Why did the Daily Kent Stater recognize University Library as Kent State’s “Best Place to Study”? Because students voted with their feet. A record 1,042,796 users visited our libraries in academic year 2012-2013, up from the previous year's 845,449.

And since the start of Fall semester the action has been non-stop. At our annual Late Night @ the Library on the Friday before the start of Fall classes, more than 1,700 new Kent State students feasted on pizza and popcorn, danced to Black Squirrel Radio and played video games, and certainly discovered that our library has a lot to offer. Fall semester was a whirlwind of programs in University Library and in our Performing Arts, Architecture, Fashion, and Map libraries aimed at parents (on Parents' Weekend), alumni (on Homecoming Weekend), and students all of the time during every hour that the library is open – 24 hours a day, 5 days per week. The action continued non-stop tight into Spring semester. Several events focus on the 25th anniversary of the Borowitz True Crime Collection, one of University Libraries' significant special collections. We held our first Student Appreciation Day to try to bring every Kent State student into the Libraries. University Libraries is committed to insuring that every Kent State students knows about our great places to work, relax, and connect, including our recently refreshed June F. Mohler Fashion Library; our outstanding resources and collections, like the Borowitz True Crime Collection; and our many abundantly informative programs.

- Jim Bracken, Dean of University Libraries
A Winning Combination

Everyone knows the power of teamwork and collaboration. Pull your talents and strengths together and it benefits everyone involved. In the Fall of 2003, a project originated between the then Libraries & Media Services — currently Kent State University Libraries — and KSU Intercollegiate Athletics. The student-athlete poster series was seen as a creative way to participate in the national "@ Your Library" campaign. "The poster series gave us the opportunity to feature student athletes with strong academic standing at the university while also promoting the services of the library," said Hilary Kennedy, manager of Student Multimedia Studio.

The original project lasted three semesters and then took a six year hiatus before starting up again in the 2010-11 academic year. The initial inspiration behind the athlete posters were the READ posters that were featured in libraries — with celebrities sharing their favorite books. "We decided to engage in a fun play on the concept, posing student-athletes with books related to their sport," said Kennedy. "It was a win-win for both departments," she added. "The featured students were chosen not only for their talents on the field and in their sport, but for being academic role models amongst their teammates." On the other side of the 'team', the University Libraries was able to broaden its exposure to a new audience and in a whole new way.

Jim Bracken, Dean, University Libraries, sees the posters as a way of reminding the community that KSU athletes study in and use the library just like other students. "We've given copies of the posters to area high schools to model good behavior, that is, to show that KSU athletes have good study habits, that they read books and in particular use the Library." Bracken is quick to mention that athletes are not the only students that the Library has featured. "We have exhibited prize winning photos from the Journalism School, poetry from the Wick Poetry Center, art from the Honors College, and other student work." On April 2, on display will be undergrad student research. "Whenever we highlight work we are modelling KSU student success," said Bracken. "We need to find more innovative ways to display examples of student success more inclusively, and this poster series is a winner!"
Books... The Gift that Keeps on Giving

They say if you give a man a fish he can eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime. It’s kind of like that with books. The gift of books is the gift that keeps on giving, opening up the reader’s mind to endless possibilities and knowledge. Last summer the College of Public Health donated a collection of 28 public health books to honor faculty member, Dr. Frederick Tavill. Dr. Tavill, who retired from Kent State University last spring at the age of 90, selected the books he considered the most significant in the field of public health. The “Dr. Frederick Tavill Collection,” as it’s titled in University Libraries’ system, is available to all Kent State students and many others through OhioLink. “Dr. Tavill took enormous care to pick just the right books,” said Sonia Alemagno, Dean of the College of Public Health. “This is indeed a wonderful way to pay tribute to a senior colleague and scholar,” added Alemagno. Dr. Tavill and his wife Joyce have discussed adding more books to the collection in the future.
Borowitz True Crime Collection Marks 25 Years on Exhibit Through June

History and crime make for intriguing reading; put the two together and you have the makings of GREAT reading! The Kent State University Special Collections & Archives is celebrating a quarter of a century of the Borowitz True Crime collection, which is an extensive collection donated by Albert Borowitz and Helen Osterman Borowitz. The collection includes both primary and secondary sources on crime, as well as works of literature based on true crime incidents. Trace the history of crime with primary emphasis on the United States, England, France and Germany from ancient times to the present day. The collection includes materials on specific criminal cases that have had a notable impact on art, literature and social attitudes.

Currently on exhibit through June 13, is “From Crime to Culture: The 25th Anniversary of the Borowitz Collection at Kent State University”.

The exhibit showcases fact-based crime publications dating from the 17th through 20th centuries. Included in this chronological exploration of the literature are cautionary pamphlets, sensationalistic “penny dreadfuls,” popular true crime series such as England’s Newgate Calendar and France’s Pitaval literature, and classics of 20th century and contemporary true crime works.

Each year, under the direction of Associate Professor Cara Gilgenbach, Kent State University Libraries hosts a True Crime lecture. This year, Dr. Thomas Doherty of Brandeis University is our Borowitz Lecturer. He will present on media coverage of the 1932 Lindbergh baby kidnapping case on April 17 at 4:00 pm.

For more information: www.library.kent.edu/scevents

Hughes-Watkins Joins University Libraries Staff

University Libraries would like to introduce its new University Archivist in the department of Special Collections, Lae’l Hughes-Watkins, who will oversee the University Archives programs and provide effective access to historically significant records of all formats, especially those specifically created by and about Kent State. “My main goal for the library as technology continually progresses is to increase its digital presence, which is something I’m really excited about,” said Hughes-Watkins. She added, “Social media is becoming a major outlet university libraries all across the country are using to connect with students and inform them about the many ways Special Collections and Archives can aid them during the school year.”

