Alberta Comer has a national reputation as an inspiring and thoughtful leader. She brings to the U an expansive knowledge of libraries, as well as a strong focus on students, faculty collaboration, and the cultivation of positive community and donor relations.

Michael Hardman, Chief Global Officer, U of U

Alberta Comer, the new Dean of the J. Willard Marriott Library, comes to us from Cunningham Memorial Library at Indiana State University.

While serving as Dean of Cunningham Memorial, Alberta accomplished a number of impressive initiatives. She worked to increase community engagement in the library, developing public programs that reached more than 14,000 individuals last year. Under her leadership, Rare Books and Manuscripts and the University Archives (renamed the Special Collections Department) opened a shared reading room accessible to the public. And, keeping pace with the needs for change in the 21st century academic library, Alberta was responsible for a number of improvements made to best serve students, faculty, and the community at large.

“Alberta Comer has a national reputation as an inspiring and thoughtful leader,” says Michael Hardman, Chief Global Officer at the U. “She brings to the U an expansive knowledge of libraries, as well as a strong focus on students, faculty collaboration, and the cultivation of positive community and donor relations. We welcome her to Utah and the university.”

**Rocky Mountain Power Foundation to Benefit Students in Rural Utah**

The Book Arts Program’s Treasure Chest of Rare Books Program – a K-12 cross-curricular art education program available to students in Salt Lake area schools – will be piloting an exciting program thanks to a generous grant provided by the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. The grant will bring the Treasure Chest Program to students in Utah’s outlying rural areas. “Children in rural areas will especially benefit from this hands-on program, as supplemental arts and enrichment education is sparse,” explains Laura Decker, Grants and Outreach Coordinator for the Book Arts Program. The Marriott Library is excited to expand the reach of Treasure Chest programming and is grateful to the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation for helping to make this possible.

*A third-grader from Plymouth Elementary shows a Chinese Scroll that she made during a Treasure Chest visit.*
We are pleased to announce the Mitsugi M. Kasai (Chief Warrant Officer, CWO 4) Memorial Japanese American Archives. This project will make the library’s rich Japanese American collections, donated by numerous families and organizations, available to all via the Internet and online exhibitions. The effort is being led by Raymond Uno, U alumnus and retired 3rd District Court Judge for the State of Utah, and Lorraine Crouse, the library’s curator for the Japanese American Collection and a friend of the Kasai family.

The story told by this archive begins with the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants who came to Utah to work in the railroad, mining, and agricultural industries. Included are records, photographs, and films from the Japanese American settlement in Utah, Salt Lake City’s Japantown, their U. S. military involvement, and relocation to internment camps.

Also included are documents detailing entrepreneurial, professional, political, social, athletic, and cultural activities, and the establishment of the Japanese Buddhist and Christian churches. Of special note are records and photographs portraying the Japanese American involvement in WWII through service in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

This archive illuminates the lives of many very interesting individuals and pays homage to their rich culture. To honor Mr. Kasai’s estate gift, the archive will be named Mitsugi M. Kasai (CWO 4) Memorial Japanese American Archives. The Marriott Library will actively promote awareness of the archive to K-12 students and teachers, campus, the international community, and the general public, thereby continuing the work Mitsugi Kasai began during his lifetime.

“Because of Mr. Kasai’s vision and passion, we now have an incredible story to share,” explains Ms. Crouse. “I am personally thrilled that the collections are coming together in this way and am so very grateful to Mits Kasai for his generous gift and for his vision.”

All photo credits: J. Willard Marriott Library Special Collections
Librarians Emeriti Give Back

Librarian Emerita Margaret Landesman wanted to give back. During her years at the Marriott Library, Margaret had the opportunity to work with excellent student employees. She knew that without them, the library would come to a standstill. Margaret decided to raise $5,000 to add to the library’s student employee scholarship fund, so she reached out to her fellow librarians emeriti and asked them to join her in a fundraising campaign.

