I’ve seen a few articles from friends concerning the reading habits of undergraduates. The articles refer to a study from Naomi Baron, Professor of Linguistics at American University and author of the book *Words Onscreen: the Fate of Reading in the Digital World*. (Naturally, we have it available as an e-book at the Library.)

Baron conducted surveys among college students in the United States, Japan, Germany, and Slovakia, and found that for research and “serious” reading, students prefer print. Given the choice among e-reader, phone, laptop, or hard copy, 92% of students chose the hard copy.

In her research for the book, Baron found the following:

- Students avoid e-books because they find themselves easily distracted by the device.
- Print books provide a sense of progress. People cannot as easily tell how much they have read using an e-book. E-books often give a percentage, but there is more of a sense of accomplishment when the book is done and back on the shelf.
- Some students choose e-books for environmental reasons, but it is questionable if the device itself is energy efficient and more recyclable than paper.
- Students choose e-books over print because e-books are perceived as less expensive. However, if print and electronic are comparable in price, students choose print.
- People are more likely to re-read if they have a book in hard copy.

So should we give up our extensive e-book collection? Of course not. It is a good reminder, though, that we should not jump to conclusions about technology use. Just because we provide a new technology does not mean it will be adopted unconditionally. Students may use their phones for many things but not necessarily for research. We should also continuously seek student feedback to make decisions about library services. As Baron points out in her interview with the *New Republic*.

My major concern, as a person involved in higher education, is that we’re not listening. We’re assuming we’re being helpful by lowering price, by making it more convenient, by helping the environment, but we don’t bother asking our students what they think. (Baron)

The Library runs surveys regularly on a variety of topics depending on the year. This year the survey focuses on how students use library space and resources. We compare the findings to past surveys to see how attitudes have changed over time. We could guess or assume that students would use the Library in predictable ways, but we’re always surprised. It is a reminder to keep reaching out to them for useful feedback.

Anne Krakow
Library Director
Welcome Laurie Palumbo

Laurie Palumbo joined the Library staff as the ILS/Catalog Librarian in February. In addition to a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science, Laurie holds a BFA, an MFA and certificates in Rare Book Cataloging and in Visual Resources and Image Management. Her job duties include administration and quality control of the Sierra system, which is the foundation of the library catalog, overseeing cataloging and processing of new library materials, staffing the Research Help desk, performing library instruction, and serving as a liaison librarian.

Q: Why were you interested in coming to Saint Joseph’s University?

A: The job description seemed to be a good fit with certain skills I already had and an opportunity to learn some new ones. I was also looking to work in a liberal arts setting and with a wide variety of students and materials.

Q: Where did you work before coming to SJU?

A: Most recently, I worked at the Widener University Delaware Law School as the Technical Services Librarian for the Legal Information Center. With the collection development librarian, I oversaw all aspects of technical services operations, including cataloging, acquisitions, and serials. In the past, I’ve worked in museums, including the Barnes Foundation (back when it was around the corner!), and other universities/colleges in the Philadelphia area.

Q: What do you bring to Saint Joseph’s University?

A: I think I have a good understanding of the importance of teamwork in the library. I’ve been working in libraries now for over ten years and have experience in all areas of the library: circulation, reference, archives, and “behind the scenes.” Each department has a role to play in providing the best service for the patrons.

Q: What are you excited to work on here?

A: I’m excited to learn more about Sierra, solving existing problems, and gaining more information to help the Library work efficiently and competently. I’m looking forward to getting to know students, staff, and faculty here, to becoming a better reference librarian, and to participating in the library’s digital projects.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: There is no such thing! I enjoy spending time with my husband, son, and our dog. When the weather’s nice, we like to garden. Lately, we’ve been spending a lot of time renovating our house. I like to read, of course. I spend a lot of time in the kitchen where I enjoy cooking and baking.

