Mara Saule’s July 2019 retirement leaves a record of exceptional service to the University of Vermont in many diverse roles, including nearly 20 years as Dean of Libraries.

During her tenure as Dean, Saule oversaw significant changes, from transformations of the Libraries’ physical spaces to the development of unique digital resources that make UVM’s research collections available to a global audience. Under her guidance the library established faculty and philanthropic advisory boards to ensure strong partnerships. Her work as a consultant to libraries around the world and as an accreditation evaluator throughout New England has connected UVM to institutions near and far.

Saule says, “While it is bittersweet to say good-bye to the workplace I’ve called home, I do so with a renewed sense of optimism and excitement for what’s to come. I know the Libraries will be in capable hands with a new Dean and the fabulous faculty and staff I’ve been so fortunate to work alongside.”

The Libraries welcome Dr. Bryn Geffert as Dean. Geffert previously held leadership roles in libraries at Amherst College, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and St. Olaf College. He brings academic and teaching expertise in Russian history and studies.

Geffert is excited to join an institution combining the teaching and faculty-student relationships typically found at a liberal arts college with the scholarship and resources of a major research university. “There is no better place to be a librarian,” he said, “than at an institution holding this dual commitment.”

As a strong advocate for libraries’ evolving roles in disseminating research, he says, “This is both a fraught and an exciting time in scholarly communication, and libraries should stand in the vanguard of reform. I look forward to working with colleagues to explore how UVM can play a leading role in adopting and crafting models that make the academy’s research available to everyone, everywhere, regardless of means.”
**THE BRIDGE EFFECT**

In the Fall of 2017, the Howe Library was connected by bridge to the Central Campus Residence Hall and Dining Facility. This direct connection to students living in the innovative Wellness Environment residential setting appears to be increasing visits to the already bustling library.

Between January 1 and November 1, the total numbers of library visits increased by 24% from 2017 (770,793) to 2018 (956,117). Even without the bridge, hourly traffic into the library’s main entrance is up. The most significant increases in traffic headcount are on Friday (50.51%) and Saturday (86.55%).

**A NEW HOME**

**BILLINGS LIBRARY & SILVER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

With a rededication in the fall of 2018, the university’s special collections and three academic centers (the Center for Holocaust Studies, the Center for Research on Vermont, and the Humanities Center) share the second, third, and fourth floor of the architecturally renowned Bills Library and its 1986 addition. The four units share commitments to research and scholarship, teaching and learning, and engagement through events, publication, and partnerships.

The Jack and Shirley Silver Special Collections Library provides access to research materials relating to the study of Vermont, the history of the University of Vermont, and the history of the book as a form of humanistic expression. The collections support a diverse community of researchers. An active instruction program provides students with hands-on educational opportunities using materials from the collections. A robust schedule of lectures, workshops, and exhibits promotes the collections and engages the campus community and the general public in wide-ranging discussions and debates.

“THE CO-LOCATION OF THESE IMPORTANT AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP WILL MAKE BILLINGS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL ACADEMIC CENTERS ON THE UVM CAMPUS, AS IT ONCE WAS. IT IS HEARTENING TO SEE THIS ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY.”

TOM SULLIVAN
UVM President, 2012–2019

“HAVING A DEDICATED, FLEXIBLE TEACHING SPACE IN BILLINGS LIBRARY HAS BEEN A BIG STEP FORWARD. WE’RE ABLE TO OFFER STUDENTS MAXIMUM ENGAGEMENT WITH RARE AND ARCHIVAL PRIMARY SOURCES.”

JEFFREY MARSHALL
Director of Special Collections

A HUMANITIES FUND GIFT FROM THE UVM PRESIDENT ALLOCATED $200,000 FOR NEW PRINT MATERIALS. THE LIBRARIES PURCHASED 782 NEW CIRCULATING TITLES AND *LES ROYS DE LA TRES CRESTIENNE MAISON DE FRANCE*, A RARE MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT. ONLY ONE OTHER COPY OF THE BOOK IS KNOWN, IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FRANCE.
**STUDENT SUCCESS**

**IMPACTING LEARNERS AT HOWE LIBRARY**

The UVM Libraries’ David W. Howe Memorial Library-based Information & Instruction Services department offers a range of services to support teaching, learning, and research and to help learners meet information literacy learning objectives. Subject librarians have professional research experience and disciplinary expertise. They are available to work with students and faculty one-on-one, in small groups, and in classroom settings.

**LIBRARIAN SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION LITERACY INCLUDES:**

- **POINT-OF-NEED ASSISTANCE** through in-person and remote help.
- **STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT** through individual and group consultations with librarians.
- **LIBRARY INSTRUCTION** for individual courses to support specific research needs.
- **CURRICULAR INTEGRATION** of information literacy skills in collaboration with faculty across campus.

Studies show positive connections between library instruction and consultation and student success.

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**HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS EMBRACE ACTIVE LEARNING**

In recent years, the Larner College of Medicine has shifted its thinking on teaching in the traditional classroom setting. Faculty have replaced lecturing with active learning, a model that encourages student engagement, skills development, and collaboration with peers, faculty, and professionals. Librarians at Dana Medical Library have worked to support this change by incorporating innovative new ways of teaching into its education program.

- Library faculty and staff created a web app called the EBM Decision Tree that pulls together library resources that medical students use to complete case-based problems.
- Library liaisons to Physical Therapy and Nursing replaced lectures on biomedical database searching with video tutorials and in-class activities.
- The library liaison to Pediatrics and OB/GYN adopted the clinical case presentation format to teach new residents about the library.
- The library launched an online self-training guide for navigating the citation management tool EndNote.

