



W. FRANK STEELY
Library

annotations

W. FRANK STEELY LIBRARY



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Volume 12, Issue 1 // Fall 2017

NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Steely partners with Learning PLUS Writing Center

Learning PLUS and W. Frank Steely Library have partnered to provide Writing Center services in Steely Library. The Writing Center, located on Steely's third floor, aims to help students become better writers by advising and guiding them through the writing process. Students can now receive help on writing assignments in the same space where they do research for those assignments.

Visit us at nku.edu/writingcenter

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the new digital iteration of *Annotations*, the news magazine of Steely Library and the Friends of Steely Library.

Much has happened since fall 2014, when *Annotations* last appeared in print. This issue is chock-full of articles describing our latest accomplishments. Among other things, you will learn about Steely Library's new website, which was created by library webmaster Michael Providenti with the help of the website task force. It provides easy-to-read content and is a much cleaner, attractive design with better navigation to find the information you need.

You will also learn more about the latest development with Steely Library's successful Bachelor of Science in Library Informatics, which is set to take another leap forward as one of NKU's first programs to become a part of a partnership with online education provider, Academic Partners.

Friends of Steely (FoSL) has also been busy with a continuing series of events, including a fundraiser benefiting a new scholarship program.

We have had exciting times since we last published *Annotations*, and I hope this issue will communicate some of the excitement we feel as we work to provide students, faculty, staff and the community with state-of-the-art services and information resources.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arne Almquist'. The signature is stylized and fluid, written over a white background.

Arne J. Almquist, Ph.D.
Dean of the Library

Steely Writing Center

FALL AND SPRING HOURS

Monday8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Tuesday.....8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday...8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday.....8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

Outreach to graduate students: Steely's Graduate Student Research Symposium

by Jane Hammons



At Steely Library, our mission is to support the research and information needs of all NKU faculty and students—including our graduate and professional students. Multiple studies have found that graduate students face significant challenges related to research, yet many are unaware of the ways in which their academic library can support their needs. This lack of awareness of library resources—and of graduate research practices in general—can have a significant negative impact on the ability of graduate students to complete their programs successfully.

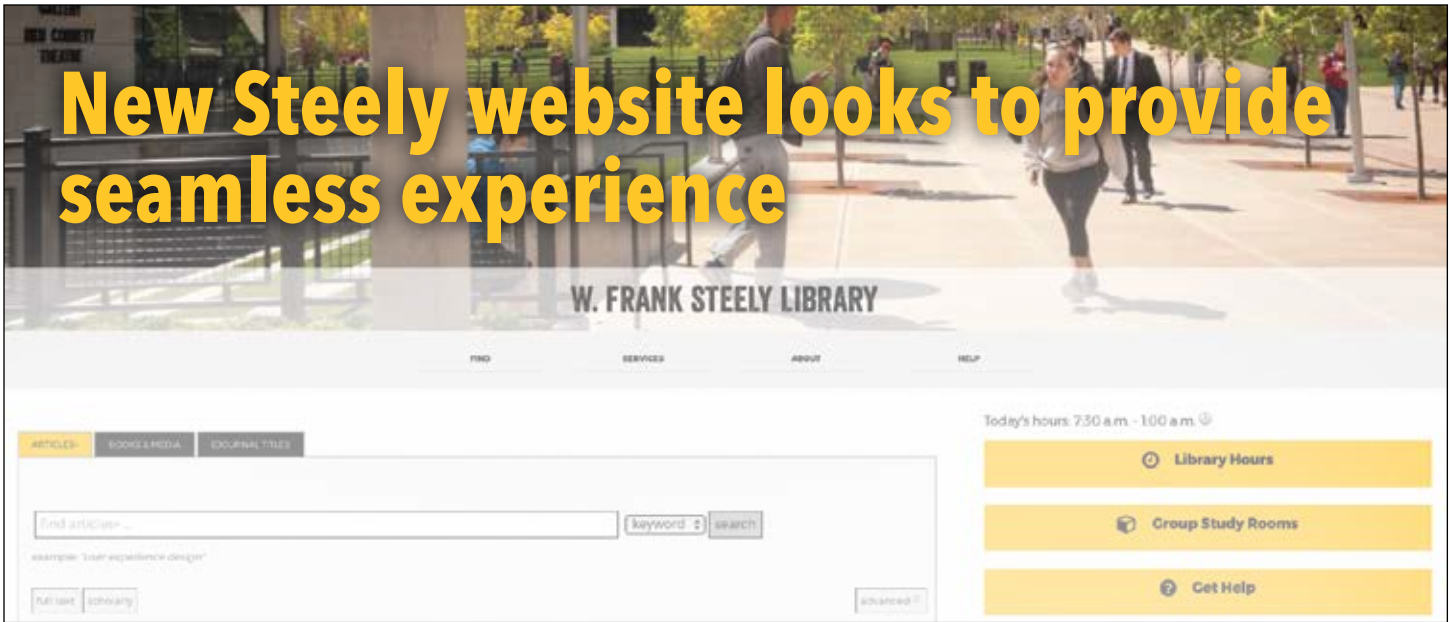
We were determined to increase our efforts to reach out to NKU's graduate students and find ways to provide them with the support they need. For the past three years, Steely Library has co-sponsored a unique event for graduate students—the Graduate Student Research Symposium—along with the Office of Graduate Education. Modeled after a professional academic conference, the symposium provides graduate students the opportunity to attend multiple sessions on a variety of topics related to research and scholarship at the graduate level. Each year, new and returning graduate students are invited to Steely to learn more about graduate research practices from our faculty librarians as well as graduate faculty representing different departments across campus.

