



<https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/fondmemoriesronjoslin>

IN FOND MEMORY: RON JOSLIN

DeWitt Wallace Library, Macalester College

Contents

INTRODUCTION

<u>Ron Joslin Memorial Remarks by Aaron Albertson, 3/8/2019</u>	3
<u>Ron Joslin Memorial Remarks by Angi Faiks 3/8/2019</u>	5
<u>Ron Joslin LibTech Acknowledgement Remarks</u>	9

MESSAGES FROM RON

<u>Ron's Moodle message to library student workers:</u>	13
<u>a note about the candy jar....</u>	15
<u>library should be open (snowstorm)</u>	17
<u>Commentary he added to one of my shift reports</u>	19
<u>A game planned by Ron was a game worth playing</u>	21
<u>OER Leader</u>	23

SHARED MEMORIES

<u>Ron's work and impact in Open Education Resources</u>	27
<u>Open Textbook Network</u>	31
<u>Grenzenlos Deutsch Project</u>	33
<u>Impact on Student Learning</u>	37
<u>Library Technology Conference Founder</u>	39
<u>Working with Ron</u>	41

...humble generosity, kindness, creativity, and compassion...	43
Treats	45
"What can I do to help?"	47
Mentor	49
Passion and Enthusiasm	51
Student Work Supervisor	53
Celebrating Ron's Gracious Life	55
PHOTOS & MEMENTOS	
Photos	59
Library Technology Conference Recognition	69
Wisconsin "E"ffordability Summit Dedication	71
Webinar: OER Initiatives and the Liberal Arts College	73
Webinar: Infusing 'Open' into an Undergraduate Global Education Course	75
Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (CLIC) and other Awards	77

Introduction

Ron worked at Macalester from 1984-2019 in a variety of positions, including: Evening/Weekend Supervisor, Head of Circulation, Systems Librarian, and Research & Instruction Librarian for the Sciences. Central to all his roles was Ron's abiding concern for students. He was dedicated to bettering the student experience at Mac, and worked tirelessly for their benefit. Being Ron, he often came up with new project ideas that were ambitious (sometimes overly so), but fun. For several years he produced an online gaming experience for incoming students to complete over the summer: The DeWitt Code was one version of that game, followed by a Harry Potter-themed version. Seeing a gap on campus, he offered workshops for students to learn software such as Dreamweaver and Adobe Photoshop, teaching himself the software first. He created a series of summer instruction sessions to reach science students working on research projects. Ron always had candy for students in his classes and in his office, and would hold a surprise snack break for all students studying in the library on one of the last weekend days during finals. The students would swarm down from nooks and crannies throughout the building, loading up on chips, fruit, cookies, and drinks. Most recently, Ron had become a strong advocate for Open Education Resources, believing in their potential to help students and faculty in their courses. He recognized the economic benefits of free and open resources, but also saw how OER give faculty the ability to create content that better meets their individual needs. He traveled to Austria to help with one OER project, teaching faculty how to operate equipment and create metadata for their language curriculum. He worked closely with an Education faculty member in her course, developing activities for the students, attending every class session, and helping her to create a new and unique textbook.

As a colleague, Ron was incredibly supportive and generous and...argumentative. But the point of the arguments was to help us reach consensus through rigorous debate, to the benefit of patrons. As he changed offices during his job shifts, he

left a trail of mini-fridges that his colleagues continue to use to this day. His door was always open for folks to come in to chat, and we all did. People from across campus stopped by to talk with Ron. He was the first to volunteer, especially for unpopular shifts at the service desk (noon, for example, or late night Reunion events). In more recent years, he always volunteered to help proctor new students during the campus Assessment Day at Orientation. Ron sometimes had to be protected from himself, as he tended to work perhaps a bit too much. But he believed in the library's mission and in the vision of the college as a whole. It is no surprise that Ron was a member of the James Wallace Society, giving annually to Macalester and naming Macalester as a beneficiary of his estate.

Ron was the steady rock of our organization. We all counted on him and his support; we all knew he would dream up amazing, ambitious project ideas. We all argued with him, laughed with him, and built our services, spaces, and collections with him. He is irreplaceable, and we were lucky to have him for 35 years.

Contributed by Beth Hillemann

Ron Joslin Memorial Remarks by Aaron Albertson, 3/8/2019

Ron Joslin.

