

# HATCH HAPPENINGS

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2017

## NEW LIBRARIAN



We're happy to welcome **Rachel Baum** as our new, first-ever E-Learning Librarian and OER Coordinator. Before joining our staff on April 3rd, Rachel will finish her current position at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, MA, where she has served as Reference and Information Literacy Instruction Librarian for the past two years. While at BHCC, Rachel served as the library representative on a leadership team of six high-level administrators created to develop and manage a Moodle-hosted, OER-based degree program funded by a national "Achieving the Dream" grant. Before BHCC Rachel worked for five years as Competitive Analysis Coordinator for the Academic Library Market at EBSCO (a provider of many Hatch Library data-bases). She received her MSLIS degree from Simmons College in 2013. Rachel will oversee the university-wide OER initiative, and offer e-learning support for all BPU online programs. Please stop by Hatch to welcome her and introduce yourself!

## From the Director

As Bay Path students, faculty, and staff continue to enjoy the comforts and conveniences of the renovated Hatch Library this semester, I'm happy to invite the BPU community to join us at our long-awaited **Open House** to celebrate the renovation on **Wednesday, April 26**, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Dr. Leary will cut the ribbon, we'll welcome some special guests, and light refreshments will be served.

This semester, I'm also thrilled to welcome **Rachel Baum**, our new eLearning Librarian and OER Coordinator, to the Hatch Library staff. You can read elsewhere in this newsletter about Rachel's sterling credentials, but please join me and her Hatch colleagues in making Rachel feel at home here at Bay Path. BTW, to distinguish her from Hatch Reference and Instruction Services Librarian Rachel Alter, we're calling them Rachel A and Rachel B :)



In other staff news, returning **Hatch Library student workers** this semester are: Katey Coleman; Roslyn Klarou; Alexis Lavoie; Sam Longo; Ace Marinelli; Prianka Naha; Alexis Photos; and Dejavu Thomas. Returning **Educational Technology (Ed Tech) tutors**, now on duty every day and four evenings a week in Hatch, are: Leo (Leonora) Torres; Miranda French; and Miranda Gilman.

Beyond the renovation, we've further enhanced our facilities this semester by upgrading the **vending machine** just inside our front entrance to include a mix of healthy (by popular demand!) snacks and beverages. With the help of BPU's IT staff, we've also enabled the **network printer** on our main floor to be used as a photocopier, and the **copier** next to it to be used as a **scanner**, for more backup support in case either machine malfunctions.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and will make Hatch Library, on ground or online, your favorite campus destination!

# WHAT IS OER?

A conversation between **Garrett Pinder** and *Rachel Baum*

## GP: What is OER anyway? How would you define OER?

*RB: It MEANS Open Education Resources, but in non-librarian terms that means openly licensed educational content with in turn means for most people, freely available, usually digital, educational content. It can be anything from textbooks to videos to articles... Anything that we as educators have the ability to take and also modify and customize to our abilities. So it's customizable educational content that was developed as a low cost or no cost alternative to traditional textbooks.*

## What do you envision for OER here at Bay Path? What are your hopes for introducing OER to the Bay Path Community?

*I think it starts with willing faculty members. I'm hoping to have professors in several departments who are interested in moving in the direction of affordable content for their students and hopefully develop educational courses. My role will be finding the content itself as the professors develop the course and the assignments and I can find the corresponding content. So really what needs to happen is that one or two professors who feel like spearheading this movement can then go on to evangelize within their departments. If we can have different people throughout the university on the same page then I think we will be able to come together quicker. The other essential component is student interest. If students are discussing alternative textbooks with their professors and really driving home the point that they want to learn but they don't necessarily have \$300 to spend on a text book, they don't have to. So if there is pressure coming from the students along with interest, then the faculty see the students are interested in learning first of all, which of course they are. Sometimes they just need to bring it up and say "Hey I heard about this thing.. Maybe we can try it out." Because nobody wants to spend \$300 on a text book if they don't have to.*

**And I think that our students are prime candidates for moving towards OER. Even just heard this morning one of our students was discussing how difficult it is when a professor assigns a text book of a particular edition and when a new edition comes out they can quickly change the required text for the course and if someone has already purchased that, it's money that's not been well spent.**

*Right, and additions are textbook publishing companies ways of making more money. All that can change is page numbering and commas, and so the good thing about open content is that it's dynamic and most of it's digital and it's licensed to be edited on our end which means WE can decide if we want to update the content and we can pull content from different sources and embed a video or add an article so that what was usually a static text becomes much more interactive, ever changing, and evolving which is one of the best parts about it is that a professor can say you know what, this chapter didn't work this semester and just take it out.*

**Lastly, For those who are perhaps a bit skeptical of open access or are concerned about its legitimacy or its vetting process, what do you say to those whose concerns you'd like to quell?**

*The content that I'm sourcing is peer reviewed and always is. Luckily the movement has gained enough momentum that peer review has long been considered an essential component of an OER textbook or open access article the good thing that whether it's conventionally published i.e. what we're used to, or openly published, the peer reviewers don't get paid so either way it's the same type of work they're doing so they're not losing money and therefore not slacking off in the review. So if a faculty member comes to me I will take the steps to ensure the content is peer reviewed and you know if they decide it's still not rigorous enough that's one thing, because the same thing can be decided about a textbook. But the content comes as a foundation to peer review.*

For more information about OER, or if you have more questions, please feel encouraged to contact **Rachel Baum** [rbaum@baypath.edu](mailto:rbaum@baypath.edu)

# VISITING AUTHORS



Garrard Conley

**Garrard Conley** shared with our community some of the struggles he faced, and how he has learned to THRIVE despite them. His memoir **BOY ERASED** chronicles his unceremonious 'outing' to his family, as well as the resulting time he spent in a religiously affiliated gay conversion therapy program. Despite being the son of a Baptist pastor and living in Arkansas, Garrard artfully explores his relationships with his family, and conflicts with his own identity.

