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The Newsletter of the Office of Library and Information Technology of Lake Forest College
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Creative Spaces Coming to the Library

The Center for Chicago Programs and Library and Information Technology (LIT) are exploring the latest in technology to develop both a new makerspace and a virtual reality (VR) lab in the library. These new creative spaces are being underwritten by Digital Chicago's Mellon grant. Makerspaces and virtual reality labs have been big draws in libraries and on college campuses for a number of years now.

Makerspaces allow users to design and build objects with instruments such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, and vinyl cutters. According to LIT Director Jim Cubit, "It's part of an idea for creating a space where students can play a bit with the technology and perhaps even create something useful."

A **VR lab** allows users to participate in a virtual reality experience using headsets and other technology-based gear. The planned virtual reality immersion space will include two VR headsets and manual controllers from HTC Vive. "We hope that uses for the VR room will expand as the campus community learns of its many applications, including for educational and development purposes," said Emily Mace, Chicago Digital Humanities Coordinator.

The Digital Chicago Mellon grant has concentrated on 360° technology for the past few years, including Google Cardboard smartphone viewers and cameras such as the Ricoh Theta S 360° panoramic camera. Center for Chicago Programs Director Davis Schneiderman said that along with the makerspace, "The VR immersion lab will extend this ongoing interest in exciting and relevant ways!"

We hope that faculty, students, and staff will be able to use the space to enjoy VR experiences, use it in classroom applications, and ultimately develop VR or immersive experiences themselves. Keep your eyes out for announcements about events introducing the campus community to this new technology!

Miriam Heard and Max Ogra Join Office of Library and Information Technology



Miriam Heard, Head of Access Services/Circulation

The summer has been relatively quiet, but the library's new Head of Access Services/Circulation, Miriam Heard, has been gearing up for the always-busy start to the academic year. Miriam joined us in July, and she has quickly become an integral part of the Public Services team here at the library. Among her many projects and duties, she has been readying the reserves section before the start of classes.

What are your first impressions of Lake Forest College?

Everyone is super nice! The campus is nice and clean. You can tell people take pride in what they do

here. The school year hasn't even begun, but people are still working very hard!

Is the Chicago area home to you?

Kind of like my second home, I guess. I've lived in the Chicago area for about 10 years now—most of my early adult life. I'm originally from Tacoma, Washington.

What makes you a librarian?

I would say my inquisitive nature and the fact that I like to help people. I enjoy the process of finding out things you didn't know before.

If you weren't a librarian, what type of work would you be doing?

Probably something with my undergraduate degree in Illustration, but I'd like to involve it with my love of animals. I did my capstone project for my Master of Library and Information Science degree with an animal shelter here in Chicago, researching and testing shelter management databases to help them compile statistics and information.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Japan! There's a lot of cool stuff to do there! There are some unusual animal sites I would like to visit there, like Cat Island and Deer Park. I studied the Japanese language for four years in high school.



Max Ogra, LIT Programmer/Analyst

Marazban (Max) Ogra joined the Office of Library and Information Technology just a few weeks before the start of classes as our new Programmer/Analyst. Max has worked for a number of companies in the area, including CDW and Baxter. His days have been filled with training and learning the different software platforms used at Lake Forest College, as well as becoming more familiar with the campus.

What are your first impressions of Lake Forest College?

A lot of learning! It's been a lot of information all at once. I've always worked in a corporate environment, so working at a college/nonprofit is all new to me.

What types of projects do you expect to work on here?

A lot of SQL projects—I come from a SQL background. Just about every project that comes in for Jenzabar and my.lakeforest requires knowledge of SQL. But the first few months will still be quite a learning process.

Is the Chicago area home to you?

I've lived in Vernon Hills for about 20 years now. Originally, I'm from Karachi, Pakistan. I came over to the United States in 1978.

What do you do with your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my son. I also do a lot of reading, and I like to keep up to date with technology. I like to watch movies, too.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

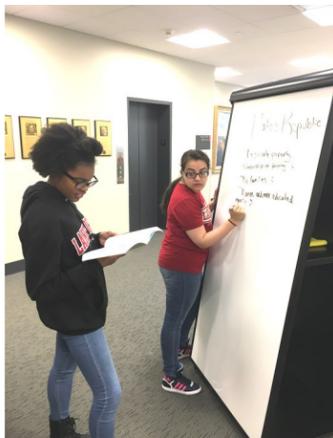
I've traveled to about 50 countries around the world already! I was in the Merchant Marine. I liked Europe, especially the city of London.

Anything else you'd like people to know about you?

I'm a huge pro football fan—I spend my Sundays in front of the TV in the fall!

Library Receives New Touches Over Summer, Expands Graphic Novel/Fiction Sections

LIT is always looking for ways to enrich the user experience in the library. With that in mind, you will notice some welcome enhancements that took place over the summer. New oversized beanbags, perfect for curling up on as you cram for an exam or if you need a little snooze in between classes, are scattered throughout the building. Moveable white boards and flip-chart easels facilitate collaboration and can convert any space into a group study room. A new graphic novel and popular fiction section graces the first-floor area near the lobby, where students and faculty can grab the perfect title for a late-night read. Let us know if you like the changes we've made!



What We Are Reading

Tonja Brice: *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson | Pam Cipkowski: *The Life You Save May Be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage* by Paul Elie | Connie Corso: *I Was Vermeer: The Forger Who Swindled the Nazis* by Frank Wynne | Jim Cubit: *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis | Kim Hazlett: *The Oxford Project* by Stephen G. Bloom and Peter Feldstein | Miriam Heard: *Book Girl* by Mizuki Nomura | Eileen Karsten: *Chromaphilia: The Story of Color in Art* by Stella Paul | Michael Karsten: *Beartown: A Novel* by Fredrik Backman | Erik Larson: *Maggie Murders: A Novel* by Anthony Horowitz | Doreen Norton: *The Water Is Wide: A Memoir* by Pat Conroy | Nancy Sosna Bohm: *Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person: A Memoir in Comics* by Miriam Engelberg | Cory Stevens: *Red Sparrow: A Novel* by Jason Matthews | Anne Thomason: *Station Eleven: A Novel* by Emily St. John Mandel