I've been asked to share some words and memories about Ron and his time working at the Macalester Library. When thinking about what to say today my first thoughts went to our friendship and quickly expanded to thinking about the many many friendships Ron had. Ron connected with people. He loved supporting and helping. Often, on the mornings I arrived to work early, Ron would already be here and he would be talking with the people who are here before the building opened, people who worked in our Facilities Department. Sometimes, they were just having a quick chat together about their lives. Though, often, Ron was providing help: troubleshooting a technology issue or advising on how to navigate some college policy. Ron started his work day many mornings before we opened by helping people and relating to people in meaningful ways.

He was generous with his ideas, time, and energy. Ron worked at the library for 34 years. It isn't feasible to list all of his contributions. But I can tell you that everyone who has ever worked with Ron has benefited from his energy and creative vision. More often than not he was dreaming big and would push his colleagues to a place beyond where anyone of us were first looking. Pretty much all of us in the library have been swept up into one of Ron's big ideas many times over. Often carrying out his visions was a wild journey, but there are so many amazing impacts as a result. Two examples of many: his expanding of our teaching program to include science students who stayed to do research over the summer, and the Library Technology Conference which is now in its 12th year.

Our library, Macalester College, and the library profession were all improved beyond measure because of the possibilities Ron saw.

So, I'm going to tell a brief personal story that is about a time Ron held back and kept things simple. Early in my career at Macalester. I think it was during my first year here. Ron and I were paired up to create an exercise and lead a discussion for the whole library staff. I believe it had something to do with creating a culture of assessment. And, at first, when we started planning together, Ron had a vision about how to make this a grand success. Me – I was young and intimidated by having to present something to the whole staff and, honestly, didn't really feel at all like I knew what I was doing. And, Ron, saw the fears I was having. In the middle of our planning meeting with just the two of us, he scaled back his vision. He switched his priority from big ambition to making sure I was comfortable and to creating something where we could both feel success. I don't remember exact details, but the event went just fine. I think it was our first project together. And, it was his laying the groundwork in our early relationship for here being both support and trust between each other that enabled us to succeed and push each other outside of our comfort zones on countless other projects together in the years that followed. In short, he was my friend, first. He was a friend to all of us. I know he cared for all his colleagues. He wanted our work to be successful, but even more so, he wanted us to succeed as people together.

Ron. You are missed. Through your work and friendship you have made impacts that will live on forever. With our memories and love, we thank you.

Aaron Albertson, 3/8/2019

Ron Joslin Memorial Remarks by Angi Faiks 3/8/2019

Hi, my name is Angi and I had the pleasure of working with Ron for over 15 years. Thank you for the opportunity to share some remarks on behalf of the library and library community. But first of all I want to send along greetings, condolences, and hugs from our library director, Terri Fishel. She so wishes she could be with us all today but was unable due to circumstances beyond control. She wants you all to know that she is with us in spirit. So..

Generosity, Kindness, Care, Creativity, Conviction

These are words that come easily to mind when thinking of Ron.

And these are words that describe Ron's approach to his work, his colleagues, and our community during his remarkable 34 years at Macalester.

Ron assumed many roles in his time at the DeWitt Wallace library. His intellect, abundant talents, openness to learning, and willingness to embrace change allowed him to support the work of the library in numerous ways. Over the years Ron transitioned from Evening/Weekend Librarian, to Head of Circulation, to a team leader for Public Services, to Systems and Technology Librarian, and several years ago he assumed the role of Research and Instruction Librarian. It was in this latest position that Ron's passion for Open Textbooks ignited. The Open Textbooks movement is a growing effort to provide high quality, free educational materials to all who need them. It was Ron's Generosity, Kindness, Care, Creativity, Conviction – and a healthy dose of stubbornness ? — that pushed him to move forward in this emerging work of libraries and to help create freely available learning resources to all who may benefit from them. This is not easy work. In fact this is very challenging, groundbreaking work. But Ron

knew that this work was important, the right place to focus his energy, and that he could do it. And so, he did.

I want to give you just a small glimpse into this work. In partnership with Professor Britt Abel, Ron helped create an interactive open textbook on German Language learning. Ron traveled to Europe this past summer to support the creation of unique content for this German textbook. He also worked with professor Sonia Mehta in creating an educational globalization textbook and helped connect Sonia's classroom to sixteen villages in the foothills of the Himalayas. I hope this gives you even a small sense of Ron's creative contributions to the open textbook effort, to these professors, and to the students we serve both at Macalester and across the world.