This event was co-sponsored by Bay Path's Kaleidoscope series, which fosters openness, curiosity, and dialogue concerning issues and topics in our local and global communities.

**BOY ERASED** was also one of Oprah's Top Ten Memoirs of 2016! Check out the book by visiting the Hatch Library.

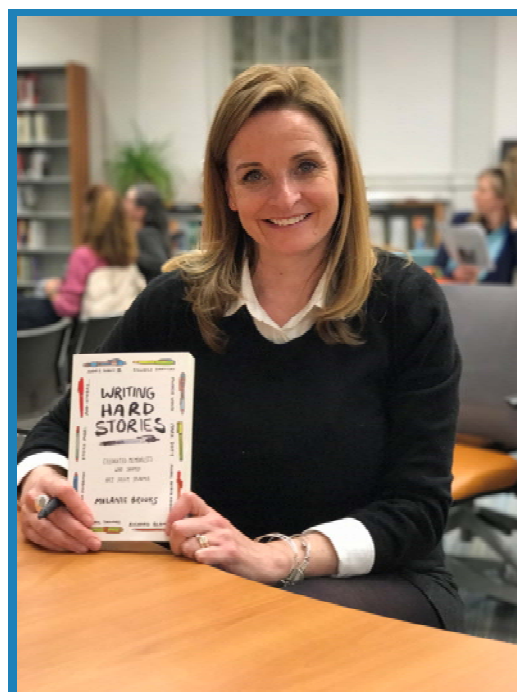


**Melanie Brooks** was holding on to a closely guarded secret. The death of her father left a crater in the middle of her family. Prior to his passing, Melanie's parents wrote a book **BORROWED TIME** (Dr. Orville Messenger & Dorothy Messenger) putting their story to rest... or so they thought.

Melanie still had a story to tell, but first she needed to address her grief—

but how? She decided to interview other authors who have written about trauma, and record how they were able to cope during their writing process. **WRITING HARD STORIES** is the result of her work, not only serving as a precursor to the story she so desperately needed to share, but also as a

guide for others who seek guidance in how to share their own traumatic stories. **WRITING HARD STORIES** is available at the Hatch Library, and we look forward to hosting her again when her memoir is published.



Melanie Brooks

Cut me out!

## RESEARCH CHEAT SHEET

To yield the best search results, try using these tips!

“ ” marks around keywords will search those words as they appear “tax law” VS “tax” and “law”

\* allows for different word endings

Teach\* will search for teach, teaches, teachers, teaching, etc.

AND searches for words together: moths AND butterflies will find both

OR means more: moths OR butterflies will show moths, butterflies, and both

NOT will narrow: moths NOT butterflies will exclude results with butterflies

# ACRL 2017

Rachel Alter



The **Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)** held their biannual conference in Baltimore during the 3rd week in March. There was a record attendance of approximately 3,500 information professionals. Librarians from all over the country, as well as a small international group, came together to share innovations and ideas on everything of importance to our profession.

In addition to the 500 panels and paper presentations, there were keynote addresses and book signings by such literary newsmakers as Roxane Gay.

The closing address was delivered by Dr. Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress. Conference-goers cheered and celebrated the fact that Dr. Hayden embodies three firsts in her new role: the first African American; the first woman; and the first librarian. Speaking as a librarian to librarians, Dr.



Dr. Carla Hayden

Hayden wowed the audience with anecdotes about the extraordinary she is now in charge of, in one of several example a draft of the Declaration of Independence with margin notes by Benjamin Franklin. Speaking to the mission of all librarians, Dr. Hayden discussed her aim to bring the libraries treasure to the public by means of digitization.

Looking for more research tips and tricks?  
Need an Information Gumshoe?



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## Not just for students anymore

Tanya Semo

RESEARCH SKILLS (a.k.a. Information Literacy) — The importance of having strong research skills for lifelong success.

Information literacy involves the ability to locate, use, manage, and synthesize information effectively for a variety of



purposes (American Library Association, 1989)

At no time in history has the ability to locate, organize, evaluate, manage and use information been more for critical for today's learners (SOS for Information Literacy website, 2006)

*We all know what a challenge it can be to locate the type of information you need to complete your most recent homework assignment. But, have you given much thought to how crucial locating information will be in your future?*

**"Good researchers are vital to employers."** [www.thebigchoice.com/work-skills/research-skills.html](http://www.thebigchoice.com/work-skills/research-skills.html)

"Today's employers are looking for people who understand and can adapt to the characteristics of the information age. If a student has **'learned how to learn,'** upon graduation, they are a much more attractive job candidate.

An information literate individual—with their strong analytical, critical thinking and problem solving skills—can be expected to be an adaptable, capable and valuable employee, with much to contribute." [www.philau.edu/infolit/why\\_students.htm](http://www.philau.edu/infolit/why_students.htm)

## Staff and Student Book Picks



Mike Moran

Cammie McGovern's *A Step Toward Falling* is a moving story, told in the alternating voices of two students - Emily and special needs student Belinda, about how they find themselves, each other, and a way forward through a traumatic ethical crisis.



Alexis Lavoie '18

The audiobook for *Seriously... I'm Kidding*, by Ellen DeGeneres



Garrett Pinder

Currently reading: *The Dry*, by Jane Harper  
Just finished: *A Darker Shade of Magic*, by V.E. Schwab  
Next up: *The Princess of Mars*, by Edgar Rice Burroughs