

# Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library



## Wokini Knowledge Circle opens in April

After a year of development, the Wokini Knowledge Circle is ready to open at Briggs Library.

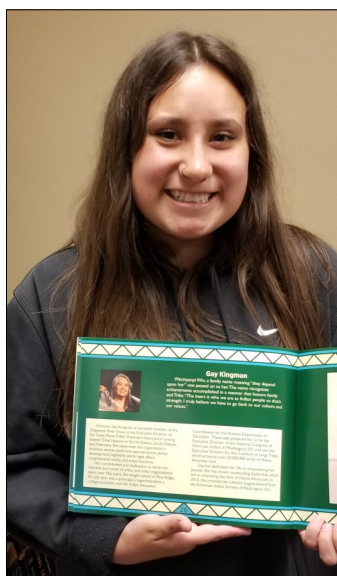
The Wokini Knowledge Circle is a newly arranged public space on the main level of the library and features rotating exhibits, circulating books, and other materials that share information about Oceti Sakowin (Sioux) culture and history. The space was created by placing existing bookcases in a semi-circular pattern, which reflects the shape of a traditional Oceti Sakowin camp circle.

An opening reception will welcome the Wokini Knowledge Circle on April 26 at 3:30 pm in the main level reading room of the library.

Emirra Returns (Means) is the student assistant and exhibit developer for the project. In this role, she is selecting and researching exhibit topics, providing input about materials to include in the Wokini Knowledge Circle, and producing an online library guide about the space's resources.

"The Wokini Knowledge Circle has impacted my life in a positive way," Returns said. "It has opened my eyes to a new passion of digging deeper into my culture. I've not only learned more about my culture but learned new skills in the library that will set me up for my future."

Returns is working with grant project personnel Emmeline Weber and Shari Theroux, as well as other library faculty and staff, to launch the Wokini Knowledge Circle. In addition, Dr. George Eagleman, grant consultant and Lakota elder, and Dr. Tasha Hauff, SDSU Lakota language professor, have been instrumental to the project. The Wokini Knowledge Circle is made possible by a Wokini Initiative Challenge Grant.



Emirra Returns (Means) is the Wokini Knowledge Circle student assistant and exhibit developer. She is pictured with the book *She Sang to the Wind* by Liz Fayer and Joanna Jones, which features Returns' great-grandmother, Gay Kingman.

## Notes

*from the Dean of  
the Library*

Like many other employers around the country, Briggs Library is in the process of recruiting for vacancies arising during the pandemic. We have been sorry to say good-bye to colleagues who have left, but also wish them well. Recruiting new employees is particularly challenging in today's job market so we are thrilled to have attracted people to two of our vacancies: Anthony Sax began on April 4 as our new Digital Initiatives Coordinator, and Aine O'Connor will join us this summer as our new Reference and Instruction Librarian. Both of these early career Jackrabbits have excellent backgrounds in evolving areas of librarianship like digital preservation, virtual reality, asynchronous tutorials, and project management.

In the meantime, we say a special thank you to Mary Caspers-Grafer who is retiring after 36 years at SDSU. She has held a number of roles including reference, instruction, interlibrary loan, and acquisitions, and she has served as Head of Technical Services for 15 years. She has a



Kristi Tornquist

wealth of knowledge about the library and the university that we will certainly miss. Please join us in wishing her well in the McCrory Gardens Great Hall on April 19 from 2:30–4:30.

Along with the department head vacancy resulting from Mary's retirement, we are also searching for a new Head of Public Services. We expect it will be more difficult to recruit for these two searches than it was for the entry level positions we just filled. We are advertising nationally for experienced librarians through multiple venues. I suspect those of you reading this know the many benefits of working at SDSU and in Brookings, and that's the excitement we need to share with possible recruits.

In the meantime, what is it like to work in a library that is short staffed? Schedules and project timelines have had to be adjusted. It has helped that the number one priority of the remaining library employees is providing the very best service possible to our student and faculty patrons. People are pitching in and finding creative solutions. Necessity can be the parent of invention!

Thank you for your patience and support as we make our way through the task of recruiting outstanding employees this year. We look forward to the fresh ideas new faculty and staff bring while cherishing all that our previous employees have done to help us pursue our vision of academic excellence.



## Mary Caspers-Graper retiring

As the spring semester comes to a close this year, so does the long career of Mary Caspers-Graper at the SDSU Hilton M. Briggs Library.

