

***THE CHRONICLES OF JENNIFER L. DEAN:***  
*A Timeline of Memorable Events During Her Tenure  
as Dean of Libraries at University of Detroit Mercy*

~ 2016 ~

**February 15, 2016** — Jennifer Dean begins her tenure as Dean of University Libraries and Instructional Technology.

**March 2016** — Instructional Designer Linda Papa retires.

**Summer 2016** — Moving and shifting...

- Dowling Collection moves out of its 3<sup>rd</sup> floor home to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage
- All book collections are weeded and begin to be shifted down from 2A to 2 and lower level, in stages.
- Library personnel move from offices on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to other offices on 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**June 2016** — TRiO Student Support Services director Amber Johnson and her staff move to temporary space on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**July 2016** — First Library Teaching & Learning Center (LTLC) picnic for Jennifer, complete with grilled foods and potluck.

**July 2016** — Migration to new online cataloging system, or as David Moody put it: "And we'll have Fun! Fun! Fun! Till Ex Libris takes Horizon Away."

**2016 – 2018** – Jennifer is Board Chair of DALNET (Detroit Area Library Network).

**September 2016** – Elizabeth Royal joins Libraries/IDS as Instructional Designer—the first new employee hired under Jennifer's tenure.

**November 2016** – Students swarm to the four newly constructed group study rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**December 2016** — Jennifer submits State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) to Provost, for ease in providing postsecondary distance education to students outside Michigan.

~2017~

**January 2017** — Renovation of Dowling Room to TRiO space is complete and TRiO staff moves in.

**February 2017** — Head of Reference Sue Homant retires.

**August 2017** — Head of Circulation Betty Nelson retires.

**August 2017** – Sandra Wilson named Head of Reference.

**October 2017** – Power outage at McNichols Campus Library. Nathan Siva hooks up generator to run the servers so databases can be accessed until power is restored.

**November 2017** — McNichols Campus Library, in collaboration with University Ministry and Muslim Students Association, identifies the oversize book collection area on the lower level to create a multi-faith reflection space.

**November 2017** – Jennifer appointed Chair of Shared Governance Task Force.

**December 2017** — First Dean's Corner written for inaugural issue of *Beyond the Stacks* newsletter.

**December 2017** — Cataloging Librarian David Moody and Library Technician Lisa Pordon retire.

### ~2018~

**January 2018** — Inaugural event of the Women's Leadership Round Table, established by Jennifer, Felicia Mitrovich, Elizabeth Royal, and Susan Trudeau, features pilot speaker Provost Pamela Zarkowski in Room 324.

**February 2018** – Kris McLonis named Head of Cataloging.

**February 2018** — Jennifer and Arnold D'Ambrosio announce to University community their intention to form the Detroit Mercy Concert Band, inviting faculty, staff, students, and alumni to join.

**March 2018** – Megan Novell named Head of Circulation.

**April 2018** — Upward Bound Director Pamela Rhoades Todd and her staff move into their renovated space on 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

**May 2018** — Karla Aikens joins the Libraries team as Library Assistant/Events Coordinator

**May 2018** — Renovation of Library's first floor begins. Public computers moved to lobby area.

**September 2018** — Grand Opening for McNichols Campus Library first floor renovation and Bookmark Café. A Mothering Room and two gender neutral restrooms are among the additions. A vestibule at the front entrance is created and entrance/exit doors are reversed. Security gates are removed. Reference desk, printing stations, and public computers are relocated. Two additional group study rooms are constructed. New furniture is added.



**September 2018** – Library building/study hours extended to 12:00 midnight Monday through Thursday in response to student requests.

**September 2018** — Multi-faith reflection space continues to evolve with books and shelving removed, fresh paint, partition, Persian rug, wooden pews for seating, and reading materials.

**September 2018** — Rebecca Tull joins the Reference Librarians team at McNichols Campus Library.

**December 2018** — Dean Dean becomes Dr. Dean Dean—or is that Dean Dr. Dean?—after she defends her PhD dissertation at Michigan State University: *Change of Heart: The Influence of the External Environment on Academic Library Collections*.

### ~2019~

**January 2019** – Jennifer's first meeting as ALA Councilor for Michigan at ALA Midwinter Conference in Seattle.

**February 2019** – Jennifer travels to the Dominican Republic, an immersion trip as part of the Ignatian Colleagues program.

**February – March 2019** — Comprehensive book moving project by Library Design Associates shifts entire collection in sequential order, starting from lower level, until all 2A material moves to 2.

**March 2019** — Library hosts 130 high school students from International Academy of Macomb during Spring Break to provide a sneak peek into academic research, including instruction from the librarians and conducting individual research on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s in the Library computer lab.

