In 2015, 1,215 students, faculty, and staff competed the LibQUAL survey, or approximately 10% of the Duquesne community.

8,164 issues of the Pittsburgh Catholic, or 157 years worth of archives, are now available online as a result of Gumberg’s 7-year digitization project.

In January 2015, 33 more outlets and 22 more USB ports were added to Gumberg’s 5th floor.

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Gumberg Library celebrated the 20th anniversary of its naming in February, opening the door to reflection on the library’s past, as well as a look to its future.

Although the building officially opened in 1978, the name “Gumberg Library” was not adopted until Feb. 3, 1995. At that time, support from alumnus Stanley Gumberg and his wife Marcia enabled the library to keep up with emerging technologies, namely, personal computers and the Internet.

The library has had a history of adopting cutting-edge technologies. In its earliest years, a single computer allowed users to look up books in a “data bank.” In 1993, the library transitioned from a card catalog to an integrated online system that allowed access from remote locations, a first among Pittsburgh libraries.

Over the years, the goal of fostering learning, innovation and creativity has led to modernization efforts, such as those on the library’s main floor, in the Margaret P. Sullivan Curriculum Center, and in the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center. Last summer, the library updated to a next generation system, which simplified the research process by allowing users to search the breadth of library resources simultaneously.

In recent years, smaller, lighter and more powerful technology has led to an increasing number of students who bring their own devices to the library. In response to this trend, the library has significantly increased the number of electrical outlets in the building. The library also aims to create more flexible and varied study spaces to allow students to adapt their study environment to fit a wide range of academic work.

Gumberg Library welcomes over 500,000 visitors each year and the library will continue to evolve as it adapts to these users’ needs. As the library strives to fulfill the University mission, Stanley Gumberg’s vision endures: “A university library is the key which can unlock the door to a meaningful education.”

Mr. & Mrs. Gumberg with former Bishop Donald Wuerl and former University President Dr. John Murray at the library’s dedication ceremony.
Dr. Laverna Saunders Retires as University Librarian

Dr. Laverna Saunders retired in December 2014, after serving as university librarian for 12 years. Saunders made many significant contributions to Gumberg Library over the years, including the digitization of The Duquesne Duke and the entire historical archive of the Pittsburgh Catholic. She also extended library hours, introduced 24-hour access during finals and made major renovations that improved study and collection space. Dr. Saunders has been a champion for the library and Duquesne University.

As the search for a new university librarian begins, Maureen Diana Sasso has been appointed acting university librarian. Sasso has worked for Gumberg Library for nearly 29 years. She has served as director of information services at Gumberg Library since 1991.

A new university librarian is expected to be in place before the start of the next academic year.

Health Sciences Librarian David Nolfi Receives Service Recognition Award

David Nolfi, health sciences librarian and library assessment coordinator, received the 2014 Marguerite Abel Service Recognition Award. Nolfi accepted the award on Oct. 21, 2014, at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC) of the Medical Library Association (MLA) annual meeting in Alexandria, Va. The award recognizes a member for exemplary service to the chapter. The award was named in honor of Maguerite Abel, the first Reference Librarian and Assistant Director at the Health Sciences Library of West Virginia University, on the occasion of her retirement in 1994.

Nolfi has been an active member of MLA since 1995 and was recently reappointed as a distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals. He served as the MAC’s past chair, and is currently a member of the Special Advisory Group for Resource and Academic Libraries for the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Nolfi previously served as chair of MLA’s Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section (NAHRS) and received the NAHRS Award for Professional Excellence in 2013.
New to Gumberg

CHARLOTTE MYERS, Electronic Resources and Discovery Librarian

Charlotte Myers has returned to Gumberg to fill the newly established position of electronic resources and discovery librarian. She previously worked at Gumberg as a part-time reference and instruction librarian and later as the electronic thesis and dissertation coordinator. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Bard College and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh. Charlotte has worked at a number of diverse libraries throughout the Pittsburgh region, including the Business Library at the University of Pittsburgh, Chatham University, Penn State Greater Allegheny, CCAC Boyce Campus and various branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She is very pleased to be working once again at Duquesne.

