

2023-2024 Year in Review

# HOOVER LIBRARY

Making Change, Together







**MCDANIEL**  
COLLEGE

**ABOUT**

Hoover Library supports McDaniel College's mission to promote critical, creative, and global thinking while fostering academic excellence and intellectual freedom. The Library provides a learning environment that encourages scholarship, access to resources, instruction, and guidance for the interpretation and evaluation of information.

McDaniel College, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations governing affirmative action and nondiscrimination, does not discriminate in the recruitment, admission, and employment of students, faculty, and staff in the operation of any of its educational programs and activities as defined by law.

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# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

David Brennan  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR



We describe the library in many ways in relation to its space and services, from the “student living room” to the “student office”, to emphasize it as a place for individual and group study and scholarship.

The library has always been more than just the collection of resources that are curated to meet the needs of our community; the space and services we provide complement the collections and the visibility of our staff across the campus reinforces the vital role the library plays in scholarship at McDaniel.

The 2023/24 Academic Year saw many changes to the library building, bringing to fruition our vision for improved classroom, archives, and art spaces. Students, faculty, and staff have all been pleased with the results, particularly the new 3rd Floor Classroom.

This work would not have been possible without the dedication of the library staff, who all pull together to make these projects possible. A year does not go by without staff transitions, but as our staff changes, we still are able to celebrate our successes as a team.

“This work would not have been possible without the dedication of the library staff, who all pull together to make these projects possible. A year does not go by without staff transitions... [but] we still are able to celebrate our successes as a team.”

Without too much foreshadowing, we also are anticipating significant changes to the library in the coming year and welcoming many new departments to the building as part of the Campus Master Plan and reorganizations in relation to new college programs in the Health Sciences.

We hope you enjoy this look back on 2023-2024 with us as we embark on another year of progress, success, and Reaching New Heights.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Brennan'.

David Brennan,  
Library Director

# NEW SPACES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

## Renovating Spaces and Elevating Services



Early digital mockup of classroom 314.

### Classroom 314

In December 2023, the library hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new third floor classroom. Classroom 314 has quickly become a beloved space by staff, students, and faculty alike, with 81% of the instruction sessions given face-to-face by librarians.

Several design choices make Classroom 314 unique: whiteboard walls, an abundance of natural light, ample space for movement to accommodate interactive sessions, and excellent visibility and accessibility of teaching materials from every student seat in the room.

Any department on campus can request library instruction sessions, which means any space used for instruction needs to be flexible enough to handle such a variety of requests and technologically equipped to enable a broad spectrum teaching styles and materials. This new space is on the cutting edge and enables us to provide richer, more engaging educational experiences for students.

49

FYS CLASSES  
TAUGHT

75

CLASSES ACROSS  
SUBJECT AREAS

2,275

STUDENTS  
REACHED

152

HOURS TAUGHT

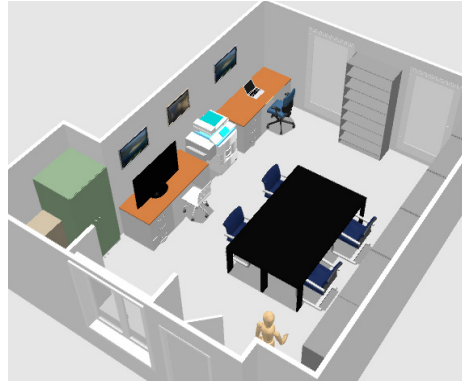


The renovated classroom 314.

## Archives Reading Room

The McDaniel College Archives' mission can broadly be placed into three categories: preserving and providing access to an inclusive record of College history, selecting and maintaining collections of interest to the college community, and supporting the research needs of the college community.

The new Reading Room serves as the public focal point of the McDaniel Archives, serving as both the Archivist's office and the primary space in which researchers can peruse archival materials.



Early digital mockup of the new Archives Reading Room.

Nearly 30% of research help requests to the Archives are from independent researchers, making the Archives the area in the library with the most robust connections to the world beyond The Hill. Streamlining and modernizing this space creates more opportunity for the Archives to continue its important work of preserving and sharing college history with researchers on- and off-campus. For more information on these renovations, see the link on pg. 17 of this report.

11

ARCHIVES CLASSES  
TAUGHT

408

ITEMS CIRCULATED

94

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH  
HELP REQUESTS



The renovated Archives Reading Room.

