

A student-centric organization

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Student Input Leads to Innovative New Study Hub

Comfortable seating options, adjustable desks and screensharing technology are part of a new group study area on the Library's ground floor – the Study Hub.

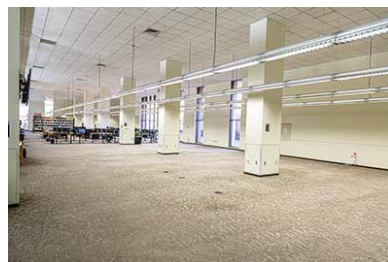
The 14 stations allow for group learning and the ability to wirelessly connect and share content, even with participants who aren't in the building.

"One of the biggest requests of students we talk to, including our Library Student Advisory Board, is better and more comfortable Library study spaces with the ability to plug in and connect," said Kimberly Vardeman, User Experience (UX) librarian.

Vardeman and her UX team demonstrated the new technology to students during Raider Welcome the week before the start of fall classes. These interactive demonstrations also allowed the opportunity for troubleshooting and feedback, including what to name the space.

"We had a short list of possible names for the new group study area, and we decided the users – our students – should be the ones who decided what to call it," Vardeman said, noting that the Library Student Advisory Board came up with the initial list. "After a couple of weeks of voting during demonstrations, Study Hub emerged as the clear winner."

-Julie Barnett



A Note From the Dean



With the fall semester under way, a time of new beginnings is upon us. A sense of excitement is in the air on campus and in the Libraries as students are able to once again fully utilize the spaces and services within our buildings.

We are excited to open the Study Hub, a new area for interactive group study that features state-of-the-art technology and furnishings. This new area, along with our 35 group and 186 individual study spaces, underlines our efforts to continuously focus on the needs of Texas Tech students.

Construction will begin this fall on a new, spacious classroom and computer lab in the basement to better accommodate the numerous workshops and instruction sessions hosted in the Library. Last fiscal year, librarians led more than 1,100 workshops; they also taught 2,310 students the Essentials of Scholarly Research, a one-hour course that emphasizes how to utilize Library resources. And those numbers are expected to grow in the coming year.

And thanks to the generosity of donors Todd and Linda Smith, we are able to open a new podcast studio this fall that features the technology for students to professionally record podcasts. The Smiths have also funded additional studio equipment to enhance our thriving Crossroads Recording Studio.

While the challenges of the past year and a half have taught us many lessons, including that campuses and specifically libraries, are adaptive and, with digital resources, able to serve our students exceptionally well remotely and in person, we also know that social interactions are vital to the learning process. We will continue to strive to offer an inspirational, comfortable and student-centric environment, and we will continue to do so with the invaluable input of our students.

- Earnstein Dukes, Dean University Libraries

The unique opportunities we all share....



We are ALL extremely fortunate for the opportunities life gives us to share in the success of others. I will admit up front that I am biased toward our University Libraries, and I think you should be, as well.

It is a privilege to be able to foster the next generation's success in their endeavors by helping them thrive in their academic aspirations.

One way to help is by providing opportunities that affect every Texas Tech University student through the University Libraries, which is currently averaging 22,393 students walking through the doors each weekday. Here is the one place you can come to genuinely see your impact. The services that the library provides are available to all students no matter their major or college — both on campus and at a distance.

The students and their success are the true focus of the University Libraries. The library provides many resources to promote their success such as personal librarians, research resources and study spaces, to name a few. Sometimes you may wonder if your donation to an organization makes a difference, and the answer to your question, for the University Libraries is YES! You are transforming lives.

Giving to the Libraries maximizes your generosity because your ONE GIFT impacts THOUSANDS of students. I am blessed to be able to work in the University Libraries and have been given an extraordinary vantage point to see the impact that gifts have had on students, and I know you will be just as excited as I am to share in this wonderful opportunity. I would like to encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends to show how the University Libraries are preparing students for their future.

There are so many ways YOU can have a positive impact on Texas Tech students. Helping to provide better and more study spaces and environments that foster creativity, as well as additional library research resources and equipment are just some of the ways your donation makes an impact.

Strive for honor!

-Brad Davis

Texas Tech Friends of the Libraries

New Board Member Spotlight: Matt Ernst

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in San Antonio and a nearby town, La Vernia. My keen interest in libraries started early; in fact, it was before I could even read. My dad would take my sister and me to the library where my mom worked. I quickly became attached to the various reading programs and activities. My mom recently retired from a career spanning more than 50 years in the public library systems in the City of New York and City of San Antonio. And she still recommends good books.

What are your fondest memories of Texas Tech?

Texas Tech changed so much of my life, for the better. It was a new experience, knowing I was a 7-hour drive from home and it was up to me to succeed. While my parents made it a point to introduce me to a wide range of cultures and experiences, including at public libraries, Tech took this to the next level. I learned to think critically. I learned how to truly understand a subject, through reading and asking questions. Tech provided the knowledge and experience that launched my career and also helped forge long-lasting friendships.

What are your memories of the Library?