Ron was also the creator of Macalester's Library Technology Conference, which launched in 2008. Ron had the idea to create a professional development opportunity that would provide an affordable, accessible venue to discuss technologies impacting library services and to provide practical learning experiences to participants. Ron's dream of creating this "LibTech Conference" sparked an outcome that none of us could have predicted. Over the years the continually sold-out conference (usually within a few days) has welcomed over 5000 participants, hosted 24 inspirational keynote speakers, generated thousands of innovative projects, and developed a growing body of inspired colleagues from across the US as well as from from Canada and Africa. Participants from far and wide know of and have high regard for our library, our staff, and Macalester due this conference and due to Ron.

And there are many more examples where Ron made a difference in libraries and in the lives of others through his work. Ron was motivated by a deep commitment to service. And his service ethic showed up in countless ways. We were all inspired by Ron's unwavering support of student employees, his dedication to the faculty and students he worked with, his efforts towards making information accessible to all, his willingness to repeatedly step in to support his colleagues, his "anonymous" ? donation of hundreds of movies to our collection so that everyone could enjoy them, his annual leadership in coordinating holiday gifts for a family in need, his shared bowl of candy (a personal favorite of mine), and so much more. Ron's had a profound impact and his impact carries on.

My sincere hope is that deep down his contributions made him feel proud, happy, and most especially valued– and that he was keenly aware of the

significant influence he had on us, those we serve, and on the profession as a whole.

We will miss his insights, his creative spark, leadership, laughter, and friendship. It will simply not be the same without him here with us.

He has left an indelible mark on this place and the people, and I am deeply grateful that we had the good fortune of having him in our lives and in our library family.

We thank you, Ron, for all you did to make us and everything you touched shine brighter. Thank you.

Angi Faiks 3/8/2019

Ron Joslin LibTech Acknowledgement Remarks

Hi, my name is Angi Faiks and I would like to take a moment to celebrate the life of our LibTech Conference founder, Ron Joslin. Ron passed away this past February. Thank you for the opportunity to share some remarks on behalf of Macalester's DeWitt Wallace library staff and our library community.

Generosity, Kindness, Care, Creativity, Conviction

These are words that come easily to mind when thinking of Ron.

And these are words that describe Ron's approach to his work, his colleagues, and our community during his remarkable 34 years at Macalester.

It was through Ron's creativity and inspiration that Macalester's Library Technology Conference came to be in 2008. Ron had the idea to create a professional development opportunity that would provide an affordable, accessible venue to discuss technologies impacting library services and to provide practical learning experiences to participants. Ron's dream of creating this "LibTech Conference" sparked an outcome that none of us could have predicted. Over the years the continually sold-out conference (usually within a few days) has welcomed over 5000 participants, hosted 24 compelling keynote speakers, spurred countless innovative ideas and projects, and developed a growing body of inspired colleagues from across the US as well as from Canada and Africa.

And there are many, many more examples where Ron made a difference in libraries and in the lives of others through his work. Ron was motivated by a deep commitment to service. And his service ethic showed up in numerous ways,

including this conference. It was his goal to remove any unnecessary barriers to ensure that everyone who wished to attend could. It is this desire that makes it especially fitting that we announce our LibTech scholarships will be named in his honor. Would this year's recipients of the Ron Joslin LibTech Scholarships please stand up?.....clap....thank you.

We will miss Ron's insights, his creative spark, leadership, laughter, friendship, and care for others. It will simply not be the same without him here with us.

We thank you, Ron, for all you did to make us and everything you touched shine brighter.

And we wish you all a fun and fruitful conference. Nothing would make Ron happier to know you enjoyed your time with us and together.

Thank you.

Angi Faiks 2019

Messages from Ron



2018 Open Textbook Network Summit
Photo credit: Steve Kaufman (@steveekaufman)

Ron's Moodle message to library student workers:

July 22, 2015

The **Name That Tune** lunchtime event is **TODAY** from 11:45am-1:00pm in the Harmon Room. Remember to bring your lunch – we will provide assorted beverages and dessert.

To ‘wet your appetite’ and hopefully entice you to participate — the desserts will include an Oreos & Cream cake, a Chocolate Cake w/ cream cheese and a selection of cookies. The song categories in today’s **Name That Tune** competition will feature “Dead Old Dudes”, “The British Invasion”, “Tunes from the Big Screen” and “Protest Songs” among others.

Some new game ‘twists’ have been added to this old favorite competition including a “double or nothing” feature which is guaranteed to satisfy even the hardest gambler among us – and possibly turn the competition upside down! Come have a piece of cake, test your knowledge of (old and new) music and join the fun!

