

2023

"Beyond the Stacks" Vol 4, Issue 1, Summer/Fall 2023

DiMenna-Nyselius Library

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Beyond the Stacks

The DiMenna-Nyselius Library Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2023 | Volume 4 | Issue 1



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Year in Review by the Numbers | 2023 Library Research Prize Recipients*

Message from the Dean

As we enter into another academic year, I think of all the students I have met while working in academia. We are so fortunate to work alongside students like Brittany Martin '11. It has been such a gift to keep in touch with Brittany, and follow her successful career and life journey. Alongside her photo you will see the student employees who graduated this past spring. Our work could not be done without their contributions.

Within these pages, you will learn about our collaborations with a Dolan School of Business faculty member, be introduced to the winners of the 2023 Library Research Prize, meet two of our librarians, and more. We hope you enjoy the latest issue of Beyond the Stacks.

Kind regards,
Christina S. McGowan, MSLIS
Dean of the Library & University Librarian

Make a Gift to the Library



fairfield.edu/library/about/give

Why I Donate... Brittany Martin '11

"The DiMenna-Nyselius Library and the incredible people who work there have been instrumental in helping me to become the best version of myself, unlocking my mind to explore possibilities while supporting others to achieve their dreams. I will always cherish my experience working in the reference department and am happy to continue to support the library."



Strengthening our Brand While Supporting Student Learning

By Matt Schirano, Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Last spring semester, my colleague Lisa Thornell and I collaborated with Marketing faculty member Mary Kelly to lead students in her MKTG 2231 Advertising class through an experiential learning marketing research project. The end goal of this collaboration was to provide these students with a practical learning experience working with a client while giving the Library some valuable feedback to apply to our outreach, facilities, services, and resources.

The students were grouped into 'marketing firms' and analyzed our existing brand as the DiMenna-Nyselius Library using tactics like surveying the student perception of the library space and services, interviewing client representatives (me or Lisa), and evaluating our presence on social media. In addition, each firm created a new logo and tagline for the Library, drafted a marketing plan including sample social media posts, and identified strategies to address issues and opportunities that were provided by the student surveys and the client interview. The project culminated in two days of presentations which we attended along with Dean of the Library, Christina McGowan.

The collaboration was a resounding success. On top of the experiential learning aspect of the assignment, some students reported that they appreciated gaining a better understanding of the Library and that they were encouraged to share what they learned with friends outside the class.

From our perspective, there are many reasons to be happy with how the project turned out. We've already implemented several of the ideas generated by the marketing plans they presented, in particular as it relates to social media engagement. The survey data collected is very useful and will be used in the future to advocate for resources and services that better reflect what students say they need. We've even hired one of the students to help us with our social media!

The assignment was original and a useful departure from the traditional written research paper. We value and appreciate Mary Kelly's willingness to be such a strong collaborator.

"The one thing that I will remember most from this class is the final project that we did with the library, as it was the most interactive project that I have had and is actually very relevant to what I want to do in the future."



Mary Kelly's MKTG2231 class with Lisa Thornell, Matt Schirano, and Dean of the Library, Christina McGowan after the group presentations.

Summer at the DNL!

Another summer full of new acquisitions, building improvements, orientations, and even a little bit of fun.



Our graduating student workers and the books added to our collection in their names.



Librarians Curtis Ferree, John Novak, and Matt Schirano setting up a game of Kubb during our staff picnic in May.



University Archivist, Elise Bochinski, with the Library's new Gutenberg Bible facsimile acquired in June.