The Library was essentially THE place to connect on-campus. Many days it was a place to study between classes at the "old" BA (business administration) or new English buildings. It also was where we'd meet for group projects. And one of the things I tell younger students now is to fully explore what the Library offers. I didn't take advantage of the camera equipment and editing software until my senior year, not realizing students have access to professional-grade equipment through the Library. I also heard some captivating talks and presentations there. We are fortunate to have Libraries that offer so much to continue a lifetime of learning.

Why are you interested in helping lead the Texas Tech Friends of the Libraries as a board member?

Through years of volunteering with the Lubbock Area United Way, I've seen the importance of literacy to thriving communities. By helping young children achieve reading goals, we can see how they grow up to be successful members of society. In much the same way, university libraries and related institutions serve campuses by providing services and products that enhance the learning experience. I want to help continue the long-term success of the Texas Tech Libraries, as it plays a key role in the university's growth as a top research and learning hub.

Tell us about your family.

My wife is a fellow Red Raider; in fact, she has twice as many degrees from Tech as I do. She is an assistant collections manager at the Museum of Texas Tech. We have a cat and a dog and love living in Lubbock.



Friends of the Libraries President, Natalie Kendrick



Hello fellow Red Raiders, West Texas neighbors and supporters of the students! Can you take 30 seconds to think about all the times you needed to study and you needed a quiet space, or a place to print off study materials or even a place to work on a group project? Those are some of the same needs for all students when trying to accomplish their goals for their major. The current students at Texas Tech are now going through the SAME needs that you had and would greatly benefit from YOUR help.

Why should you join: students from every major at Texas Tech are able to utilize the library to fit their study needs. By joining the Texas Tech Friends of the Libraries, you would be supporting current and future students of all majors and not just one group. The support reaches all students!

My personal experience at the Texas Tech Library: As a student, I would enjoy going down to the basement and meeting up to study with big groups of classmates. I once had a very important history test and did not feel prepared at all. After being in the basement around my classmates, I realized we were all in the same boat! So we all joined together to start focusing on the important topics and teaching each other the main concepts for each topic. By the end of the evening, we all finally felt prepared. The basement is one example of a place to study, and there are many more study spots. Texas Tech alumni, remember the stacks? They are still there and haven't changed... yet!

How can you join: You can join and donate to the Texas Tech Friends of the Libraries by scanning the QR code. Let's do this together!

-Natalie Kendrick, FOL Board President



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Student Spotlight: Kyna Bullard

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the hill country around Junction and Fredericksburg, Texas.

Tell us about your family.

My parents, Noel and Mary Bullard, are both teachers. I have a younger brother who is a senior in high school. My grandfather, Brad Bullard, graduated from Texas Tech in 1948.

What made you decide to come to Texas Tech?

I was on the fence about what university I wanted to attend. When I was invited to Tech Select as a senior and saw all of the facilities and classes that the university offered, it really helped me make up my mind.

What are some things you have learned about the Library?

The Texas Tech Library system is so much more than books. I spent much of my freshman year studying up in the stacks but it wasn't until my sophomore year, when a professor took the class to the Southwest Collection to look at the Rare Books Collection and artifacts from the Vietnam Archive that I began to see the full extent of what it has to offer. From the Dynamic Media Services to the Crossroads Recording Studio, I have learned so much about the Library during my time at Tech.

Things you have liked and/or learned while working in the Library.

I have really enjoyed working in the Library and have learned so much about the facilities offered here. I have also learned how much effort goes into running the Library and have gained a new appreciation for the Library's staff and faculty.

Tell us about your hobbies and community activities.

I am a member of the Texas Tech Honors College and on the Dean's List. I have also participated in the Texas Tech Model United Nations, where I have represented the university at competitions in Washington D.C. and San Francisco, and participate in the History Club.

Major, classification and future career goals?

I am a senior pursuing a double major in History and Global Studies with a minor in Spanish. I hope to pursue graduate studies in History with a focus on the Medieval Mediterranean.



New Librarian Sabrina Davis, Focuses on Open Educational Resources, Lower Student Costs

Position: Open Educational Resources Librarian

Focus: A major focus area will be on expanding access to free or low-cost course materials, such as textbooks, for students.

Goal: "I want to encourage faculty to support equity in education and advocate for student success by using OER or low-cost options whenever possible," Davis said. "OER is really all about lower costs for students. There are so many barriers to higher education, and alleviating the cost of textbooks and other course materials is one thing that we can do to support our current and prospective students."

Previous position: Director of University Libraries at Graceland University in Iowa

Hobbies or Interests: Cross-stitching while binge watching true crime documentaries, listening to Brené Brown podcasts, and exploring walking trails.



Smiths' generosity funds recording studio equipment, Podcast Studio



Todd and Linda Smith, generous long-time donors to the Texas Tech University Libraries, recently funded new equipment in the Crossroads Recording Studio and the seed money for the new and upcoming Podcast Studio. This studio will be used for producing, recording and distributing audio-based media. Several patrons of the libraries have expressed desire for the library to have additional recording resources to complement what is available in the Crossroads Recording Studio.

The Smiths' daughter Shannon graduated from TTU in 2010 with a master's degree in accounting. Shannon has been a major influence on where her parents give.