PAIGE HANCHER, Part-Time Evening and Weekend Supervisor in Circulation

Paige Hancher is a new part-time evening and weekend supervisor in circulation. Paige is a 2013 magna cum laude graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor’s degree in history and communications studies (focused in media studies). She is also currently working for the Pittsburgh Pirates in their Ticket Sales and Service Department as a group sales and service specialist. She gained experience working in a library setting while working for the Hillman Library during her time at the University of Pittsburgh. In regards to special interests, Paige loves to run, practice yoga and maintain a physically active lifestyle. She also has a passion for sports, particularly hockey, and enjoys reading historical nonfiction and classical literature. She loves learning new languages and cultures, music (especially Frank Sinatra) and is exceptionally fond of the canine species.

BETH OLTROGGE, Library Assistant in Cataloging

Beth Oltrogge is the new library assistant in the cataloging department. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Before arriving at Duquesne University, she honed her skills at her church library in Texas and later at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Oakland. She is an open source enthusiast and is currently attempting a practice installation of the Evergreen ILS on her personal computer. When she’s not in the library, she also enjoys thrifting, kayaking, gluten-free baking, reading plays and science fiction, and exploring the culture and events at Duquesne.

MEREDITH SCHERER, Part-Time Evening and Weekend Supervisor in Circulation

Meredith Scherer is a new part-time evening and weekend supervisor in circulation. She graduated from Washington College with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and is currently working toward a master’s degree in library science from Drexel University. Meredith is originally from a tiny Alaskan fishing village but moved to the Washington, D.C. metro area before making the great trek to Pittsburgh. She is an avid reader, a science fiction fantasy junkie, and an unlimber yogi.
Springing into Scholarship at the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center

By Chelsea R. Binnie, Assistant to the Director, Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center

The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center (SSPC) hosted “A Day of Learning and Speaking Out—A Faculty, Student and Community Stakeholder Response to Incidents of Lethal Force Among Police”. The day-long learning event took place on March 25, and was co-sponsored by the Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research, the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Center for African Studies. Professor Joy James, the Francis Christopher Oakley Third Century Professor of the Humanities and Professor of Political Science at Williams College, delivered the keynote address.

The SSPC held its 33rd Annual Symposium “Experiencing Disaster” on March 30 and 31. The SSPC welcomed keynote speakers Professor Debra Bergoffen, the Bishop Hamilton Lecturer in Philosophy at American University, Professor Jane Anna Gordon, Associate Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, Professor Kevin Hart, the Edwin B. Kyle Professor of Christian Studies at the University of Virginia, and Professor David Loy, an independent scholar, writer and Zen teacher in the Sanbo Kyodan Tradition of Japanese Zen Buddhism. The SSPC’s 33rd Annual Symposium addressed difficult aspects of the human experience and paid particular attention to the experience of disaster. The symposium was well attended and opened a discursive space for the discussion of all aspects, particularly the difficult aspects, of human experience in the lifeworld.

The SSPC proudly hosts a German-language reading group composed primarily of young scholars with an interest in studying Edmund Husserl, and in further developing reading, writing, speaking, and translation skills in the German language. The group meets weekly in the SSPC to work through Husserlian original manuscripts. The SSPC is especially pleased to welcome and support the work of these young scholars as their efforts both create new research opportunities for SSPC patrons interested in Husserlian thought and the German language, and support and uphold the SSPC’s longstanding relationship with the Husserl Archives that are housed at the University of Leuven in Belgium.

The SSPC is pleased to introduce two visiting scholars. Dr. Habip Turker is a post-doctoral research fellow working with the Department of Philosophy. Dr. Turker has been in residency since the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year and will remain through the end of the academic year. Dr. Guilherme Messas serves as the coordinator of the postgraduate program on phenomenological psychopathology at the Santa Casa de São Paulo School of Medical Sciences. Dr. Messas has been in residency since the beginning of the spring 2015 semester and will remain through the end of the semester. He is actively working to promote the study and recognition of scholarly research in phenomenology and phenomenological psychopathology in Brazil and throughout South America.

