

# A Message From The Dean of University Libraries, Matthew Shaw

“The Obsolete Man” is a terrifying episode of the Twilight Zone, a television series famous for its dystopian didactics. In the episode, which aired in 1961, a librarian named Romney Wordsworth is brought before the tribunal of a totalitarian state and pronounced “obsolete.” In the fictional society where all information is controlled by the state and books are illegal, the role of the librarian is deemed both unnecessary and dangerous to the monolithic authoritarianism of the government. Mr. Wordsworth, condemned to death for his occupational crime, is a composite archetype of intellectual freedom, collective human knowledge, and informed citizenry. The librarian stands for the right to know, the right to access, and the right to think.

Librarians, and those involved in library work, are essential to these fundamental freedoms, and their professional efforts to collect, organize, describe, preserve, and disseminate information are of increasing merit in a world where reliability and accuracy grow amongst the tares of misinformation and disinformation. Librarians actively fight censorship and

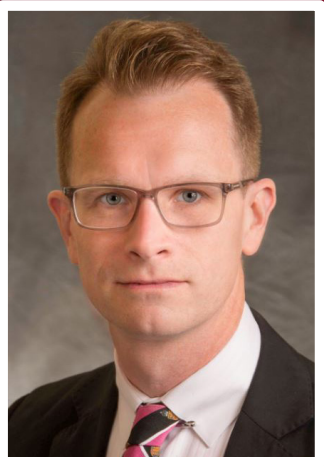
promote the information literacies that empower learners to discover, process, and synthesize the complexity of ideas communicated by a fully-inclusive spectrum of voices.

These values are integral to our work at the University Libraries, and I am very humbled to lead the passionate team of library staff at Ball State focused on teaching students to explore and engage with the world of ideas. Through effective library instruction, 1:1 library research services, and rich scholarly collections, we are able to teach learners how to find, evaluate, contextualize, and utilize information—skills essential to navigating the murky information landscape where creators cleverly package spurious content as irrefutable fact.

Your dedicated support continues to fuel the vital work of the University Libraries to collect and make discoverable the breadth of credible scholarship while teaching students how to test validity, understand the construction of authority and meaning, and examine opposing viewpoints and challenging ideas. Every

day, Ball State librarians are equipping students to become critical thinkers, active citizens, and lifelong learners. Far from obsolete, today’s librarian is an essential educator and learning partner. Thank you, Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library, for making the Libraries a center for intellectual life at Ball State University!

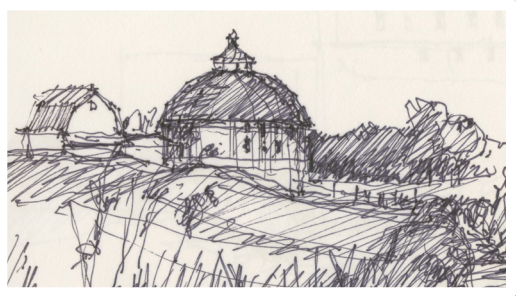
**Matthew Shaw**  
Dean of University Libraries



## Gifts-in-Kind

Support Learning, Teaching, and Research

Community member, **Julius Anderson**, donated an addition to the Hurley Goodall Papers, including a U.S. Congressional Record honoring the life of Hurley Goodall, letter of recognition from the Office of U.S. President Barack Obama and other recognition certificates, a digitized copy of Hurley Goodall’s U.S. Army honorable discharge record; and a digital copy of Hurley Goodall autobiography.



Ball State University Professor Emeritus of Architecture, **Paul Laseau**, donated a collection of his personal sketchbooks, documenting his worldwide travels between 1981 and 2015. The 25 sketchbooks are filled with hundreds of freehand sketches, showcasing the diverse architectural forms of the U.S. and beyond.

**Timothy Liddy**, Ball State University ’81, donated an addition to the Timothy Liddy Landscape and Golf Course Architecture Collection. This included the written project documentation and manuals for corresponding landscape architectural drawings previously donated by Mr. Liddy in 2018. The collection, in its entirety, is representative of one of the few archival collections in the United States focused exclusively on golf course architecture.

**Stephen McCullar** donated a set of original ink-on-linen architectural drawings for the High Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Muncie, designed by the firm Houck and Smenner in 1928.

