Briggs volunteer receives state Friend of the Library Award

On the last afternoon of September, Briggs Library volunteer Bob Bartling was in the middle of giving a tour about the Prairie Striders Collection, when he was suddenly interrupted with a message that someone was there to see him.

Walking into the main room of the SDSU Archives and Special Collections, Bartling was greeted by many someones there to congratulate him at a surprise reception being held in his honor.

Bartling, 93, learned he had been recognized by the South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) for his outstanding service to Briggs Library. He was presented with SDLA's 2019 Friend of the Library Award by Chief University Librarian Dr. Kristi Tornquist.

“We are so fortunate to have Bob volunteer. He brings joy, enthusiasm and creativity along with the collections that he has developed and solicited,” said Chief University Librarian Kristi Tornquist.

“He has made SDSU the go-to place for track, field and wrestling resources.”

Bartling is the first Briggs Library volunteer to receive this award, which began in 1977. The SDLA’s Friend of the Library Award honors “individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to library development in South Dakota through initiative, support and creativity,” and who are not officially affiliated with a library.

“Bob truly deserves this award. He is one of our biggest supporters and is a dedicated volunteer. It is a pleasure to see him every day,” said Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Michele Christian.

As a volunteer since June 2015, Bartling has been instrumental in bringing two new collections to Briggs Library: the Prairie Striders Running Club Collection and the Jim Koch Amateur Wrestling Collection. Bartling has developed and meticulously organized the Prairie Striders Collection since 1978, which is named after the Brookings-area running group that Bartling co-founded. The collection was originally kept at a downtown business, but Bartling thought the materials should have a secure home with more public availability. The Jim Koch Collection came to Briggs Library thanks to Bartling’s facilitation of the donation from the Koch family.

Bartling spends nearly every weekday in the Archives department indexing and promoting the two collections to users in the community and throughout the country. He often gives tours of the Prairie Striders Collection, and assists researchers who

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Notes from the Chief University Librarian

If you haven’t enrolled in a college course recently, you may not be aware of how much textbooks cost university students. In the U.S., “college students spent roughly $1,290 on books and supplies during the 2018-2019 academic year”[1]. In addition, some of these learning materials aren’t in paper format but are available only for a limited time electronically. Consequently, students don’t really own those textbooks – they are just renting access.

Here at SDSU, as an example, if all of the students in the human anatomy course bought new copies of the required textbooks, they would spend, individually, $335, and collectively, over $125,000. The price tag for a speech textbook is $63.75, relatively more reasonable. However, with an enrollment of 550, the collective cost is still over $35,000. The financial impact to students adds up fast when you look across all courses.

As you may expect, these costs can result in sticker shock for our SDSU students and the need for them to

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Vintage postcards featured in *Pictures of Nursing* traveling exhibit

Briggs Library is welcoming the National Library of Medicine’s traveling exhibition *Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling Postcard Collection* next spring.

The exhibit explores a unique archive of 2,588 postcards and over 100 years of images of nurses and the nursing profession from around the world, investigating the hold these images exert on the public imagination—then and now. Visitors may view the exhibit from March 2—April 11, 2020, during Briggs Library’s open hours.

The postcard is a fleeting and widespread art form influenced by popular ideas about social and cultural life in addition to fashions in visual style. Nurses and nursing have been the frequent subjects of postcards for over 100 years. In fact, no other art form has illustrated the nursing profession so profusely using such a variety of artistic styles and images.

These images of nurses and nursing are informed by cultural values; ideas about women, men, and work; and attitudes toward class, race, and national differences. By documenting the relationship of nursing to significant forces in 20th century life, such as war and disease, these postcards reveal how nursing was seen during those times.

The six-banner traveling exhibit highlights only a small selection from the 2,588 postcards of *The Zwerdling Postcard Collection*, but over 500 more are available to view in the exhibit’s online digital gallery at https://digitalgallery.nlm.nih.gov/gallery/1/. This exhibition was developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

*Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling Postcard Collection* began traveling around the United States in November 2014. For more information, visit www.nlm.nih.gov/picturesofnursing.