The SSPC’s 33rd Annual Symposium keynote speakers (from left to right): Profs. Kevin Hart, Debra Bergoffen, Jane Gordon, and David Loy.
Gumberg Digitizes More Than 150 Years of the Pittsburgh Catholic

More than 150 years’ worth of America’s oldest Catholic newspaper in continuous operation, the Pittsburgh Catholic, is now available online as part of a digitization project recently completed by Gumberg Library.

The digitization project began in 2008 after microfilm reels of the newspaper showed signs of deterioration. Now users can access issues published between 1844 and 2001. Issues from 2001 to present day are available through the Pittsburgh Catholic’s online archives at www.pittsburghcatholic.org.

“By digitizing the newspaper, Gumberg has been able to support the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as well as individuals researching parish and family histories, because all issues are freely available online and are keyword-searchable,” said Dr. Laverna Saunders, who retired in December as university librarian. “The library has supported preservation of the newspaper for nearly 40 years and views digitization as a natural progression.”

As a premier chronicle of Roman Catholic life in the diocese, the Pittsburgh Catholic collection represents a significant contribution to the growing body of primary documents covering the Roman Catholic Church in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Executive Director of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance, Jennifer Younger, applauded the recent completion of the project. “Easy accessibility to the Pittsburgh Catholic enables everyone to gain new insights into the lives of Catholics and provides an often-missing Catholic dimension to critical questions in American history,” Younger said.

Tom White, university archivist and curator of special collections, notes the broad appeal of the newspaper archive. “The Pittsburgh Catholic will be extremely useful to social and religious historians, genealogists and anyone researching the history of the church in western Pennsylvania,” said White.

Support for the digitization project came from a Library Services and Technology Act grant, a capstone gift from The Ann and Frank Cahouet Foundation along with Gumberg Library funds.

University archived issues are freely available online and keyword-searchable. They can be accessed at http://digital.library.duq.edu.
University-Wide LibQUAL Survey Assesses User Satisfaction

Gumberg conducted a University-wide survey in February seeking feedback regarding its collections, services and building spaces.

A total of 1,215 students, faculty and staff members representing all 10 University schools and other University divisions completed this year’s LibQUAL survey. Approximately 10 percent of the campus community participated.

LibQUAL is a rigorously tested and validated survey maintained by the Association of Research Libraries, and is used by more than 1,000 libraries. Gumberg has conducted the survey every three years since 2006. LibQUAL allows the library to accurately measure user satisfaction over time and benchmark results against other university libraries in the United States and abroad.

Insight gleaned from the survey data will be used in planning and allocating resources. Previous results of the LibQUAL survey have led to such changes as extended hours and installation of additional electrical outlets. Results of the 2015 survey will be shared in a future issue.

Exploring Africa through Literature Book Group Discusses Americanah

In March, the Exploring Africa through Literature Book Group held its inaugural meeting with over 20 students, faculty, and staff in attendance. The book group, organized by Music Librarian Terra Merkey, discussed Americanah by the award-winning author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Dr. Emad Mirmotahari, assistant professor of English, joined Merkey in leading the discussion which touched on immigration, the blending of cultures, race, romance and the role of the individual in the world.

This new book group was inspired by Merkey’s recent research trip to Ghana funded by a faculty Loogman grant. She sees books as a window into other cultures and a means of discovering commonalities that unite us all. Aside from supporting cultural understanding, the book group encourages a love of reading and provides an opportunity for interested readers to talk about books together. The focus on Africa stems from Duquesne’s strategic goal of an emphasis on Africa and the African Diaspora, as well as the University’s interest in supporting the Spiritan work in Africa.

