From your Instruction Librarians  Spring 2020

STLCC Libraries: Newsletter

Introducing, Sarah I. Smith
District Dean of Libraries

Dean Smith joined the St. Louis Community College Libraries last November. We invited her to respond to some “getting to know you” questions:

1) What do you want the campus community to know about you?

I’ve been working in academic libraries for more than 15 years, most recently as a library director at a community college outside of Nashville, TN. I’ve moved to different states several times to build experience since earning my Master’s degree from Mizzou—so returning to Missouri is like coming full circle from where I started as a librarian. Library work is never mundane and is always evolving; as such, my profession is always interesting to me and keeps me motivated.

What I love about living in St. Louis is that it provides me with frequent opportunities to do the things I enjoy the most: visiting great art museums and galleries, seeing great baseball, being active outdoors (so many great parks!), trying new restaurants, exploring new towns and neighborhoods. And although not on Nashville’s scale, I can still see quality live music here.

2) What are you most excited about in your new library system?

I think the challenge of bringing the libraries together as one system with equitable and consistent policies and practices is what most appeals to me about my role, as does building relationships across the district to ensure that the libraries are visible, active partners in the College’s efforts to foster students’ educational success. Too, I’m excited about working with some fantastic library employees who share a vision for providing great library services and resources that are responsive to changing teaching and learning needs at the College.

3) What is one book that you would recommend everyone read?

Surprisingly, I do not have a favorite book. In fact, I really dislike the idea of “favorites” altogether (movies, books, colors, etc.). Why limit? Humans are complex creatures with different needs, likes, and interests depending on the day, year, or decade in their lives. Notably, I will always love Moby Dick, but the book I most often recommend is Sinclair Lewis’ brilliant satire, Babbitt. That said, I recommend reading anything by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Viet Thanh Nguyen, as they are two of my favorite living authors; Zora Neale Hurston and Flannery O’Connor are two of my favorite dead ones.

Ultimately, I encourage everyone to read whatever floats your boat and in any format you prefer. Don’t let someone dictate what is “good” to read: if you enjoy it, then it’s good for you!

CONTACT US

Hours, Locations, and Phone Numbers

Or see the Ask A Librarian link on the Library homepage for all the many ways you can connect with your library!

Need more help?

Help for Faculty

Visit our website!

https://www.stlcc.edu/libraries/
On Gold Mountain FREE Book!

Faculty, Staff, & Students: Sign up at the Meramec Library ahead of time for a book discussion and take home a free copy (while supplies last).

Book Discussion of On Gold Mountain by Lisa See

Date: Monday, April 6
Time: 2:00 to 3:00 PM
Location: BA 105

Lisa See events to be rescheduled!

In her memoir, Lisa See “chronicles the one-hundred-year-odyssey of her Chinese

Meet Lisa See at book event this April!

Meramec Campus Theatre. Wedn. April 22, 2020 at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:15pm

The event will be an onstage interview. Lisa See will be signing books after the event. Books for signing will be available for purchase from Left Bank Books.

Sponsored by the St. Louis Community College Library—Meramec and Kirkwood Public Library.

https://www.lisasee.com/

Lisa See is a Chinese-American author who has written historical fiction, mysteries, and non-fiction. We’ll be taking a closer look at her books The Island of Sea Women, China Dolls, and On Gold Mountain to explore and discuss themes including Asian culture, immigration, and racism. Lisa See is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of 10 books that have been translated into 39 languages!

Find Lisa See’s Books in our Catalog
In conjunction with the Lisa See author event, the Meramec Library will sponsor a talk with Ling Jiang Thumin who was kidnapped by the Red Guard during the Chinese Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. At the age of 13, Ling was separated from her family and forced to work for several years on a collective farm in rural China. Others in her family did not fare so well.

Her story is a compelling one.

April 15, 2020 at 11:00am in BA 105

This event to be rescheduled!

To learn more about the Chinese Cultural Revolution, visit these STLCC Library databases on the Articles (Databases) page at https://guides.stlcc.edu/az.php

- **World History** (Gale in Context) global collection of history resources
- **World History** (Gale OneFile) coverage of events in World History
- In the Library Catalog, see China -- History -- Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976
Explore the STLCC Libraries OER Quick Start Guide with a link to a related guide featuring additional resources. [http://guides.stlcc.edu/](http://guides.stlcc.edu/)

Contact instruction librarians for help identifying OER sources.

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**Expanding Research Help**

**Book-A-Librarian:**
This semester, the libraries are piloting a new service at select locations. Students, faculty, and staff may schedule a one-on-one consultation for in-depth help with research. Meetings will be held online or in person at South County, Harrison Education Center, or Wildwood. To find out more or make an appointment, visit the Book-A-Librarian link on our Ask-A-Librarian page ([https://www.stlcc.edu/libraries/ask-librarian.aspx](https://www.stlcc.edu/libraries/ask-librarian.aspx)).

**Extended Hours for Chat help:**
Our chat (and text) research help is now available in the Sunday-Friday overnight hours, as well as most daytime hours on the weekend. Through MOBIUS, we’ve contracted with Chatstaff, a professional librarian service, so that even in the wee hours of the morning our students can have access to helpful librarians.

*This newsletter is brought to you by the STLCC instruction librarians: Cathy Reilly, Janice Hovis, Joanne Galanis, Sharon Fox, and Becky Helbling.*