All library students and staff are invited to participate. We hope to see you there!

Contributed by Connie Karlen

a note about the candy jar....

Ron loved working with his students, and always made sure they had plenty of treats....

a note about the candy jar....

by Ronald Joslin – Sunday, October 30, 2011, 11:43 AM

I mentioned early in the semester that if we got into the habit that we fell into last year, we would ‘cease and desist’ on making a candy jar available.

Last year, I would spend quite a bit of time in the morning hunting to find the candy jar – I’ve found it in various drawers, the laptop cabinet, stuck way under the desk by people’s feet, and on one occasion I even found it in the storage room next to the paper supply. We also LOST the jar on several occasions causing me to have to go out and buy several replacements. All of this is a royal pain in the petoot.

This happened again about a week ago – the candy went missing and after searching by several different individuals it was declared permanently MIA. I then quit making candy available, which prompted repeated requests for its return. I started just putting candy in a small plastic bag but that didn’t really work. So today, I broke down and went out and bought a new candy container. Today, we once again have a container filled with candy. All is once again right in the Lib Tech Support world.

To avoid all of this drama in the future, I ask one thing of MANAGERS. Please make sure that the candy jar IS RETURNED to the office at end of shift (or the responsibility for it passed on to another manager). I don’t plan to replace any more candy jars this year.

Contributed by Laura Secord

library should be open (snowstorm)

Ron was always willing to pick up shifts on difficult days, such as this instance of a major snowstorm.

Re: Feb. 21 library should be open

by Ronald Joslin – Monday, 21 February 2011, 12:33 AM

plan to arrive at my normal time (at about 6:00am) and can open the library and can get things running with any students who show up for work. It will be very show with classes cancelled and the college closed, there shouldn't be much traffic on the building. It's treacherous out there so other staff who are traveling longer distances to get to work should not put themselves at risk.

Contributed by Laura Secord

Commentary he added to one of my shift reports

In addition to being a genuinely kind and unflappable supervisor, Ron managed to brighten up our often-dull shifts at the LibTech desk with his humor. Example: this commentary he added to one of my shift reports.

“Speaking of Riley, I am concerned about him knowing the manager password. Possibly we should have Amy and Erika throw a paper bag over his head one day when he is walking to class and then have Kevin and Jesse grab him and carry him off to an undisclosed third world-like location—possibly the pottery area of the art department? It would be like a LibTech version of extraordinary rendition. Of course, we’d only detain him long enough for the rest of us to change the manager password—possibly to ‘ihatepizza’—then we’d release him since he’d no longer be a threat to LibTech security. And, of course, there would be no torture involved. Unless you consider being force to hang out in the pottery area of the art department to be torture? We’ll discuss this plan at our next manager meeting.”

I’ve kept several shift reports in my email archives for more than seven years because they’re so delightful to stumble across from time to time. Ron was incredibly patient with and respectful of his (often distracted) student workers, and he put a positive spin on all our tasks, down to the names we gave the printers. I’m sure Ron will be very missed by current and former students and staff alike.

Contributed by Amy Fitzgerald

A game planned by Ron was a game worth playing

And the messages he crafted drew us all in.

Library wii bowling league

After three weeks of some very impressive bowling, the individual game scores in the league continue to sky rocket as they begin to flirt with 250. Pundits are beginning to consider the possibility that someone may top the elusive 275 or, dare we say it, possibly even bowl a PERFECT game! Only time will tell as the teams continue to 'duke it out' for the best possible spot in the upcoming 'Tournament of Champions'.
Yes, the competition continues to heat up!

The DeWitt Code Introduces Incoming Students to Library Resources

A dead librarian. A secret society. An eccentric professor. And the hint of a conspiracy. Sounds like the perfect recipe for a mystery!

Two fictitious first year Macalester students come across a dead body in the library and soon get their classmates to help them solve the murder.

Along the way, they are introduced to a variety of characters. And, as they work to solve the mystery and uncover the identity of the murderer, they are also exposed to information resources and services provided by the library and campus computing.

This is the basis of The DeWitt Code, a web-based murder/mystery 'game' created by the library and aimed at familiarizing incoming students with the research tools and computing resources that are available to them as students at Macalester College.

Mac Trivia Challenge

If your head is crammed full of superfluous and seemingly trivial knowledge, here's your chance to let it all out. We'll be playing the Mac Trivia Challenge Game (sort of like Jeopardy, just lots more fun!). We'll start breaking into teams at 11:45 a.m. in the Harmon Room and begin play once teams are formed. Bring your lunch – ASSORTED BEVERAGES and DESSERT will be provided. All library student employees and staff are encouraged to participate. We hope to see you there!

