

BOOKENDS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

SPRING 2021

2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Credit uncommon ingenuity, commitment and a talented team of professional librarians under the leadership of Dean Amy Kautzman for the University Library's continued excellence during the year of a COVID-19 pandemic. Working almost exclusively from home, the University Library's staff put together a full-service, albeit virtual, array of services to make certain students and faculty lacked for nothing in their pursuit of learning and scholarship. Without their efforts, the Library, which many consider the heart of the university, would have been on life support. Watch for an on-line interview with Dean Kautzman sometime in March in which she will share her vision of how the Library will fulfill its mission in the future. (See article on page 3)

This month marks the beginning of our annual membership drive for the Friends of the Library, whose efforts over the years have contributed more than \$300,000 in grants and gifts to the University Library. Renewal and prospective new member emails with complete instructions on how to continue or join as members went out at the beginning of February. If you didn't receive a letter, here's a link to join either by mail or on-line:

<https://library.csus.edu/sites/default/files/inline-files/JoinTheFriendsOfTheLibrary.pdf>

Membership benefits include notifications of all presentations and special FOL and Library events, borrowing privileges at a certain membership level, a subscription to this newsletter, *Bookends*, and complimentary parking for on-campus presentations.

FRIENDS PROGRAMS MIGRATE TO ZOOM

Not unlike the University Library, the Friends have had to adapt to COVID-19 challenges. Board meetings have continued using Zoom, as has the Martell Author Lecture Series, which even though virtual has attracted larger audiences than our in-person events.

Popular local author Sasha Abramsky led the series off in October with a presentation on his new book, *Little Wonder: The Fabulous Story of Lottie Dod, the World's First Female Sports Superstar*. This incredible story about an English athlete of extraordinary accomplishment but long overlooked in history books has earned rave reviews in publications including *Publisher's Weekly*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Library Journal* and *The Atlantic*. Nancy Kho was the Fall's second author who discussed her book, *The Thank You Project: Cultivating Happiness One Letter of Gratitude at a Time*. The book is based on her research on the science of happiness and gratitude that shows how

Board Members

President

Bill Dorman

Vice President

Linda J. Goff

Secretary

Roz Van Auker

Treasurer

Michaeline Veden

Bookends Editors

Linda Goff and
Roz Van Auker

Board Members

Mary Andrews
Nick Burnett
Andrea Fiske
James Fox
Shari Gonzales
Ethan Gould ASI
Terry Kastanis
Erica Kobbe
Jean Torcom
Jennifer Ware
Lisa Woodard-Mink

Ex-Officio

Amy Kautzman, Dean
and Director, University
Library

Sally Hitchcock,
Coordinator, Community
Outreach

Lora Hollingsworth CSUS
Planned Giving

Published by the Friends
of the CSUS Library
2000 State University Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 278-5154

appreciation of the people in your life, past and present, can make a positive and lasting change in your life. A presentation on gratitude several years ago in the lecture series proved quite popular, and comments said Ms. Kho achieved the same results. She is a podcaster and speaker in addition to being an author.

Our first speaker during the Spring semester was Lauren Markham, who was scheduled to speak last February but her presentation had to be postponed because of the pandemic and the campus closure just as she was driving from the Bay Area. She spoke on her book, *The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life*. The book tells the tale of two brothers making the perilous journey from El Salvador who found the challenges in America almost as daunting. The prize-winning book was described by the noted broadcaster and author, Ted Koppel, as the result of the dogged reporting of an investigative journalist. What a fine and timely book!

The second Spring speaker, who also had to be postponed last year, is Jennifer Laam, a historical novelist whose subject matter is Tsarist Russia. Her program will be on Zoom on Thursday, April 15, 2021. She's produced several novels including her debut work, *The Secret Daughter of the Tsar*, a compelling tale of the Romanov family that received excellent reviews. Her latest book is *The Lost Season of Love and Snow*, which was described by a *New York Times* critic as, "A captivating tale in which Natalya Pushkin is vividly imagined. [A] sensitive and skillfully written novel... sure to enchant." By fortunate coincidence, Ms. Laam also happens to be on the administrative staff at Sacramento State.

In addition to the author lecture series, this year the Friends began a Town & Gown series on Zoom that features outstanding Sacramento State faculty exploring their academic specialties. The first two presentations in the Fall were a panel of Sacramento State faculty discussing the dynamics of the upcoming (at that time) 2020 election. The second presentation was on the topic of implicit bias and its consequences for race relations.

Despite the COVID-19 complications, the Friends Board continues to meet by Zoom and is busy choosing authors for next year's author series, exploring fund raising avenues, and continuing to plan for tours and special events that can happen when safer conditions permit. In the meantime, please consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Library and joining us in our work to support the University Library which can use it now more than ever.