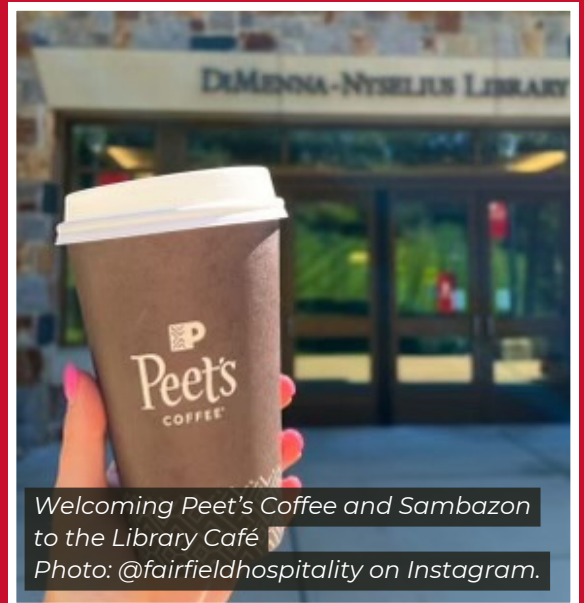
Dean of the Library, Christina McGowan testing out one of the new chairs on the upper level.



Librarians Ann Victor & Ivelisse Maldonado with Library Specialist Lisa Mullane at the Sterling Library during our tour of Yale's libraries in August.



First year students of the class of 2027 registering for classes during orientation in June.



Welcoming Peet's Coffee and Sambazon to the Library Café
Photo: @fairfieldhospitality on Instagram.

Celebrating the 2023 Library Research Prize Winners

On May 2nd, 2023, the DiMenna-Nyselius Library hosted a reception to honor the winners of our 2023 Research Prize. Started in 2009, the Library, with the support of faculty judges, reviews applications in both undergraduate and graduate categories and selects winners based on their expert use of Library services and resources, as well as other select criteria. This year, Isabella Poschmann '23 won the undergraduate prize and Jack Devlin '23 won the graduate prize. Each winner received \$1000 and their names added to the plaque in the lobby.



Graduate Winner: Jack Devlin '23

MS Biomedical Engineering

"Chiral Sorting of Single-walled Carbon Nanotubes Using Tripeptides"

Devlin reflected that his thesis benefited from the Library's databases, Interlibrary Loan service to request articles from other libraries, as well as Zotero to manage his citations. His bibliography reflected his in-depth searching of our collections for journal articles, conference papers, and scientific reports.

Devlin started a doctoral program this fall in biomedical engineering at RPI where he will work on issues related to neurodegenerative diseases and spinal cord repair.

"The originality of this research project can be observed not only from the vast number of repeated experiments that Jack conducted over the past year but also from the numerous protocols that he combined from various research articles." -- Dr. Issac Macwan, Assistant Professor, Electrical & Biomedical Engineering



Undergraduate Winner: Isabella Poschmann '23

International Business and Business Analytics

"The Origins of North Korean Refugee Treatment in China and South Korea: A Comparative Study Understanding Chinese and South Korean Relations with North Korea"

"The Library is the anchor of the work we do in the classroom", said Dr. Janie Leatherman in her letter of support for Isabella's research. She continued by describing Poschmann's use of Library resources to produce an extensive bibliography that included sources spanning a wide range of subject areas in economics, Asian and East Asian studies, comparative politics, peace studies, international refugee law, human rights, Korean reunification, international affairs, defense, psychology, medicine, and public health.

"I pushed the limit of what I believed myself to be capable of, overcoming what had once appeared to be daunting and unattainable...the librarians I worked with showed me how to search the databases for the articles I needed. I also came to understand the advantage of using them; ensuring accuracy and scholarly content." -- Isabella Poschmann '23

Staff Profiles

Welcome Ivelisse!

We are excited to announce that we hired a Research & Learning Librarian for the new Bellarmine campus: Ivelisse Maldonado. Ivelisse will provide on-site research services and instruction, access services, tech support, and offer programming for academic support and community building.

Ivelisse began in August and is already integral to developing library services and outreach to meet Bellarmine student needs and looks forward to working with Bellarmine faculty to identify information literacy opportunities. Prior to coming to Fairfield, Ivelisse worked at Naugatuck Valley Community College as their Danbury Campus Librarian.

