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Friends of the Library Newsletter Autumn 2014

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The Ames Library

The Seattle Pacific University Library building was rededicated on November 20 and given a new name -- the Ames Library, named after Gary and Barbara Ames. At the ceremony President Dan Martin and Board Vice Chair Doug Backous thanked the Ameses for all they have given to Seattle Pacific. University Librarian Michael Paulus spoke of the history and value of the Library, which has evolved dynamically over the past 123 years, and University Chaplain Bo Lim prayed that the Ames Library would be a place of access to information as well as transformation.

In the digital age a library is much more than a building, but a library building remains an important part and manifestation of what a library is for. Like a Gothic cathedral, a library building tells a story of the world that was, that is, and that is to come. Every day, students, faculty, and others actively use the Ames Library -- and the information resources, technological resources, and human resources accessible through it -- to interact with that story by discovering, creating, and sharing knowledge.

It is great honor to have our Library building named after Gary and Barbara Ames, who have done so much to advance the mission of Seattle Pacific and increase access to an SPU education, especially for high school graduates from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

Revisiting the Archive

Last March, the Library hosted a well-attended and dynamic panel for our Annual Friends of the Library event, titled "The Archive of Seattle Pacific University: A Panel Exploring the Origins of SPU in Time and Place."

University Librarian Michael Paulus started the panel with a brief overview of the history of archives and early Pacific Northwest history. Dean of the School of Theology Douglas Strong talked next about Wesleyan/Holiness educational institutions. Past University Librarian Bryce Nelson then spoke about Seattle in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as his work with institutional archives

SPU Library Numbers

In academic year 2013-14:

264,811
people entered the SPU Library.

44,196
books were checked out.

224
information literacy sessions were taught by librarians.

12,266
reference, research, and technology consultations took place.

Orbis Cascade Alliance Numbers

SPU is one of 37 universities and colleges in the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

Combined, there are over **30 million** items in Alliance libraries.

SPU patrons checked out **3,874** items from other Alliance libraries.

The SPU Library loaned **2,897** items to other Alliance libraries.

For more information about the Library in the past year, see our 2013-14 Annual Report.

Connect

Become a Friend of the Library by giving to an endowment that enhances both the quantity and quality of the resources available to students and scholars at SPU. If you are not already a member, or have not yet renewed your annual membership, please visit the Friends of the Library giving site.

Attend Creative Conversations, the Library's speaker series, in which members of the SPU community share scholarly and creative works in progress. The series runs during the school year and is open to the public.

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Explore the Library's website, and the resources and services available through it, by visiting spu.edu/library.

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and archives "in the wild." Professor of Theology Priscilla Pope-Levison followed with a talk about her archival research on Seattle evangelist and rescue mission worker Emma Ray. University Archivist Adrienne Meier concluded the panel by sharing from our own institutional archives some of what we know about the early history of SPU.

In addition to exhibiting how a library such as SPU's keeps alive memories for communities by bringing historical materials forward in space and time, this event stimulated ideas and plans for celebrating our upcoming 125th anniversary. To explore historical materials from the SPU archives, visit the growing collection of images and documents available online through the Library's institutional repository, Digital Commons.

Digital Wisdom

In addition to being an archive (the focus of the Spring 2014 Friends of the Library Newsletter), which keeps the past present through memory, a library functions as a site of present action and future anticipation. For decades, the SPU Library has been committed to teaching information literacy and research skills to help our students succeed academically and prepare for the future. A few years ago, with the creation of the Tech Desk, the Library began introducing more technology training and access into our services. A survey of undergraduate students conducted earlier this year validated the importance of this service area and identified additional ways we can help students become digitally literate.

A foundational literacy we have been discussing is an ancient one: attention. With new digital technologies providing us with so much information -- and too much of the present -- it is increasingly difficult to focus on immediate goals and sustain narratives that link our past experiences with our future plans. But if we cultivate our ability to focus on what is most important among all the stimuli with which we are presented, and connect these with a narrative that gives coherence to our lives, we will be better prepared to use new technologies wisely.

Libraries' collections, spaces, and services have been transformed by digital technologies in impressive ways, and all of these changes have enhanced teaching, learning, and scholarship. Even more important transformations occur when we help our students attentively and productively integrate new technologies into their lives as they seek to become people of wisdom.