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Acting Library Dean Bruce Willms
Photo credit: Katherine Arndt

Bruce Willms Retires

Acting Library Dean Bruce Willms retires from Metropolitan State University on February 25. He has enjoyed a 37-year career working in academic, public, and special libraries. He started working at Metropolitan State as the Director of Technical Services, and has served as acting dean since 2011. After retirement, Bruce looks forward to visiting his grandchildren and spending time on his farm.

Please join the library staff as they send Bruce off with good wishes at a party in **the Library, Room 302 (Ecolab)**, on **Wednesday, February 19**, from **1:30 to 3:30 PM**. There will be a short program at 2:00 PM. Cake and light refreshments will be served. The library staff wishes Bruce all the best in his retirement!

Staff Reflect on Bruce's Career

The library staff shared recollections of their time working with Bruce. Here are some of those memories.

"Bruce has been a patient and compassionate boss, understanding to a fault. Through two paternity leaves, leave to provide hospice care to my mother, and various last-minute requests, Bruce has been supportive and good-humored: rare and much appreciated traits in a boss. Not only that, but he's good company: well and widely read, hardworking, funny, and quite willing to laugh at himself. I will miss him."

Owen Hansen, *Information Commons Specialist, Library and Information Services*

"Bruce believes in the power of collaboration. To this end, he's been a strong supporter of our relationship with the Dayton's Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library. He has used the library endowment funds as an opportunity to underwrite innovative outreach projects that support the University, its mission, and the larger community. Just a few examples are the Teens Know Best Program, the David Barton Reflective Garden and Community Labyrinth, Banned Books Week panels, the Rainbow Rowell event on campus, and traveling exhibits, such as 'Harry Potter's World.'"

Michelle Filkins, *Associate Professor, Library and Information Services*

"When Bruce first started at Metropolitan State, he and I got to talking and I found out that he had worked at the Love Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I did my undergraduate work there. I remember he said that, when he left that job, 'He'd never be in love again.'"

Ruth Zietlow, Associate Professor, Library and Information Services

"Administrators don't usually earn accolades for the behind the scenes stage managing they have to do, but that is probably the way I know my supervisor Bruce Willms the best. I appreciated the fact that he has been the kind of supervisor who was approachable and you could joke with. The library has been the scene of constant change. I appreciate the fact that Bruce listened and was responsive to staff concerns and comments whether or not something worked as planned. He was creative about devising solutions to deliver services to library patrons at the public service desks on a day-to-day basis. He worked with Thomas Maida and the safety officers, IT, Building Services, and other units to make sure the library is safe and everything functions well every day. He maintained good relations with our building partners, including the St Paul Public Library, the bookstore, and the Center for Academic Excellence."

Liz Keeler, Circulation Technician, Library and Information Services

Enjoy your retirement, Bruce!

New Dean Dr. Chris Schafer

Dr. Chris Schafer, the new library dean, begins her work on February 18. She received a Master of Library Studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and an Ed.D. in Leadership from the University of Saint Thomas. She has worked in a number of libraries, including those at South Dakota State University, Wartburg College, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Honolulu Community College, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Prior to becoming a librarian, she taught English in Waterloo, Iowa.

Chris and her husband are excited to be moving to the Twin Cities. They have four grown children, two grandsons, a dog, a cat, two parakeets, and a betta fish. She is eager to being working with the Metro State community!

Library Spotlight

Chris Schafer, Incoming Dean, Library & Information Services



- 1. Describe yourself in three words:** Adaptable, reflective, thoughtful.
- 2. So what will you do here?** I hope to provide leadership working with a wonderful team of faculty, staff, students, and other library stakeholders to move forward the vision of a vibrant joint use academic/public library and community hub.
- 3. Where did you come from?** I was born and raised in Oak Lawn, Illinois, a southern suburb of Chicago. I spent 20 years after college graduation moving around the country to various Marine Corp bases where my husband was stationed. We have lived in Sioux Falls, SD, for the past 10 years.
- 4. Describe the library in three words:** Energetic, inviting, collaborative.
- 5. What are you reading right now?** *Long Walk to Freedom* (Mandela) and *Reinventing the Library for Online Education* (Stielow).

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Upcoming Lecture

Magic, Illusion, and Ghosts: The Marketing of Science and Psychotropics

Dr. Glen Spielmans

Tuesday, February 18, 12 - 1pm, Metropolitan State University Library and Learning Center Room 302

Marketing plays a fundamental role in painting an overly pretty picture of psychiatric drug effects. Studies potentially provide researchers, patients, and practitioners with valuable information. But when science gets muddled with marketing magic, a murky mess is created. Marketers call them MegaBrands; we call them mood-mending medicines. Find out how scientists have joined forces with magical marketers to spin scientific data into fanciful tales of drug efficacy and safety. Dr. Spielmans will describe discrepancies between marketing messages and scientific studies of psychiatric drug effects.



Coffee and snacks will be provided.

This lecture is offered in conjunction with *Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine*, a traveling exhibition from the National Library of Medicine, on display at the library through February 23, 2014.

Library Welcomes Adriane Clark

The Library welcomes Adriane Clark to its staff. Adriane works as Customer Services Specialist at the Library's second floor circulation desk. She joined the library staff on January 29, after having worked in the College of Health, Community and Professional Studies (CHCPS). Look for a Library Spotlight featuring Adriane in a future issue of the newsletter!



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