The 2017 symposium took place in Steely Library on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017. The symposium opened with a welcome from Provost Sue Ott Rowlands, who then joined a group of graduate faculty for a panel discussion: *What Students Need to Know about Graduate Research and Academic Culture*.

Following the panel discussion, participants were given an overview of the resources available through Steely Library. A lack of familiarity with their library can have many negative consequences for graduate students. To help overcome these potential pitfalls, participants learned about our catalog and databases, how they can use SourceFinder to request needed materials not owned by NKU, our MyLIBRARIAN program for individual research assistance from a librarian and a variety of specialized services including our Intellectual Property Awareness Center (IPAC) and our Teacher Resource Center (TRC).

Participants were then able to choose among several concurrent sessions, based on their personal interests and research needs. In these sessions, participants had a chance to learn more about the challenges of researching, writing and presenting as a graduate student, and what they can do in order to successfully overcome those challenges.

While all NKU students are important at Steely Library, through the Graduate Student Research Symposium, we are working to help a specialized student population develop the skills and the mindset necessary to succeed at NKU and beyond.



by Kyle Biggs

W. Frank Steely Library at Northern Kentucky University launched a new website on July 5, aiming to improve usability while providing a fresh look.

The new website (nku.edu/library) was introduced by the library's Website Task Force, which was comprised of four members: Laura Sullivan, Research and Information Services Librarian; Michael Providenti, Web Development Librarian; Debbie Reichler, Scholarly Communications and Public Services Staff; and Allen Ellis, Research and Information Services Librarian.

The team, which started as a different committee and has featured various other members through the years, has worked for more than three years on a specific charge: to provide a consistent message by addressing the usability, appearance, organization and content of the website.

However, before the work of meeting that charge and building a new website could begin, the team put the old website under the microscope. They found that as it had swelled with additional content over the years, it lost direction, and the appearance was that there was no underlying organization to direct the website or its users.

Providenti, who acted as developer and designer, touched on the process of measuring the old website against a potential new website.

"We had to start with a content audit, which looked at what we had, what we wanted to present and what users wanted access to, and then to look at that framework," he said.

The result of the audit and newly determined framework was a clear direction and goal for the new website, which was primarily to provide an intuitive interface to the library's resources and services for NKU's students and faculty.

"We were driven by the belief that when our users speak, we listen."

