



Library Newsletter: Word from the Stacks... Fall 2023

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Fall 2023

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Sacred Heart University Library

- **What's New**
 - Interview with Jeff Orrico, the new University Librarian
- **Spotlight**
 - Celebrating faculty and staff authors
- **New Deal**
 - Cambridge University Press All Journals
- **New Staff**
- **At the Library**
- **Book Recommends**

What's New



[Meet Jeff Orrico, the new University Librarian](#)
Interview by Geoffrey Staysniak, Director of the CHE Library



1 - Meet Jeff Orrico, the new University Librarian



2 - The two "Jeff's" -- Jeff Orrico with Geoff Staysniak

Congratulations once again! To start us off, would you mind sharing with us your history here at the university and the path that led you to University Librarian?

Thank you, Geoff! I'm a skier so I might describe my path as more of a meandering ski trail with ice, bumps, trees, and the occasional smooth trail. Believe it or not, it will be 20 years in January since I first started working at SHU as a part time reference librarian. As you can imagine, SHU was very different back then. I left SHU a few years later to pursue a full-time position. I was charged with developing a

new campus library for a for-profit university. This experience gave me an opportunity to learn all aspects of library management and operations. The skills and experience I gained were invaluable. However, the more I learned of for-profit university culture and ethics, I knew I couldn't continue to work there in good conscience. In December of 2010 I returned to SHU as the health sciences librarian. In 2015 I became the director of digital library services until taking over as interim university librarian in August of last year, which brings us up to today.

What do you think are some of the challenges that you and your staff face going forward?

The list is long. I can sit here and complain about rising subscription prices, our physical space being too small to accommodate the growth of the university, and more, but the biggest challenge we face is trying to convey the value of the library to our users. Many people have a preconceived notion of the classic library, a quiet building full of books. Those people probably have not visited the Ryan Matura Library lately. It is a vibrant and active space, ideal for informal learning outside of the classroom. We average over 800 visitors a day during the semester, with some days topping 1000! And for those of you looking for a quiet place to study, the upper level of the library is designated as the quiet floor.

The physical library building is only half of the picture. Another challenge is bringing awareness to the many online resources and services that the library offers. Most of our collections are now available in digital format and accessible anywhere 24/7. Our e-book collection now makes up over 80% of our total books, and we have access to thousands of online full-text journals. While we love people visiting the physical library, most services are also available online. If you need help with our resources or services, just [ask a librarian](#).

What are you looking forward to the most in your new position?

I look forward to building strong relationships with the SHU community and changing perceptions of the library. For the library's resources and services to be fully realized, we need to build strong relationships with faculty, students, and staff.

Most of all I look forward to working with the library staff. I know when I arrive each day, I get to work with a very talented team. Their work is often unseen by the outside world, but the library staff works tirelessly behind the scenes to provide support, seamless access to library resources, and provide a safe and inclusive space for students to learn and grow. It may sound corny, but with the help of my staff, I really do look forward to carrying out the SHU library mission.

Sacred Heart University Library empowers the University community with quality resources, services, and expertise, to meet personal and intellectual challenges and to navigate an increasingly complex information environment within a safe and inclusive space.

Spotlight



Celebrating SHU faculty and staff authors

On the first floor of the Ryan Matura Library, past the Library café, is a special section reserved for books that are either written or edited by Sacred Heart University faculty. While there are currently 327 books in this non-circulating collection, there are many more copies of these books available through the library.

Whenever a member of the Sacred Heart University community writes, edits or contributes a chapter to a book, the library policy is to purchase one copy of the book, and often two copies -- one for the non-circulating Faculty collection as well as a second copy that is part of the regular collection. Recently, the first or second copy of the book may be in the e-book format. The easiest way to find out if the library carries the book is to search the [library catalog](#), but you can also browse recent faculty work on this [Faculty Author Guide](#).

Do you want to read your professor's books or articles? On the [Digital Commons website](#), you can search for your professor by name to find examples of their scholarship.

Speaking of recent scholarship, there is a [special section on the Digital Commons site that collects recent research articles written by SHU faculty about COVID-19](#).

New Deals



Cambridge University Press - All Journals



3 - Sacred Heart University is one of over 2000 libraries from around the world working with Cambridge University Press.

SHU Library joins a global effort to help Cambridge University Press provide free access to their journal content -- and provides an opportunity for SHU authors to publish in Cambridge journals.

Earlier in 2023, the SHU Library signed a new 3 year agreement with Cambridge University Press (CUP). The primary benefit of the agreement is current and expanded access (1997 – present) for the Sacred Heart University community to the complete set of [almost 400 Cambridge journals](#) in many academic disciplines.