Laurie Palumbo can be reached at lpalumbo@sju.edu or (610) 660-1976.
Update on GEP Assessment

Since the fall of 2014, librarians at Drexel Library have been involved in an ongoing project to assess critical thinking in First Year and Adult Learning Seminars in support of General Education Program (GEP) goal 2. They used a standard pre-and post-test and assessed student work with a normed rubric.

The purpose of this assessment project is to better integrate any assessment and instruction goals with the GEP and institutional student learning outcomes. Although focusing on students’ critical thinking skills, especially in terms of information literacy, the purpose of the assessment is not to serve departmental goals but to serve broader SJU goals related to student learning outcomes.

After a test pilot in the fall of 2014 that focused on one section of each seminar, the pilot was continued with a larger sample in the spring of 2015. The results remained consistent across the pilot.

In the fall of 2015, a sampling of student papers was assessed by a team of six librarians and they have been analyzing the results. Spring 2016 planning is underway.

For more information about the Library’s role in GEP Assessment, contact Stephanie Riley, Instruction and Outreach Specialist, at sriley@sju.edu or (610) 660-1913.

Service Learning with Google Tour Builder

Library Director Anne Krakow, together with Ann Marie Jursca Keffer, Service-Learning Coordinator, developed a digital version of the service-learning experience from the viewpoint of the student.

During the spring 2016 semester, students from Raquel Bergen’s Advanced Studies of Social Problems will present reflections, photographs, and images using Google Tour Builder. Tour Builder combines Google Earth’s 3D geographic information system (GIS) with image, text, and video to create a visual storytelling of an event, history, or even language.

Using Tour Builder, students can tell about their experiences at assigned service-learning placements across Philadelphia. Such locations include: Project HOME, SpÀrc, Bethesda Project, Centro Neuva Creacion, and Inglis House.

The visual interface of Tour Builder will assist students in presenting their experiences in the service-learning course. Text from the site will only be excerpts of students’ larger works of reflection from the course. The project also demonstrates how the mission of Saint Joseph’s University is embodied in the work of service learning and a dynamic expression of engaged citizenship. The hope is that this is one of many future projects for the Library in the area of the digital humanities.

The project will be publicly viewable at the end of the Spring 2016 semester.
Humans of the PAC is an ongoing conversation with the people who use the resources, services, and space in the Post Academic Center (Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library).

For more information about this series or to be featured in an upcoming issue, please contact Marian Courtney, Library Operations Manager, at (610) 660-1905.

James Watrous, PhD, Professor, Biology

What brings you back to the Library?

I have a long history with libraries. When I first came to Saint Joseph’s in 1972 I brought in trainers from ISI and Biosis, vendors located in Philadelphia at the time. As content made a shift from print to online, I stayed with the library, bringing in librarians to do instruction later in my classes.

What are you working on?

I do my own research and use the Library to keep up with the literature. Interlibrary loan and access to a wide range of journals has been vastly improved through the years. Right now I am figuring out this whole retirement thing! I am continuing researching computer models of circadian rhythms as well as chaos theory and its interaction with cardiology. Overall, I am fascinated by the unpredictable.

What's your favorite place in the Library?

I often browse current journals and frequently borrow from the popular collection: Silva, Connelly, Baldacci. My office is next door in the Science Center, so sometimes I don’t even put on a coat to come over.

Ginger Hoffman, PhD, Assistant Professor, Philosophy

What keeps you coming back to the Library?

How friendly everyone is! For example, when I was on crutches, I held my office hours in the Café in Post Learning Commons. Charlotte bent over backwards to make sure I had plenty of space, an extra chair on which to prop my leg, and pretty much anything else I could wish for. I also organize a working group for Philadelphia-area philosophers of psychiatry that meets in Drexel Library. Everyone at the Library has been so accommodating and kind to my guests (many of whom have never been to SJU before).

What are you working on?

My students in Philosophy of Mental Illness have inspired me to write an academic analysis of the mad pride movement (a movement celebrating mental differences and neurodiversity), and its possible role in fostering self-acceptance and combatting saneism.

Do you have a favorite spot in the Library?

