

Good morning, everyone,

Today's edition of Monday Musings brings a strategic planning update, news about the March All-Staff meeting, and a few important reminders. Please feel free to share questions or comments by replying to this email.

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

Last week, the strategic planning steering committee and members of the four working groups met together to discuss next steps in the planning process. At that meeting, Lars Leon led a conversation about how best to ensure our overall goals and strategies are measurable, and each work group will begin to incorporate metrics into each goal.

On Feb. 16th, Jennifer Church-Duran provide an update on the strategic planning process to the KU Libraries Board of Advocates, donors and supporters who one of our key stakeholder groups.

We are making significant progress on the plan, and working group reports are due mid-March. These recommendations will be carefully discussed within the steering committee, then shared with library faculty and staff for more input. We fully expect the recommendations to drive organizational change, and restructuring is likely required to support the new initiatives set forth the plan. You will all have the opportunity to offer your perspective before DC Exec makes the final decisions regarding our strategic directions.

We will soon post last week's meeting summary at www.lib.ku.edu/planning, and you can contact Jennifer Church-Duran with any questions about this process.

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MARCH ALL-STAFF MEETING

Due to scheduling issues, the March All-Staff meeting will be held on Friday, March 9 from 10-11:30 am in Watson Three West. Please note this change in date (and extension in time) on your calendars.

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VISITING SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIAN

In March, we will welcome **Faith Bhengu**, our new visiting South African librarian, to KU Libraries. The purpose of this Carnegie-funded program is to create a culture of understanding of how librarians interact with researchers, including how librarians have a clear understanding of what the academic community is doing in order to provide appropriate support. Participants should return with a practical (as well as theoretical) understanding of what it takes to provide real research support.

Faith is the head of the information service division at Howard College Campus at the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal. She has nearly a decade of experience working as a social science subject librarian

specializing in languages, literature and psychology.

Faith arrives in Lawrence on March 10. More information about Faith's visit will be available soon!

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LIBRARY AWARDS

Last week, Rebecca Smith issued a call for nominations for our Dean's Award for Student Employee Excellence. I created this award two years ago to recognize the outstanding student support that helps us meet our goals across campus. Nominations are due to Rebecca by April 1, and members of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates will select the winners. I look forward to presenting the awards at the spring student employee picnic.

This year, we will seek nominations for our faculty and staff awards during the summer months. Look for announcements about USS, unclassified and faculty award opportunities then. These awards will be announced in late August or early September, and they will be formally presented at the 2012 Celebration of Excellence, which is scheduled for the evening of September 14. Please mark your calendars!

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SPARC CONFERENCE

Just a reminder – the dean's office will cover registration costs for the SPARC Conference, and will also arrange for group transportation. **IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE, please let Sean Barker know by Friday, Mar. 2.**

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LIBRARY SHIRTS

Some staff members have expressed interest in ordering polo-style library shirts. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Rebecca Smith at rasmith@ku.edu by Friday, March 9. Please note the size and quantity of shirts you'd like to order. Rebecca will share pricing information with those interested during the week of March 12.

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EMPORIA EVENT

Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management is celebrating its 110th anniversary with an event on Wednesday, March 7 from 7-9 pm. The event will be held in the Sander's Room (4801 Main Street, Suite 100) in Kansas City, Missouri. RSVP to Debbie Rittgers by Feb. 27 at drittger@emporia.edu.

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Finally, I'd like to note that I will be out of the office for the next few weeks to attend the South African Executive Management Academy. During my absence, Kent Miller will assume the responsibilities of my office and keep me apprised of any issues that may arise. Please contact Kent at kmiller@ku.edu or 864-8989 with any questions you may have. I return to the office the last week of March.

Have a great week.

ROCK CHALK!

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