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**IN FY2018, THERE WERE 441 NEW ITEMS ADDED TO SCHOLARWORKS @ UVM, AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY OF UVM STUDENT AND FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP. RESEARCH WAS DOWNLOADED 187,714 TIMES BY INDIVIDUALS AROUND THE GLOBE, FROM OVER 200 COUNTRIES. SEE MORE AT SCHOLARWORKS.UVM.EDU**
HEALTH DISPARITIES @ DANA MEDICAL LIBRARY

Ta-Nehisi Coates’ Between the World and Me (the UVM 2018 First Year Read) inspired this exhibit, which explored inequities in health and well-being in America. The exhibit looked at the social determinants of health in a society: economic factors, health behaviors, health care, education, and environment, and offered data pointing to the socioeconomic disparities that black Americans face and the subsequent health disparities that arise.

FEATURED NEW RESOURCE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, 1827-1998

This unique archive features newspapers written by and for African American communities and covers major events and social histories of the 19th and 20th centuries, from the Antebellum South to the Civil Rights Movement.

UVM & THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT @ HOWE LIBRARY

An exhibit in the Howe Library lobby examined the history and timeline of the eugenics movement at the University of Vermont. In the 1920s and 1930s, the field of eugenics was promoted at UVM through classes, research, and publications and informed the Vermont legislature’s sterilization act. The growing public voice of Vermont’s Abenaki Indians and the attention of scholars eventually turned a critical eye to the eugenics movement in Vermont. In 2018, a campus conversation about eugenics at UVM led the Board of Trustees to remove the name of Guy W. Bailey, UVM’s 13th president, from the main university library. The official name for the building, previously Guy W. Bailey/David W. Howe Memorial Library, is now the David W. Howe Memorial Library.

STORIES FROM THE STACKS @ SILVER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Silver Special Collections hosts lectures throughout the year that feature new ways of looking at collections and cultural heritage. In April of 2018, English Associate Professor Libby Miles presented, “Abenaki Community Cookbooks as Rhetorical Acts of Survivance,” a talk about two Abenaki community cookbooks that demonstrate strategies of survivance (survival + resistance) and employ community-building strategies of approachability and inclusivity, offer instruction in Native ways, and highlight the role of foraging, hunting and cultivating to support indigenous food sovereignty.

ADVANCING EQUALITY

Through exhibits, galleries, and special events, the Libraries provide forums to address complex, sometimes controversial issues. As stewards of the University’s history, we don’t shy away from telling our institution’s difficult stories, so that future generations can learn from them. By sharing stories that highlight diverse experiences and realities we’re committed to advancing diversity and equality on UVM’s campus and beyond.

The H. Lawrence McCrorey Gallery of Multicultural Art was founded in 1995 to honor Professor H. Lawrence McCrorey’s critical role in the fight against racism at UVM and beyond. Located in the Howe Library’s popular first-floor study area and reinstalled following 2017 renovations, the gallery contains a rotating selection of multi-media artworks by contemporary artists of color.

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Librarians at the University of Vermont serve as twelve-month, non-tenured faculty members. In addition to managing workloads largely devoted to advancing the University’s educational mission and implementing library operations, UVM library professors are deeply engaged in service and scholarship in the library science profession and beyond.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

Library Associate Professor **JEANENE LIGHT** and others surveyed University of Vermont Health Network community hospital and UVM Medical Center service providers to determine the information needs of clinicians. A final report proposes strategies for improved access to information, such as expanded resource licensing, network access technologies, and educational training for clinicians.

Howe Library’s Information & Instruction Services Director **NANCY FAWLEY** collaborated with colleagues across the country on a multi-campus study. Student transfer students at Valparaiso University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, and UVM were surveyed to measure the impact of information literacy instruction on their sense of academic integration. The study, published in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, found positive correlations between library instruction and “transfer students’ feelings of academic support and research confidence at both their previous and current institutions.”

Cataloging and Metadata Librarian **DAN TAM DO** and Director of Collection Management Services **LAURA GEWISSLER** presented on UVM’s experience mandating electronic theses and dissertation contributions to our university archive and institutional repository at the Charleston Library Conference (a key venue for book and serials acquisitions librarianship).

**SERVICE HIGHLIGHT**

UVM Medical Center nurses recognized Library Assistant Professor **ALICE STOKES** with the Kappa Tau Friend of Nursing Award, in recognition of her distinguished work in support of evidence-based practice and research. Kappa Tau is the Vermont chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society.

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**IN FY 2018, SURVEYED UVM LIBRARIES PATRONS REPORTED HIGHEST DESIRED SERVICE LEVELS FOR “PRINT AND/OR ELECTRONIC JOURNAL COLLECTIONS I REQUIRE FOR MY WORK.”**

**THE LIBRARIES ADDED 5,565 EBOOKS TO OUR COLLECTIONS.**

**E-JOURNALS IN THE LIBRARIES’ COLLECTIONS WERE USED 1,544,355 TIMES.**

**ALMOST 30 CENTER FOR DIGITAL INITIATIVES ORIGINAL COLLECTIONS WERE MOVED TO OUR NEW PLATFORM, WHICH FEATURES AN IMPROVED INTERFACE FOR DIGITAL BOOKS. SEE MORE AT CDI.UVM.EDU**

**PHYSICAL ITEMS CATALOGED INCLUDED 6,234 NEW PRINT VOLUMES, 382 DVDS, 127 THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS, 49 COMPACT DISCS.**

**HOWE LIBRARY’S INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICES BORROWED 6,861 ITEMS FOR UVM AFFILIATES.**