Group of Macalester library employees win \$700 million jackpot!

Yes – it's highly unlikely! In fact I saw on one TV report that the odds are almost 30 times more likely that I, Ron Joslin, will be elected President of the United States than all of us win the Powerball with a single ticket — but it's still fun thinking about it! And maybe worth a \$2 investment.

A couple of us were talking and decided to start a pool of interested library staff to buy lottery tickets together. We'll go purchase the tickets, scan them and then share electronically with all so that everyone can follow the drawing on Saturday night as the numbers are read out. We'll plan to go with quick picks (i.e. let the computer pick the numbers for us).

If you are interested, please drop off your \$2 to Ron or Beth by noon on Friday. Or, if you won't be around the library before noon on Friday, just drop Beth or I a quick email and you can pay it next week – we'll buy a ticket on your behalf to throw into the pool.

We'll have the tickets purchased, scanned and in everyone's email inbox by library closing on Friday afternoon.

Contributed by Jacki Betsworth

Ron used to coordinate our purchase of Powerball tickets when the jackpot reached sufficient heights. Typical was the message below, from 2016:

Please find the Powerball ticket numbers attached for tonight's drawing.

Good luck to us all! Somebody's gotta win it – might as well be us!

Contributed by Beth Hillemann

OER Leader

Whenever I talked with Ron about his OER activities, he was always enthusiastic and generous with his time and thoughts.

When I worked at Hamline, I was preparing for a presentation and I had remembered some Macalester OER/library publishing examples that Ron had talked about at a LibTech conference presentation. I had emailed Ron asking for the links to the examples. This generous response helps illustrate his work and enthusiasm that he shared across the academic library community:

Wed, May 16, 2018 at 11:14 AM

Hi Louann,

Hope the start of summer is treating you well and that the end of the academic year was a 'soft landing' for you. Thanks for your interest in the OER and publishing efforts at Macalester. Here are more details...

...EDUC 25001 Building Trust: Education in a Global Perspective is a lower-to-mid level educational studies course which deals with international development issues and creating social change through education. I made first contact with this faculty member through a workshop I held for faculty interested in developing OER content for their courses. The faculty member was frustrated by the fact that this subject is often not taught at the undergraduate level and therefore she couldn't really find a good text to use for her undergraduate course. She wanted to explore creating her own textbook and this led to 'exploding' her course and redesigning it with open pedagogy in mind. I ended up serving as an embedded librarian for the course and while the content topics covered in the course remained the same, how it was covered and assessed especially in class interactions and assignments changed. The goal was to move away from traditional assignments like research papers to more meaningful assignments. The students were enlisted to help create content for the textbook. For example, they were asked to work in groups to create an academically-focused infographic project that told a visual story of one of the global education theory covered in the course. We scaffolded this assignment to include an annotated bibliography, a peer-review/peer-feedback session, and concluding with a final

presentation just before mid term break of their infographic to the class and guests including educational studies faculty members. The second big ‘assignment’ started just before midterm where we had the students begin exploring a ‘live’ case study involving nine remote isolated villages in northern India in foothills of the Himalayas. We connected with an education-focused NGO funded by a Swiss foundation engaging with and working through their organization and staff. The students would take the theories and concepts learned in lectures and classroom discussions and apply them to the villages. The faculty member called this “bringing the world into the classroom”. Topics discussed included gender equity issues in education, forced dislocation due to conflict or disaster and its impact on education, and power dynamics and how the stakeholders effected educational decision-making and opportunities. The students engaged with the NGO staff through asynchronous Moodle forum posts throughout and Zoom (Google hangout-like) sessions occasionally where they were able to meet and talk with the NGO director and ask questions (difficult with time difference). The ‘assignment’ tied to this was for each small group of students to create learning objects or resources that could be used by the children in these villages to learn. Each group created a learning resource “kit” that is being sent over to India for adoption/adaption by the NGO staff. Each kit included a learning activity that kept in mind the environment in which they would be used (no technology, in fact no electricity in many of the schools), a facilitator’s guide which gave simple directions for implementing the activities, ways that the activities could be adapted given physical and learning disabilities present, and often a prototype of the activity game pieces or resources. Both the faculty member and I were pleasantly surprised by the work and thought that the students put into the kits and the NGO is excited to be getting them. You asked if there was a link to something unfortunately, not yet. Starting this week, three students who took the course in the spring semester and the faculty member (with assistance from me) are beginning the creation of the textbook and a web site that includes information on the supplemental content and activities/assignments. It will be ready by August because the course is being offered again in the fall and the textbook will be used.

