World War I and South Dakota State
Exhibits look at war’s impact on people and campus

There are a lot of facts and stories out there about World War I, especially as this year marks the 100th anniversary of the United States’ entrance into the conflict, but do you know the South Dakota State story? The Archives & Special Collections and the Government Documents department at Briggs Library have created a number of exhibits that detail how the Great War (1914-1918) affected campus life and people. The exhibit *Over Here: South Dakota State During World War I* details the contributions of State to the war effort. Military exercises were carried out on campus, a women’s dorm was converted into barracks for trainees, and emergency courses were offered. Some of these additional courses, like auto mechanics, continued after the war. The school offered training to improve food production and preservation endeavors as well. The Extension Service, which had just been introduced at State in 1917 and started with 14 agents, expanded across South Dakota and had 47 agents by the end of the war. *Over Here* also reveals the human impact of WWI at State. More than 400 students and graduates entered the service, of which 27 lost their lives. About one-fourth of the faculty positions were vacant by August 1918 due to staff leaving for the war. Wartime artwork is the subject of the *Harvey Dunn: American Expeditionary Force Artist 1918-World War I and South Dakota State*

Company A of the Student Army Training Corps pose for a photo on the South Dakota State College campus in 1918. The school conducted two divisions of this training corps during World War One. *(Briggs Library photo)*

Notes from the Chief University Librarian

One of the reasons libraries are such special places is because you are surrounded by stories. For example, our Briggs Library shelves are filled with stories about engineering innovations, nursing practice improvements, precision agriculture, and experimental teaching methods, in addition to biographies, fiction, plays, and poems. When you work in the library you also have the chance to be involved with the stories of the people who use the resources. It’s energizing to hear about the dreams of our SDSU students as they pursue their education. Maybe they plan to investigate cures for cancer, do marketing and design for a major corporation, take over the family farm, or continue their studies abroad. In the University Archives we often hear from alumni reliving memories of Hobo Day festivities, club activities, and sporting events. Do you have a story you’d like to share? In preparation for our 40th anniversary celebration this coming fall, we are asking SDSU faculty and alumni to contribute a story about either a book they particularly loved or a library experience that was memorable. If you are interested in being involved in this effort, please submit your 500-word story by July 1st to Library Operations Manager, Emmeline Elliott (Emmeline.Elliott@sdstate.edu).
Davidson elected to national ACRL board

Jeanne Davidson, Head of Public Services at Hilton M. Briggs Library, was recently elected to serve on the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Board of Directors as a Director-At-Large. Davidson will begin her four-year term July 1.

“I’m honored and excited to be elected to the Board,” Davidson said.

As a board member, she will share the unique perspective of rural academic libraries, including the land-grant mission. Davidson also looks forward to the information she can apply to Briggs Library from ACRL.

“I can bring back to SDSU the strategic direction and cutting edge information available from the ACRL Board to help us recognize what’s coming to the library world. I can also help SDSU librarians navigate ACRL in their service to the profession,” she said.

“Jeanne’s election to the ACRL Board of Directors is a win for her personally but also for SDSU and the state of South Dakota. Not only does it provide recognition for South Dakota at a national level, it gives us a direct voice at the table to help shape library services into the future,” Briggs Library Chief University Librarian Kristi Tornquist said.

Davidson has been active with ACRL since 1997. She has served in a number of roles in the association, primarily in the Science & Technology Section, and participated with and chaired many ACRL committees. In her position as a Director-At-Large, Davidson will act as a liaison to several units within the organization and help set the direction of the association overall.

Davidson, who came to Briggs Library in July 2014, has an M.L.S. from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and brings experience from Oregon State University, Arizona State University and Portland State University.

The ACRL is a division of the American Library Association representing librarians in higher education and promoting professional growth in the field.

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1919 exhibit. It features a selection of Dunn’s images from the National Archives. Dunn, who came to State as a preparatory student in 1901, spent nearly a year in France with troops capturing their experiences and emotions using charcoal, crayon, pastels, watercolors and oil.

A display on Edgar Sharp McFadden, famed wheat geneticist and 1918 State graduate, includes copies of his Order of Induction and Honorable Discharge papers, as well as his WWI US Army wallet and identification card. There is also an assortment of WWI patches and insignia.

