Broadcast news insights

NPR’s Don Gonyea visits students, speaks to Libraries’ Friends

It wasn't enough that Don Gonyea was on CMU’s Mount Pleasant campus in May to serve as keynote speaker for the annual CMU Friends of the Libraries Luncheon. The National Public Radio political correspondent agreed to make time in his schedule to meet in the WCMU studios with CMU broadcast journalism students working and completing internships at the university’s public broadcasting headquarters.

Gonyea, a Michigan native, started at NPR in 1986. His storied career as a national correspondent includes reporting from the White House the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, as well as covering the Bush administration’s prosecution of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“I love any chance I get to come to a university and talk to students, especially as we had here: students who have the journalism bug and who have the public radio bug,” Gonyea says. “I think it’s fabulous to see students who are kind of rolling around in their heads how they might make their way in this profession.”

One such student was Patricia Emenpour, the 2007 Lem Tucker Journalism Scholarship recipient, who was completing her student employment at WCMU when Gonyea visited.

“Every time I come across a journalist as famous as Don Gonyea, it’s kind of surreal,” says Emenpour, who now is enrolled as a CMU graduate student. “Just listening to him talk you can tell he really cares about what he does.”

In addition to offering students valuable insights into the broadcasting profession, Gonyea’s visit provided even more to John Ketchum. The broadcasting senior was preparing for his internship over the summer at NPR in Washington, D.C.

“For them to give me the opportunity to actually speak with him, that was very humbling,” Ketchum says. “Then with me being able to do my internship at NPR this summer and having him telling me some of the insider stuff about the headquarters, it made me feel a lot more comfortable going into my internship experiences there.”

More than 100 people attended the annual CMU Friends of the Libraries Luncheon May 14 to hear and meet Gonyea. It was the largest turnout ever for this event, which thanks library donors.
Decade of developments

Celebrating 10 years at the Park Library of today

This academic year we’re celebrating a milestone in the life of the CMU Libraries. The Charles V. Park Library, as we know it today, will be 10 years old on Jan. 9, 2012, the anniversary of its first day of service. Since then almost nine million people have come in the doors to use the library, and about one million books and other items have gone out the doors on loan to students, faculty, staff, and community members. It’s been a busy place.

While Park Library looks very much the same as it did in its first days a decade ago, thanks to wonderfully respectful library users and continuous attention by staff, it isn’t wholly the same. True, the shelves are loaded with books and journals, library staff are eager to offer expertise and service, and the hundreds of computers distributed across four floors are heavily used, especially in the evenings.

Yet over these years the library as the unrivaled locus of the literature for the scholarly disciplines has gradually been giving way – happily and generously, I prefer to think – to the ascending prominence of a CMU virtual library of millions of purchased and licensed books, journal articles, and other items in the academic lives of our students and faculty. This means that CMU library users have convenient access to much authoritative research information wherever they happen to be 24 hours a day. And they’re using it. This is especially the case for our off-campus and online students located from New York to Honolulu in the U.S. and in many countries.

While visits to Park Library have continued at a high and steady pace over the years, annual visits to the Libraries’ websites now vastly surpass visits to the physical facility.

Check it out

In January please check the University Libraries’ website – library.cmich.edu – for next semester’s 10th anniversary activities. Or connect and celebrate with us then on Facebook.

I trust you’ll enjoy this issue of Reference Point, which contains informative articles on other aspects of the CMU Libraries. As always, we’re interested in hearing your comments or questions.

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries
Reliable research resource

Libraries help faculty advance their scholarly works

Among its goals, CMU states it strives to "create and disseminate knowledge through theoretical and applied research … that will contribute to the intellectual, economic, cultural, and social well-being of our state, region and global communities."

For many CMU faculty and scholars beyond the university, their research commences, develops and continues through the resources available within CMU University Libraries.

Here's a look at how some faculty are realizing and advancing their academic endeavors with assistance and guidance from University Libraries' extensive on-site and online collections, resourceful reference librarians, connections with other libraries, and more.