Good luck with your presentation to your faculty. I know that they will feel inspired!

Ron

Contributed by Louann Terveer

Shared Memories



Ron's work and impact in Open Education Resources

When talking with new or early career librarians, I have often advised them to “find their passion.” I’ve encouraged them to explore all the different facets that comprise academic librarianship and try to identify what inspires and motivates them as something that they may be passionate about and really embrace in their work. Ron Joslin found his passion late in his career, but once he found it, he embraced it, ran with it, and became an inspiration to others involved in similar work.

In January of 2015, I attended a workshop at ALA midwinter about open textbooks. When I returned to work and shared information on the two-day workshop, Ron became very interested in pursuing this as a topic with the faculty. I had been coordinating scholarly communication involvement with the library staff for more than a decade, but for whatever reason, at this point in time, Ron became engaged and excited by possibilities. We organized and held a discussion session that spring with faculty and invited speakers Tim Taylor (Economics) and David Ernst from the University of Minnesota Open Textbook Network, to talk about the benefits of open textbooks. The following spring, Ron and I travelled to San Antonio together for a SPARC Conference (Scholarly Publishing and Research Coalition), “Meeting on Openness in Research and Education (MORE)”, March 7-8, 2016. In addition to memorable travel with Ron by car (we had to travel from Austin, Texas as we couldn’t fly into San Antonio) we had an inspiring conference that motivated Ron to become even more focused on the concept of open textbooks.

Ron obtained his library science degree in 2000. Although he had worked at Macalester since 1984, he really hit his stride as a librarian after becoming a

member of the reference and instruction group of librarians in 2014. After focusing on his newfound passion in 2015, in four short years he organized workshops for faculty, held training sessions on using H5P to create interactive textbooks, and acquired funding through two separate grants, the Mansergh-Stuessy Fund for College Innovation and the NEH for his work on open textbooks. He was able to travel to Austria in the summer of 2018 with a group of faculty to work on the interactive German language modules that formed [Grenzenlos Deutsch](#), an open access resource.

Ron also became engaged in an international education course to work on an open textbook for global education. As part of this course, it required holding class conversations with collaborators in Nepal, usually at midnight. Ron, not a night person, was diligent in attending these late night weekly meetings. This is just one example of how his passion fueled his ability to handle sometimes challenging work assignments.

Ron became an active participant in the Open Textbook Network and attended the summer annual meetings making connections with others equally passionate about open textbooks and OER. Ron published a book chapter on the work he was doing, presented at two national webinars, and was involved in working on another publication at the time of his illness. You may view the slides of one his presentations, “[Infusing ‘Open’ in an Undergraduate Global Education Course.](#)” You will find his contribution to [The Evolution of Affordable Content Efforts in the Higher Education Environment: Programs, Case Studies, and Examples](#) edited by Kristi Jensen and Shane Nackerud. Chapter 9 entitled, [Creating an OER Toolkit](#).

Throughout his 34 plus years at Macalester, Ron received recognition for his work in several areas: excellence in service from CLIC and recognition in 2017 for his work in starting our LibTech Conference. Ron was always someone who downplayed any recognition. However, I know he absolutely lit up when talking about open education resources and loved talking about how his work evolved on our campus to meet the specific needs of our faculty. I’m sharing all this because for someone who found his passion late in life, even if it was only for a short period of time, the amount of impact he had in those few years is immeasurable. For those who didn’t have a chance to hear Ron talk about his experiences there are some recordings available, including the [recording of his speaking about the global education course](#).

Ron will be missed for his passion, enthusiasm, his good humor (and his willingness to always do more. Going the extra mile was just something he did naturally. He was an inspiring colleague, a friend, and a gentle person who was loved by staff in the library and by the students he supervised during different parts of his career. I'm happy that he will continue to exist as an inspiration both in the words in this Pressbook, but also in the presentations and book chapter to which he contributed his time and expertise.

Contributed by Terri Fishel

Open Textbook Network

I'm terribly saddened to hear of Ron's passing. Ron was at our first OTNSI [Open Textbook Network Summer Institute] and has been with us at every OTN Summit. I will miss his thoughtfulness. Ron had a powerful commitment to bringing open to the faculty at Macalester in a way that was appropriate to their context. He was generous in sharing strategies that he found effective with his faculty and he connected the OTN with a number of other institutions who he thought would benefit from our community. I am sure the community at Macalester will miss him and I know that we will too.

