I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. I know this has been a challenging year for so many people, but I hope our library friends are staying strong. A year ago I would never have predicted that I would now be the library’s dean or that I’d start my deanship during an unprecedented pandemic...but as they say, there’s a first for everything.

The past several months have been both challenging, but reassuring on many levels. We had to quickly respond to the shut down along with the university’s budgetary constraints brought on by COVID-19. This included having to cancel many of our journal and database subscriptions and only purchase books critical to the teaching mission. We have also had to rethink how we provide many of our services. As I reflect on what has happened since March, my thoughts come back to my fantastic staff, and it always makes me smile. They have stepped up to every challenge thrown their way. Not only have they come up with creative solutions to continue to provide service to our patrons, they have supported each other as we all were forced to adjust to significant changes in a short amount of time. I know I could not have done this without them. While it is not the ideal way to start my term as the new dean of the library, I am thrilled that I have the support from the library staff.

I also am fully aware of how much the faculty, staff, alumni and friends love our library. This building is an iconic part of our campus and everyone who has used our library falls in love with it for one reason or another. Lots of memories exist inside these walls, and I look forward to continuing to provide quality resources and stellar service that will make our library unforgettable to our faculty and students.

If you find yourself in the library, whether it be now or in the future, I’d love to meet you. Feel free to stop by and say hello.

Tracy Hull
Library Dean
How Do You Library In The Time Of A Coronavirus Pandemic?

What if…
the world changed while you were away on spring break?

What if…
your work plans had to change?

What if…
it seemed we had all entered the Twilight Zone?

Let’s just say, we experienced it and rose to the challenge.

The year 2020 is one we will always remember. The challenges faced as the world coped with COVID-19 required adapting to change after change. “Pivoting” became the word of the year as we rapidly adjusted our process for a new reality – new and updated guidelines for the library, work and social distancing.

In mid-March, TCU extended Spring Break for students, giving the library only a few days to respond to the shutdown and the university going to online classes. It was important students and faculty maintain access to library resources, expertise and services during the response to COVID-19, while complying with the guidance of the university. It took creativity and collaboration to orchestrate this quick pivot to continue providing students and faculty with a meaningful experience in the age of coronavirus social distancing.

The library staff rose to the challenge. The librarians literally worked the “front lines” during this transition, being available via phone, text and email. They created new library guides to assist a wide range of users, and virtual teaching became the new normal. Despite the library closing, and as staff social distanced and worked remotely, it certainly did not deter the staff from continuing to provide the best resources and services.

Library staff spent all summer working towards the library’s reopening for the fall semester, and have taken several measures to ensure patrons, students and faculty receive the necessary tools needed for research and learning even if things may look and work a little differently this. No matter where students and faculty are this semester, the library is here and committed to providing robust in-person, remote and virtual services.

The library reopened in August, implementing guidelines and making some adjustments to services, space and polices to help keep everyone healthy, safe and connected.
• Access to the Library is via card swipe only.
• Face coverings are required at all times.
• Social distancing is required. While in the library, physical distancing of no less than six-feet apart is required.
• Capacity and study spaces have been modified for safety.
• Plexi glass has been installed at the help desk and circulation desk. The check out and return process has been amended to reduce contact.
• Library material is quarantined for 72 hours after it is returned.
• Students and faculty not comfortable coming into the library can request material from the online catalog and pick up material when it’s ready.
• Book drops have been set up at two locations outside the library.
• Hand sanitizer and face coverings are available on every floor.

Adapting To A New Normal Has Certainly Had
It’s Challenges For These Librarians

CARI ALEXANDER, MUSIC/MEDIA LIBRARIAN: The biggest challenge was figuring out how to get requested film into the TCU online courses. Sometimes it was a film we already had access to via streaming, but the film wouldn’t link/connect into the course or we had to cancel several databases (hosting platforms) due to budget cuts prior to fall semester. A second problem arose with physical DVDs professors had used for years in their repeat courses, now unavailable legally anywhere online and us unable to put them online due to copyright and server space. We had so many questions about this topic and no good solutions, so we got creative in our workarounds, experimenting with recording on Zoom and making judgment calls on how much copyright we are or are not violating. It’s still a huge problem and our most asked topic, but we are on it.

