

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### Dear Colleagues,

Last fall Lee Van Orsdel reflected on the inaugural issue of *Off the Shelf* which coincided with her retirement as Dean of University Libraries at Grand Valley State University. She viewed it as a “beginning and an ending, separate but connected.” We look forward to another new beginning in June of 2017 when we welcome Annie Bélanger, the new Dean of University Libraries. Dean Bélanger joins University Libraries with a wide range of library experience, most recently as part of the Acting University Librarian Team at the University of Waterloo Library in Ontario, Canada.

New leadership will bring change, but University Libraries has built a culture that welcomes change, risk-taking, and innovation. Our commitment to student success is supported through our embrace of change which is informed by flexible, evidence-based decision making. We are continuously looking for ways to assess our work with students. How we think about assessment as well as some of the assessment measures employed in the Knowledge Market and in our information literacy instruction program are part of this issue.

Themes of innovation and connection continue in this issue of *Off the Shelf*. Our connections to students through innovative services, interactions, and programming guide University Libraries’ mission, goals, and values. The intentional creation of learning opportunities within library spaces is illustrated by an article on the student activism exhibit held in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons in February of 2017. Created in cooperation with the Kutsche Office of Local History, this exhibit provided

students opportunities to connect the present with the past and encouraged them to reflect on their own ideas about activism. The exhibit drew heavily on materials from our University Archives including historical photographs, event posters, and course catalogs. This issue also highlights the fascinating collections in University Archives which document our campus’ unique history and culture.

In addition to curating connections to our past through archiving information, University Libraries connects Grand Valley scholars to a worldwide audience through ScholarWorks@GVSU, our online repository that shares scholarly and creative work created by faculty, staff, and students. Read about two library staff members who support the creation of and access to knowledge through their work—our Web Services Librarian who widely shares his coding skills and a library specialist who practices what she has coined “Sherlock-ing.”

We eagerly look forward to the next era of University Libraries’ leadership and evolution with confidence.



*Lynn A. Sheehan*

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Co-Interim Dean of University Libraries



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