More than a year later, Margaret’s efforts have seen significant returns. Over $6,000 has been raised, all from librarians emeriti, and six new scholarships of $1,000 each will be available to Marriott Library student employees. Each year, two students will receive these scholarships. The generosity of our emeritus librarians has been recognized with the naming of a study alcove on level one.

And, the story doesn’t end here. As a result of this fundraising campaign, the library secured its very first scholarship endowment. The nephew of a librarian emerita made an anonymous memorial gift in honor of his aunt’s love for the library and the many years she dedicated to serving university students. This wonderful endowment will provide, in perpetuity, an annual scholarship for a library student employee.

We are very grateful to these donors for making gifts that will significantly impact our students for years to come and we are so very grateful to Margaret for initiating this scholarship campaign.

Scholarship Spotlights

Josh Letsinger, a library scholarship recipient, has been working in the library’s security department since May, 2011. A native of Boise, Idaho, Josh has been working toward a B.S. in biology with minors in chemistry and clinical pediatric research and will graduate in the Spring of 2014. Josh has aspirations of becoming a physician and is now in the process of taking the medical college admission test (MCAT).

In order to get as much experience as possible, Josh volunteers at Primary Children’s and also works in a research lab. And, for the past three years, he has served as the captain of the U’s traveling Ultimate Frisbee club team. About how the scholarship has made a difference, Josh says, “The scholarship was a huge help to me because there are a number of costs when preparing for medical school, and it allows me to continue being involved here in Utah.”

Michael Bills has been working in the library’s security department since May, 2011. A master of electrical engineering and systems, he has been working toward a PhD in electrical engineering and systems. Michael is a captain of the University of Utah’s student robotics club. The club offers him an opportunity to not only develop innovative robotic systems, but also to do outreach and education for young people in the community about math, science, and engineering. “This scholarship is so helpful, especially for a non-traditional student like me. There are a ton of scholarship opportunities for people coming in straight from high school, but fewer for those of us coming from the workforce. It’s definitely going to make it a lot easier to pay for school this year.”

Thank You, Rick

It is with heartfelt thanks and deep admiration that we recognize Rick Anderson for serving as Interim Dean of the Marriott Library for the past 18 months. Under Rick’s outstanding leadership, the library has kept pace with ever-growing university, student, and faculty needs. Rick continues in his role as Associate Dean for Scholarly Resources and Collections here at the Marriott, and received the Harrassowitz Award for Leadership in Library Acquisitions in June. Thank you, Rick, for your leadership, dedication, and many contributions to the Marriott Library.

K-12 Students Visit

Laura Decker, Book Arts Program Grants and Outreach Coordinator, visits with friends from the Urban Indian Center youth group. The children learned how to make and bind their own books in the Book Arts Studio.

Stephen Marriott

Stephen Garff Marriott, former Executive Vice President for Culture at Marriott International, passed away on Sunday, June 23, 2013, after a prolonged battle with a degenerative mitochondrial disease. The son of Bill and Donna Marriott of Bethesda, Maryland, Stephen was committed to his family and his career. A dedicated son, husband, father, and employee, he faced each day with eagerness. We send our deepest condolences to the Marriott family for their loss.
J. Willard Marriott Library Donor Report

January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

We deeply appreciate the extraordinary support from the Marriott family over the years.

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We have made every effort to ensure this list is an accurate account of gifts received during calendar year 2012.

We regret any mistakes or misspellings that may have occurred in assembling this list.

Please contact Heidi Brett at heidi.brett@utah.edu or by phone (801) 585-7758.
**Special Collections Gift Illuminates Golden Age of Radio**

Dr. Rick Anderson, a longtime collector of antiques and fine art, and his wife Susan have donated a vast archive spanning the career of comedic genius Don Quinn, a scriptwriter during the golden age of radio (1930-50).

Quinn began writing for the radio show *Smackout* (1931-1935), a vaudeville precursor to the famously popular *Fibber McGee and Molly* (1935-1959). The latter, a comedy, featured husband and wife characters Fibber McGee, the conniving (but benign) tiler of tall tales, and his doting, sugar-spun wife, Molly.