One major focus of the Smiths is to fund resources that are available to all students, as well as "starter" projects.

"What better place than the University Libraries to reach Texas Tech students from all walks of life," said Ryan Litsey, assistant dean for user centered services. "The Smiths and their generous support have been invaluable to the library."

-Krystal Baker

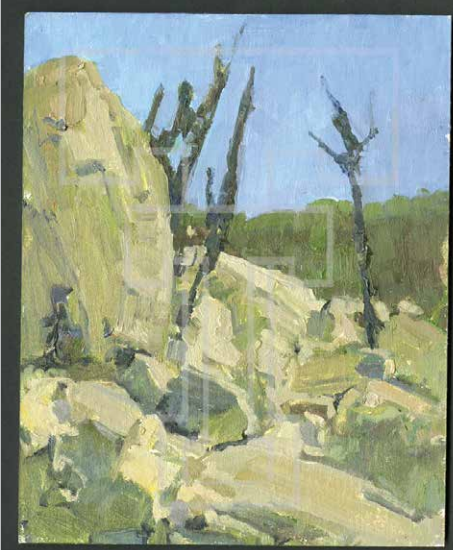
Collection Spotlight: Marie "Mimi" Litschauer Papers



Marie "Mimi" Litschauer (November 22, 1957-January 28, 2013) was an artist in the Big Bend area. Born in Waukesha, Wis., Litschauer developed an interest in art at a young age. Upon taking formal art courses in college, Litschauer discovered her interest was in nature and moved to southern Colorado where she refined her plein air style. Litschauer then moved to West Texas where she spent time capturing the scenery of Big Bend National Park and the surrounding area.

This collection at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library contains Litschauer's thumbnail sketches in both charcoal and pencil, drawings in pastels and conte crayons, fields paintings in oil, journals, photographs and sketchbooks.

To view the collection finding aid online, visit bit.ly/3tn8gxx.



Looking to the Future: Making the Most of Library Spaces

Texas Tech University's student population has soared in recent years—enrollment for this year is more than 40,000 students and projected to continue on an upward trajectory. This is exciting news for Texas Tech, except that when the University Library was last expanded in 1975, enrollment numbers were 21,580. That's almost double the number of students in the same amount of space. Demand for individual and collaborative study space is at a premium on campus, especially with the library seeing more than 1.5 million visitors each year.

Students use the library now more than ever for its resources, whether for a space to study or items for research. The challenge is providing the necessary areas to fit different learning styles, such as individual study spaces as well as group study areas. Fortunately, our university administration at the time of the last expansion had the foresight to plan for Texas Tech's inevitable growth. When the building was constructed, the stacks, home to our current collections, were made to be converted into more study areas by removing the steel floors upon which they sit.

The University Libraries conducted a space assessment with the goal of providing students the study atmosphere to meet their academic needs.

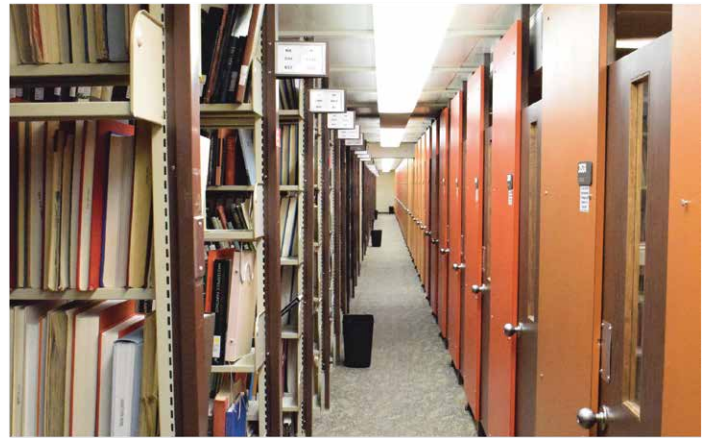
However, the library's remote storage is filled to capacity.

In order to make significant progress in reshaping the main library building, we must expand our current offsite storage and free up spaces and resources by wisely managing our physical collections (ones that are important but aren't used as often) and moving them off site to an additional remote storage facility. Our award-winning Document Delivery department can pick up reserved materials; items that are needed can be requested, and Document Delivery retrieves these desired items multiple times throughout the day.

We are currently identifying resources for supplementary remote storage allowing us to convert the building into optimal spaces that will lead to greater student success. Moving these items will enable future renovations of the main University Library allowing for more varieties of study spaces and collaborative workspace for students. With the resources moved from the current stacks to offsite storage, the library facilities will be transformed in a way that expands the opportunities for users to study, collaborate, create and innovate, thus creating a greater opportunity for our students' success.

The secret to a fulfilling life is giving and the greatest investment of a lifetime is education. And YOU can promote student success by supporting our efforts. I'd love to hear your thoughts on an offsite storage facility and our current space challenges. Please contact me at brad.davis@ttu.edu or call 806-834-8225. I look forward to your input.

-Brad Davis



Stacks Level 4 – current



Stacks Level 4 – example of potential future improvements