– Laura Sullivan

Accomplishing that goal meant providing clear, concise language, as well as simplified navigation. The new website brings those aspects to life, which is crucial for Steely Library's website users.

Users can now find the services and resources that they are looking for in a more direct fashion, and the clear terminology provides them with further clues in helping them navigate to other aspects of the website. Knowledge of Steely's organizational structure helped users in navigating the previous website, but that knowledge is no longer necessary in finding paths to library services.

For over three years, the team studied analytics, met with students and faculty to determine their needs, devised informational architecture to reflect the library's resources and services and made decisions based on known "best practices" for

building websites. They wrote site content to be clear and concise, while using plain language and following NKU branding guidelines. The team also did in-depth research and studied other libraries which have been recognized for creating usable and accessible websites.

Sullivan credits Ellis, Reichler and Providenti with various qualities and experiences that helped in building the site. The content strategy was driven by Reichler's in-depth research and understanding of Information Architecture and Providenti's understanding of the Information Architecture behind building the site. Sullivan also values Ellis' expertise in developing content for databases and subject guides, while Reichler praises Sullivan for her leadership and the ability to organize communications through such an intensive project.

When the time came to apply the work, research and knowledge, the decision-making process was democratic and the committee's meetings were open. Checks and balances ensured that the team considered all angles of each issue that came up. These angles included in-depth research, individual expertise, analysis of best practices and the voices of various library personnel. All aspects of the site's development were questioned, backed up with research and questioned again.

The team referenced disciplines specific to website development and optimization as well, and credited ideas from library theorist S. R. Ranganathan as part of their decision-making process.

"Ranganathan's principle of 'save the time of the reader' was one of the things we thought about," said Reichler.

Saving everyone's time meant placing key aspects of Steely's resources and services at the forefront of the new website.

Reichler paralleled building the site to everyday life, saying, "it's like all these treasures you might have at home that are lost if you're not organized, so you put them up front where people can find them."

There are many benefits to the website, but it is still a work in progress. Providenti and Sullivan note that there are some things still in development waiting to be unveiled. The team will always be looking to make improvements and changing things for the sake of further optimization.

For now, the team is pleased with the reception of the new website, noting that they have received positive feedback from users already.

"How do we make this all appear simple and seamless?"

– Michael Providenti



Steely's Web Development Librarian

is always interested in feedback. If you have questions, comments, issues or ideas to report, you can contact:

MICHAEL PROVIDENTI
providenti@nku.edu

Timeline of the AOP Initiative

Launching January 2018

- RN to BSN
- MBA

Launching March 2018

- DNP Post Masters
- MS Health Science
- MS Health Informatics
- BSBA - General Business
- BSBA - Marketing
- BSBA - Management
- BSBA - Global Supply Chain Management
- BA Criminal Justice
- BA Integrative Studies
- BA Psychology
- BS Sociology
- BS Library Informatics
- BS Health Science

Library Informatics to participate in Accelerated Degree Program

by Kyle Biggs

Northern Kentucky University will be working with a company called Academic Partnerships to offer accelerated online programs, and W. Frank Steely Library will be involved with the inclusion of the library informatics undergraduate degree.

The library informatics degree is one of the select programs at NKU that will be included at the launch of the partnership, which is scheduled for March 2018. The program was likely to be included because it is an online degree and because of unique enrollment, which includes many non-traditional students.

The online and non-traditional student aspects are important, because that is where the expertise of Academic Partnerships gets involved and can help elevate online degree programs in general. The company works to offer accelerated degrees based on seven-week semesters and targets those non-traditional students who are so important to the Library Informatics Program.

"The program is an accelerated online degree program," said Threasa Wesley, head of Library Education. "It's aimed mostly at working adults who want to get a degree or people who have taken one or two courses here and there and want to finish a degree."

Traditional students are welcome to participate, but the accelerated nature of the degree program can be more attractive to non-traditional students who do not have the opportunity to attend class in person. The noticeable progression can be encouraging if they are busy with work and home life.