# A FRESH WAY TO ENGAGE

## Expanding References Services

549

QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED  
ONLINE

144

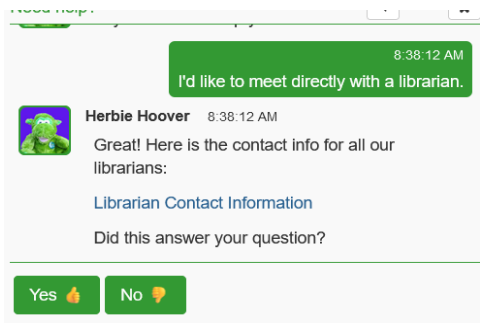
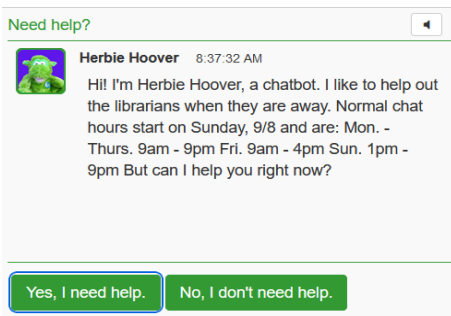
RESEARCH  
APPOINTMENTS

94

ARCHIVE  
CONSULTATIONS

In addition to instruction sessions, Hoover Library continues to see significant engagement with reference services, both electronic reference and in-person research appointments. In-person appointments remain the most popular way that students interact with the library for help refining their topics, finding sources, and learning to navigate the world of databases and peer-reviewed research with 144 appointments scheduled this academic year - the highest we've seen since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to in-person appointments, librarians and reference staff are online 64 hours a week to provide virtual reference services through chat, email, and text via the library website. Because demand for reference services has increased, Head of Public Services Elizabeth Davidson explored options to expand the library's offerings to ensure community research needs were being met.

During the summer of 2023, a solution was found- the library designed and implemented a new chatbot that is in use during the library's 'off hours.' Rather than an AI (Artificial Intelligence) tool, the "Herbie Bot", modeled after the library's unofficial mascot Herbie Hoover, is mapped to handle the most frequent inquiries from our community to prevent any bad information from being provided. It ensures that anyone with quick inquiries receives an immediate response, and those with research questions will be connected to a research librarian. We are excited to introduce the Herbie Bot to the campus community!



Screenshots of a "conversation" between a user and the new, after hours Herbie Bot.

# ART IN ACTION

## Connecting the Library to Community

The Student Art Collection includes works of art by Western Maryland College and McDaniel College students. In 2011, Hoover Library launched its ongoing annual program to purchase one piece of artwork from a senior art major to add to the collection. In 2022, the library began displaying older student art pieces already in the archives.

The collection not only beautifies the library, but celebrates the academic and artistic endeavors of the college's students, reflecting diverse artistic disciplines and points of view. It also provides an opportunity to inspire and educate library patrons through the unique cultural experience of a student art collection.



Fancy Dancer, 2022; Skylar Blackbull class of 2023

# MOVING RESOURCES

## Digital and Physical Changes in the Collections

As subscription costs rise every year, it is continuously challenging to balance the requests the library receives for more resources and the budget. While this is not a unique situation to us, libraries and vendors are working together to develop new subscription models.

In FY 2024, we added more than 10 JSTOR databases without significant increases to our subscription price thanks to JSTOR's newly available archive journals and primary sources content. The library actively adjusts our subscriptions according to program changes and usage reports.

Regarding our physical collection, we continued with the reclassification project started in FY 2023, moving more oversized books in the collection to the expanded quarto/ folio collection on the lower level. In addition, to prepare for some of the exciting developments coming in FY 2025, we underwent an extensive weeding project in order to transition the first floor book collection to the second floor.

31,000

E-Books added to the collection

4,700

Videos and films made available for streaming

1,100

Physical books added to the collection

# READ POSTER HONORS

## Celebrating Relationships Across Campus

For the eighth year, Hoover Library celebrated six McDaniel community members who exceptionally support, promote, and utilize Hoover Library. This year's pool was very competitive and we're proud to present this year's winners!