Lakota, Dakota and Nakota code talkers medals displayed

Eight congressional medals honoring South Dakota’s Lakota, Dakota and Nakota code talkers of WWI and WWII are featured in an exhibit on the upper level of Briggs Library. The front and back of the medals were uniquely designed by tribal members to represent their tribes. The creation of the gold medals was authorized by the 2008 Code Talkers Recognition Act. The medals are on loan from the SDSU American Indian Student Center, and may be viewed at Briggs Library through May 2020.

Bartling, cont. from page 1

make the trip to South Dakota to study the materials.

“Without him we would not have the Prairie Striders Running Club or the Jim Koch Amateur Wrestling Collections. By indexing the collections, Bob has provided quick access to information that is not easily found. We are very grateful for everything that he has done for us,” said Christian.

To learn more about the Prairie Striders Collection, visit https://www.sdstate.edu/sdsu-archives-and-special-collections/prairie-striders-running-club-library.
Student assistants’ education costs eased by donors

Two Briggs Library student assistants were the recipients of gifts made by library donors.

Avori Bastemeyer and Derek Broken Rope received the awards for the Fall 2019 semester. The funds will help the students with tuition and other education costs. Bastemeyer and Broken Rope were nominated by their supervisors, and then named as award recipients by a library committee that selects awardees based on the students’ quality of work performance and attitude.

Bastemeyer is a junior biochemistry major from Chesapeake, VA. She has worked in the circulation department since January 2018. “I was overjoyed when I found out that I would be one of the recipients of this award! I am very thankful to have received this scholarship, as well as to work at Briggs Library,” said Bastemeyer.

Broken Rope is a sophomore sociology major from Pine Ridge, SD. He has worked in Archives & Special Collections since he was a freshman, beginning in Fall 2018. “I was really surprised to be nominated,” said Broken Rope. “The people I work with [in Archives] worry about your well-being and want to make sure you’re okay. It feels like they really care, which they do. It’s just reassuring.”

The student awards were sponsored by Dr. Dinus and June Briggs and President Emeritus Dr. Peggy Gordon Miller. Dinus Briggs is the son of the library’s namesake, former SDSU President Hilton M. Briggs who served from 1958 – 1975. Gordon Miller was the SDSU president from 1998 – 2006.
sometimes make difficult choices. Some students find cheaper options: perhaps used materials or previous editions. Some students choose not to purchase/rent the materials or may share with a friend.

To combat these escalating costs, universities are trying several tactics. One option is a bundling of electronic learning materials as an add-on to tuition. Students can opt out of this commitment if they choose, but the default is to have the textbook investment appear automatically. Other schools have provided a textbook rental system, but this requires that faculty commit to a textbook for at least two years to make it cost effective; this isn’t always desirable for rapidly changing disciplines. Other colleges and universities have developed their own learning materials that they sell to the students at a much reduced rate. The issue here is paying the curriculum developers for their time and expertise to create the materials and to keep them up to date. In recent years there has been a movement toward faculty creating materials that they share openly for others to use. These materials are referred to under the umbrella term “Open Educational Resources” (OER).

Now, you may be asking, “Why is the Chief University Librarian writing about textbooks?” Because libraries across the country are involved with supporting faculty in their selection of open educational resources with a goal of reducing costs for students. Even if quality OER are available, it may be hard for faculty to find and evaluate them. There are now cooperative ventures that have, in effect, created libraries of OER. Interested in seeing what this is all about? Have a look at our guide to OER: http://libguides.sdstate.edu/OER. Faculty can search by course topic, read reviews, and often revise the materials to meet their course needs. You may even want to take advantage of these learning materials to deepen and widen your knowledge of topics of interest to you.

Footnote 1: https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/slideshows/10-ways-to-cut-your-textbook-costs

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