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### From the Dean

The Class of 2018 arrived on campus for orientation during the week of August 18th. Some of the many activities sponsored by the UAlbany Libraries that week are described in this newsletter. We will be sponsoring many more programs and classes through our [iLearn](#) workshops throughout the fall semester.

The fall event that I'm most looking forward to will take place during [Homecoming Weekend](#). On October 10th at 2:00 p.m. in the Barnes & Noble Reading Room in the Science Library we will celebrate Alice Hastings Murphy's generous \$2.2 million endowment to support literary materials and the preservation of our collections by naming the Libraries' Preservation Department for her. We are very pleased that [Susan Hildreth, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and a UAlbany alumna, will be our speaker. We would love to have as many library supporters as possible [join us](#) to celebrate this amazing and inspiring gift. I hope to see you there!

### Ask Us!

IM/Text | Email | Phone

### UAlbany Libraries Provide 24/7 Online Reference Service

The Libraries have joined a group of New York libraries offering Ask Us 24/7 online reference service, a free "virtual reference desk" that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Students, faculty and staff can access this service by going to the University Libraries [homepage](#) and clicking on **Ask Us!** When the UAlbany reference desk is closed, questions are answered by reference librarians in libraries located across the U.S. and in the United Kingdom.

### UAlbany Librarians Teach in Chengdu, China



UAlbany librarians Yu-Hui Chen (*front row second from left*) and Mary VanUllen (*front row second from right*) and their students.

Dr. Yu-Hui Chen, subject librarian for Education and East Asian Studies, and Mary VanUllen, Associate Director for Collections, were invited to teach at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China in July. Mary and Yu-Hui developed "Preparation for Academic Writing in the U.S.: Getting Started with Social Sciences Research" as a course to help faculty at international institutions better prepare their students who intend to study in the U.S. The intensive two week course covered such topics as formulating research questions, locating and evaluating research materials, citing sources and understanding Western standards of academic integrity. Twenty-three students participated in exercises on conducting surveys, interviews and focus groups. The students were enthusiastic about taking an active learning approach to the material and understanding the differences between Chinese and American approaches to research and writing.

### University Libraries Welcome New and Returning Students!



Students at the *Great Dane Beginnings@Your Library* event peruse books donated by library faculty and staff.

The University Libraries hosted several events welcoming new and returning students as the Fall 2014 semester got underway.

The Libraries' reception for international students, held on August 20th during orientation week, was a huge success. More than 100 graduate and undergraduate students from dozens of countries joined us to learn about the Libraries' services and collections. The campus bookstore provided door prizes and a grant from the University Auxiliary Services helped cover the cost of refreshments.



On Friday, August 22, the Libraries sponsored Explore Your Library and Win!, a photo scavenger hunt. This was a friendly and fun way to get new students into the Libraries to learn about how they can use our resources, services and facilities to achieve academic success.

*Great Dane Beginnings @ Your Library* took place on August 25th, the first day of classes. This event was held at the entrance to the University Library and students going to and from classes in the Lecture Centers stopped by. The new **Ask Us 24/7** service (see above) was showcased along with the Libraries' presence on social media. Library staff donated their used leisure reading books and various vendors generously provided giveaways such as pens, flash drives, hand sanitizer and water bottles. All were enthusiastically received by the many students who attended.

You can view more photos of these events on our [Facebook page](#).



#### University News

Here's what's been going on at UAlbany since our last newsletter:

**July 2014** (<http://www.albany.edu/news/51278.php>)

**August 2014** (<http://www.albany.edu/news/51978.php>)

**September 2014** (<http://www.albany.edu/news/52833.php>)