From the University Librarian

Dear Donors and Supporters of the UCLA Library:

“A blended smoothie of overwhelming awesomeness” – that’s how Sarah Horn described the days after Kristin Chenoweth invited her on to the stage at the Hollywood Bowl to sing a duet, thereby catapulting her into the public eye and to new levels of fame and popularity. Those words seem equally appropriate to capture my own experience here in the eight weeks I’ve been UCLA’s new university librarian.

From my first moments on the job, I have received warm welcomes from staff, faculty, and library supporters, and I’ve begun the happy process of meeting members of the UCLA community and getting to know the Library’s amazing collections and services. I feel very fortunate to be able to build on the strong foundation Gary Strong, Gloria Werner, and all my predecessors established.

My priorities for the coming months are already coming into focus; many of them relate to our goal to cement the role of the Library as an essential partner in supporting UCLA’s instructional and research programs. Work is already underway on a number of related projects. Among them is the development of an inquiry program that will position the Library’s Teaching and Learning Services to provide a high level of support for the freshman cluster program and capstone initiative. The Library is also actively engaged in campuswide discussions about establishing a research data infrastructure as well as an infrastructure to support the digital humanities.

Other priorities include continuing to acquire, preserve, and make available rich collections of materials that will provide primary sources for scholarship for years to come. Thanks to the Arcadia Fund, we have been able to transform our collections in key areas, including through the “Collecting Los Angeles” initiative, which resulted in adding and/or processing several dozen smaller collections of papers and oral histories.

One of the most exciting developments this summer was the University of California Academic Senate’s adoption of an open access policy. This policy, which takes effect at UCLA on November 1, 2013, grants UC a non-exclusive license to make research articles written by faculty accessible to
Virginia Steel, known as Ginny to everyone she meets, became UCLA university librarian on July 15, 2013. She came to UCLA after eight years as university librarian at the University of California, Santa Cruz; more about her background is available at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/university-librarian>. The editors of UCLA Library Development News sat down with her about a month after her arrival to talk about her initial impressions of her new position, UCLA, and Los Angeles.

What has surprised you the most since your move to Los Angeles and UCLA?

It sounds trite, but what has surprised me the most is how easily UCLA and the UCLA Library have not only lived up to but surpassed my expectations. The work that's being done here is really impressive and is definitely contributing to making the world a better place. It's an honor to be here and to be part of such a vibrant community.

What inspired you to become a librarian?

I grew up using libraries and always felt at home in them. As a total bookworm, I needed their collections to supplement the books we had at home. When I was finishing in college as a literature major, I began to think about possible careers, and librarianship was one that immediately came to mind; it had been suggested to me when I started college and took a vocational interest test as part of freshman orientation. I worked at the University of Chicago right after college, got to know a librarian there, and ended up applying to the library school there.

What have you enjoyed most about your career?

The constant change and challenges to be solved! Technology has had a huge impact on information-seeking behaviors and libraries, so throughout my career I've had to adapt and learn. I like to think this has kept me young, but maybe it has also helped turn my hair gray!

What is the one myth about academic libraries that you'd most like to dispel?

I meet many people who think all libraries, not just academic libraries, are passé. That's absolutely not true since it's now harder than ever to find up-to-date, reliable, relevant information, but the perception is that all information is somewhere out there on the Internet available for free.

What other interests and hobbies do you have?

I like to use the other side of my brain when I'm relaxing, so I spend time quilting, knitting, and sewing. Working with lots of colors, textures, and patterns is a good break from my work-related activities. I also like to cook.

Book, or Nook?

Can I have it both ways? I generally prefer doing my fun reading in paper, but I travel with my iPad and use the Kindle app to read while I'm on the road.

What book is on your night stand?

I've been reading the last several UCLA Common Books that have been given to incoming students. I'm in the middle of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks and have The Other Wes Moore next in my stack. It's interesting to read through the selections; it gives me some insights into the issues that get discussed by new UCLA students.
The Good and Bad of Google
Siva Vaidhyanathan discussed his provocative book *The Googlization of Everything (and Why We Should Worry)* at an October 2012 Library Associates event. In his talk he explained how Americans have embraced Google and its nearly unlimited promise and described the web giant’s dark side, including its exploitation of intellectual property and its insidious impact on the way people think. With global resistance to Google’s ubiquity increasing, Vaidhyanathan proposed the creation of an “Internet ecosystem” that could keep the company true to its motto of “do no evil.”

