Jeff Davies Wins National Art Prize

Jeff Davies, a member of the Library staff, recently had his piece, “Fabergé’s Nightmare,” selected as the first-place winner of the Idaho Falls Art Council’s 9th Annual National Juried Exhibitions.” This piece, which is a hand-sculpted egg made using chicken feet, pyschography to the famous eggs created for Fabergé for the Russian royal family in the 19th and early 20th centuries. “I always wanted to be in Fabergé eggs, but, knowing that this wasn’t going to be part of my artistic experience,” said Davies. “I was working on this piece, I thought, ‘what would happen if Fabergé made it?’”

The resulting piece is notable in its simplicity, from the elegantly smithed egg to the tiny cast chicken’s feet. Originally, according to Davies, it was meant to be a box, but when he started working the 1-inch circle of steel silver, it naturally turned into an egg.

Davies’ artistic interests are firmly rooted in metal and jewelry work, which he began exploring in 2011 in the ISU Department of Art’s metals class. He has

Grant Awarded to Special Collections

Special Collections and Archives in the ISU Library at Idaho State University has recently been awarded a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). “With these grants, the National Endowment for the Humanities continues its 50-year tradition of supporting excellence in the humanities,” said NEH Chair William D. Adams. “From scholarly books and humanities programs on campus campuses to new digital humanities resources and preservation efforts at local museums, the projects receiving funding today will reach deeply into communities and engage people in examining and documenting the histories of Latino Americans in their communities and in fostering understanding of local histories, national and international cultures.”

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The consultant will provide detailed information on the specific needs of the collection in these main areas: First, short-term accommodations focusing on prioritizing immediate remedial preservation improvements; Second long-term recommendations to shape future planning for storage to accommodate collection growth, and to support improvements in storage and environmental conditions, fire protection, and disaster preparedness and third recommendations on ways to manage the preservation needs of the collection into the overall strategic planning for special collections to effectively begin a regimen of preventative care. Ellen M. Ryan, head of special collections and archives will serve as principal investigator, and Kristen Austin, reference librarian will serve as co-principal investigator on the project. Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the NEH supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at neh.gov.
New Faces at the Oboler Library

Tania Ishchenko joined the Oboler Library faculty as the new Special Collections Librarian in January 2016. She earned her MLS from the University of North Texas in 2014 and has a background in Asian and Russian Languages Psychology. Tania plans to go on to earn a certificate in Information Technology from the College of Continuing Education in the Library. When taking a tour of the University of Oviedo in Spain, she found a group of students standing in front of an exhibit titled “The Library of Knowledge”. She thought “what isn’t knowledge worth?”. We are really starting to see a positive change in how the campus perceives the library. The staff has been wonderful in how they have adapted and been willing to try new things. As the University Librarian I’m really proud of what the staff and faculty accomplishes. We are only a one day event this year, but we still realized around $1500 which we will use for a variety of things. It’s been interesting to see all the different kinds of events that have happened in the library. The library has had a very successful year. We have completed numerous physical improvements to the library such as carpeting and charging stations. We are now looking at adding a head in the front entrance so that users don’t have to walk into the library before using it. There are, perhaps, not the most exciting things in the world but they all work together to make things better for our users.

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One of my favorite things is the student lounge. You should check it out.

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