Ron Primeau
Professor
Department of English Language and Literature

When the Historical Society of Michigan named “Star by Star: Naomi Long Madgett, Poet and Publisher” the 2011 Documentary of the Year, Ron Primeau was quick to cite his resources.

For the film in which he served as associate producer for filmmaker David Schock, Primeau says CMU reference librarians were fundamental in confirming and expanding on facts about the life and career of Detroit’s poet laureate and her extraordinary influence on American literature.

"David Schock and I have now made three movies together, and a filmmaker must be a researcher on the spot to get the facts right, to get a visual of a news story or just the right photo from someplace far away," Primeau says. "I have been able to count on support from the librarians every time."

For nearly four decades at CMU, Primeau has sought and received much-needed assistance from university reference librarians for everything from writing grant proposals to publishing countless journal articles and helping his students gain a deeper understanding of how to conduct meaningful research.

"In the early days when I wrote many articles, they would get hard-to-acquire materials for me and even help find the right journals in which to publish," says Primeau, admitting he spends more time in the library than his Anspach Hall office.

"An obscure newspaper story, verification of data or keeping the collections current; all this helped my students and me.

"Librarians redirect us to the inconvenient and indispensable paths to find more detail, better evidence and a better chance at finding answers that are worthy of our intelligence. Librarians consistently bring out the best in the talents of everyone I work with."

Ron Primeau teaches a graduate class in literary theory.

continued
Minghui Chai
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry

Much of Minghui Chai’s research into fields such as materials science and analytical chemistry, especially on nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and atomic force microscopy in polymer and supramolecular chemistry, happens in CMU’s Dow Science Complex laboratories.

But she’s among the first to say most of her projects and the endeavors of her students begin within University Libraries.

“I use the library on a nearly daily basis,” she says. “Anything we want to solve in the lab, we need the information from the library as a base for our research.”

The updated materials available in the Libraries’ in-house and online resources help Chai to review and analyze current data to better plan and predict experiment outcomes. This helps to prevent duplicating work already completed within the field and enables her to focus on advancing the research and discovering answers to chemistry-related questions.

“If we’re looking for the protocol on how to prepare some of the chemicals or to see if somebody has done this type of work before, the library provides an easy shortcut for us,” Chai says. “We can use it as a reference to do our work more efficiently.”

She says the library made a lasting impression on her when she first visited the university in 2002. Today Chai is even more impressed with how fundamental the library is in keeping university scholars connected to cutting-edge research trends and helping to conduct leading research at CMU.

“The library is the best source for research, and I really think it helps to put us on a level playing field with the work of other major research institutions,” she says.

John Zappala
MSA faculty member
CMU Off-Campus and Online Programs

Without setting foot on CMU’s Mount Pleasant campus, John Zappala was tapping into University Libraries’ resources and encouraging his students in Troy to do the same.

From his home in White Lake Zappala, a Master of Science in Administration faculty member in CMU’s Off-Campus and Online Programs, already had connected with CMU Off-Campus Library Services librarians and online resources for assistance in researching course-related topics and writing grant proposals.

The assistance he received from off-campus librarian Jennifer Rundels was so valuable that he refers to her as his “guardian angel.”

“The University Libraries are a gem,” says Zappala, who has taught off-campus and online programs courses for nearly 15 years. “The librarians we have here are dedicated professionals who help find ways to make students successful.”

In addition to completing research projects and writing textbooks using CMU Libraries’ extensive online collections, Zappala says he often meets with off-campus librarians and invites them to present to his classes online and at centers throughout the state.

“It’s all about establishing that relationship with the librarians and helping the students, as well as myself, learn more about the resources that are available,” he says. “The library is always changing, so I learn something new each time they present to my class.”

This year Zappala, who recently retired as community education director at Okemos Public Schools, will teach on-campus and online MSA classes.

“Teaching class on and off campus, I now have the privilege of working with two librarians,” he says. “It’s like I will have two guardian angels: Jennifer Rundels and Judy O’Dell.”
John Fierst
Assistant Professor
Clarke Historical Library

John Fierst was working at the James J. Hill Library in St. Paul, Minn., nearly 30 years ago when he realized it was necessary to make a more than 1,000-mile round-trip visit to Mount Pleasant, Mich.