A Fond Farewell to University Librarian Gary E. Strong
A special Powell Society dinner was held in November 2012 to honor University Librarian Gary E. Strong on the eve of his retirement for his contributions, service, and leadership. Chancellor Gene Block spoke about just a few of Gary’s many accomplishments during his tenure at UCLA. Under his leadership, collections grew to more than eleven million volumes; library facilities across campus, including the Charles E. Young Research Library, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, and Science and Engineering Library, have been renovated and refurbished to offer more modern, technology-friendly environments for students and faculty; and philanthropy increased to ensure the UCLA Library will continue to be a strong, vital part of instruction and research on campus into the future. The evening was a hit, with donors and staff giving Gary a warm send-off as he plans his next adventure!

Exploring the Link Between Human and Animal Health
This past spring co-authors Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, MD, and Kathryn Bowers spoke about their new book, *Zoobiquity: What Animals Can Teach Us About Health and the Science of Healing*. “Zoobiquity” is the term the authors coined to refer to a new, species-spanning approach to health. An enthusiastic audience of students and guests were surprised to hear about the wide-ranging parallels between animal and human afflictions, including breast cancer, heart disease, anxiety, and depression. Now that these similarities are being explored, the authors hope that new research will help shed light on better addressing these and other health issues.

UCLA Library Prize for Undergraduate Research
On Wednesday, May 29, the annual UCLA Library Prize for Undergraduate Research award ceremony honored the best library research produced by UCLA undergraduates as part of their course work. Five students received prizes for papers on subjects in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and science.

Three new prizes were also awarded. For the best use of Clark Library collections, Andra Lim won for her paper “The Isis, the Spirit Lamp, and Male Sexuality: Oscar Wilde and Student Journalism at the University of Oxford 1892-93.” Jessica Lee was honored for “The Ins and Outs of ‘Marks Saga’,” the best paper written by a freshman. Angela Marie Sanchez won a prize for the most adventurous research journey for her paper “Conjuring the Modern Woman: Women and Representation in Magic’s Golden Age,” for which she visited the UCLA Library, a private library in New York City, Harvard University Library, and the library at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.
As defined by Webster’s Dictionary, a “legacy” is “something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor.” Beginning this fall, the word will take on a special meaning for the UCLA Library as it launches an initiative aimed at attracting additional bequest gifts from donors who have specifically chosen to support the Library in their estate plans.

Dovetailing with UCLA’s new Centennial Campaign, the UCLA Library Legacy Initiative aims to ensure the Library’s stability and provide for its continuing growth as UCLA enters its second century. Through this initiative, funds from estate plans will become the essential seeds that will grow into vitally needed support to help meet the instructional and research demands of future generations of UCLA faculty, researchers, and students.

As a key part of this new initiative, the Library will host a series of informational seminars about the various ways donors can make bequests of gifts, in addition to cash. The seminars will counter some of the common misconceptions about the complexity of these types of gift arrangements, such as estates and trusts, which is the focus of the first seminar.

One example of an estate gift benefitting the Library comes through the generosity of actress Rhonda Fleming, who has appeared on Broadway, on television, and in more than forty films throughout her career. She and her late husband, Ted Mann, producer and chairman of the Mann Theaters, have had a long history of philanthropy at UCLA.

Impressed by the Library’s outstanding archives and the processes that support them, Ms. Fleming decided that the UCLA Library would make the ideal home for her lifelong collection. In her estate plan she has also included a gift to support special collections in the performing arts. By seeing the educational opportunities, services, and scholarship such gifts make possible, the UCLA Library Legacy Initiative aims to inspire others to make lasting gifts.

You can read more about Rhonda Fleming and her gift in the article on page five. All donors who have made planned gifts to UCLA become members of the UCLA Legacy Society and receive special invitations to events and activities across campus.

To learn more about the Legacy Society or about planned gifts, please contact Nicole Dunn, UCLA senior director of planned giving, at 310.267.4063 or visit <http://www.legacy.ucla.edu>.

Making a Bequest

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the UCLA Library. In recognition of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who have chosen to benefit the university through planned giving, they are welcomed as members of the prestigious First Century Society. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, living trusts, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plans, or other estate planning arrangements.

If you would like to receive more information about these or other options to support the UCLA Library, please contact Amy Drizhal, director of UCLA Library Development, by telephone at 310.206.8551 or by email at <adrizhal@library.ucla.edu>. Or visit the website at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>.
Rhonda Fleming: Preserving and Sharing a Unique Hollywood Life

A symbol of Hollywood glamour and success in the 1940s and '50s, Rhonda Fleming starred in more than forty films with Hollywood stars including Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Burt Lancaster, Robert Mitchum, and Ronald Reagan. She sang at prominent venues such as the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas and on NBC's live Colgate Comedy Hour and appeared on The Dick Powell Show, Ellery Queen, The Love Boat, and many other popular television programs.