Academic Partnerships will also benefit NKU with admissions and retention. Making it easier to sign up for the program may boost numbers, and retaining students is good for all parties involved.

Retention specialists will be key because they can remind non-traditional students of their educational responsibilities and can help students see where they may need to focus more in finishing their accelerated semesters. Rather than falling behind when life and work outside of the accelerated program get busy, they can receive specialized help in accomplishing their goals.

The primary benefits of working with Academic Partnerships will help students, but the library informatics program will see major benefits as well. Academic Partnerships will specialize in seeking out and recruiting students to get involved, which helps to increase program enrollment.

"They have been doing recruiting and retention for over 20 years, so they have a pretty good track record," said Wesley. "They're doing very sophisticated

online marketing, using a lot of social media, identifying likely candidates [for the program]. They're also going to do some on-the-ground marketing."

The marketing is important, because there are not many institutions nationally that offer Library Sciences-related undergraduate degrees. Using Academic Partnerships and connecting students to NKU that desire such a degree will be a major victory for the library informatics program. It will aid the efforts of Library Informatics Advisor Lynn Warner, who has worked hard in marketing the program while also advising the program's students and teaching courses.

The accelerated online degree program will also help the library informatics program optimize certain aspects of the education that it offers, which is a benefit to both students and the program. Mary Chesnut, lead faculty in the Library Education program, has been working to maintain national standards for online teaching and student communication. The new partnership will help with those efforts.

"The review that we're doing to get this program in place is tightening up some of our processes," said Wesley. "Academic Partnerships will facilitate the continuation of a review that Mary Chesnut began for the Library Informatics Program. Both Mary and Academic Partnerships will help us meet national standards for high-quality online teaching and student communication."

The standards set during the review process will help build consistency for both the students and the program, eliminating barriers that might exist between courses.

Students in the Library Informatics Program will find that their instructors are providing real-world application of new trends in the field of library informatics, whether they are participating in the accelerated version of the program or not. Preparing courses helps focus faculty members as they investigate new trends in the field, and applying those trends in their practice helps them translate those ideas to their students.

"It's an extended professional activity for a lot of our faculty that is circular in effect, because it improves how you do your job," said Wesley. "If you're teaching other people, you're thinking about it and looking at new trends and new developments, and that cycles back into your work."

The professional development of library faculty is cyclical in that it will return to help the students of the Library Informatics Program, which mirrors the ways in which NKU and Academic Partnerships working together should provide benefits for all involved.

The Accelerated Online Program for Library Informatics is scheduled for a March 2018 launch. For more information, you can contact Threesa Wesley (wesley@nku.edu) or library informatics advisor Lynn Warner (lynn.warner@nku.edu)

Helping universities grow



Global Online Services Provider in Higher Education



Faculty supported



Courses converted to online format



Degree programs represented

AP informational courtesy of <http://academicpartnerships.com/about/about>



Steely librarian garners state and national recognition from peers

by Marcia Johnson and John Schlipp

Dave Schroeder, Director of the Kenton County Public Library (center) presents the award to Phil Yannarella (right) in Louisville, as his wife, Pat Yannarella proudly looks on.

No sooner than receiving a national lifetime achievement award from the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) of the American Library Association (ALA), Steely Library's government documents librarian, Philip Yannarella, was acknowledged again for his lifetime vocation by the Kentucky Library Association (KLA).

In less than a few months, Phil's latest tribute is the 2017 Outstanding Academic Librarian Award from KLA's Academic Library Section. Phil received his latest honor at the Annual KLA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on Sept. 21, 2017.

As a first time KLA "Librarian of the Year" Award recipient, Phil Yannarella humbly said, "I don't know who nominated me, nor exactly why, except that someone thinks that I am deserving of this award for 2017. I think that it was very nice to be selected for and win this award. I am happy to receive it. It would be nice to know why I won such an award, so that I could make sure that I keep doing it."