CMU’s Clarke Historical Library had the exact information Fierst needed to completely develop his article – “Return to ‘Civilization’” – about John Tanner for Minnesota History magazine.

Tanner was nine years old when he was taken captive by a band of Saginaw Ojibway in 1789 and soon was sold to an Ottawa woman living in northern lower Michigan. Tanner’s account of life as an Ottawa-Ojibway from 1790 to 1820 was published in 1830 as “A Narrative of the Captivity and Adventures of John Tanner during Thirty Years Residence Among the Indians.”

While much was documented about Tanner’s earlier life, specific information about his later years that included controversies surrounding Tanner and his connections with Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and Abel Bingham is limited.

“The biggest collection for me at CMU was the Abel Bingham papers,” says Fierst, who today is the reference librarian and bibliographer in the Clarke. “The resources at the Clarke made the article happen.”

Guided by his experiences utilizing the depth of information available in Clarke Historical Library – a leading resource for subjects including Ernest Hemingway, children’s literature, and Great Lakes and Native American histories – Fierst says he is committed to providing scholars and patrons within and beyond the university the same level of assistance he received.

“I love to have the students and scholars come to the library and get excited about the research,” he says.

Keith Clifton
Associate Professor of Musicology
School of Music

It isn’t enough for Keith Clifton to visit Park Library and sit at a study carrel to pursue his research interests of 20th century French Music and American Music.

For many of his nearly 10 years at CMU, Clifton has reserved one of the library’s 41 individual study rooms available to faculty, emeritus faculty, staff and graduate students.

“With the library study room, I consider it my cocoon as a scholar,” he says. “I usually have several scholarly projects I’m working on, from book reviews to articles and papers for conferences. It’s quiet and secluded, so when I’m over here I get a lot of work done.”

In addition to providing Clifton personal time to focus on his work, many of the resources he needs are available through the library’s interlibrary loan service – now Documents on Demand – and on-site collections including numerous music scores and the Betty A. McDonald Children’s Literature Collection.

Clifton’s interest in American song culminated in the 2008 book “Recent American Art Song: A Guide.” This book, the first to examine in detail post-1980 American classical song, has received positive reviews and is considered a standard reference source on its subject.

“When I worked on my book I was a very regular visitor to the interlibrary loan service,” Clifton says. “There are a lot of materials at the library, but if there’s something else I need they have ways to get it.”

He currently is researching 20th century French music for children, specifically French children’s literature set to music such as “Babar” and “The Little Prince.”

“The children’s collection is a wonderful resource, and I still am very impressed by the library’s collections,” Clifton says.
Gifts to Libraries strengthen CMU’s academic core

What is it about libraries that appeals to people? The idea of preservation and organization of knowledge? The ability to access information for learning and research? Or the quiet atmosphere for study and contemplation? My guess is that it’s all these and more, especially in a university setting.

As we meet our multifaceted mission, the CMU Libraries face the same challenges as all other academic libraries: expanding information, developing technology, changing curricular needs, and increasing user expectations. Growing and responding to the information needs of today and tomorrow, while maintaining time-honored traditions of quality service and support for students and faculty, are unquestionably expensive even though the people served by the Libraries daily don’t directly pay for the benefits they receive.

The rising costs of acquiring library information and providing access, especially through technology, aren’t visible to the people who use the Libraries from across all academic programs. Nonetheless, cost considerations factor importantly as we strive to offer excellent library collections and services to our CMU students and faculty in Mount Pleasant and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, while CMU support for the Libraries has been stable, it hasn’t always been increasing at the same rate as our costs because of state appropriations decreases to higher education and other reasons. Yet student and faculty expectations continue to advance because of new curriculum developments and the rapid growth in online delivery of academic programs.