Quinn's wife Edythe Dixon Quinn, a journalist, worked with him on the writing and production of *Fibber McGee and Molly*. Broadcast by NBC, the show included a large cast, orchestra, vocalists, and a studio audience. Within three years of its initial broadcast, *Fibber McGee and Molly* became the nation's top-rated show. It was also a "must hear" during World War II, when the nation not only wanted news of the war, but commentary from familiar characters. The show served as a salve to a troubled country during the Great Depression and the war.

Later in his career Quinn created and produced the TV show, *The Hall of Ivy*, which ran for several years in the mid-fifties. After his semi-retirement to Santa Barbara, Quinn continued to write creating advertising jingles and scripts for comedians such as Johnny Carson.

The Don Quinn collection contains scripts, sketches, and oversized records containing many of the *Fibber McGee and Molly* and *Halls of Ivy* broadcasts. It also offers personal and professional correspondence and scrapbooks from a life well-lived by Don and Edythe, who passed away in 1967 and 1969, respectively. Their careers were a wealth of creativity and their legacies now reside in Special Collections at the Marriott Library, thanks to the foresight and generosity of Rick and Susan Anderson, to whom we are very grateful.

U of U Press Book Wins National “Book of the Year Award”

In 2012, the University of Utah Press published *Life’s Journey — Zuya — Oral Teachings from Rosebud* by Albert White Hat Sr., compiled and edited by John Cunningham. White Hat, a Lakota Sioux, translated the stories of medicine men and, as an elder, shared his own experiences, seeking to ensure the old ways would not be forgotten. These stories are zuya, lived oral history that was handed down through past generations. Now, by gathering traditions and ceremonies in a single volume with the history of how they evolved, White Hat has secured them for future generations. Filled with warmth and humor, *Life’s Journey — Zuya* is an enjoyable, as well as an enlightening read.

*ForeWord*’s *Book of the Year Award* honors titles published by independent, university, alternative, and self publishers. The contest’s unique awards process utilizes a jury comprised of readers, librarians, and booksellers to select gold, silver, and bronze winning titles in several categories. The jury selected *Life’s Journey — Zuya* as the gold medal winner in the social sciences category. (See https://forewordreviews.com/winners/2012/social-science/)

Allert White Hat Sr. passed away on June 11, 2013, just two weeks before his award was announced. We mourn his recent death, but are gratified to have shared his stories through this book.

**Founding Marriott Library Board Chair**

Brent R. Baker has served on the Marriott Library Advisory Board since its inception in 2007. As the founding Chair, he helped launch the board by recruiting others both to serve and support the library. With an interest in early printing, bookbinding, and conservation, Brent has an impressive book collection that includes a second edition of Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations* dating back to the 1780s.

A native of Long Beach, CA, Brent has lived in Utah since he was a teenager. He attended the U for his undergraduate degree in speech communication, and received his law degree from the University of Oregon. Now a partner at Clyde Snow and Sessions, specializing in government investigations, SEC enforcement/regulatory defense, and related compliance issues, Brent served 14 years as an attorney for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Brent and his wife Gae have four children. Brent’s passions include his family, work, hand bookbinding and conservation, and running.

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A avid runner and hiker, Alberta Comer, the Marriott Library’s new Dean, and her husband John have vacationed in Utah for years. They are enamored with the state’s diverse natural beauty. A retired geologist whose specialties are geochemistry (organic, inorganic, and environmental) and sedimentary petrology, John Comer is fascinated with all that Utah landscapes offer. Both Alberta and John look forward to more frequent explorations.

“We just love the parks and have hiked all of them in Utah. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to relocate to such a beautiful state with such an excellent university. I am excited to come to the University of Utah and join the Marriott Library's esteemed staff. Together, we will do great things.”

— Alberta Comer, Dean of the J. Willard Marriott Library and University Librarian