Caspers-Graper began working in Briggs Library in 1985 as a Reference Librarian and in interlibrary loan. Later, she moved into the role of Acquisitions Librarian. For the last 15 years, she has served as the Head of Technical Services where she continued to work with acquisitions and supervised serials, cataloging, and computer support.

"When I first started, we were still using the card catalog," Caspers-Graper said. "We went online in 1989." Since that time, the library's catalog migrated to different online systems twice.

Caspers-Graper described how the internet "radically changed library services."

"We used to hunt for information and now our challenge is sorting through a glut of information to find the right information," she said.

One of the best parts about her time at Briggs Library has been the people, Caspers-Graper said.



Mary Caspers-Graper

"I have enjoyed the people I work with and being a part of the SDSU community. It has been great to work with the students and see how they develop and grow," she said.

In retirement, Caspers-Graper plans to spend more time with her husband, David, visiting family, enjoying music and theater, and continuing her research of her family tree.

"I have appreciated the messages of congratulations and support from friends, family, and co-workers (both current and in the past) that I have received after my retirement was announced," she said.

A retirement celebration will be held on April 19 in the McCrory Gardens Great Hall from 2:30–4:30. Caspers-Graper's last day at Briggs Library will be April 29. We wish her the best in this new chapter of life!

## John Miller to be remembered at program

The life and work of the late John Miller will be remembered at a special event on June 14 at Briggs Library.

At 3:30 pm, the Miller family will dedicate two new benches in John's memory. The benches will be placed along the entrance ramp to the library.

At 4 pm, the Archives and Special Collections is hosting a presentation of the John E. Miller Papers. Jon Lauck and Sean Flynn, both South Dakota historians and former students of Miller's, will speak about his work and influence.



John Miller

Miller was a Professor Emeritus of History with several books and articles to his name, many with a focus on South Dakota history. He received several scholarly awards, including the 2015 Midwestern History Association's Frederick Jackson Turner Award for Lifetime Achievement in the field of Midwestern history. Miller retired in 2003 after 29 years at SDSU.

## Grant impacts Briggs Library services

Briggs Library recently visited with the South Dakota State Library (SDSL) about the new equipment and resources acquired from a \$100,000 SDSL grant awarded in 2021. Brenda Hemmelman, SDSL Library Access & Development Services Manager (and 1990 SDSU alum and former Briggs Library student assistant), heard from library faculty and staff about how the additions have impacted library services.

Because of the grant, library patrons can now research five new databases that have perpetual access, which are Counseling & Therapy in Video, volumes III, V, and Classic; PBS Video; and North American Indian Thought and Culture.

Patrons also have access to faster printers and a planetary scanner that is book-friendly, since images are captured from the material lying face-up rather than face-down as they do on flatbed scanners.

Interlibrary loan's new advanced scanner results in a faster turnaround time and offers the option of color scans to SDSU patrons and requesting libraries.

Archives and Special Collections has a new scanner that significantly decreases the



Briggs Library archivist, Michele Christian, demonstrates a new scanner to South Dakota State Library Access & Development Services Manager, Brenda Hemmelman. (Briggs Library photo)

time to scan bound archival materials. Other new equipment for the Archives will be used to digitize analog 8mm and Super 8 films, to produce higher quality scans of photographs, and to create a videotape digitization center that will be part of digitizing at-risk analog videos that are deteriorating rapidly.

The grant was made possible by American Rescue Plan Act dollars that were administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through SDSL.



<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu>

<b>PAPERS ADDED</b>	<b>DOWNLOADS WORLDWIDE</b>
<b>25,157</b>	<b>2,123,993</b>

Open PRAIRIE is the SDSU public access institutional repository (IR). The IR supports the collection, preservation and dissemination of SDSU's scholarship and creative output. It provides permanent storage of and public access to institutional materials. It has been a Briggs Library service since September 2015.

# Archives student going to Ireland for archival graduate studies

Ella Padden had no thought of getting a job in the SDSU Archives and Special Collections when she first visited there as part of a history class assignment. But after talking with another student who worked in the department, Padden applied to be a student assistant in spring 2019. Now, Padden is about to take her archival work experience to a classroom setting through a study abroad program in Ireland.

Padden, who is graduating this May with a bachelor's degree in history, will leave for the Emerald Isle in August. She will spend a year completing a master's degree in Archives and Records Management from University College Dublin (UCD). It is a competitive program with a class size of about 20 students.