So that’s where donor support comes in. We depend on you for the crucial extra edge of capability the Libraries require. Whether you’re an annual donor, major or planned gift donor, or an alum considering making a first donation, please know how valuable your decision to invest in the Libraries is and how much we appreciate your support. It’s truly an investment in the academic heart of CMU.

If you’d like more information or wish to discuss how you can make an impact with your potential donation to the CMU Libraries, feel free to contact me at 989-774-1826 or via email at megan.r.moreno@cmich.edu.

Megan R. Moreno
Director of Development and Community Outreach

CMU Libraries’ exhibits and events calendar

lib.cmich.edu/exhibits

‘Student Life and Learning at CMU’
Exploring CMU’s long tradition of educating students both inside and outside the classroom

• Through Jan. 20, 2012
• 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
  • clarke.cmich.edu

‘Painters’ Progress’
Focusing on the development of 12 students from all levels of painting expertise

• Nov. 1 through Dec. 10, 2011
• Extended Hours Study and Student Gallery, Park Library

‘Illuminating Truth in Italian Compositions’
Featuring works from CMU faculty member Jesse Dominguez

• Nov. 7, 2011, through Jan. 6, 2012
• Baber Room, Park Library

‘Hemingway and Women’
Depicting a print portfolio by 12 Idaho artists

• Jan. 9 through Feb. 17, 2012
• Baber Room, Park Library

‘Primary Visions: Foundation Art Students Exhibition’
Featuring student work created in CMU’s Department of Art and Design Foundations Program

• March 5 through March 30, 2012
• Third Floor Exhibit Area and Extended Hours Study and Student Gallery, Park Library

‘Little Traverse Bay at the Turn of the Century’
Looking into the cultural and economic growth of Traverse Bay between 1890 and 1920

• Feb. 1 through May 31, 2012
• 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
  • clarke.cmich.edu
People have called katsina dolls – a reflection of the Hopi Native American culture – visible prayers, books in wood and spirit messengers. Recent visitors to Park Library’s Baber Room also may consider them art after observing a collection of katsina dolls that Adelyn and Robert Leander donated to CMU Libraries’ permanent collection.

Adelyn served as dean of CMU’s College of Arts and Sciences during the mid 1970s. “It was natural for both my husband Robert Leander and me to think of the university’s library for a gift that celebrates Native American history and culture,” she says. “Deepening our understanding of any part of Native American culture can serve as a bridge between people.”

During Leander’s time as dean at CMU, she and her late husband, Bob Dougherty, made many friends with whom she, and now Robert Leander, have kept in close contact. Many of these friends attended the opening reception for the exhibit, which was displayed Aug. 1 to Sept. 23.

Each doll represents a different spirit, and each tells a story. Among the collection is the “Eagle Dancer,” which is Leander’s favorite. “I love the flow of it,” she says. “I love what it represents.”

Student enrichment inspires gift to Libraries

While on campus the Leanders, who now live in Evanston, Ill, and summer in northern Michigan, also had the opportunity to tour Park Library, which Adelyn described as “fascinating.” Taking a break from her studies, Sarah Neubecker shares her thoughts on the katsina doll exhibit. “It’s a different culture than I’m used to,” says Neubecker, a CMU senior majoring in journalism. “It invites more interpretation and study than other exhibits.”

Neubecker visits Park Library and the Baber Room frequently. Along with many other students, she utilizes the space for homework and reading, but also makes it a point to look at the art that the room showcases.

“I like to look at the art because it changes frequently,” she says. “It’s a cool thing to take you away from your studies, look at it and take it all in.”

An opening reception for the katsina doll exhibit provides the opportunity for donors Robert and Adelyn Leander, center, to catch up with friends including Dennis Horton, left, and Martha Logsdon, right. Adelyn served as a CMU college dean nearly three decades ago.
Over the last century Central Michigan University has experienced everything from name changes to streaking, anti-war protests, panty raids, and facility construction and renovations. One element binds such events together: students.

As CMU celebrates more than a century of learning and growth, the Clarke Historical Library’s new exhibit – “Student Life and Learning at CMU” – takes a closer look into the student perspectives that have shaped the university. The exhibit focuses on a combination of social and academic elements and depicts items dating as far back as the university’s founding in 1892.