A secondary although in many ways equally important benefit is the opportunity for SHU researchers to publish Open Access in Cambridge journals at no cost to authors. APC fees (article processing charges)

are waived. While the current research profile for SHU authors with Cambridge is low – an average of one article per year – this agreement will hopefully encourage and enable an increase in that profile.

This type of agreement is called a transformative agreement with the goal of all Cambridge University Press content becoming open access for everyone. Many academic publishers are focused on this transition. Accordingly, the library will align journal subscriptions with more OA publishing opportunities when it makes sense from a scholarly and financial perspective.

If you would like more information about this program, please reach out to Susan Luchars (lucharss@sacredheart.edu). The library is collaborating with the Office of Sponsored Research who will also work with authors to take advantage of this exciting new arrangement.

New Library Staff





4 - Fall 2023 Student Library Assistant Orientation

In the past few months, we've had the good fortune to welcome several new faces to the library staff! First is **Kevin Redline**, who comes to us from Southern Connecticut State University. Meanwhile, **Jacqui Sweeney** has joined the team from Silver Hills Hospital in New Canaan. Together, they have been dutifully serving as our Part-Time Reference Librarians on the weekends and during the weekdays. Finally, **Robert Velez** has been hired as our new Library User Service Assistant to manage our circulation desk in the evenings. We're pleased to have them aboard, providing invaluable support to our students and faculty!

The library has also welcomed 12 new and 18 returning Student Library Assistants this semester. Student workers attended an orientation kick off session in early September. They also receive on-going training to deliver quality services to the SHU community. Student library assistant tasks include helping release print jobs, directing visitors around the campus, locating, checking out and checking in books, and showing users how to navigate through the library's online resources.

At the Library



5 - Mark Denny, Manager of Library Instructional Services Support and Technology, developed an Escape Room experience that had a limited opening at the beginning of the semester. 5 groups of 3 - 4 participants including staff, faculty and students enjoyed themselves and, with a bit of help from Mark, completed the puzzles in around 60 minutes.



6 - Lining up for coffee, drinks and snacks at the Library Cafe.



7 - Meet Vitch (pronounced Veech) -- the new manager of the Library Cafe, which is open during the week starting at 10 am.



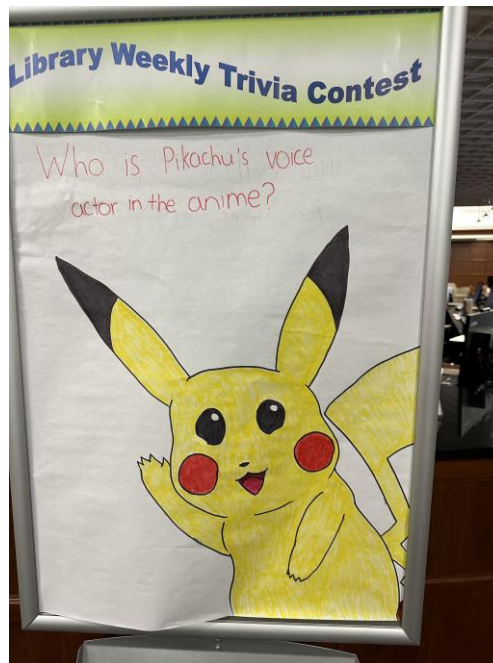
8 - Displays bringing awareness to the ALA Banned Books week (October 1 - 7) are up in the library.



9 - "Let Freedom Read" is the theme for the 2023 ALA Banned Book week.

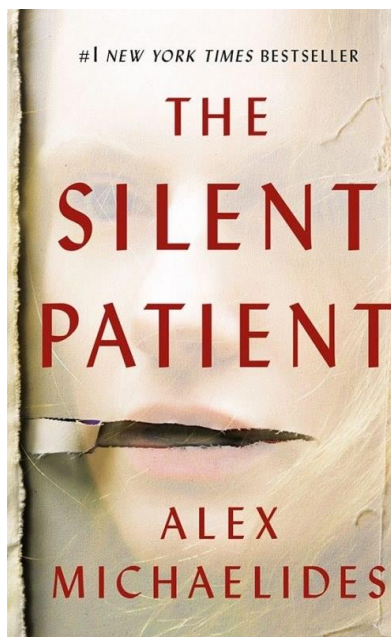


10 - A spooky exhibit encourages reading -- we must be in a library!



