A New Leader, A New Title, and New Librarianship

The Arthur Lakes Library has a new leader. After 26 years of exemplary service, Library Director Joni Lerud-Heck retired on June 1, 2016, prompting a national search for a new head of the library. After an extensive vetting process, the Colorado School of Mines is pleased to announce the appointment of Carol E. Smith as University Librarian. This new position title now includes oversight of the Geology Museum.

Carol begins her role effective November 1.

Carol brings a unique combination of education and professional experience for effective leadership of a world-class STEM research library. Always fascinated with international affairs, she obtained her undergraduate degree at Binghamton University in Arabic and Economics with a Middle Eastern emphasis, including Study Abroad in Egypt. She spent 7 years in the petroleum industry as an oil contract coordinator and energy commodity futures trader. This position led to a unique, life-changing move to Montana to develop an automated commodity futures trading program with a leading chaos mathematician from Oxford and computer scientists from the Los Alamos and Oak Ridge National Laboratories. This enterprise led to her lifetime affinity for the Rocky Mountain West.

Following that venture, Carol became Vice President of Operations for a startup public records and information services firm in Missoula, MT, that grew under her leadership to a 65-employee company. This experience reawakened her passion for connecting people with information. Following the sale of the company, she returned to school to reignite an early childhood goal to become a librarian.

In addition to her MS in Library Science, Carol also holds an MS degree in Information Systems (both from Drexel University), a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Central Missouri and a professional certificate in Competitive Intelligence for Information Science Professionals from the Special Libraries Association. She is currently in the dissertation phase for a Ph.D. in Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Her dissertation centers on the opportunistic discovery of information in mobile geospatial environments.

Carol served as a business and technology librarian at the University of Central Missouri from 2006-2013, before becoming the Library Director at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado in 2013. She has been an active leader in her profession, serving as president of the Missouri Library Association in 2013 and as the current president of the Colorado Academic Libraries Association.

When not in a library, Carol can be found hiking a trail or climbing a peak. She and her husband are steadily working their way through the world’s great treks including the Inca Trail in Peru, the Tour du Mont Blanc in Europe and Iceland’s Laugavegur Trail.

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Anna Seiffert
E-Resources and Collection Assessment Librarian

As the Electronic Resources and Collection Assessment Librarian, I focus on all things digital throughout their lifecycle as well as working with colleagues to ensure that our collections are relevant to Mines and our mission. I enjoy working with electronic resources; because they are so complex, no two days are ever the same.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Anthropology from Purdue University and a Master of Library Science from Indiana University. I started my career in a public library (Tippecanoe County Public Library) and then transitioned to a community college (Ivy Tech Community College) before moving to Purdue University Libraries. This path enabled me to gain a broad range of experience working and interacting with different library communities.

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and traveling abroad. I also enjoy being outdoors and have been exploring the local trails. I’m quickly discovering though, that the Colorado definition of “moderate” is a bit different than Indiana.

Gyasi Evans
Research Librarian

After recently completing my Masters of Library Science degree from Emporia State University, I was drawn to the Mines Library to work at an institution with some of the highest admission standards in the country. I believe the Library plays a vital role in supporting research and student success within this university.

I have a strong background in media from my undergraduate studies. I also have years of experience in customer services in public and academic libraries. I consider myself a “jack of all trades” librarian. I can conduct reference interviews, code a website, or create content for social outreach. I am happy to be a part of the Arthur Lakes Library team and look forward to developing skills and knowledge in this position.

Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, snowboarding, motorcycle track racing, reading and photography. Fun Fact: I grew up as an Army brat and spent the first 5 years of my life in Germany.

Ye Li
Scholarly Communications and Instruction Librarian

What attracted me the most to the Arthur Lakes Library is the opportunity to engage with the focused, lively, and rapidly evolving Mines community in research, teaching, and learning. I also feel fortunate to join our dedicated library colleagues who support each other’s work and life like family.