“My goal with every exhibit is to make a relevant connection you can apply to your own experiences,” says Janet Danek, CMU University Libraries coordinator of exhibits and projects. “I believe this exhibit is important to the university due to its rich content. Students and faculty can relate to the exhibit because of their role and it being their university.”

Past and present combine
Current social media are having an influential effect on the Clarke Historical Library’s current exhibit.

Featured and interspersed throughout “Student Life and Learning at CMU” are comments from CMU alumni of today who shared their experiences of the past by commenting on questions the CMU Alumni Association posted on its Facebook page.

This partnership helped the library utilize social media and tap into the more than 18,500 alumni and friends connected to the Alumni Association through Facebook.

Over a three-week period the Alumni Association posted a series of questions and used SproutSocial, which is another social media platform for alumni to respond.

“I am not sure we would have been able to reach as many alumni and receive the great answers we did without the help of social media,” says Bryan Griffin, director of annual giving. “I think this was a great example of how social media can help us engage our alumni, while also helping with a project on campus.”

Now that the Clarke Historical Library is presenting the exhibit, the Alumni Association is featuring it on its social media outlets as well.
A window on the past

ECCO expands CMU Libraries online collection by 33 million pages

CMU Libraries have acquired the Eighteenth Century Collections Online, a product of Gale/Cengage Learning, thereby increasing the existing library collections by 33 million pages and 180,000 titles.

One of the most ambitious single digitization projects ever undertaken, ECCO consists of every English-language and foreign language title printed in the United Kingdom during the 18th century and thousands of important works from the Americas.

“Not only is it interesting and fun, but it can give you a real window into the life of a century gone by that is so fundamental to the founding of this country,” says Richard Cochran, associate dean of CMU Libraries.

ECCO focuses on what many scholars consider the most significant events in world history: The American Revolution, The French Revolution and The Industrial Revolution. From bibles, pamphlets, books and sheet music, most ECCO materials relate primarily to history, literature and philosophy. Before this digital collection was assembled, many of the materials previously were unavailable and inaccessible. The advanced technology provides users of the collection with search options including basic search, advanced search, browse authors and browse works. The new acquisition also has more research tools than in the past, making it a benchmark for academic, public and research libraries.

“ECCO and other digital collections we’ve acquired this year continue a trend in collection building,” Cochran says. “We will continue to investigate and purchase digital collection materials.”

Recently, CMU Libraries have made major strides in the enrichment of research collections available to students and faculty. In addition to ECCO, large online collections recently acquired by CMU Libraries include:

- ARTstor Digital Library. This collection features an archive of more than one million digital images spanning the arts, architecture, humanities, anthropology and sciences.
- Elsevier Freedom Collection. Expanding access to Elsevier journal titles from 194 to 2,200, this collection is particularly strong in the areas of the sciences, health and business.
- Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive, Pt. I. This collection contains 1.5 million pages, including 7,000 books and pamphlets, 80 newspaper and periodical titles, and a dozen major manuscript collections relating to the debates over slavery, abolition and colonization.
It’s difficult to take a break from visual and intellectual engagement in Park Library. Designated exhibit spaces and artwork displays are ever-present to capture visitors’ eyes and engage their minds. Even after Marnie Greene closes her books and laptop for a moment while studying in the Library’s Baber Room, her education continues.

“I always enjoy the artwork on display here,” says Greene, a junior special education major who typically studies in the Baber Room three times each week. “It’s easy to get sidetracked by the colorful paintings, and I even learn through the little descriptions they have.” This is exactly how it should be in an academic library, according to Lucy Shelton Caswell, faculty emeritus of University Libraries at The Ohio State University. In her article “Building a Strategy for Academic Library Exhibits” that appeared in College & Research Library News, Caswell states that, “while exhibitions are a secondary function of academic libraries, they may make a substantial contribution to the academic community.”

