

Among Friends

A Mabee Library bi-annual publication

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Dean of University Libraries Dr. Alan Bearman, Ph.D.



Dear Friends:

I sometimes fool myself into thinking that I will not have much to write to you about, but then when I sit down and start to consider all that our Librarians and staff are doing—well, let's just say there is much to write about.

The big news, for this newsletter, is really the two-part story of Student Success and the First-Year Experience, and then one of yet more physical improvements to Mabee Library.

Effective on July 1, 2011, my duties expanded to overseeing Washburn University's Student Success programming beyond the regular classroom experience. If you read the Topeka Capital-Journal you have probably read something about our developing Pathways to Student Success model that is designed to further promote student success. So, how does the Dean of Libraries come to oversee this endeavor? The answer is actually quite simple. A key part of the Pathways model is a new course, WU101: The Washburn Experience. This first-year experience class is designed to aid new students as they transition from high school into their university studies and its primary learning outcome is Information and Computer Literacy. And, as we all know, Information Literacy is a skill that Librarians have taught for generations. Indeed, Washburn University turned to the Association of College & Research Libraries for its official definition of Information Literacy. To learn more about the First-Year Experience at Washburn University, please visit the following website: <http://www.washburn.edu/fye>

Mabee Library
Friends.pdf



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Inside this issue

Dean of University Libraries	1-3
Sherman Alexie	4-5
New Colleagues	6-7
Membership Form	8

Not acquainted with Mabee Library?

Become a Friend!

Membership at every level is very important to the library.

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Mabee Library
Washburn University
1700 SW College Avenue
Topeka, KS 66621

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Friends of Mabee Library
1700 SW College Avenue
Topeka, KS 66621

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Change abounds at Mabee Library (continued)

Washburn University's commitment to student success is, of course, long-standing. What we are now doing is bringing together our largely existing efforts under one administrative structure to ensure that our efforts are both coordinated and sustainable in ways that national evidence and best practices suggest will positively impact student success. As our efforts unfold, please visit the following website to learn more: <http://www.washburn.edu/studentsuccess>.

In future newsletters, we will introduce you to several members of our expanded staff roster that is populated by a group of professionals all of whom are dedicated to advancing student success. In this newsletter, we are introducing three new members of our team: Assistant Dean of Student Success Dr. John Dahlstrand, Librarian Royce Kitts and Digital Media Specialist Jennifer Somers. Extended notes about each one of these new colleagues will tell you something about them and their backgrounds, but let me just tell you that we are excited to have them join our team. John is charged with helping me develop our Student Success model, Royce is already hard at work teaching Information Literacy, and Jennifer is quickly bringing a sense of order and flair to our digital presence.

While we all work to improve our efforts at aiding student success at Washburn University, the following colleagues invested a massive amount of energy in bringing yet more dramatic physical changes to Mabee Library in the later part of the just concluded summer. Assistant Dean of Libraries Judy Druse, Lori Rognlie, David Winchester, Lori Fenton and our great friend from Facilities, Coordinator of Construction Projects Rosanna Carvalho, all worked to oversee the installation of compact shelving into the west portion of the Mabee Library basement. This project was done with the aid of Ray Sullivan of R/J Retrieval Systems, Inc., who donated the shelving to Washburn University. Placing compact shelving into this part of the basement created, obviously, more shelf space for us to store materials but it also opened up significant additional group study spaces for students. The amount of work that went into this project was enormous and the people listed above really deserve great credit for a project that is already having a real impact upon student success.

Let me quickly explain just one way this project is impacting student success. As we all know students who use their university library have higher grades, and they retain and graduate at higher rates. In September 2011, we set yet another record for the one month use of Mabee Library: 27,817 users worked in the Mabee. Already in 2011, we have had more users in Mabee Library than we did in the entirety of 2009: 143,736 versus 141,872.



Hello Everyone! My name is Royce Kitts and I am the Education Librarian at the Mabee Library. I started in June and am excited to be working in the academic library environment. Before coming to Washburn University I worked for ten years in public libraries, most recently as the Library Director in Tonganoxie, Kansas. I received my Masters in Library Science from Emporia State University and have called Kansas home for the past twenty years.

My goal as a librarian is to give back to my chosen profession and to promote the important roles that librarians play in the education process. I am actively involved in professional library associations, and this year I am the President of the Kansas Library Association, the Recording Secretary of the Mountain Plains Library Association, and a Regional Member of the OCLC Global Americas Council.

When I am not thinking about libraries, I immerse myself in all things football. Luckily, my wife and son share an equal love for the sport and we can often be seen packing up to head to a game. I look forward to the upcoming semester and learning all I can about Washburn Football.



This summer Jennifer Somers joined the staff of Mabee Library in the newly created Digital Media Specialist position. Before coming to Washburn University Jennifer worked for the State of Kansas, most recently as a Graphic Designer Specialist. Prior to that she worked over a decade for Kathleen Sebelius while she was Insurance Commissioner and then Governor of Kansas, and for Governor Mark Parkinson after Governor Sebelius was appointed Secretary of Health & Human Services.