Lae’l plans to use social media more to reach out to the student body and let it know that Special Collections is here to assist them in their research and studies whenever they need quality references of great historical merit.

To contact Lae’l for assistance or to make a reference request, patrons are encouraged to email her at lhughesw@kent.edu or call her at 330-672-9318.
EmbracE GivinG

KNITTING FOR THOSE IN NEED

It’s all about being a good neighbor, and empowering people with a simple skill so they can help others. This group is Knitting for Those in Need, a charitable knitting organization that meets both downtown and on campus. Community Gatherings locations include Scribbles Coffee Co. on North Water Street, Water Street Church on South Water Street, and Kent Social Services. KSU Libraries has opened its doors and the 4th floor to Knitting for Those in Need at KSU so the student organization branch of KTN can offer this service opportunity to students, faculty, staff and community members. They meet to teach, be taught and knit with needles, looms and crochet hooks. The student organization meetings this semester, Spring 2014, are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm on the 4th floor (Fab Fourth). You can contact Julie Jimenez, KTN @ KSU President, for next semesters meeting times.

“No experience is needed, non-knitters and knitters are welcome! Everyone is encouraged to join us,” said Diane Baldridge, Founder and Executive Director / KSU Alumna 2012, “We provide yarn, tools and teaching. All we ask is that people bring a caring heart and helpful hands. The warm and useful items we knit help people in need in the City of Kent, on KSU campus and surrounding communities. Our goal is to provide “warm heads, warm necks and warm hearts to create a warmer, safer and more hopeful community.”

For more information, contact Baldridge at dbaldrid@kent.edu or Julie Jimenez, President of Knitting for Those in Need at Kent State at knitting.ksu@gmail.com.

LIBRARIES AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROVIDE BOOKS FOR KIDS AT CHRISTMAS

Tis the season of giving, and giving is exactly what the Kent Free Library, Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and University Libraries did. The three organizations combined their efforts and gave the Usborne Book entitled, Penguins, to families that attended the Chamber’s annual Festival of Lights. The event’s high point is when Santa Claus arrives via train in downtown Kent. Thanks to the generosity of Kent residents and business owners, 400 copies of the hardbound book where purchased and distributed. “This was the first year for the Books for Kids program, and based on its success we will definitely do it again next year,” said Lori Wemhoff, executive director of the Chamber. “The children loved the books, and we couldn’t be more appreciative of those that helped to make this so successful.”
Library to Remain Open 24/7 to Meet Diverse Study Needs

Today’s students have less than traditional schedules, balancing work, school and life; University Libraries administration understands this and has implemented a student success initiative to meet their diverse study needs. The Library will open on Sunday, April 27th at noon and remain open, non-stop until the last day of finals – May 9th when it closes at 10:00 pm. It is important to note that it is one week before Finals Week through Finals Week that this schedule will be in place. “We think this schedule is necessary because as students near the end of the term, they are working longer hours to finish final projects and prepare for exams,” said Ken Burhanna, Assistant Dean for Engagement and Outreach. “We’re expanding our schedule to provide more opportunities for our resources to support student success.”

EMBRACE OUR STUDENTS

Kent State University Libraries Holds First Student Appreciation Day

On March 10th the Kent State University Libraries held its first Student Appreciation Day, a day to celebrate student success and thank students for their hard work and support. Students were invited to visit any of the Kent Campus Libraries from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm to enjoy refreshments and treats and to enter a drawing for a chance to win a gift certificate to the University Bookstore.

“We wanted to take a moment to say thank you to our students,” said Ken Burhanna, Assistant Dean for Engagement and Outreach. “Our Libraries are busy and vibrant and it’s because of our students. We see them working hard every day and want to make sure they know that we appreciate their hard work and their support. It’s also the opportunity to continue our ongoing discussions with users, to talk with them and hear about their needs and learn how to better help them to succeed.”

Most people don’t realize how important the library is to the students’ overall success while in college. “We really are earnest in wanting to say thanks to our students for using the Libraries,” said Dean of University Libraries, Jim Bracken. “Last year, the students voted University Libraries the best place to study in Kent (Daily Kent Stater, the “Best of Kent 2013”). Our gate counts are up not at just the University Library, but at our branch libraries, too. We’re working hard to provide world class services, facilities, and resources to support students and optimize their learning experience.”
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 9

PIZZA FOR YOUR THOUGHTS
University Library, Wick Poetry Corner
noon – 1 p.m.

KENT READS WITH CINDY KRISTOF
University Library, Wick Poetry Corner
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

TED KOOSER TALK/Q&A
University Library, Quiet Study
2:15 p.m.

US POET LAUREATE READING SERIES
American Poet, Ted Kooser,
KIVA Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

KENT READS WITH THOMAS COROGIN
University Library, Wick Poetry Corner
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

April 10

April 17

25TH ANNIVERSARY BOROWITZ LECTURE
University Library, Room 1018, 4 p.m.

MAKER’S FAIRE
University Library, Quiet Study, 4 p.m.

ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY
COFFEE BREAK
Taylor Hall, Room 309
8:30 a.m. – noon

STRESS FREE ZONE
University Library Lobby
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

April 16

May 5 & 6

Visit libguides.library.kent.edu/events for updates and a full list of events.