Earlier this summer, Phil's additional epoch accolade was for the Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award presented by the national ALA's GODORT. This award recognizes documents

librarians whose contributions have benefited not only the individual's institution but also the profession.

Phil's library career started in 1972 working with government documents at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Since 1977, Phil has served as the government documents librarian at Northern Kentucky University's Steely Library. He has dedicated his life and career to improving access to, and understanding of, government information.

Phil developed a comprehensive collection of government documents at Steely Library. He was instrumental in the library's recent designation as an ASERL Center of Excellence (COE) for the U.S. Copyright Office, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and the Small Business Administration. Phil is the government documents expert for the local Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati region.

Student Award/Scholarship Winners

2017 Steely Library Research Award Recipient



Grace Beck

Steely is pleased to announce that **Grace Beck** has been selected as the winner of the 2017 Steely Library Research Award, presented as part of NKU's Celebration of Student Research and Creativity. Grace's project was on paper manufacturing and use in the 1800s. Grace completed her project during her freshman year at NKU. Her faculty sponsor was Tamara O'Callaghan (Department of English).

In recognition of her achievement, Grace will be awarded a commemorative plaque, her name will be added to the Steely Roll of Honor and she will receive \$500.00.

Now in its fifth year, the Research Award is intended to promote the role of the academic library in providing support and resources as part of the academic research process.

2017 NKU Friends of Steely Library Scholarship Winners



Elizabeth Gauck

Congratulations to **Angelina Clark** (a senior from Glasgow, Kentucky) and **Elizabeth Gauck** (a senior from Independence, Kentucky), who are the 2017 recipients of Northern Kentucky University's Friends of Steely Library Scholarship!

The Friends of Steely Library (FoSL) established the scholarship in order to assist academically successful library informatics students in continuing and completing their online bachelor's degree at NKU. FoSL is composed of alumni, faculty, staff and community members who are dedicated to promoting the interests of NKU's Steely Library.

Jeffrey A. Hardin Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Tara Newton and Courtney Kirkland

Congratulations to **Courtney Kirkland** and **Tara Newton**, both recipients of the 2017 Jeffrey A. Hardin Memorial Scholarship.

Courtney began working at Steely in September 2016, where she has exhibited a great work ethic while being responsible, driven and reliable.

Tara began working at Steely during the fall semester of 2015 and has proven to be dependable and responsible while showing consistent growth and determination in her work.

The Jeffrey A. Hardin Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Jeff Hardin, loving partner to a Steely librarian and elected member of the Ohio State Board of Education from 2009-2013. Jeff was a vocal advocate of lifelong learning and education and ardent supporter of public and academic libraries. Through this scholarship, it is hoped that Jeff's encouragement to seek and complete a college education will be paid forward to our library student employees.

GOOD FOOD

GOOD DRINKS

GOOD BOOKS

FRIENDS OF STEELY LIBRARY'S
Signature Fundraiser for Library Informatics Scholarships

Photo by Valeria_aksakova - Freepik.com



FoSL board member Rock Neelly with board member John Campbell and his wife, Cranford.



Contributing authors of Love Brunch: Great Chefs Share Their Passion for Good Food and Gathering on Sundays pose for a group photo.



Contributing authors of Love Brunch: Great Chefs Share Their Passion for Good Food and Gathering on Sundays sign copies of the book during the event.

In March, the Friends of Steely Library hosted a benefit at New Riff Distilling in Newport, Kentucky, to raise scholarship funds for library science students at Northern Kentucky University.

Good Food • Good Drinks • Good Books was the signature event of the Friends of Steely Library for 2017. The Good Food was provided by Chef's Choice Catering; the Good Drinks were provided by New Riff; the Good Books were *Barrel Strength Bourbon: The Explosive Growth of America's Whiskey* by Carla Harris Carlton and *Love Brunch: Great Chefs Share Their Passion for Good Food and Gathering on Sundays*, a compilation of recipes from various five-star chefs.

The event, which featured sponsorship opportunities at various levels and included a silent auction with numerous prizes, brought together some of the region's top authors and culinary and beverage experts for a unique experience.