My understanding of the research and learning lifecycle in STEM fields as a chemist and a librarian enables me to establish in-depth collaboration with faculty members. I aspire to lead the library effort in supporting scholarly communication at Mines. I am planning to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaborations and provide better research impact metrics through implementing a research networking and profiling system on campus. I will promote wider dissemination of scholarly output, including open access publishing and research data sharing. In addition, I will collaborate with faculty on integrating data and information literacy into STEM curricula. Last, I’d like to partner with researchers on developing best practices in managing workflow in research and publishing to facilitate reproducible research.

I received my Ph.D. in Chemistry and Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa in 2009. I then served as a Chemistry Librarian at the University of Michigan prior to joining the Library staff. I am originally from Baoshan, China at an elevation comparable to Golden’s 5,675 feet. My husband and I enjoy hiking in the Rocky Mountains, discovering little creeks and listening to birdsong.
Brianna Buljung
*Instruction and Research Librarian*

I am the new Instruction and Research Librarian and have experience working with both undergraduate and graduate students in instruction sessions. I’ve taught everything from basic research skills to using citation managers such as RefWorks and Endnote to specialized research sessions for senior capstone design groups. I earned my BA in History from Colorado College and my Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Denver. I’ve worked and volunteered in several different types of libraries. My professional experience includes a year as a Reference Librarian at the National Defense University and three years as the Engineering and Computer Science Librarian at the US Naval Academy.

I love to travel with my husband and we especially enjoy exploring historical sites and battlefields. Our most recent adventure took us to Colonial Williamsburg and the Yorktown battlefield in Virginia. Outside of work I spend my time enjoying the Colorado outdoors, scrapbooking and adventuring with my nieces and nephews.

Robyn Copeland
*Circulation Coordinator*

I was attracted to the Arthur Lakes Library for the specific subject matter. After learning legal for five years at CU’s Law Library in Boulder, I aspired to learn more about engineering and geology. What a perfect place for this quest! My areas of expertise include customer service, workflow efficiency, human relations, communications and fostering long-term relationships with all patrons.

I have 17 years of academic library experience and enjoy the interaction with patrons, especially the students. My B.A. is in corporate communications from a small, private liberal arts college in the Midwest. I started my MLIS program at the University of Denver and have hopes of finishing the degree online in the near future.

In my spare time, I volunteer in a variety of organizations, I hike frequently around Colorado and also bike in my neighborhood. I’m an avid reader and have a passion for music of all genres. I love attending live performances. Fun Fact: My daughter Justine just married her sweetheart, Nick at a destination wedding in Cancun.

Carol Smith

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Carol brings to Mines a distinctive and innovative approach to academic libraries, based upon the New Librarianship Framework developed by Dr. R. David Lankes of Syracuse University. New Librarianship is a powerful, mission-based framework for guiding the continuous transformation of modern research libraries, including the adaptation of traditional library functions and the crafting of entirely new ones. At the heart of this worldview is a user-centric, creation-centric approach to the role of libraries. If something supports knowledge creation among the members of its community, the library has a role to play. Carol brings this broader conception of the library mission front and center in her goal to rapidly transform modern academic libraries.

During her tenure as Library Director at Adams State University, this approach to academic librarianship led to multiple novel initiatives that served the distinct needs of the San Luis Valley community, including a locally adapted, organic seed library, a technology lending collection, and even a game collection. These collections were promoted and enhanced with robust library programming ranging from community discussions, formal lectures, Skype sessions with notable figures, art exhibits, music performances, therapy dog sessions, and more. All contributed to an awakened understanding of academic libraries as dynamic, inclusive, welcoming, community-centered places open to participatory experimentation. As she often likes to say to library users, “It’s your library; take ownership of it.”

Carol is attracted to the highly unique mission and community of the Colorado School of Mines. She looks forward to becoming a vested member of the Mines community and exploring how the New Librarianship framework can contribute to supporting the research-intensive work of a world-class STEM institution. She is also eager to begin collaborating with the campus and community on a major renovation of the Arthur Lakes Library. She encourages all to stop in the Library and say hello!
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