JULIE CHRISTENSEN, RARE BOOK LIBRARIAN: Special Collections is a place where the material book reigns supreme. It’s a place where, every semester, hundreds of TCU students literally touch the past by turning the pages of rare books. As a rare book librarian deeply invested in the model of active, hands-on learning, COVID has challenged me to devise instructional solutions that support learning outcomes while observing public safety protocols. While our reading room can accommodate eight in-person students and theoretically unlimited online students, certain logistical problems arise with this hybrid configuration. Since in-person students must remain six-feet apart, there is not a way for us all to focus on a single material book -- a process that entails multiple faces in close proximity peering at sometimes small details of a book, such as watermarks or chainlines -- without violating social distancing protocols. Furthermore, how does one sync the attention of the two distinct groups? Consulting with TCU Center for Instructional Services (CIS), we devised a solution, which I implemented for a hybrid, graduate-level class. CIS supplied a Newline Interactive Display, which I can best describe as a giant computer. By hooking a document camera up to the display, I was able to share live footage with the online group through Zoom, while the in-person group viewed the same footage on the display 75-inch screen. Best of all, either group, could ask questions or make requests in real time, for example, to see a page again or a different part of the book, at any time. There is no question that COVID restrictions have hampered my ability to preach the importance of the book as an artifact, but, by collaborating with CIS, I have found a way to salvage a degree of the interactivity that is at the heart of the active-learning experience, in which students can peruse works, pose questions and shared observations.
Hafez F. Farmayan
Middle Eastern Collection

In June 2019, the library was the recipient of a large collection of books related to Middle Eastern Studies. The collection was built over many years by Dr. Hafez Farmayan, Professor Emeritus of History and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas. His collection consists of over 2500 volumes most of which are in Arabic and Persian. The donation was made by his daughter Mahan Farman-Farmaian. She wanted to keep the collection together in honor of her father.

Professor Farmayan was born in Tehran, Iran and was one of seventeen children. Professor Farmayan received both a traditional and a modern, Western-style education with emphasis on Persian language and Persian literary classics, geography, mathematics and history. During WWII he decided to leave Iran and study in the United States where he earned his B.A. and M.A. in history from Stanford and his Ph.D. in history from Georgetown. He earned a second Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Southern California.

After his studies, he returned to Tehran to teach at the University of Tehran in public administration, but history remained his primary interest. After a brief time teaching public administration, he transferred to the university’s history department where he founded the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Due to governmental interference under the Pahlavi regime, he left Tehran and returned to the United States where he had visiting professorships at Columbia University and University of Utah. In 1967, he was invited to Austin to teach and help create the Center of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas. He remained at UT for 33 years until his retirement.

Since receiving the collection in 2019, the library has been strategizing how to catalog these volumes due to the language barrier. With the COVID pandemic, we have been buying less books and now have more time to focus on this collection. With the creative efforts of some of our Technical Service staff members and help from a student of Dr. Hanan Hammad in TCU’s history department, we will start working on this collection in the coming months. While we have a very detailed list that was compiled by graduate students that worked with Dr. Farmayan, we are excited to have a TCU student with Arabic language skills to help us with the cataloging efforts. While this project will be a long-term undertaking, we look forward to making these resources available to faculty and students focusing on Middle Eastern studies. They will also serve as an excellent tool for students in Arabic courses.
Special Collections remained busy during quarantine, scanning, transcribing and uploading the letters of Joseph Warren Hays. The team of three – Mary Saffell, Allison Kirchner and Lisa Pena – worked many hours transcribing, preserving and storing this historical collection of 162 letters written by Hays to his family while serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, dating 1943-1945.

Joseph Warren Hays was a pilot in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He served from January 1943 through November 1945. He spent much of his time in training at air bases across the United States. He flew missions over Europe in 1945 as a co-pilot of a B-24 Liberator with the 446th Bombardment Group. After the war, Hays returned to TCU to complete his degree in Economics.

The letters detail his aviation training across the United States and his service in Europe. The Joseph Warren Hays Letters can be found on our website at www.library.tcu.edu under TCU Digital Repository.
When Tracy Hull was named as the replacement for longtime Mary Couts Burnett Library dean June Koelker, TCU knew she had to be someone with a broad range of experience in librarianship as well as the realm of academia.