Community member, **Arthur Andrew Olson III**, donated an addition to his research collection. This included a copy of “Traces” magazine from Fall 2021; an article by Olson entitled “The Forgotten General of World War II”; a copy of “Connections: The Hoosier Genealogist” from Fall/Winter 2021; spring/summer issue of “Connections: The Hoosier Genealogist” magazine, which contains Olson’s latest article on genealogy research.



**Catherine Scherschel** donated a collection of photograph slides that document the East Central Neighborhood, the Emily Kimbrough Historic District, and the Suzanne Thomas Ganter house. These photographic slides were created by her parents Frank Meeker and Linda Hanson. Both taught at Ball State University and were active with Historic Muncie and the Delaware County Historical Alliance.

**Karen Vincent**, on behalf of the Delaware County Historical Society, donated scrapbooks documenting the personal and professional life of Leo Hauptman.

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## A Thank You to Michael Szajewski

In September, Assistant Dean for Digital Scholarship and Special Collections and Executive Secretary of the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library Michael Szajewski departed Ball State University to accept a position as Associate Dean for Special Research Collections at the University of Oklahoma.

Michael faithfully served the Ball State University Libraries for the past eleven years, working the last five years in the Assistant Dean role. He was actively engaged in the work of the Friends, planning our annual gatherings and recruiting the Board of Governors. While at the Libraries, Michael collaboratively introduced new and impactful services in digital scholarship and publishing, web archiving, and open educational resources. He also led the Archives and Special Collections in an important period of growth, building up collections and including important content from marginalized and underrepresented communities. His work in community engagement and

community programming has also established strong relationships with partners in our city and region.

We wish Mike well in his future endeavors and reflect with gratitude on his many contributions to the work of the Friends and the progress of the Libraries in serving our students, faculty, and community.



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## Financial Donations Support The University Libraries' Collections, Services, and Programs

Financial donations by the Library Friends to existing Ball State University Foundation accounts supporting the University Libraries are always greatly appreciated, and we would like to thank all of our Friends. The following donors made contributions of \$100 or more in fiscal year 2021-2022.

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Daniel Young  
Stephen and Sharon Zimmerman

## A Thank You to Suzanne Rice, Assistant Dean for Public Services

Suzanne Rice will retire from the University Libraries at the end of 2022. Suzanne has provided critical leadership in the Libraries, working in various roles since 1995 and becoming Assistant Dean in 2003. She also served as Acting Dean and Interim Dean during previous dean vacancies. Suzanne has a strong reputation for service and engagement, and liaised with offices across campus to improve access and inclusion in the Libraries. Notably, she participated in Ball State international partnerships via the Center for International Development and the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies to further State Department and World Bank goals to contribute to economic and social development of fragile and conflict-affected countries. This work includes providing workshops for university faculty in Iraq and Jordan, meeting with and conducting

workshops at BSU for students and faculty from Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Georgia, and 6 Pan-African countries, and conducting virtual workshops with faculty and graduate students from several universities in Pakistan (with a recent focus on women's universities).

Suzanne effectively administrates the Libraries' public services and branch locations and has led many library teams in the development of innovative approaches to support the changing needs of Ball State University students and faculty. From digital document delivery to personal librarian programs to virtual reference and instruction, Suzanne never stops planning the next "big thing" and always places the student experience at the center of her activities.

We wish her well in her retirement and appreciate the legacy of service that has marked her productive and distinguished career at the Ball State University Libraries!



## New Options for Personal and Group Study

The University Libraries offer a variety of study and workspaces to suit every need from group study rooms to quiet nooks for individual study. Options in Bracken Library increased recently with the addition of very cool private study spaces and new collaborative seating on 1West behind the Writing Center @ Bracken.

If students are looking for a personal study space away from visual distractions, there are three new individual study pods, each with comfortable lounge seating, a wraparound panel to minimize visual distractions, a safe place to tuck backpacks, and wireless access. It's like a personal study cocoon!



If students want to study with a few friends or just need a surface to spread out projects, they can use one of the three new study booths with room to comfortably seat a small group. They have a comfy vibe reminiscent of a vintage soda shop booth, but with modern conveniences like pull out cushions that provide excellent lumbar support for long-haul study sessions.



Both of these areas are conveniently located on Bracken 1West, behind the Writing Center @ Bracken- just steps away from personal research and writing assistance.