"I was very relieved to have gotten accepted," Padden said.

She will be learning about archival theoretical knowledge and getting a hands-on experience with materials ranging from delicate medieval manuscripts to born digital records. She is looking forward to visiting the national folklore

archives on the UCD campus.

At the end of her master's program, Padden hopes to go into the archives field as a full-time employee, either in the U.S. or abroad, or pursue a PhD in history.

Padden said she is excited to experience a different, international educational system. Studying abroad has always been something she intended to do as an undergraduate student, but the pandemic interrupted those plans. So, she decided to look at international-



Ella Padden, a student assistant in Archives and Special Collections, has been accepted to a master's program in Ireland for Archives and Records Management. (Briggs Library photo)

*Continued on page 4*

## BRIGGS LIBRARY WISH LIST

There are many ways to add to the success of the library! Below are funding opportunities.

- **\$840** for unlimited use of the e-book *Python Programming and Numerical Methods: A Guide for Engineers and Scientists*.
- **Funds** for student assistants to process ROTC records in the Archives and Special Collections.
- **Jackrabbit Gallery update:** The art hanging system was funded! Now needed are funds for purchasing rabbit-themed artwork for the space.

See the Briggs Library Wish List at [www.sdstate.edu/hilton-m-briggs-library/briggs-library-wish-list](http://www.sdstate.edu/hilton-m-briggs-library/briggs-library-wish-list).

## Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library

*Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library are people who support the library, whether through monetary or material donations, or as library advocates.*

*A Friends of the Library contribution comes with benefits including invitations to library programs, a newsletter, a digital bookplate on the library website and a Jack Read poster.*

*For more information about Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library, or becoming a donor or volunteer, please contact the Library Operations Manager at Emmeline.Weber@sdstate.edu or (605) 688-5564.*

*Support Starts*  
**@Briggs**

## The Impact of Friends

Gifts from Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library directly support the library's efforts to advance scholarly excellence in a welcoming space for South Dakota State University's students, faculty, staff and community.

To make a gift as a Friend of the Hilton M. Briggs Library, fill out and 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_




How would you like your gift to support the library?

<input type="checkbox"/> book purchases or online resources	<input type="checkbox"/> library event sponsorship
<input type="checkbox"/> Archives and Special Collections	<input type="checkbox"/> library artwork
<input type="checkbox"/> student assistant scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/> greatest need
<input type="checkbox"/> furniture and equipment updates	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

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

## LIBRARY EVENTS

Many library events now allow for online participation. Scan the QR codes to join the event via Zoom. Visit [www.sdstate.edu/library](http://www.sdstate.edu/library) for more information on library events.

- April 21:** Launch of 2022 *Oakwood*, SDSU's literary magazine, with reception and reading. 7 pm in Archives
 
- April 26:** Wokini Knowledge Circle opening reception (see page 1). 3:30 pm in the main level reading room
 
- June 14:** John Miller Commemoration program (see page 2).
 
  - Bench dedication, 3:30 pm at library entrance ramp (no Zoom portion)
  - John E. Miller Papers presentation, 4 pm in Archives

## Connecting with students



Briggs librarians engaged with students at an outreach table throughout the year at the University Student Union. They shared services and resources that aid student success and had brief surveys about students' library interactions. A March survey showed that 46% of students who visit the library do so to use the study space. Other reasons included using printers (17%) and books (13%), getting research help (11%), meeting a class (8%), borrowing a laptop (4%), or other (1%). Pictured here are Nancy Marshall (left) and Elizabeth Fox in December. (*Briggs Library photo*)

## Padden, cont. from page 3

al graduate programs. Padden described international and domestic applications and costs as being similar to each other. She encourages students who are considering studying abroad to "just go for it."

Padden said she was very lucky to have had the opportunity to work in the SDSU Archives.

"The Archives has shown me a new career path that I'm very interested

in," Padden said. "Michele, Crystal, and Ruby have shown me nothing but support. I've really liked it here."

Padden had previously visited Ireland with her family when she was 16 years old. She said she has always enjoyed Irish culture and plays Irish music on a harp and tin whistle.

Padden is from Corcoran, MN. She was a 2021 recipient of the Han and Bang Kim Library Student Employee Recognition Award.

SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Hilton M. Briggs Library

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