As associate dean of the library since 2007, Hull has played primary roles in several important initiatives, including designing and implementing the library liaison program; devising ways to maintain excellent service during the library’s renovation; and more recently, leading the library’s strategic planning. Hull was instrumental in launching the library’s Fab Lab, a digital fabrication laboratory offering multiple 3-D printers, a high definition 3-D scanner, a large-scale plotter and more. Hull is an ex officio member of the TCU Friends of the Library Board. Hull is an actively-engaged TCU community member as well, serving as a Frog Camp facilitator for eight years, a student mentor and member of several university committees and planning groups.

Hull began her career with the creation and development of a successful library instruction program at Duke University. Later, she spearheaded a major reorganization of the former Information Services department at Georgia State University. Immediately prior to coming to TCU, Hull served at Drexel University, where she was instrumental in maintaining a robust collection of electronic resources as department head of Information Services. She is an active member of both the American Library Association and Texas Library Association.

“Tracy is a cherished member of the TCU community and we’re fortunate to have her accept the role as dean of the library,” Dahlberg said. “In her 13 years at TCU, Tracy has helped transform the library into a premier information resource center for students and faculty. Her leadership, strategic vision, keen knowledge of library systems and best practices, combined with her passion for research and support of TCU students, make her an excellent fit for this role.”

As dean, Hull will be responsible for providing leadership for the library and TCU Press by planning for budgetary decisions, personnel recruitment and development, and representing the library within the TCU community and at local, state, regional and national levels. She also will provide support for the provost in major planning and policy strategy.
“I am honored to accept the role of dean of the Mary Couts Burnett Library. I look forward to working with students, faculty and staff to enhance our students’ educational experience, and collaborate with Provost Dahlberg on strategy and vision for the library and information services,” Hull said

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN LEADING THE MARY COUTS BURNETT LIBRARY?

During my term as associate dean over the past 13 years, I have seen this library grow and evolve into a wonderful place. Between the renovated building, the strong collections and the fantastic staff, I have great pride in our library. Dean Koelker and I worked hard to get the library to where it is now, and it was important to me that the library continue to thrive in the future. Providing a steady path forward for the staff was the main reason I was interested in the dean’s position.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR IDEAS FOR THE LIBRARY MOVING FORWARD?

The liaison librarians have been a great resource for the academic departments, and the faculty have a lot of respect for the liaisons. Due to these strong connections, library instruction sessions have increased significantly since the full liaison model was put into place. I’d like to take that one step further and work to have the university formally integrate information literacy into the core curriculum.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A LIBRARY AT A UNIVERSITY?

The library has numerous roles. Traditionally, academic libraries were a repository of information, and it was the library’s mission to collect and preserve that information. That is still a part of the academic library’s role, but I see us as being the academic heart of campus…the place for students and faculty to discover information and exchange ideas. In a sense, we are like the student union - providing a central meeting and gathering space, but it’s focused on learning and discovery.

WHAT’S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU HAVE FACED AS DEAN?

While I’ve only been in my position for a couple of months and I have the unique advantage of having worked here for several years, I would have thought that I wouldn’t have had any significant challenges yet. However, the pandemic has presented the world with a lot of unknowns. Due to strains on the university’s budget, we have had to cancel several databases and subscriptions in a very short period of time. We also have not been able to order books at the rate we normally would. It has also been challenging for the staff as we’ve had to come up with new ways to provide service. Simple things from having to quarantine books when they are returned to providing virtual reference services. Dealing with a pandemic like this was not something that I learned in library school. I just keep reminding myself that everyone has been challenged in the past several months to think creatively, and we can do the same so that we can continue to provide the same top-notch service for which we’ve become known.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST SO FAR IN YOUR ROLE AS DEAN OF THE TCU LIBRARY?

It’s a little too early to say and the circumstances with the pandemic have been extremely unusual, but if I had to say something, it would be the unwavering support from the library staff. While we have had to make some difficult decisions and there has been a lot of change, I feel like they have been by my side every step of the way. I would not have made it through these past months without them.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE LIBRARY IN THE SPRING SEMESTER?

The spring semester will likely be similar to the fall semester. I don’t foresee a lot of change until there is a vaccine and our campus can return to its regular functions. I am hopeful that there will be more in-person classes in the spring which might increase the number of students in the building. With so many classes online during the fall, we are not getting the traffic in the library that we’re used to seeing. I miss the hub-bub of activity and hopefully some of that will return in the spring.
Ninth Annual Banned Books Competition

Banned Books Week (Sept. 27 – Oct. 3, 2020) is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Spotlighting current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools, the event brings together the entire book community – librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers and readers of all types – in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship.

