on view to the public until Feb. 28 on the third floor of Briggs Library. The closing reception for IndiVisible will be Feb. 22 at 7 pm at the library. An online version of the exhibition is available at www.americanindian.si.edu/exhibitions/indivisible.

IndiVisible was produced by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, the National Museum of African-American History and Culture and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibition was made possible in part thanks to the generous support of the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center, and anonymous donors.

Marghab linens donated

The SDSU Archives and Special Collections recently received a generous gift of world-renowned Marghab linens from an anonymous donor. The 16-piece set of matching placemats and napkins supplements the personal and professional papers in the existing Vera Way Marghab Collection that is held by Archives.

Vera Way Marghab was from Watertown, SD. She co-founded a fine linens business with her husband in Madeira in 1933. Marghab Linens, Ltd. was known for its high quality of fabric and perfection of the detailed hand embroidered designs, created by Vera.

Briggs Library photo

I periodically receive requests for book recommendations. Here is a sampling of 10 books with a regional flavor (SD or MN) that I enjoyed in 2016.

1. Aurelia: A Crow Creek Trilogy by Elizabeth Cook-Lynn
2. Buffalo for the Broken Heart by Dan O’Brien
4. Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse by Faith Sullivan
5. The Murder Trial of the Last Lakota Warrior by Steve Linstrom
6. The Music of Failure by Bill Holm
7. The North Country Reader: Classic Stories by Minnesota Writers edited by Jean Ervin
8. Portable Prairie by M.J. Anderson
9. The Round House by Louise Erdrich
10. The Work of Wolves by Kent Meyers
Cookbooks, continued from page 1

be freely searched worldwide.
With every cookbook collected that
holds those recipes submitted by your
family and neighbors, another element of
South Dakota history is captured.
“We are a land-grant institution and part
of our mission is to reach out into the
community and exchange ideas,” Christian said. “These cookbooks preserve part of South Dakota’s heritage and cul-
ture.”
The Archives staff plans to work on the
project as time allows.
“There’s no end date. We’ll continue to
collect for as long as people are willing to
give,” Christian said.
Like the staff, people are enthusiastic to
participate in the project, Christian said.
“Donors seem very excited about the
possibility of having a cookbook online
for anyone in the world to see,” she said.
Those interested in the South Dakota
Community Cookbook Collection can
e-mail Archives at arcrefs@sdstate.edu or
or contact Christian at michele.christian
@sdstate.edu or 605-688-5094.
EVENTS AT BRIGGS LIBRARY

Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library are welcome at these upcoming events.

- **Feb. 22:** Exhibit reception – The public is welcome to a closing reception of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition *IndiVisible* (see page 2), which will include remarks and a short film. *7 pm in Archives*

- **March 28:** Cookbook talk – To celebrate the South Dakota Community Cookbook Collection (see page 1), SDSU Extension Food and Families Program Director Suzanne Stluka will talk about the cultural impact of cooking and food in South Dakota. *7 pm in Archives*

- **April 20:** Magazine launch – The SDSU student literary and arts magazine, *Oakwood*, will celebrate the publication of its 2017 issue. *7 pm in Archives*

Explore Briggs Online!

*A Digital Library of South Dakota Highlight*

A mascot can take all sorts of forms! This 1970 campus winter scene show two unidentified men holding an SDSU banner with a Jackrabbit snowbunny.

More photos of South Dakota State as a winter wonderland, dating back to the 1920s, can be found at the Digital Library of South Dakota (dlsd.sdln.net).

Thank you to our Friends for your support and best wishes for the New Year!