Contributed by Sarah Faye Cohen, Managing Director, Open Textbook Network, Center for Open Education, University of Minnesota (from email with permission from Sarah)

To expound on my comments more, Ron and I were two of a smattering of people that had attended every Open Textbook Network Summit since the first one in 2015. Ron was always my go-to guy to hangout with at the OTN Summit every year. We seemed to always end up at the same table. He was the friendly face I looked for, and we enjoyed discussing the different open education projects happening at Macalester and the U of M. I was always impressed with how Ron had so much going on! He obviously had a passion for this work, and for making a difference to the students of Macalester. As I said, I will miss Ron a great deal.

Contributed by Shane Nackerud (email with permission from Shane)

Grenzenlos Deutsch Project

I worked with Ron for quite a while and collaborated with him on many presentations and workshops in the early stages of the Grenzenlos Deutsch project. In fact, Grenzenlos Deutsch wouldn't exist without him. I could go on and on about the ways in which he helped us, but a few highlights: he was the one whose passion for OER first sparked my idea to make this project open-access, he was the one who suggested specific interactive tools for the project, he was the one who pulled me into a small grant that brought our team the support for all the video editing, he was the one who helped us write the NEH grant application (and wrote the Data Management Plan in its entirety—which was singled out for praise from our NEH program officer), etc etc etc. And of course, Ron, Amy (our other project leader), and I worked together on the workshop for our entire team last summer in Vienna, where Ron provided ongoing support as the rest of the team wrote the bulk of the content.

While Ron was a very private person, I got to know him over the course of all this work and to value him so much for the kind, modest, thoughtful person he was. We talked politics, movies, and OER. And this past summer, we talked travel: Ron helped me and Amy prepare for our workshop in Vienna by arranging for extra computers and gear, helping me select components that he knew we would need. We talked a lot about how to get all the STUFF to Europe, which was pretty funny given that Ron's own suitcase was lost on the way overseas. He spent the week in Vienna helping us, but also talking to every airline and airport involved, trying to track down his luggage. We all felt SO bad for him! But Ron took it in stride and made jokes about the fact that at least his AirBnB had a washer and dryer so that he could wash his one change of clothes. Fortunately, his suitcase caught up with him the day before he left Vienna, and the rest of his travel—south to Italy—went without a hitch. I'm glad he was able to extend his time in Europe for a more relaxing segment.

I feel so grateful that I had two good visits with Ron while he was in the rehab facility, since we had wonderful talks there. He was so determined to make a full recovery. He told me that the rehab work he was doing was the hardest thing he had ever done, but he pushed himself hard, too, because he was so eager to get back home and get back to work. The horrible irony is that he was almost there, almost ready to get back to work. He told me again and again during his recovery about how he couldn't wait to get back to work, particularly because he was bored during the long recovery process. That was just like Ron, eager to get to work, to use his brain, and to be useful to others. I hope he knows how much we appreciate how he shared his talents with the those of us on the GD team.

Ron was an advocate for open educational resources and the faculty and students who work with them. His work with us on Grenzenlos Deutsch has been invaluable. He will be missed by many people in the Macalester community, but also by all of us on the GD team as well. Here's what team members said upon hearing the sad news:

"I'm so sorry to hear this. It was so wonderful having Ron in Vienna with us, and I know he had a huge impact on bringing the project to fruition."

"I am so sorry to hear about Ron. He truly was a tremendous source of support, and worked tirelessly to get our project up and running."

"What terrible news! We are sending our thoughts out to his family, friends, and colleagues."

"Ron was an invaluable member of the team and we could not have gotten things running so smoothly in Vienna without his guidance and expertise."

"I am really sad to read this. I fondly remember collaborating with Ron in Vienna; he was so kind and helpful. The Grenzenlos project greatly benefitted from his input and his expertise in copyright and open access resources."

"I remember Ron and all the care and patience he has for our project—answering all the questions, looking into all the details, always supportive. And I am happy he got to travel (alas, without suitcase, as I remember) a bit that summer."

"I'm at a loss for what to say. This is such terrible news. He was such a kind soul and he will be missed terribly."

"I am so sorry to hear about Ron. He was and is such an integral part of our project. His patience and thoughtfulness impressed me most."

The Grenzenlos Deutsch team has made a donation to the Macalester Fund in Ron's memory.