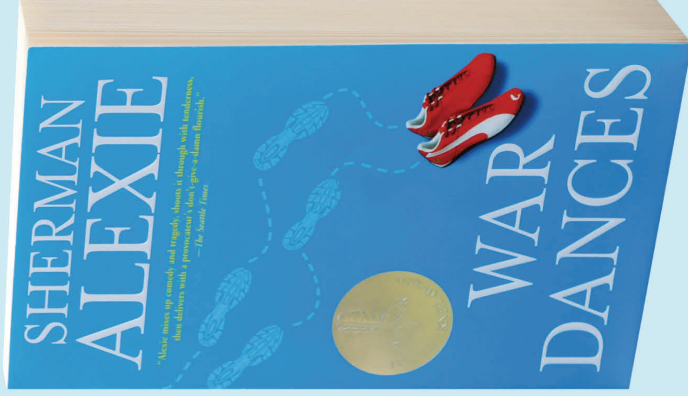
Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from The Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with an emphasis in Photography & Electronic Art from Washburn University. Having graduated from Washburn, Jennifer appreciates the transformation that has taken place at Mabee Library and she is excited to return to her alma mater. Jennifer lives in Topeka with her husband Aaron. When she is not in front of her computer, she enjoys photographing the Kansas landscape and singing with the Topeka Festival Singers.

The English Department
& Mabee Library present The
2011 Klemmer & iRead Lecture

Sherman Alexie

Author of the 2011 iRead featured book
War Dances

Friday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.
White Concert Hall
Washburn University



Free and Open to the Public
Tickets available in Mabee Library &
Student Success Office in Morgan 122



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iRead Schedule of Events:

Sunday October 16th

3:00 p.m. —“Let’s Talk About Sherman Alexie’s Work”
with Dennis Etzel, WU English Instructor
Marvin Auditorium,
Topeka Shawnee County Public Library

Wednesday October 19th

7:00 p.m.—Watch the movie “Smoke Signals”
based on Sherman Alexie’s book by the same title
Mabee Library, Washburn University

Friday October 21st

NOON—View “Smoke Signals” Kansas Room, WU Union

3:30 p.m.—Multicultural Event with Sherman Alexie
Henderson Room 100, Washburn University

4:30 p.m.—Student Event with Sherman Alexie
Henderson Room 100, Washburn University

7:00 p.m.—iRead Lecture featuring Sherman Alexie
White Concert Hall, Washburn University

8:00 p.m.—Book signing with Sherman Alexie
White Concert Hall Lobby, Washburn University
Books will be available for purchase

www.washburn.edu/iread

NEW COLLEAGUES



John Dahlstrand, PhD, is the new Assistant Dean of Student Success. John's role is part of a university-wide effort to enhance student success at Washburn. Specifically, he will oversee Academic Advising, Academic Testing and Placement, and the Tutoring and Writing Center. Additionally, John is taking an active leadership role in developing a comprehensive success plan for the newly created First-Year Experience program.

John was born and raised in suburban Chicago. After high school, he attended Denison University in Granville, Ohio where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. John returned to Chicago and began his career in pediatric mental health working in a variety of settings including a hospital in-patient mental health unit, a therapeutic day school, and a residential treatment home for children and adolescents. While earning a master's degree in Community Counseling from Loyola University Chicago, he was actively involved on a research team focusing on career development. It was this experience that sparked his interest in working with college students in the midst of many difficult life choices. After completing his MA, he joined Northwestern University as a career counselor, and then later returned to Loyola to implement an undergraduate career development program in their school of business administration. John eventually transitioned to broader academic student services.

Prior coming to Washburn, John served as the Director of Student Academic Services at Loyola where he oversaw their tutoring center, disability services, and their "one-stop" student service center. He also played an integral role in university-wide retention efforts.

John and his wife, Gina, have two children, Clare, 4, and Jack, 2. He loves to stay active, enjoys being outdoors, and has competed in numerous triathlons and other races. John is very excited to be part of the Washburn community and looks forward to working with faculty, staff, and students on enhancing student success. His office is in Morgan Hall 122, so please stop by and say hello.

Change abounds at Mabee Library (continued)

There are days when finding a seat in Mabee Library is not the easiest thing to accomplish at Washburn University.

Of note, if physical changes were only occurring in the basement that would keep everyone busy, but at the same time we removed shelves from the upper-level to create both more quiet study spaces and in another area more computers are now available for students.

It is a remarkable thing to see Mabee Library play a central role in the success of the Washburn Community of Learning but it is not something that occurs without the assistance of our Friends. In closing this letter, I want to do three final things:

- 1) Invite you to the 2011 iRead Lecture featuring the 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and 2010 Pen/Faulkner Award winner Sherman Alexie. More about the events surrounding Sherman Alexie's talk occurs later in this newsletter, but please let us know if you would like a ticket for his talk on Friday, October 21, at 7:00pm in White Concert Hall.
- 2) I want to **thank you** for your ongoing support of the Washburn University Libraries. The many positive changes that have occurred in our Libraries are in large part due to your ongoing support.
- 3) I want to ask you to again consider supporting the Friends of Mabee Library. As our services and staff experience increasing demand, the strain on our budget is significant, so to keep pushing forward in such a manner as to aid student success your assistance is again needed.

I'll see you in the stacks.

Best Wishes

Alan Bearman, Ph.D.