### Staff Awards



Kenny Ditto, Printing & Mailing Services

Kenny Ditto and Terry Page are some of the library's greatest unsung heroes. The support, friendliness, and competence of staff across campus make it possible for the library to accomplish so much and this year we wanted to give a special thank you to Kenny and Terry for being so supportive over the years.



Terry Page, Conference & Auxiliary Services

### Faculty Awards



Melanie Nilsson, Chemistry

As librarians, some of our biggest points of contact with students come via faculty. Linda and Melanie have always been strong advocates to their students about library services along with being avid users themselves! Last year in particular, we could frequently see Melanie in and out of the Archives for her own research.



Linda Semu, Sociology

### Student Awards



Reagan Knowles, Class of '25

Finally, where would we be without such creative and dedicated students? From publishing papers about archival work to promoting the library and its services to their fellow students, Reagan and Zoe are some of the most enthusiastic students we've met. Their passion and motivation has inspired us as library staff and we're thankful to get to work with such bright young adults.



Zoe Shelby, Class of '25



# REACHING OUT, STAYING IN

## Strengthening Bonds and Learning Together



Steph Crowell and Marcey Jastrab accepting a Be Kind Sign from Tina and Eric.

### A Kinder Library

This spring, Hoover Library was gifted with a Be Kind sign from the local Infinite Love Project. Eric and Tina Miller reached out to let us know they had acquired and restored an old sign painted by a former student and kindly donated it, along with a custom-painted Be Kind box, to the library to use as decor and to help with our outreach efforts. We're so grateful for this partnership- the box in particular has become a staple at some of our biggest outreach events!

### Gathering Together to Learn Together

In collaboration with the STEM and Outreach librarians, and faculty from the environmental sciences department, the library hosted a screening of the film *Gather*, a documentary on food poverty and land sovereignty for Native American groups. We bundled this together with a short social media campaign and a book display on food sovereignty. As one student said, "It really makes you think about the food you eat every day."



Poster for the *Gather* documentary.

### Getting Oriented in Style

Every fall, Hoover Librarians participate in a variety of orientation activities, from tabling at McDaniel Local and the Involvement Fair, to teaching FYS classes, to hosting its own Open House every fall. These events allow new students to meet our librarians, connect with resources that will help them through their academic career, and take a much-needed break during those first hectic weeks of the fall semester.



Students exploring the new Reading Room during orientation programming

# INTERNSHIPS AND MENTORSHIPS

## Promoting Career Readiness at Hoover Library

Lauren Portis, Environmental Studies Major, '24



Lauren Portis, presenting at the Academic Symposium.

Lauren processed the General Robert J Gill collection, helping to make it discoverable and accessible to the community. Gill was a class of 1910 alum and had a long and distinguished military career, serving as an officer in WWI and overseeing prisoner of war camps in Europe during WWII. At the close of WWII, he was selected to join Justice Robert H. Jackson's legal team prosecuting Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg. His archival collection contains scrapbooks, papers, photographs, and artifacts from his time at Western Maryland College and his military service. Lauren presented her work in a poster presentation at the Academic Symposium.

Zoe Shelby, Art Major, '25

Zoe completed a summer/fall internship in the College Archives and continued her work in the Archives as a student worker in the spring. During her internship and spring work, she photographed and cataloged the Winter W. Myers collection, a collection of over 100 antique objects from ancient Egypt, Greco-Roman, Japan, and Native American cultures. Zoe [published an article](#) about her internship in Teaching with Primary Source's journal, *Notes from the Field*. She also presented her work at McDaniel College's Academic Symposium.



Zoe Shelby, presenting at the Academic Symposium.

### Shane Irwin, History Major, '26

Shane completed a spring internship with the College Archives where he researched, photographed, and cataloged the Archives' antique weapons collection. This collection contains 19 unique weapons, including muskets, swords, revolvers, and their accompanying sheaths. The collection comprises entirely of American weapons from the 19th to early 20th centuries. While some other collections, such as the Gill collection, contain some antique weapons, this collection is the largest collection of weapons in the Archives.



Shane Irwin, carefully arranging an item to be photographed.

### Tabitha Zolnerowitz, Sociology Major, '24



Tabitha Zolnerowitz and Reagan Knowles at graduation.