This is the ninth year Jan Ballard, graphics design instructor, has collaborated with the library to jury the student Professional Recognition event. This year, library dean Tracy Hull, served as a virtual judge for the Banned Books graphic design student competition. Students designed book jackets from a list of 100 most banned books.

Winners of the Ninth Annual Banned Books Jacket Design Competition:

**First Place:** *Loving* by Michaela Bollinger
**Second Place:** *The Heart of the Matter* by Grace Bridges
**Third Place:** *Handful of Dust* by Sarah Stratton
**Honorable Mention:** *The Ambassadors* by Kaitlyn Kurtz

“I entered the 2020 Banned Books Competition with my cover of *Loving*, a novel by Henry Green,” said Michaela Bollinger, junior graphics design student and first place winner. “I began by surveying the list of books not yet chosen by my classmates and selected a book I connected with. *Loving* was the sort of romance drama that I enjoy reading myself, so I set out to create a cover that I would judge to be on the sort of book I would like to read. From the reviews and plot summaries I read, I gathered the division between WWII and the life inside the house as well as the division between the tenants and the servants that occupied the house. I sought to show these divisions visually by representing the darkness of the war outside and the relative normality of the life inside the house through contrasting colors and levels. The house is further segmented as the contents, feuds and social hierarchy grow deeper down the stairs. I literally embedded my type treatment into the design in the same way ‘loving’ was happening in the depths of the house.”
Voices of America: Veterans and Military Families Tell Their Own Stories will be published just in time for Veterans Day. This project is in partnership with TCU Veteran Services. Voices of America collects dozens of personal accounts of military life from World War II to present day. These narratives from TCU students, faculty, staff, alumni and family range from deadly combat to downtime, from family dynamics to life after military service. Although the contributors share a connection with TCU and each experience is unique, they also share a common bond with all Americans who have served their country across far-flung zones of conflict and decades of history, and speak with urgent relevance to American society today.

Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences was published in partnership with the College of Nursing and describes how generations of faculty, students and alumnas have responded to the challenges posed by Dean Harris in 1973 to provide a clear definition of nursing roles and functions and to research the effects that variables in nursing care have on the health of people. The transition of Harris College of Nursing to Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences is described in chapters detailing the interdisciplinary contributions of the Davies School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, the School of Nurse Anesthesia, and the departments of Kinesiology and Social Work.

The National Parks: A Century of Grace is a collection of photographs of and poetry about all 62 national parks. Texas Poets Laureate Karla K. Morton and Alan Birkelbach traveled to each park over the course of several years and created this collection to celebrate America’s rich national treasures.

TWO EXCITING MEMOIRS COMING SOON

John Giordano was music director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra from 1972 until 2000, founder of the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra and the jury chairman of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, 1973 to 2013. Giordano is currently music director emeritus of both the Fort Worth Symphony and Fort Worth Youth Orchestra and is a retired distinguished fellow in music at TCU.

James Hampton’s career as an actor, writer and director has spanned over 50 years. Notable roles in movies such as The Longest Yard and Sling Blade as well as in popular television shows from F Troop to Murder, She Wrote, make James Hampton “That Guy” whose actual name is just on the tip of your tongue. A favorite guest of Johnny Carson, Hampton had over thirty appearances on The Tonight Show. He also worked behind the scenes as a writer, director and producer on many successful sitcoms such as Evening Shade, Sister Sister, Smart Guy, Boston Common and Grace Under Fire.
Happy Retirement!

It’s the end of an era but the start of a whole new chapter for these five dedicated, committed, humorous and kind women and colleagues. With a combined record of more than 160 years of employment at TCU and the TCU Library, Lisa Pena, Sara Dillard, Judy Castillo, Louise VanTilburg and Delories McGhee announce their retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS to all on a successful career at TCU! May you have a long and happy retirement!

**Lisa Pena** retired Oct. 16, 2020, after 21 years as library specialist in Special Collections. Lisa was not only a cheerful presence, but an organizing force in Special Collections by making such contributions as coordinating the service desk operations, processing archives collections, assisting with finding aids into ArchivesSpace, describing and digitizing books and much more. She was a core member of several library committees and working groups; a wonderful person to work with.

