OUR THANKS TO PAT TULLY

The Board of the Friends of the Wesleyan Library would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Pat Tully for all she has done for the library since 2004, when she joined Wesleyan as the associate university librarian. Prior to Wesleyan, Pat served as head of technical services at the Gettysburg College Musselman Library and at Harvard’s Hilles and Lamont Libraries. In 2009, Pat became Wesleyan’s interim university librarian, and in 2010 she was appointed Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian. At that time, Joseph Bruno, then vice president for academic affairs, cited “her impressive organizational skills, her dedication to Wesleyan, and her uncompromising commitment to support the scholarly work of faculty and students.”

As Pat moves on from Wesleyan, many faculty members have written to thank her publicly. Krishna Winston praised how Pat handled the library’s weeding project “with patience, sensitivity, and responsiveness to faculty concerns” and staff reductions “with the well-being of her staff and service to the faculty and students always in mind,” noting “she even gave up her office to make possible a smooth move of the Art Library to Olin. She stood up for what she saw as essential to enabling the library to serve as the core of the intellectual enterprise at Wesleyan, doing so with dedication and no trace of self-promotion. She has also served the local community as an energetic and intelligent president of the Middlesex County Historical Society and an active member of the Rotary Club. For all these accomplishments and many more, she deserves our gratitude and recognition.”

Lois Brown described her collaboration with Pat on Wesleyan’s Freedom Summer activities this fall: “Pat’s generosity of spirit, depth and breadth of networks to people for whom public history, activism, and love of Wesleyan contributed much to the committee work that we have been doing. I know that the upcoming events will have upon them the stamp of her leadership and ideas.” And Jerry Wensinger wrote: “Ever since Pat came to the library, the campus and the larger community, I thought she was in every way a splendid addition, first and foremost to Wesleyan at large and what I hope it still stands for. The welfare of our library, in many ways the central focus of our institution, has been a matter of fundamental concern to me during my 53 years on its faculty and as emeritus, I sensed that Pat fit in perfectly and performed her responsibilities with grace, intelligence, and commitment.”

Pat has been a tireless friend of the library, helping us choose initiatives to support the library, cheerfully volunteering long hours at the annual book sale, hosting many events, and developing collaborations with Middletown groups such as One Book, One Middletown and Middlesex Community College. We are fortunate to still have her help while she remains in Middletown and wish her well with future endeavors.

— JENNIFER HADLEY, FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY —

Looking at oneself from an outside lens

Working in organizations can often mean past practices and procedures are adopted by newcomers, perhaps modestly tweaked over time, but essentially retained as the status quo. When organizations become complacent, they can miss opportunities to make creative solutions in response to rapidly changing environments. One of the most effective ways to start thinking “outside the box” is to invite in colleagues from other institutions with similar missions to look at the organization with fresh eyes. Having an outsider’s perspective can shed new light on current practices and spur innovative ideas that may in the long run fine tune an organization’s effectiveness in serving its constituents. In academic environments, the entire process is called an external review.

During the 2014–2015 academic year, Wesleyan Library is doing just that. The initial work for the external review began in spring 2014, with the planning of when the review would take place and what preparatory steps the library would need to take to provide helpful information in advance of a site visit in 2015. With the calendar in place, the library has been focused this fall on data discovery—gathering both qualitative feedback and quantitative data from students, faculty, library staff, and staff from key departments across campus about library services, collections, spaces (virtual and physical), and organizational structure. In addition, the library departments have been busy reflecting and writing brief descriptions about the wide variety of work accomplished in their respective departments, their current organizational structure, and their short-term goals over the next three to five years to better serve the Wesleyan community. All of this information will be incorporated into a library self-study by early December. The self-study will be provided to four invited external reviewers from a range of small to large academic libraries so that they will have key background materials about the Wesleyan Library prior to their visit in March 2015.

During the brief two-day site visit in early March, these reviewers will have the opportunity to meet with various Wesleyan campus constituents to probe further into the role the library plays in their many educational roles. Following the visit, the reviewers will prepare their own report which will include their own observations as well as possible future directions and recommendations that will allow the library to more effectively meet current needs of our users and also look forward to the future. While the review process presents exciting possibilities as well as challenges, the end result is intended to create the most effective library organization possible and allow us to move forward and embrace the new possibilities that arrive every day to better serve the Wesleyan community.