In addition to supporting the FoSL Scholarship, which was established in 2016 to reward high-achieving library informatics students, the event also benefited Steely Library's "Bridging the Gap" program, which helps dozens of library employees throughout rural Kentucky and West Virginia earn their library science degrees online.

GOOD FOOD • GOOD DRINKS • GOOD BOOKS **will return on May 23, 2018**

More information will be available in the coming months, so keep an eye on Steely Library social media (Twitter: @Steely_Library) and the FoSL website (nku.edu/friendsofsteely).



Friends of Steely Library

From the President

The Friends of Steely Library (FoSL) started at Northern Kentucky University in 1985 to support Steely Library through cash gifts and networking. We offer programs designed to use a “learn by experiencing” approach.

FoSL works to enrich the lives of students through literary events that create long-lasting impressions in pursuit of their artistic and scholastic interests.

As stated in our constitution, our purpose is to:

- promote awareness and interest in Steely Library’s collections and facilities
- support the growth and development of resources and services of Steely Library
- attract gifts and monetary support for the enrichment of Steely Library’s resources and services
- provide opportunities for participation in library-related activities

The Friends purchase materials, equipment and furniture to enhance the experience at Steely Library. This includes supporting the library’s special archives section by acquiring art, books and even display cases. We also support the library through building awareness and providing opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and community to participate in library or literary-related activities. Some examples are:

- Author Series - brings renowned authors onto the NKU campus to read and present their work
- Writer’s Workshops - authors of various genres work with a select group of NKU students on writing skills
- Books by the Banks - a premiere regional day-long book festival held annually in October to celebrate the joy of literacy and lifelong learning—nearly 4,000 people attended in 2016
- Campus Host - exhibits and holds receptions for artists such as John A. Ruthven, Paul Sawyer and Thomas S. Noble
- NKU Summer Study Abroad Program - sponsors creative writing students travel to Ireland—FoSL hosted a dinner for students with famed Irish writer Carlo Gébler
- FoSL Scholarships in the Bachelor of Science in Library Informatics degree program at NKU

There are dozens of ways (literally) that you can become a Friend of Steely Library:

- volunteer at a FoSL-sponsored event staffing the Steely Library table at Books by the Banks, or helping at one of the writing workshops, of the author presentations or artist exhibits
- attend or sponsor • Good Food • Good Drinks • Good Books, FoSL’s signature annual fundraiser
- become a member of the FoSL board, serving up to three consecutive two-year terms
- donate at NKU’s Foundation website and designate FoSL through payroll deduction, or write a check

The Friends of Steely Library does not receive any funding from NKU. An annual budget is established for the fiscal year July 1-June 30. Funding for programs is allocated based on the reserves at the end of the prior year. After several years of low budgets, we have worked to increase the budget and have had great success. To continue growing the support for the library and increase the scope of programs offered by the FoSL, we need your financial help.

As a Friend, you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that your donation dollars are going directly to helping students. Board members are all volunteers, so there’s no overhead to reduce fundraising revenues. At certain donation levels, you will receive tangible benefits.



KEN GUNKEL
President, Friends of Steely Library

If you are interested in learning more about joining the FoSL, have an interest in any of the programs or can help fund them, contact Ken Gunkel, proud president of FoSL, at kengunkel@gmail.com or 513-703-1123.

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Find W. Frank Steely Library on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, where we can engage our users, get the word out about news and events and interact with the NKU community at large.