## New Digital Collection: Edith Elizabeth Kirby Collection

Did you know that the Timbers Lumber Jack has been a figure in our community for many years? In August of 1965, the Kirby-Wood Lumber Company unveiled their iconic image, a hand-painted steel, plastic, and fiberglass Paul Bunyan statue. When the company closed, the statue stayed on the property until 1993 when it was sold to Ralph Kennedy and moved to its new home on the corner of Tillotson and Kilgore.

Originally founded in 1820 as the Kirby Lumber company, this prominent local family business served our community for over 150 years. In 1902, the Kirby Lumber company became known as the Kirby-Wood Lumber company when Julius C. Wood purchased an interest in the yard. Up until that moment, the company had been run by the Kirby brothers, Thomas Hickman, John, and George Kirby. At the turn of the 20th century, the Kirby family was as influential as the Ball Brothers in the history of Muncie. Kirby Avenue, The Kirby House and The Kirby Hotel, are current locations and distant historical memories, that are part of Muncie history for many different reasons. The Kirby family consisted of numerous men and women who helped develop Muncie into an industrial city from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, and their influence on the city remains to this day.

One notable member of the Kirby family is Edith Elizabeth Kirby Barnes. Edith was born on January 21, 1875 in Muncie to Thomas Hickman Kirby and Anna Cassady Kirby. Her father was a Union Army veteran of the American Civil War and spent much of his youth traveling across the country, even spending time in the California gold mines. Her paternal grandfather, Thomas Kirby, was one of Delaware County's earliest European-American pioneers, arriving in Muncie in 1830 peddling goods from a company in Dayton, Ohio. He started his own general store in 1831. At the time, this was the second store in town and before the natural gas boom of the 1880s. Thomas built the oldest residential home still standing in Delaware County located at 1353 East Jackson. In 1871 Thomas left his general store business and founded the Kirby House, the popular downtown hotel and business center. Located on Main Street across from the current Muncie Civic Theatre, the Kirby House was where gentlemen of the time conducted their business. The Ball Brothers were boarders of the hotel until they married, Susan B. Anthony was a guest for a night during a stop on her woman's suffrage lecture tour, and women's clubs and societies would meet in the reading room.

Like most women of her class in this time period, Edith was involved in local women's clubs and societies. She makes frequent appearances in the society pages of local Muncie papers,

generally attending card games, teas, and luncheons. A notable club that Edith took part in was "The Harlequins" which was founded at her home in 1892. According to one article, it was a club for "old maids", and per the rules, none of the members could marry after they hit the age of an "old maid" (this specific age was never clarified). Interestingly, her father, Thomas Hickman Kirby, also formed an old bachelor's club with seven other Muncie men in 1858, a club in which they vowed to never marry. One could imagine that Edith may have been inspired by her father's club to form the old maid's club.

Edith eventually married—at the age of 25, no less—to Robert Denver Barnes, Sr., on June 21, 1900. Sometime after their wedding, they moved to the Colorado Springs, Colorado area where Robert worked in his family hardware business. In 1905, they welcomed their first child, a daughter named Ann Cassady Barnes, who died in infancy. A year later, they returned to Muncie, where they welcomed their second child, a son named Robert Denver Barnes, Jr.

Upon her return to Muncie, Edith became active in many local clubs and events. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Paul Revere Chapter where she filled elected positions such as historian, registrar, and chaplain. She also participated in raising funds through Delta Theta Tau—a local sorority of which she was a member—to fund low-income schools in the Kentucky Appalachian Mountains.

Near the end of her life, Edith spent her time working for the local World War II effort, volunteering at Muncie's rationing board taking part in various functions including handing out ration books and distributing supplies and food. She also spent time with her son, Robert D. Barnes, Jr., his wife, Louise Howard Barnes, and her three grandchildren. She passed away on August 27, 1943, before she could see the war's end.

To commemorate the legacy of Edith Elizabeth Kirby Barnes and her family, the Ball State University Libraries Archives and Special Collections has published the Edith Elizabeth Kirby collection to our Digital Media Repository. The digital collection contains 150 photographs, deeds, correspondence, scrapbooks, and other items documenting the lives of Edith Kirby and her family from the 1870s to the 1940s.

The physical collection was donated by Jane Barnes O'Day Greene, Edith's granddaughter and the O'Day family, James R. O'Day. John H. O'Day, and Dian O'Day Preist.