— DIANE KLAUS, INTERIOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN —
FOLLOWING YEARS OF DISCUSSION AND PLANNING WITH FACULTY, STUDENTS, LIBRARY STAFF AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION, THE ART LIBRARY HAS MOVED ITS COLLECTIONS FROM ITS FORMER LOCATION IN THE DAVISON ART CENTER TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF OLIN LIBRARY. THE ART LIBRARY HAD LONG BEEN OUT OF SPACE, SO MUCH SO THAT AFTER MANY YEARS OF TRANSFERRING BOOKS TO OLIN TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS, THE NUMBER OF ART BOOKS IN OLIN EXCEEDED THE NUMBER IN THE ART LIBRARY. THIS SUMMER’S MOVEMENT TO OLIN BRINGS THE TWO COLLECTIONS TOGETHER.

THE OVERALL SPACE PLAN FOR THE ART LIBRARY WITHIN OLIN KEEPS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF ITS COLLECTION AND SERVICES ON A SINGLE FLOOR. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE ADJUSTED THE SHELVING FOR THE N-NX ART BOOKS IN THE STACKS TO MATCH THE TALLER SHELVING HEIGHT THAT WAS IN USE IN THE ART LIBRARY. THIS ALLOWS A GOOD PORTION OF OLIN’S N-NX OVERSIZED ART BOOKS (ON FLOOR 3A) TO BE RELOCATED TO FLOOR 2 AND BRINGS TOGETHER ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE ART MONOGRAPHS ON A SINGLE FLOOR, UNLIKE THE CURRENT SITUATION, WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE STUDENTS TO WALK ACROSS TWO COLUMNS TO RETRIEVE BOOKS FROM THE SAME COLLECTION. WE SELECTED THE FURNISHINGS BASED ON STUDENT RESPONSE TO FLOOR PLANS THAT WE HAD POSTED IN BOTH THE ART LIBRARY AND OLIN. SINCE BOTH WING STUDY AREAS ARE IN THE BOOK STACK AREAS, THEY HAVE BECOME QUIET STUDY SPACES. THERE IS ALSO A LARGE GROUP STUDY ROOM IN THE FRONT OF THE LIBRARY WHICH WAS FORMERLY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN’S OFFICE. THE GROUP STUDY IS EQUIPPED WITH CONFERTABLE TABLES AND CHAIRS, AS WELL AS A LARGE SCREEN WORKSTATION WITH PORTS FOR DISPLAYING THE SCREENS OF CONNECTED DEVICES.

WE CARRIED OUT THE BOOK MOVEMENT, AROUND 5000 BOOKS, IN TWELVE DAYS, AND WE MANAGED TO MAINTAIN AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SERVICE DURING THIS TIME. WE WERE ABLE TO RETAIL AT THE NEW LOCATION AND WE MANAGED TO KEEP THEM SHELVED IN THE SAME AREA AS THE ART BOOKS.

THERE IS ALSO A LARGE GROUP STUDY ROOM IN THE FRONT OF THE LIBRARY, WHICH WAS FORMERLY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN’S OFFICE. THE GROUP STUDY IS EQUIPPED WITH CONFERTABLE TABLES AND CHAIRS, AS WELL AS A LARGE SCREEN WORKSTATION WITH PORTS FOR DISPLAYING THE SCREENS OF CONNECTED DEVICES.

WE CREATED ART STUDY AREAS, WHICH ARE ALSO OPEN TO GENERAL USE, IN THE FLOOR 2 EAST AND WEST WINGS (NEAR BUILDING). THE WEST WING IS FURNISHED WITH NEW RECONFIGURABLE TABLES AND CHAIRS, THE EAST WING HAS CORNER TABLES AND OTTOMANS. WE SELECTED THE FURNISHINGS BASED ON STUDENT RESPONSE TO FLOOR PLANS THAT WE HAD POSTED IN BOTH THE ART LIBRARY AND OLIN. SINCE BOTH WING STUDY AREAS ARE IN THE BOOK STACK AREAS, THEY HAVE BECOME QUIET STUDY SPACES. THERE IS ALSO A LARGE GROUP STUDY ROOM IN THE FRONT OF THE LIBRARY, WHICH WAS FORMERLY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN’S OFFICE. THE GROUP STUDY IS EQUIPPED WITH CONFERTABLE TABLES AND CHAIRS, AS WELL AS A LARGE SCREEN WORKSTATION WITH PORTS FOR DISPLAYING THE SCREENS OF CONNECTED DEVICES.

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