The exhibit in Government Documents takes a broader look at the war and highlights national leaders, U.S. propaganda posters, battlefield conditions and other general facts, such as WWI was the first war that employed aircraft.

Visitors can see the exhibits throughout the summer. Photos and descriptions of the displays are also going online at openprairie.sdstate.edu.
Mix retires as documents librarian

Vickie Mix has long been relied upon as the local government documents expert, but she’s ready to learn something new. After a nearly 25-year career at the library, Mix is retiring as the documents librarian. A public reception honoring Mix’s retirement will be from 2 – 4 pm on June 16 at Briggs Library.

Mix started as a library clerk in Government Documents in September 1992, then became a library technician and later a reference associate. During this time, Mix earned her MLIS from the University of North Texas and was hired as a reference and instruction librarian in 2003. She went back to the Government Documents department permanently when she was appointed the Head of Government Documents in 2006.

“It’s so diverse. There’s so much variety and kinds of information featured from government agencies,” Mix said of the collection.

“The information in government documents is deeply historical.”

Mix worked to streamline the government documents collection to make it more relevant to users’ needs. But the most rewarding part of the job has been working with the students and faculty, she said.

“It’s interesting and challenging finding the nuggets of information people need,” Mix said.

Mix was active on several SDSU committees, such as the Undergraduate Student Experience Committee, Integrated Marketing & Communications Committee and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

“I’m really proud of the work of the committees in furtheering student success and promoting diversity,” Mix said.

She earned a number of honors during her career, including the American Library Association Emerging Leaders Fellow and the SDSU Celebration of Faculty Excellence recognition.

Mix’s post-retirement plans have her and her husband spending time at their new Black Hills home and hiking and biking. She also wants to play the guitar more, learn how to play the banjo, and refresh her Spanish.

Support Starts @ Briggs

Friends membership contributions directly support the library’s efforts to advance scholarly excellence in a welcoming space for all South Dakota State University students, faculty, staff and community members.

Also, consider donating physical materials to the Archives & Special Collections, such as faculty papers or documents of regional interest.

For more information about Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library, donating, or volunteering at the library, please contact the Library Operations Manager at (605) 688-5564 or email Emmeline.Elliott@sdstate.edu.

Your Contributions at Work Through Membership

A $50 annual membership includes benefits such as invitations to library programs and exclusive Friends events, a newsletter of library happenings, updates about opportunities to improve library services, and a Jack Read poster. Gifts at and above the basic membership level assist library services in many ways, for example:

◊ $100 — buys a book and includes the sponsor’s name on a book plate
◊ $1,000 — provides scholarships for library student assistants
◊ $250 — supports a library event
◊ $5,000 — supports special projects, like equipment purchases
◊ $500 — purchases artwork for the library

Membership...

To become a Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library member, fill out the information below, detach this portion of the sheet, and send it and the contribution to:

SDSU Foundation
(70760 SDSU Library Fund)
Box 525
Brookings, South Dakota 57007

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________

SDSU Affiliation: __________________________________________________

I am enclosing: ☐ $50 ☐ Other: __________________________

Please note here any corrections to the name or address as listed on the back:

BRIGGS LIBRARY WISH LIST

There are many ways to add to the success of the library! Here are some things we’re looking for that you may like to consider donating.

- Reel-to-reel player with a 1-7/8 ips (inches per second) speed setting, which is best suited for staff when they listen to recorded speeches.
- $150 for The Song of the Indian Wars, a rare 1925 first edition epic poem about the leaders and events of the Indian Wars.
Briggs Library is celebrating its 40th anniversary this fall! Join us for special events and exhibits during Sept. 11—14. An event schedule will be released this summer.

The anniversary is a great occasion to talk with our community about the impact of the library. Do you have a story or photos of Briggs Library to share? Please send them to Emmeline. Elliott@sdstate.edu by July 1 to be part of a commemorative anniversary publication.

Check for anniversary updates at www.sdstate.edu/library!

Were any of your summer jobs quite like this?! These May 1972 photos capture a worker repairing a window of the Administration Building (now Morrill Hall). Browse our collection at the Digital Library of South Dakota (dlsd.sdln.net).