- Bill Dorman, Board President

WHY ACADEMIC LIBRARIES MATTER

NO, YOU CANNOT FIND EVERYTHING ONLINE FOR FREE



On March 17, 2021, our own Bill Dorman moderated a Zoom session with Amy Kautzman, Dean of the University Library, on a topic dear to our hearts: the vital role academic libraries play in higher education. Dean Amy spoke about how libraries continue to transform to meet the needs of students, researchers, and faculty, including rethinking spaces to build equitable services and foster 21st century skills of innovation, discovery, and collaboration. Together they explored her vision for the libraries of the future.

This special virtual event was brought to you by the Sacramento State Alumni Association and the

University Library and moderated by William Dorman, professor emeritus and President of the Sacramento State Friends of the Library. If you missed it, the link to the recording on You tube: https://youtu.be/jNLHOV_XKLI

ZOOM NOW ...OR LATER?

Over the past year the Friends have been using Zoom to present our various events and talks. Our Charles Martell Author Lecture series and the newest offering our Town and Gown lectures featuring Sac State faculty. Both series have been popular. An important benefit of using Zoom is that it records the event which enables folks to view in real time or later at a more convenient time. If you missed a lecture, you may view a video by going to this link and scrolling down: <https://library.csus.edu/index.php/friends-of-the-library>. It's interesting to note that our statistics indicate that the audience for the recorded program is often double the size of the audience at the original Zoom event.

Accessibility is part of all Sac State event planning. ASL interpreters and Closed Captioning are now included for all Friends presentations.

BOOK BIN HIATUS

Since the University Library has been closed for a whole year, the Friends of the Library Book Bin has been unable to offer books for sale and to receive book donations to add to our sale. This situation has impacted the Friends budget bottom line. Book Bin sales are a significant addition to the membership dues and donations that together make up our annual budget. The lack of Book Bin income has had a big impact on our ability to make grants directly to the Library for special needs and to fund a grants program for the purchase of materials to expand library collections.

This would be a great time for you to join the Friends, renew your membership, and/or make a donation. Thank you!

NEW FACULTY RECIEVE GRANTS FROM FRIENDS

Last year, Sac State brought 33 new faculty members on board. The Friends of the Library was delighted to hear this and looked for ways to make these new faculty feel welcome. Working with Library Dean Amy Kautzman and David Gibbs, Head of Library Collection Management Services, the Board decided to grant \$14,000 to supplement the Library's Collection Development budget. This gift was to be used to purchase new resources to strengthen Library collections in areas reflecting the teaching and research interests of new faculty.

TOWN & GOWN EXPLORES SYSTEMIC RACISM

"If we truly believe that all humans are equal, then disparity in condition can only be the result of systemic discrimination."

~ Dr. Ibram Kendi, [How to Be an Anti-Racist](#)

According to the 2018 report to the United Nations on race disparities, black adults are 5.9 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites, and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely. As of 2001,

one out of every three black boys born in that year could expect to go to prison in his lifetime, as could one out of every six Latinos, compared to one out of every 17 white boys.

These are just some examples of systemic racism and implicit bias shared by Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding on Tuesday, November 17th, during the Friends of the CSUS Library's second "Town and Gown" event held via Zoom. To a virtual audience of over 90 people, Dr. Cameron Wedding, emerita faculty from the departments of Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies at Sacramento State, explained that systemic racism is defined as patterns, procedures, practices, and policies operating within our institutions that intentionally or unintentionally penalize and disadvantage individuals who are members of nonwhite racial or ethnic groups. When persistent racial disparities exist in our public systems, systemic racism exists.

Dr. Cameron Wedding explained that implicit bias, whether it is unconscious or conscious, affects every aspect of our society, from hiring decisions to enforcing the law. It refers to attitudes and stereotypes that affect our thoughts, actions, and decisions. Implicit bias feeds into systems like education, housing, healthcare, and law enforcement, causing racial disparities to grow. Whether we are assessing the best student or the best job candidate, biases may be embedded at every decision point. Systemic racism is the outcome

We all harbor unconscious associations—both positive and negative—about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, social class, and appearance, but how can we interrupt systemic racism one decision maker at a time? Dr. Cameron Wedding explained how we have the power to end it. We can identify language that transmits bias from one decision point to the next. We can become more aware of how stereotypes affected how others are perceived and treated. We also can notice how policies that are influenced by bias are applied and enforced that contribute to disparities. In this way, if each of us does our part, we can end systemic racism.

- Lisa Woodard-Mink

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

~Coronacoaster: noun; the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing workouts, baking banana bread, and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast, and missing people you didn't even like.