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@Steely_Library
https://twitter.com/steely_library



FACEBOOK

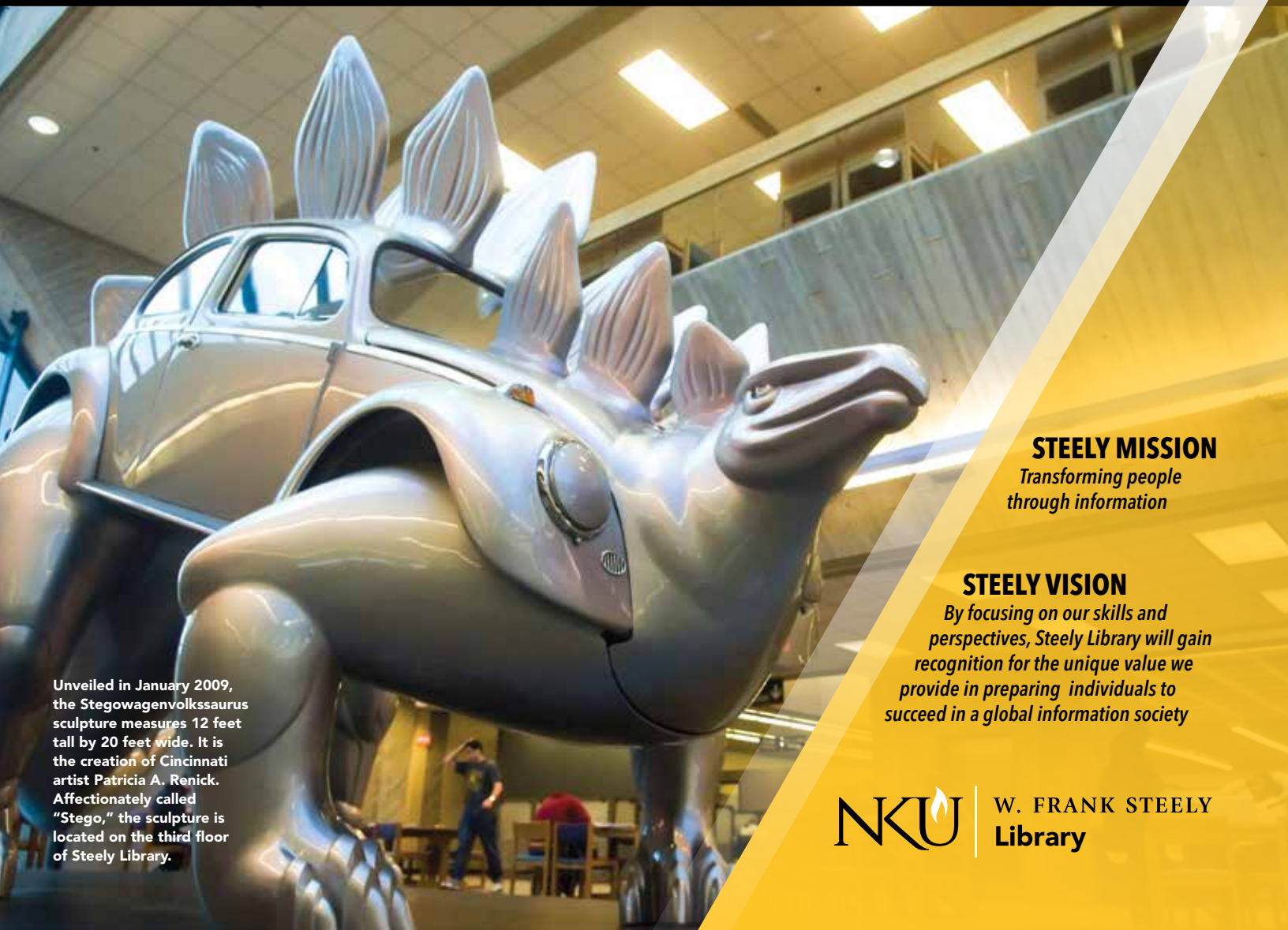
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Unveiled in January 2009, the Stegowagenvolkssaurus sculpture measures 12 feet tall by 20 feet wide. It is the creation of Cincinnati artist Patricia A. Renick. Affectionately called "Stego," the sculpture is located on the third floor of Steely Library.

STEELY MISSION

Transforming people through information

STEELY VISION

By focusing on our skills and perspectives, Steely Library will gain recognition for the unique value we provide in preparing individuals to succeed in a global information society



W. FRANK STEELY
Library