Although not exactly a "spot," the Josef Albers prints on the second floor of Drexel make me very happy. It's one of the few places I get to see modern art in my daily life.
Saint Joseph’s College (now University) opened its doors to students (all young men) for the first time in September of 1851 at (Old) Saint Joseph’s Church in downtown Philadelphia, where you can still visit its original location today. Under the leadership of its founder and first president, the Reverend Felix J. Barbelin, S.J., the College was legally chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in early 1852. Originally, the College had three academic departments: Mercantile, Classical, and Preparatory. (Saint Joseph’s Preparatory School is the successor for the latter area of study.) Since then, the institution has survived and flourished, through both good times and bad, for over 160 years.

Thinking about those days long ago, have you ever wondered what life would have been like for some of the first students? In a new exhibition entitled “In the Beginning: Saint Joseph’s College Catalogues and Awards of the 1850s,” the Archives and Special Collections uses a selection of scanned images from its collection of early college catalogues (1852-1862), copies of academic award certificates, and photographs of the silver medals received by students for their academic success to help tell the story of the College’s inaugural years. (All of the original materials have been safely stored in order to preserve them for the enjoyment of future generations of Saint Joseph’s students.)

Here are a few things that you might think about while visiting the display:

- How much would it have cost a parent or guardian to send a student to the College during the 1852-1853 academic year?
- What were some of the classes students had to take in the 1850s as part of their chosen course of study?
- Do you recognize any of the family names from the 1852-1853 catalogue listing of students or from the awards pages?
- Would you have been able to follow the regulations for student conduct?

“From Whence We Came” is located on the 2nd floor of the Drexel Library and will run through the end of May. For more information, please contact Christopher Dixon, Archival Research Librarian, at cdixon@sju.edu or (610) 660-2164.

NEW RESOURCES

FactSet is a leading provider of financial information and analytic applications to investment professionals. It is a subscription of the Haub School of Business. FactSet is available on four Library workstations, including the Bloomberg station, near the Library Services Desk.

Learn more about FactSet at: http://guides.sju.edu/factset
The Drexel Library and Post Learning Commons is more than just a library, being the home to Academic Technology and Distance Learning (ATDL), and to satellite offices for the Writing Center and the Learning Resource Center. At the beginning of the spring semester, the newly created Office of Teaching and Learning also moved in to the first floor of Drexel Library. Leading the efforts of this office is Dr. Usha Rao of the Chemistry department, where she has been a faculty member since 2000. She has taught a variety of classes, including the General Chemistry introductory sequence, and upper-level classes in Water Chemistry and Biogeochemistry. She has also taught widely in the University’s General Education Program, including an ethics-overlay class in Environmental Science, and a First Year Seminar on Pollution and Public Health. Dr. Rao’s classroom teaching at SJU has been recognized by two merit awards for exceptional teaching. Some of her classes derive from her research interests in geochemistry and environmental chemistry, studying the impact of human activities on the natural world. Several SJU undergraduate research students from Dr. Rao’s group have gone on to earn their own Ph.D. degrees from institutions such as Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, and Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Rao received her undergraduate degree from India’s pre-eminent Jesuit liberal arts college, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, majoring in Geology with a minor in Chemistry. After living in West Africa for a few months, she went on to earn her Ph.D. in Geochemistry from the University of Rochester, followed by a post-doctoral experience in Environmental Engineering and Geochemistry at Northwestern University, prior to joining SJU as a faculty member.

As Founding Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Rao, working in conjunction with the OTL advisory board and Associate Provost Paul Aspan, will oversee the development and facilitation of professional growth opportunities aimed at enhancing teaching effectiveness and advancing student learning at the University. Outside of work, she and her husband, Chemistry faculty member Dr. Mark Reynolds, enjoy spending time with their two children, ages 9 and 5, and being involved in their activities including tennis, soccer, art, and theater. Dr. Rao herself is an avid reader and a fan of libraries, having recently completed her tenure on the Board of Trustees for the Ardmore Library of the Lower Merion Library System.