Read our interview with Ivelisse at thednreport.fairfield.edu.

“I grew up in Bridgeport and it means a lot to me to be serving and giving back to the community that helped me to become the leader I am today. I look forward to inspiring and supporting students in their journey.”



Ivelisse Maldonado at the Bellarmine Campus' grand opening.

More About Ivelisse

- **MLS from North Carolina Central University**
- **Member of the American Librarian Association (ALA) and REFORMA, The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking**
- **Recipient of the Laura Bush Scholarship from the Institute for Museums and Library Services.**
- **Volunteer for Boy Scouts of America**
- **Hobbies include photography, museums, comedy shows, beach trips, and traveling**
- **Favorite quote: “Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.” (Winston Churchill)**

Get to Know: Matt Schirano, Teaching & Learning Coordinator

By Curtis Ferree, Associate Dean for Public Services & Coordinator of the Academic Commons Partnership

Matt Schirano started at Fairfield almost five years ago as the Library's Instruction Coordinator, and head of the Faculty Partnership Program, which connects librarians with faculty to support and advance faculty teaching and research. Through this program, Matt has formed strong relationships with the Dolan School of Business and the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies. His work with Mary Kelly's marketing class last spring is highlighted in the article on page 3. His work with Egan earned Matt the Friend of Nursing Award from the Mu Chi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, an international honor society of Nurses. As of July 1st, Matt was promoted to Teaching & Learning Coordinator for the Library. Matt earned his MSLIS as well as an MS in Educational Technology. He recently started the Higher Education track of Fairfield's Ed.D program.

We asked Matt a few questions about his work:

You recently had the chance to visit the new Austin campus and meet with the first cohort of nursing students there. Tell us about it.

Firstly, all the rumors you hear about the barbecue in Austin are true. Best beef brisket I've had in my life. But, the building and surrounding area are beautiful. The faculty that I've had the opportunity to meet bring a lot of experience with them and are strong educators. They've been open to working with me from the very beginning, and as a result I've been able to immediately establish myself as a student support, which is very important when working with distance students and satellite campuses.

What do you like about working with faculty?

I think that we (Librarians) approach teaching and working with students from a different perspective than most faculty, and that means sometimes we see student challenges that faculty may not encounter in their work. I like when we can use our unique perspective and experiences when working with faculty to improve the student experience. I also enjoy learning about the expertise of faculty and helping them pursue their personal research interests.



What made you decide to become a librarian?

My undergraduate degree is in journalism and I worked at a newspaper for about a year before deciding that it wasn't the career for me. Librarianship had always been in the back of my mind because I have two relatives who I'm close with that are both librarians. They loved their jobs and always told me it'd be a good fit for me.

What do you like to do when you're not at work?

Most of my free time is spent with my partner and daughter. I enjoy reading, hiking, writing, and watching sports (go Mets and Bills!). When the weather is nice I like to bring my Newtonian telescope outside and look at the stars. It's a relatively new hobby for me. Long-term I'm hoping to get into astrophotography.

The Year in Review (in numbers)

17,183
STUDY ROOM
RESERVATIONS

733,022
eRESOURCES

4,317
PEOPLE CAME TO
OUR EVENTS &
PROGRAMS

99,793
DOWNLOADS FROM
DIGITALCOMMONS@
FAIRFIELD
(FROM 205
COUNTRIES)

54,961
VIEWS OF OUR
RESEARCH AND
COURSE GUIDES

FY23
Annual Report



2,022
INTERLIBRARY
LOAN REQUESTS

52,392
VIEWS OF OUR
CITATION GUIDES

3,421
STUDENTS
ATTENDED
INFORMATION
LITERACY
INSTRUCTION
SESSIONS

188,838
VISITS THROUGH
OUR DOORS

7,519
VIEWS OF
LIBRARY
TUTORIALS



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

DiMenna-Nyselius
Library

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