**March 2019** – University loses beloved community member Ms. Sally Baker, whose constant presence at the Library's public computers made her one of our most stalwart patrons.

**April 2019** – Buys a house in Warren, thinking she'll stay at Detroit Mercy forever.

**May 2019** — Under Jennifer's direction, Detroit Mercy hosts the annual AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities) Library Deans and Directors conference.

**June 2019** – Jennifer attends the 7-day Magis National Retreat in Wisconsin as part of the Ignatian Colleagues Program. Silence is golden!

**August 2019** – Dennis Hillers joins Libraries/IDS staff as Evening Services Coordinator, covering operations until midnight and Sundays during extended Library hours.

**September 2019** – Dental Library extends hours to 10:00 pm on Monday through Thursday and from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Saturday/Sunday.

**September 2019** – Library installs Wepa print system, allowing students to print from laptops and mobile phones.

**October 2019** – University Archives expansion begins on 2A, with entire floor dedicated to the Archive Research Center (ARC)

**November 2019** – Jennifer and Archives Librarian Pat Higo perform with Detroit Mercy Concert Band in Library Lobby to celebrate All Saints' Day before Mass at St. Ignatius Chapel.

**~2020~**

**March 2020** – University alumnus and donor Tom Page, founder of the Drug Recognition Center and Archive, makes the first presentation in the newly renovated ARC to librarians and students.

**March 2020** — Global pandemic. The University immediately pivots to online delivery of education and remote work due to COVID-19 pandemic and State of Michigan's emergency Stay-at-Home order asking residents to shelter in place.

**March 2020 — July 2021** — Majority of Library and IDS employees work remotely as most University classes remain virtual until Fall 2021 semester. Librarians provide virtual reference. Zoom and Teams meetings become second nature and employees learn the utility of One Drive and SharePoint.

**May 2020** – Jennifer is appointed President of the Michigan Library Association.

**August 2020** – Libraries reopen for Fall semester with strict protocols and limited capacities and hours. Tables, chairs and computers are removed to accommodate distancing requirements; staff goes on mask patrol; parts of the building are off limits for browsing and studying; lower level and stacks are closed to visitors.

**September 2020** – Constitution Day program celebrating anniversaries of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments and the Voting Rights Act, co-sponsored by the Libraries and Black Abolitionist Archive, is Zoom-bombed with racist language by unknown attendees, who are eventually identified and booted from the meeting. The incident creates heightened awareness of disturbing trends and the need for increased online security.

**September 2020** – Thanks to University Ministry, the Healing Wall goes on display in Library lobby to encourage dialogue and reflection about the history and impact of racial violence in the United States.

**November 2020** — Jennifer safely participates as bassoonist in Midland Symphony Orchestra's first indoor concert after COVID-19 restrictions go into effect in March, with



fewer than a dozen instrumentalists—socially distanced—performing to an audience of 50 masked and appreciative attendees at Midland Center for the Arts.

**November 2020** – The Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, to be located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Library Teaching & Learning Center, is established under the directorship of Dr. Michael Verdusco. IDS is integrated into CETL and rebranded as the Office of Digital Education, no longer a part of Libraries.

### ~2021~

**June 2021** – The free seed library established by librarian Cindy Gillham, open to all in the Detroit Mercy community including anyone from the surrounding neighborhoods, is housed in one of the Library's vintage card catalog cabinets and set up in the lobby.

**August 2021** — All employees and students return to campus, masked and vaccinated against the virus. Library, along with Bookmark Café, resumes more normal hours.

**October 2021** — Senior Library Systems Administrator Nathan Siva retires.

**October 2021** – Renovation team begins construction on CETL space on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**November 2021** – In conjunction with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Detroit Mercy hosts the exhibition “We Don’t Want Them: Race and Housing in Metropolitan Detroit, 1900-1968” in the Library.

**December 2021** – Library hosts Holiday Pop-Up Shop with proceeds benefitting Titan Equity Nourish Network (TENN), raising \$1,005 in funds.

### ~2022~

**January 2022** – Jennifer announces she is leaving Detroit Mercy to take a position as Director of the Frances Willson Thompson Library at University of Michigan-Flint.

**January 2022** – Construction of space for CETL is complete and staff moves in.

**February 2022** – Jennifer and Dental librarians meet with faculty at Detroit Mercy's Novi campus to discuss library plans for the School of Optometry currently under development.

**February 2022** – Provost Pam Zarkowski announces the appointment of Marilyn Dow, Director of the School of Dentistry Library, as Interim Dean of Libraries to replace Jennifer.

**February 25, 2022** – Jennifer Dean's last day as “Dean Dean.”

—compiled 2/23/22 by Amy Keyzer, Administrative Assistant to Dean Dean