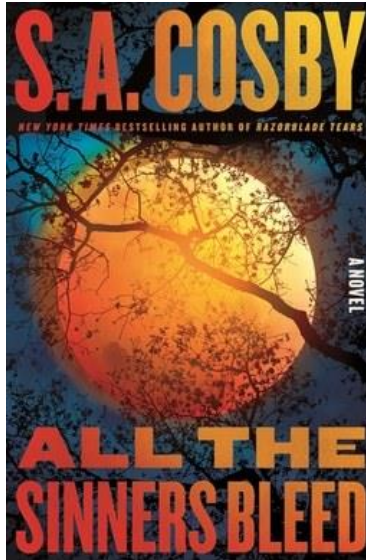
11 - Don't miss your chance to win a prize -- participate in the weekly Library trivia contest.

Book Recommends



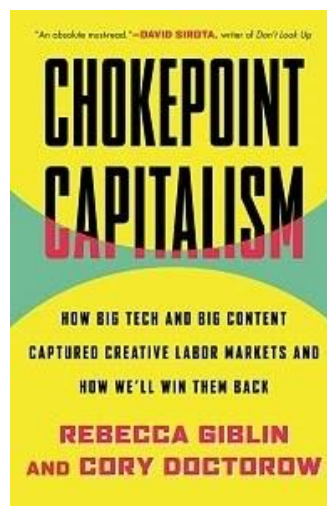
12 - "A psychological thriller - twisty"

[The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides](#)



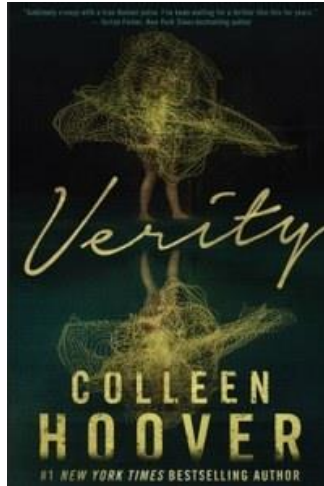
13 - "Gripping mystery thriller about a murder in a small town."

[All the Sinner's Bleed by S.A. Cosby](#)



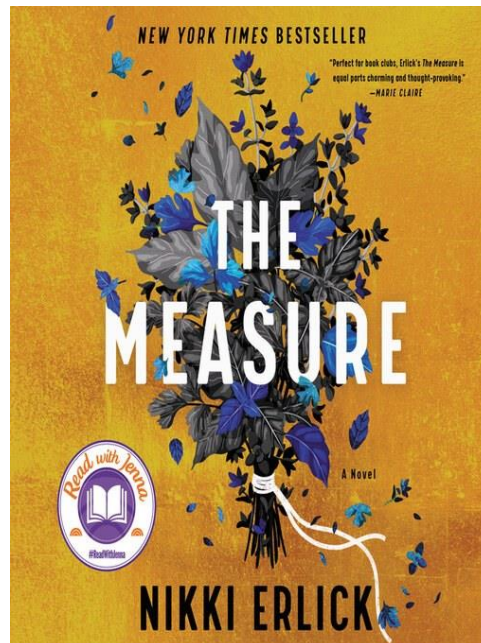
14 - "Incredibly informative and engagingly accessible"

[Chokepoint Capitalism: How big tech and big content captured creative labor markets and how we will win them back by Rebecca Giblin --](#)



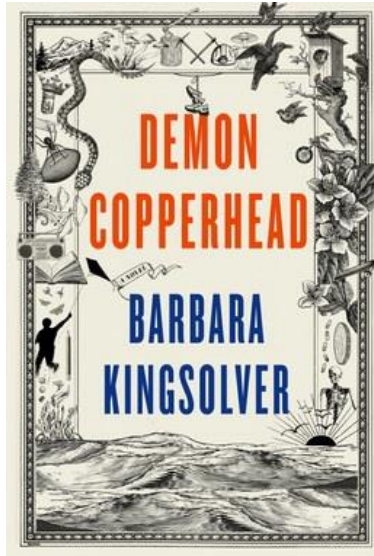
15 - "eye opening and jaw dropping, practically read it in one sitting"

[Verity by Colleen Hoover](#) --



16 - "fascinating and riveting"

[The Measure by Nikki Erlick](#)



17 - *"beautifully written, tragic and magical"*

[Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver](#)

For more fun reading ideas, check out the [Sacred Heart University OverDrive collection](#) (also accessed on the Libby app), our book displays on the main floor that feature Popular, new Non Fiction and Graphic Novels, and our YA and Juvenile book collections on the lower level. And don't forget to get your free access to the [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), and the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (for faculty and staff).

Hope to see you at the Library!!!