The mission of the office is to develop learning communities, foster pedagogies that are consistent with scholarly research on teaching and learning, promote the use of experiential and discovery-based learning, and embrace Ignatian approaches to teaching and learning.

If you have any questions about the Office of Teaching and Learning or would like to welcome Dr. Rao to this new position, she can be reached at (610) 660-2751 or urao@sju.edu.

**Staff News**

**Stephanie Riley**, Library Instruction and Outreach Specialist, served with a panel of academic librarians on “Cream of the Crop: PA Forward and Academic Libraries” at the Pennsylvania Library Association annual conference Monday, October 5, 2015, at State College, PA.

While at the conference, Riley also participated in a poster session titled “Creating Interactive Learning Objects for Online Training and Instruction.”
# 2016 Spring Events

## Author Book Signing
**SJU Alumnus Dr. Eric Mitchell, '71 MD, MA FACPE CPE,**
will read from his memoir, *The Flow of Life: Keeping Your Dream Alive,* Author House.
- **Friday, January 15th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm**
- **Atrium**
- **Post Academic Center**

## Chew on This: Faculty Scholarship
**Dr. Vincent McCarthy, Professor, Philosophy**
**Kierkegaard as Psychologist,* Northwestern University Press**
- **Friday, January 29th, 12:30pm**
- **Wachterhauser Seminar Room**
- **2nd floor, PLC**

## Chew on This: Faculty Scholarship
**Dr. Ginger Hoffman, Assistant Professor, Philosophy**
"The Self-Disrespect Objection to Bioenhancement Technologies: A Feminist Analysis of the Complex Relationship Between Enhancement and Self-Respect."
*Journal of Social Philosophy*
- **Thursday, February 18th, 12:30pm**
- **2nd floor lounge, PLC**

## February Campus Coffee Hour
**Dr. Usha Rao, Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning**
- **Friday, February 19th, 9:00am - 10:00am**
- **Wachterhauser Seminar Room**
- **2nd floor, PLC**

## Chew on This: Faculty Scholarship
**Eleanor Stanford, Adjunct Professor, English**
Reading from her book of poetry, *Bartram’s Garden,* Carnegie Mellon Poetry Series
- **Wednesday, March 16th, 12:30pm**
- **Wachterhauser Seminar Room**
- **2nd floor, PLC**

## March Campus Coffee Hour
**Mission Week Committee**
- **Monday, March 14th, 9:30am - 10:30am**
- **2nd floor lounge, PLC**

## Chew on This: Faculty Scholarship
**Dr. João Neiva de Figueiredo, Associate Professor, Management; Ann Marie Jursca Kefler, Associate Director, Service Learning Coordinator, Faith-Justice Institute**
"A robust University-NGO Partnership: Analysing School Efficiencies in Bolivia with Community-Based Management Techniques." *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement*
- **Thursday, April 14th, 12:30pm**
- **Wachterhauser Seminar Room**
- **2nd floor, PLC**

## April Campus Coffee Hour
**to be announced**
- **Friday, April 15th, 9:30am - 10:30am**
- **2nd floor lounge, PLC**

## Finals Events
We’re the place to be for studying & de-stressing!
- 24/7 Building Access
- PAWS Therapy Dogs
- Free 5-Minute Massages
- Lego & Coloring Play Area
- Healthy Snacks
- **May 3rd - 10th** throughout the Post Learning Commons & Drexel Library

For more information, visit *Library Lifelines,* the library blog.
Library Lines
Spring 2016 Issue

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For more information about the Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library, please visit our website - http://sju.edu/library

Mission Statement: Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library supports academic excellence by serving as the primary physical and virtual resource for information, research, and information literacy education; creating a focal point for collaborative learning and a center for intellectual and cultural activity; providing excellent physical and virtual collections and services; and assuming a leading role in the development and integration of library technologies that enhance study, teaching, research, and the academic reputation of the University.