In spring 2024, senior Tabitha Zolnerowich joined the library as this semester's intern. Tabitha's interests lie in the Public Services realm of librarianship, and she spent much of the semester focused on the pedagogy of instruction, research support, and how circulation and outreach efforts are organized and performed. As part of her work, Tabitha overhauled the Arabic Studies research guide and designed a book display for celebration of and education about Arabic History month. She is currently pursuing a position in education, and we look forward one day to welcoming her back into the library field!

# SENIOR STUDENT WORKERS

## A Brief Retrospective

It's no secret that student workers are pivotal in keeping the library running smoothly. In all departments, student workers improve our workflows and our workspace. The bonds we make with student workers are among some of the strongest and most meaningful we make, especially, when the students start working at the library early and stay through their senior year. This kind of deep mentorship and skill building stays with students, some of whom pursue careers as library workers themselves!

Jaylin Smith, English and Theater Arts Major, '24



Jaylin Smith at graduation.

Jaylin was a student worker in the Interlibrary Loan office. Her dedication and work ethic were evident both in her work in the library and in her broader college career where she won several awards for leadership and performance. During the Academic Symposium in Spring 2024, Jaylin presented her experience assisting Paul Zajac, Associate Professor of English, with researching how peace is emphasized in various pieces of Shakespearean text from the Renaissance period. Jaylin obtained 59 relevant research items, through ILL while assisting Dr. Zajac, an extraordinary feat.

Reagan Knowles, Mathematics Major, '24

Reagan was the Outreach Student Assistant throughout her McDaniel career. Even when her supervisor changed, Reagan stayed constant, supplying her ideas and talents with graphic design to make even our most ambitious outreach events successful. The experience and portfolio she was able to collect during her time in Hoover Library made her a prime candidate for a permanent library job - and after graduation, she found one! Reagan now works with teens and young adults in a public library near her home and hopes to one day pursue her master's degree in library science to become a full librarian.



Reagan patiently explaining how voting works to Herbie Hoover.

# CHANGING FACES

## Staffing Updates at Hoover Library

### Meet Cohen, the new Circulation Supervisor.

Cohen has been working in customer service and hospitality for over 15 years before coming to McDaniel College. From barista and coffee roaster to baker and chef, he has spent most of his career in food before moving into elementary school librarianship.

Through his varied career, he brings many life experiences and connections from all over the midwest and east coast. Originally from Kansas City, based near Virginia Tech for a few years, and back from his most recent years living and working in Lewiston, Maine, he is a fresh face to Maryland.

With Westminster as his latest home Cohen is looking forward to learning about the community and settling in as a public face for Hoover Library.



Cohen Babcock settling into his new office space.



Debbie Green (scarecrow) posing with Library staff at Halloween, fall 2023.

### Thanks, Debbie, we'll see you soon

This year, we sadly said goodbye to Debbie Green, the Administrative Assistant at Hoover Library for 17 years. Her institutional knowledge was unparalleled, making her one of the most reliable problem solvers in a group of problem solvers. It's not easy to keep a handle on budgets, scheduling, unexpected issues with the building, but Debbie performed her duties with grace and a sense of humor that made the rest of the staff happy to be her colleague.

Her retirement leaves big shoes to fill! Thank you for all your years of service, Debbie, hope you enjoy your travels and lots of fun with both kids and grandkids!

# STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Contributions to the College and the Profession



**David Brennan**

DIRECTOR  
M.L.S, ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN

David presented, “The Student Living Room: Redefining a Shared Space.” In service to the profession, he was a member of the Capital Area Business Academic Librarians, the Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative Advisory Committee, the Maryland Digital Library Management Group, the Congress of Academic Library Directors, the

technical services group and general steering committee for the Carroll Library Partnership, and co-chaired The Maryland Independent College and University Association’s Library Director’s Round Table. At McDaniel, David served on multiple search committees here at Hoover Library as well as served on the Humanities & Health Workgroup, the Service Excellence Workgroup, the Student Success Committee, on the IACUC, the Department Chairs Committee, the Graduate Assessment Committee, and chair of the Library Building & Safety Committee.