Even Rhonda's journey toward stardom could inspire a movie script. The distinguished talent agent Henry Willson noticed a strikingly beautiful redhead walking to school one morning in Beverly Hills, when she was only sixteen. She started her career a few years later with her first major role in Alfred Hitchcock's 1945 thriller Spellbound starring Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck.

While Rhonda's list of credits is long and impressive, another side of her life is no less inspiring. Early in her career, she began to support charitable organizations and organized many fundraisers. Over the years, her involvement with charitable causes expanded, and when her sister was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, her commitment became sadly personal.

Rhonda and her now late husband, Ted Mann, saw the need for a special place where female patients and their families could receive tender, personal care. In 1991, in memory of her sister, Beverly, they established the Rhonda Fleming Mann Clinic for Women's Comprehensive Care at UCLA and later launched the Rhonda Fleming Mann Resource Center for Women with Cancer at UCLA as well as the Reflections boutique, which carries wigs, prostheses, and other items. In 1997 Rhonda and Ted received the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Lifetime Achievement Award for their outstanding devotion to improving the lives of cancer patients.

Rhonda has also been a longtime member of the UCLA Film and Television Archive. A few years ago, she began to reorganize the memorabilia collection started by her mother during Rhonda's early film career, which had grown to encompass hundreds of photos, news clippings, correspondence, playbills, and unique items. Rhonda soon realized that the materials' historical value made them worthy of proper preservation, and she also wanted to share them with film students and others who would enjoy learning about the historic "golden age" in Hollywood and about all aspects of her life, film career, and philanthropy.

After meeting with Peggy Alexander, performing arts librarian in UCLA Library Special Collections, Rhonda was so impressed by the Library's outstanding archives that she decided it would be the home for her lifelong collection as well as the recipient of a gift in her estate plans to support performing arts special collections materials.

"As a native Californian and in view of my previous philanthropic work at UCLA, it's important for me to know that my collection remains here for posterity," Rhonda said. "I'm also hopeful that, either by example or through learning more of UCLA Library Special Collections, individuals who are recognized in their fields of expertise may consider the invaluable impact their own memorabilia and collections might have on future entertainers, film students, and entrepreneurs in the arts and philanthropic arenas."

For more about Rhonda Fleming, visit her website at <http://www.rhondafleming.com>.

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The Barbara Rootenberg Library Research Fellowship in the History of Medicine and the Life Sciences

Leon Rootenberg recently honored his wife, Barbara, by creating a new UCLA Library endowment in celebration of their wedding anniversary and her birthday. The Barbara Rootenberg Library Research Fellowship in the History of Medicine and the Life Sciences will support a short-term research fellowship to work with materials in the History and Special Collections for the Sciences in UCLA Library Special Collections.

The $1,000 fellowship will be awarded annually to an advanced student or faculty member researching some aspect of the history of medicine or the life sciences. Eligible applicants include visiting scholars and UCLA graduate students, and the first Rootenberg Fellowship will be awarded at the end of the current academic year. For more information, contact Russell Johnson, special collections librarian for medicine and natural history, by email at <rjohson@library.ucla.edu>.
Chamya Pompey Kincy (February 27, 1976 - July 20, 2013)

Chamya Kincy joined the UCLA Library as a student assistant in May 1997, then was hired as a library assistant two years later. With great energy and enthusiasm coupled with a powerful work ethic, she launched a career as the life and social sciences cataloger in the Library’s Cataloging and Metadata Center in 2005.

Chamya took great pride in mentoring other young librarians in the field of cataloging. During her eight years as a librarian, she supervised several interns in her department and was instrumental in developing the Librarians Association of the University of California, Los Angeles’s mentorship program.

In celebration of her life, the UCLA Library has created the Chamya Pompey Kincy Mentorship Fund to mentor new librarians and promote librarianship. If you would like to make a gift by check, please make it payable to the UCLA Foundation, and note “Library – Chamya Pompey Kincy Mentorship Fund” in the memo field. Mail checks to:

American Gift
11334 Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575

You can also make a gift online at <https://giving.ucla.edu/Chamya>.

IN MEMORIAM:

Chamya with Walter Gordon, who she and her colleagues worked with to fully describe and catalog his extensive collection of photos documenting African American life in Los Angeles.