Gone are the days at Park Library when artwork was relegated to randomly filling empty spaces on the walls. Prominent exhibit areas were among the primary features implemented when the building was remodeled 10 years ago.

“We knew we were building a monumental library, so we knew we’d have lots of walls and other spaces that we could use to extend and enrich the cultural environment on campus,” says Tom Moore, dean of University Libraries. “The library can be a place that completely opens the doors to new ideas and new information the students didn’t expect to find when they came into the building.”

Libraries provide learning opportunities through art

Exhibit-enhanced education

In addition to special displays in the facility, Park Library features five exhibit areas:

• Baber Room
• Clarke Historical Library
• Extended Hours Study and Student Gallery
• Fourth Floor Exhibit Area
• Third Floor Exhibit Area

“Most exhibitions are found only in art venues, where your sole purpose is to view art,” says senior Tanya Moutzalias, a photojournalism and two-dimensional fine art photography major. “The library art exhibit spaces bring art to the students.”

Viewing the exhibits often is the reason Graciela Mercedes visits Park Library. The senior art major says the exhibits have the power to generate a different type of learning.

“You’re really absorbing it at your own pace and in your own fashion,” she says. “It’s nice to have this resource, and I think it’s a privilege to have this opportunity.”
The University Libraries were among the primary voices in the conversations when Central Michigan University initiated discussions about establishing a medical school.

“The university leadership knew right away that the College of Medicine had major implications for the Libraries,” says Tom Moore, dean of Libraries.

The electronic, print, personnel and reference resources available through Park Library and Off-Campus Library Services are fundamental to educating future physicians and ensuring accreditation for the CMU College of Medicine, which is expected to enroll its first class of 60 students in summer 2013.

In addition to taking classes on the university’s Mount Pleasant campus – the CMU College of Medicine’s west campus – medical students also will complete their course work and research at locations throughout central and northern Michigan. This includes students studying and completing their clinical work at the CMU College of Medicine’s east campus at two locations in Saginaw as well as at affiliated hospitals and medical centers in communities across the region.

With its experience assisting students enrolled in CMU’s health care-related programs – such as physician assistant, physical therapy and audiology – and the increasing number of students taking classes through CMU Off-Campus and Online Programs, CMU Libraries are prepared to serve the specific needs of such students.

These are among the qualities and resources that positioned CMU for establishing a medical school, says Dr. Sean Kesterson, the college’s associate dean of clinical affairs and hospital relations.

“For many of our students, their library experiences will be virtual, and their access to services will be through the Internet,” says Kesterson, who has worked with the library to develop the needed resources.
Making math easy as 1-2-3

Mathematics Assistance Center now open in library

For senior Bradley Holley, a new center in Park Library has made a big difference in his mathematics class.

A second Mathematics Assistance Center opened earlier this semester on the library’s fourth floor.

“Whenever I don’t understand a problem, I come here and I can get it done,” says Holley, a CMU senior majoring in foodservice administration. “It’s like working in any other part of the library, but there are people here who will help you if you’re struggling.”

While the original Mathematics Assistance Center remains open in the Towers, the Park Library center replaces the satellite center previously located in Grawn Hall. Reggie Becker, Math Assistance Center director, says the student body has positively responded to the library center. Compared to the last two fall semesters in Grawn, he says the library center already has experienced an increase in students using the resources available.

“I think a lot of it has to do with the location,” Becker says. “The library is right in the center of campus, and since a lot of people study here already, it makes it easier for them to come in and get the assistance they need.”

Gerry Edgar, manager of Library Business Services, says he’s pleased with the center’s library location.

“I think the students find it very convenient to come here instead of having to go across campus. It’s a great fit,” Edgar says.

The Mathematics Assistance Center in the library is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The center in the Towers is open 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday nights, and 2 p.m. through 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Both locations handle regular sequence mathematics from algebra to business calculus, but the library center also handles statistics and the more advanced courses.

In the Math Assistance Center that opened in Park Library this fall, MAC Director Reggie Becker offers junior Mark Hemberg guidance on his statistics homework while sophomore Paul Sidlosky finishes his statistics equations.