**Elizabeth Davidson**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICES  
M.S.L.S, ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN

Elizabeth presented “The Student Living Room: Redefining a Shared Space” as well. Her professional service includes membership in: the Maryland Digital Library Management Group, and the general steering committee of the Carroll Library Partnership. She also Co-chaired the Maryland Independent College and University Association Library

Director’s Round Table. Here on the hill, Elizabeth served on the Thrive Advisory Board, the Thrive Faculty and Assessment workgroups, Hoover Library Building & Safety Committee, Department Chairs Committee, Library Safety Committee, Honor & Conduct Board, as well as several search committees for the library. She was also the faculty mentor for the Hispano-Latinx Alliance and Phi Beta Kappa.



### Gwen Coddington

COLLEGE ARCHIVIST & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN  
M.A., M.L.I.S., ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Gwen presented "Solo Arrangers Assemble: A Librarian and Archivist Team Up" at the Fall Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. She also served on the NetVUE Inclusive Imprints Grant Program Committee, and the Carroll County Committee on Celebrating America, and chaired the Faculty Development Committee.



### Steph Crowell

OUTREACH AND EVENING LIBRARIAN  
M.L.S., ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Steph hosted a workshop session titled "A Place for Play: Imagining New Boundaries for Academic Libraries" at the Utah Academic Library Consortium's fall professional development conference. They also served as a member of the Human Library Planning Committee, on search committees at Hoover Library, and act as the faculty mentor for the Green Terror E-Sports Club.



### Marcey Jastrab

STEM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT LIBRARIAN  
M.S.L.S., M.Ed, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Marcey attended the Women in Science Speak Panel at Hood College and the Towson Conference for Academic Libraries. She also served on the IRB Committee, the Earth Day Planning Committee, the Sustainability Committee, and the "Gather" Viewing Planning Committee. In addition, she is an honorary member of Tri Beta and led two MyDesign special sessions: Digital Wellness, and Purrrfect Home.



**Lisa Russell**

INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL) SUPERVISOR  
MCDANIEL '11 - M.ED.

Lisa attended the Maryland Interlibrary Loan organization's Spring Conference as well as the OCLC Resource Sharing Conference, held online. She served as a member of the search committee for the new Circulation Manager at Hoover Library as well.



**Loretta Spangler**

INFORMATION LITERACY COORDINATOR  
M.L.I.S., ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Loretta presented "Extending the One-Shot via the Testing Effect" at the Maryland Information Literacy Exchange (MILEX) Spring Workshop. She attended the MILEX 2023 Fall workshop as well as the Library Orientation Exchange Conference on "Branching Out: Growing and Adapting Your Information Literacy Practice. In addition, she served as the Assistant Treasurer for MILEX, and as a member of the Honor and Conduct Board, the Academic Assessment Committee, and the Provost's Humanities and Health Sciences Work Group. Loretta also hosted a MyDesign workshop titled, "Dimensions of Wellness."



**Yanhong Wang**

HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES AND E-RESOURCES LIBRARIAN  
M.A.L.I.S., ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Yanhong attended the FDL Conference, the Charleston Conference, and the Ebsco User Group Meeting. Professionally, she served on the CALA Assessment and Evaluation Committee, the CALA Nomination Committee, and as the CALA GMA Chapter Past President. At McDaniel, she served on the search committee for Circulation Supervisor at Hoover Library as well as on the Academic Symposium Steering Committee and the Faculty Development Committee.



# USEFUL LINKS

For More Information about the Stories in this Report



More detailed information on the data and statistics about the library's 2023-24 academic year can be found on the library's website, at [bit.ly/HLStats2324](https://bit.ly/HLStats2324), or by scanning the QR code to the left.



For more information on the library renovation projects in this report, visit [bit.ly/hoover-reno](https://bit.ly/hoover-reno) or scan the QR code to the left.

## HOOVER LIBRARY

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**MCDANIEL**  
COLLEGE

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Dr. Elly Engle (ENV)  
Global Initiatives  
My Caring Paws  
The Learning Advantage (CCPL & CCPS)  
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Office of Student Engagement (OSE)  
STEM Center  
Writing Center  
The Rippeon Fund

Thank you to the Bailey, Fowble, Hill, Hoover, Knapp, Luntz, Makosky, Marshall, Morris, Mullen, Phillips, Richwine, Roberts, Scott, Thompson, Tringali, and Unger families for their continued support.

Interested in becoming a donor?  
Contact David Brennan (dbrennan@mcdaniel.edu)

For more Hoover Library statistics from 2023-2024, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4zdvsd>