During the fall semester, students in Dr. Alex Bolinger’s Management 4499/5599 Honors Class researched the history of the Garrett Freightlines Company. The company was founded in Pocatello in 1913 by Clarence Garrett and his brothers as a service to pick up and deliver freight from the Union Pacific Railroad to customers around the Pocatello region. From that small start, it grew to become the nation’s fifth largest freight carrier.

The students spent nearly 17 hours of class time and additional hours outside of class in Special Collections and Archives conducting research. The students worked with a number of collections to conduct their research, including the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce Records, the Stedtfeld Family Papers, the Richard J. Heinz Collection, the Warren Q. McNeil Collection, and the Jack Wenske Collection.

Ellen M. Ryan, head of special collections and archives at Idaho State University Library, facilitated and assisted students with their research throughout the semester. She taught them about the proper use of primary sources in academic research and publication, copyright law as it pertains to unpublished materials, and how to scan documents properly to meet publication standards.

The end result of this collaborative project with the ISU College of Business, ISU College of Arts and Letters, the ISU Honors Program, and the Special Collections and Archives department at Eli M. Oboler Library, is the forthcoming book, Garrett Freightlines, published by Arcadia Publishing as part of its Images of America series. It is due out in early May 2016.

Library Displays

Displays in the Library through the 2015 spring and summer semesters were built around the 75th anniversary of the publication of John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath. One display documented the attempts to censor the novel itself while other exhibit cases documented the Dust Bowl years. Displays included books, narratives, weather reports and documentation predicting the destruction of farm lands in the Midwest.

In September, the Library hosted the “Booker’s Dozen” traveling exhibit from the Idaho Center for the Book and showcased the ISU Special Collections book art collection.

In October, the ISU School of Performing Arts created a display on Mozart’s opera “The Magic Flute” to share information about Opera Idaho’s November 6th performance.

Exhibit cases are filled with books by Latino American authors, recently published novels, and poetry collections.

A reception was held on December 7th to celebrate the submission of the final manuscript to the publisher. At the reception, the students talked about their experiences working on such a large-scale collaborative project, and what they learned about the history of this iconic Pocatello trucking company.

ISU Libraries
1805 S. 8th Ave., Stop 5808
Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8089

Idaho State University Libraries


We’ve had a busy and successful fall with several staff changes and important events. We spent most of the fall semester constructing by construction time — which has had some impact on walk-in traffic. But those engineering projects were completed and everything looks wonderful. Inside the building we have been finishing the renovations with various small projects, such as adding charging stations and furniture. We have a new carpet which greatly lightened up the library and made it easier to follow the printed order of public comment from users. We expect to have all those finishing details done this spring, including bench seating in the newly remodeled Blackrock Commons areas on the first floor. The annual scholar event that we sponsored with the Office for Research on November 12 was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our gallery, once had several wonderful exhibits as well as events sponsored by Special Collections such as a presentation by Dr. Terry Perry. “Aboriginal Art: A Woman’s Life Depicted in a Pioneer Photograph.” We have received three important grants and support projects and efforts within the library — resulting in the processing of a significant gift of music scores. We also received funds by library foundations from Academic Affairs to acquire old and outdated computer equipment. We have been looking at our usage statistics and, in many areas, such as special collections, we are seeing marked increases in library usage.

We’ve had several departures and appointments during our fall stage. Susan Hanks has joined us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures.

We are looking forward to being at our full authorized strength in January. We have hired a new financial technician shortly. Kristin Haderlie will be moving upstairs in January to do an awesome job learning all our office procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures.

Harden, formerly of Lees-McRae College of Banner Elk, North Carolina, starts as our digital initiatives librarian in January. We are looking forward to being at our full authorized strength in January. We have hired a new financial technician shortly. Kristin Haderlie will be moving upstairs in January to do an awesome job learning all our office procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures. Barbara Van Jones has left us as our administrative assistant. She comes to us from the College of Business and has been doing an awesome job learning all of our procedures.

Our finances this year are looking up. We’ve been able to add several important information resources and support projects within the library — resulting in the processing of a significant gift of music scores. We also received funds by library foundations from Academic Affairs to acquire old and outdated computer equipment. We have been looking at our usage statistics and, in many areas, such as special collections, we are seeing marked increases in library usage.

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Our gallery area has had several wonderful art exhibits as well as events sponsored by Special Collections such as a presentation by Dr. Terry Perry. “Aboriginal Art: A Woman’s Life Depicted in a Pioneer Photograph.” We have received three important grants and support projects and efforts within the library — resulting in the processing of a significant gift of music scores. We also received funds by library foundations from Academic Affairs to acquire old and outdated computer equipment. We have been looking at our usage statistics and, in many areas, such as special collections, we are seeing marked increases in library usage.

We are finding that, as with everyone who leaves us, we never realize how much they contributed. We are finding that, as with everyone who leaves us, we never realize how much they contributed. We are finding that, as with everyone who leaves us, we never realize how much they contributed. We are finding that, as with everyone who leaves us, we never realize how much they contributed. We are finding that, as with everyone who leaves us, we never realize how much they contributed. We are finding that, as with everyone who leaves us, we never realize how much they contributed.