**Sara Dillard**, A Catalog Librarian at the TCU Library for more than 31 years, retired Oct. 23, 2020. She has cataloged a vast range of materials from 17th and 18th-century books in the William Luther Lewis Collection to books written in Luxembourgish in the Pat/Newcomer collection as well as the Erisman/Odom collection of juvenile book series. Sara was the library’s reigning expert on cataloging the increasing number of e-books purchased for our collections. She was a valuable member of many library committees and working groups; a great co-worker and colleague to everyone in the Library. Her grace and good humor were a major asset and will be greatly missed.

**Judy Castillo**, Music/Media library specialist, will retire Nov. 30, 2020 after 32 years of dedicated service in the Mary Couts Burnett Library. Judy has been an invaluable student supervisor and materials processor, hiring and training hundreds of student workers and sewing by hand thousands of music scores into bindings. She has been involved in several large projects from “project barcode” when the library moved to computers to processing barcodes again when we moved items out to the Annex for the library renovation. She also cleaned and shifted various types of media materials serval times as formats changed and the music/media area evolved over the years.

**Louise VanTilburg**, Technical Services library specialist, is retiring Nov. 30, 2020, after 38 years. Louise started in the Library’s Periodicals department. It’s been said that she clinched the job because her printing was small and neat, perfect for Kardex work. Louise eventually moved into Cataloging and over the last few years has managed the mail, print periodicals check-in, the print periodicals stacks and also performed copy cataloging duties. Over the years, she has become the center of the Technical Services department and her years of experience became a great asset. Louise supplied candy to the entire library staff through various candy jars and her generosity in keeping those candy jars filled helped many an employee through a difficult day.

**Delories McGhee**, Access Services library specialist, will retire Dec. 31, 2020, after 39 years. She worked for Joan Swaim as a library assistant in Cataloging her first ten years, then landed in Circulation, now Access Services, with Cheryl Sassman. Delories has been responsible for a host of duties including processing new books to go to the shelves, setting up Texshare applications, Proxy cards for professors and providing customer service to our patrons. She assisted with creating and revising the Proxy card process, working the card index and barcoding books. During her 39 years, Delories has been on several committees, earned her Bachelor’s degree and created some everlasting Horned Frog friendships.
Thank you for your gift on TCU Gives Day! Your support truly made a difference. Your investment to the Mary Couts Burnett Library creates powerful opportunities and allows us to provide intellectual resources, innovative technology tools and an inspiring physical and virtual environment.

Thanks to donors and engaged supporters like you, the library received gifts from 70 donors and unlocked the $15,000 challenge gift from the Friends of the TCU Library.

Because of you, we reached our goal to positively impact the people and programs of our University and the Mary Couts Burnett Library. Thank you for believing in the TCU Library!
Artist and TCU Alumni Lillian Young
Artwork Hangs in Library

Growing up, Lillian Young’s family made sure she was well educated about the struggles, victories and heroes in Black history. As an artist, Young depicts forgotten or little-known moments from the Black experience, focusing on lesser known black leaders, stories, events and objects commonly recognized by black communities, but unknown by the general public. In highlighting these moments, she works to make a connection to the social anxiety felt today from the rise in racism, loss of representation and her own struggle of continuing to fight for equality. Two of Young’s art pieces are currently on display in the library. You can view her portfolio at https://lillartlife.org.

CREATE + PROTECT: Mask Exhibit Showcases Campus Creativity

As the pandemic continues to evolve, staff at the Art Galleries at TCU have found a way to turn this new normal into art. CREATE + PROTECT: Fashioning Safety in Times of Pandemic (on display in the library through Nov. 14) is a socially-distanced exhibition that features original face mask creations from members of the TCU community. The exhibition represents the creative minds from programs across the TCU campus, including art, theatre, fashion merchandising, political science, nurse anesthesia and communications.

"Using a mask as a personal accessory, or as an extension of your outfit, has become the new norm." Brittany Murray's If I Must Wear A Mask, 2020.
SEMMESTER AT A GLANCE

The TCU Library Presents:
STAR WARS VIRTUAL TRIVIA!
Wednesday, October 28
6 - 8 pm
This event is open to ALL students, faculty & staff
Register your team TODAY by emailing bboerner@tcu.edu
"Playing solo? No problem!"

Gettin' Spooky with Special Collections

#1wearminivacbecause of you, I care about you and your experience here at TCU. You deserve it!