The book group plans to meet again in fall 2015.
Gumberg Library Support for the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium

For several years, Gumberg has presented a $250 library award at both the Undergraduate and Graduate Research and Scholarship Symposia. At the end of 2014, an endowment was established to sustain the award. In April, Gumberg presented the first award funded by the endowment to Pharmacy student Lindsey Sosnowski for her poster titled “Impact of Young-Onset Parkinson’s Disease on Quality of Life.” Including the judges of the Gumberg Library Award for Undergraduate Research, five Gumberg faculty members helped evaluate and select winners for three of the 2015 URSS awards. In addition to providing a financial incentive to students and participating as judges, Gumberg supports the URSS and the GRSS by offering research assistance to students as they prepare their posters. This year, librarians offered consultations and a special drop-in session for URSS participants in order to help the students strengthen their research and meet eligibility requirements for URSS awards. Librarians assisted students in working through various aspects of the research process, including constructing effective search strategies to return relevant resources, evaluating resources, and using information ethically.

Gumberg offers research support year-round. Visit http://ask.library.duq.edu for more information.

Gumberg Library More Than Doubles the Number of Electrical Outlets on the Fifth Floor.

When the library building opened in 1978, students required fewer outlets than today. In recent years, smaller, lighter, and more powerful technology has led to an increasing number of students who bring their own electronic devices to the library. One of the most frequent requests the library hears from the student body is for more outlets. In response, Gumberg Library has installed new outlets throughout the building. As part of this initiative, Gumberg more than doubled the number of outlets on the fifth floor in January, which has allowed students to be more productive and mobile as they work long hours in Gumberg.
What I’m Reading: Provost Austin

By Provost Timothy Austin

In *Something Amazing*, the first of nine short stories in Elizabeth McCracken’s “Thunderstruck & Other Stories”, a child describes the fenced-off end of a neighborhood street as “Ghostland … where all the ghosts get caught.” His misinterpretation of the phrase “dead-end street” captures both the subject matter at the heart of McCracken’s vivid narratives and the idiosyncratic lens through which she views the world.

At the heart of each story in this collection lies a different network of interpersonal relationships, based in each case on a more or less dysfunctional family but including also a supporting cast of richly varied characters. McCracken disrupts the equilibrium of each of these networks by removing a key individual. He or she may be abducted, may die, may be left on life support following a traumatic brain injury—or may simply vanish for reasons never explained. The details are of little importance. For McCracken asks us to focus not on the person missing from the group but on the responses of those who are left behind. These run the gamut: a distraught father sees evidence of returning consciousness in his brain-dead daughter; a librarian lashes out publicly at an innocent bystander; a grieving woman compensates by spoiling her precocious granddaughter. We witness the behavior of each individual and wonder, I think, which reaction would most closely approximate our own.

As interesting as McCracken’s stories are for their depiction of character, one can also enjoy them for their meticulously described settings. From one of the seedier areas of Boston “just north of the turnpike” to one of its tonier upper-middle-class suburbs, and from the Paris familiar to tourists to a tract of the French countryside populated by tipsy British expats, McCracken relies on an unsparing eye and a gift for vivid metaphor to capture each detail—often, and perhaps by preference, the less attractive ones.

McCracken’s stories draw the reader in. Her characters engage in emotional struggles common to us all and live in apartments and homes on streets we recognize. As a result, while her narration of a particular series of events always ends where it should, we are left thirsty for more, eager to follow the longer narrative arc of their lives. For me, that is exactly what the best short stories do.

Alumnus Donates Rare 1611 Edition of *The Faerie Queene*

Poet and alumnus Robert Giannetti, who earned his doctorate in English Renaissance literature at Duquesne University in 1979, recently donated a very rare 1611 folio edition of Edmund Spenser’s *The Faerie Queene* and *The Shepheardes Calendar* to Gumberg. The book is the first collected edition of Spenser’s works, printed in London soon after Spenser’s death by Matthew Lownes. It is available in the University archives.
Spring into Books! Scholastic Book Sale!

Buy One, Get One Free with a Book Donation

April 13-17, PNC Atrium, Second Floor, Duquesne Union
Monday through Thursday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The sale format will be the same as last year, Buy One, Get One Free—with the donation of a book! Customers are asked to donate a book of their choice to support PreK through Grade 8 summer reading programs in the local community. Books intended for donation are not required to be purchased from the sale.

All major credit cards are accepted. All proceeds benefit the Maureen Sullivan Curriculum Center. For more information, please contact Danielle Henzler at 412.396.1858 or buck@duq.edu.

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