Contributed by Britt Abel and the Grenzenlos Deutsch Team

Impact on Student Learning

Thank you for this space, which I'm sure many of us will return to many times, to spend some time with Ron. I know I will. Ron and I worked closely together over these past couple of years on two major projects: an interactive open source textbook on globalization and education, and a set of pedagogical innovations for my course. Ron talked to me at length and with great patience about the many possibilities that the library could bring to learning, reading, interpretation and research. Representation of self, values and academics blossomed in my class under his care. And he used his knowledge and creativity to design a new immersive experience which connected our students to various far-flung, remote global communities and learning spaces. Ron helped connect my classroom to sixteen villages in the foothills of the Himalayas. And we were working on extending that reach even further.

It is very hard to reconcile the loss of Ron. It is hard to find the words to describe what Ron has meant to myself as a teacher and to the scores of students who have benefitted from his visionary ideas of using technology in education. Ron saw a future for education that got into the seams of individual learning and collective interaction. His work changed learning spaces, made them meaningful, and deeply involved a learner's own voice. And he brought his immense gifts to this: all the time with unfailing kindness and with a habit of modesty so strong, that not many knew how much he was transforming. But it is also hard to describe the waves of hope he spread among communities far beyond our borders. I have a message from the communities of the mountains. Aditi Kaur, the founder of the Mountain Children's Foundation, says this:

Please say (to Ron's family and the Macalester community) that we are so grateful for the brief but beautiful friendship with Ron. Our connection on Zoom was the first time we met! And he was so wanting to hear our side of the story. He listened. But the best was when he was so

excited about the games that could be made for the children (to use as learning tools). He had one all planned out! Wish we had more time.

Ron will always be with us.

Contributed by Sonia Mehta

Library Technology Conference Founder

One particular memory of Ron that jumps out in my mind is related to the beginning of the Library Technology Conference. I had arrived at the CLIC office a few minutes early for a meeting. I walked into the meeting room where a few librarians (including Ron) were already gathered and visiting. It turned out they were just wrapping up another meeting. Ron turned to me and asked what I thought about a conference that focused on libraries and technology and that offered attendees opportunities for hands on learning. I told him that I thought it sounded great. I was then pulled into the amazing whirlwind of what became the Library Technology Conference. Ron's dedication to providing an affordable opportunity for library staff around the region and eventually around the country with a place to share their knowledge and expertise with each other has had a positive impact on countless people. Hundreds of people gather each year to talk about important topics in libraries and to get hands on practical experience with a variety of technologies. I have learned a lot from working with Ron on the conference and continue to be amazed by the energy, time, and care he put into making the conference a success. Everyone involved with the LibTech Conference are already missing Ron's presence.

Contributed by Katy Gabrio

Working with Ron

I have worked with Ron here at Macalester for about 15 years. He is one of the most kind, dedicated, smart, and generous people I have ever had the good fortune to know. I have been going back through some of the online chat messages Ron and I have exchanged over the years and they reinforce how strong all of these qualities shone through in him. Many of the messages are from him checking in on a question I sent to him (often while he was on vacation or at a conference and despite the fact that I specifically told him not to read the message until he was back at work:-), or offering a helping hand if I needed extra help on a project or a sub at the reference desk. Ron was so very generous with his time. Other messages were sprinkled with words of encouragement or advice. One in particular that jumps out to me was a message Ron had sent to me while he was away at a conference. It was right before I had my first child and was about to begin my parental leave. Ron checked in to see how I was doing. I had responded that I was feeling some anxiety. He responded with encouraging words and telling me what a GREAT mommy I was going to be. The library is going to be a different place without seeing Ron every day. His spirit will live on here at Macalester and he will be sorely missed by us all.

Contributed by Katy Gabrio

Ron and I worked on several projects that required editing: the data modules, for example, and the Education textbook project. As he described it, our process consisted of Ron writing, in a folksy style, many, many words. And then Beth comes in, slashing and burning away to make it all clear and concise. Naturally,

we argued about it incessantly. And yet, we both agreed that the end result was all that we could hope for. (Well, maybe Ron would want a few more words and maybe I would want a few fewer.)

Contributed by Beth Hillemann

...humble generosity, kindness, creativity, and compassion...

Facebook post on 2/24:

Thinking of my wonderful colleague, Ron Joslin, this morning. Many will learn, as we celebrate his life, that he was the source of so many awesome things at our library. With all the talk of Oscar movies today I am particularly thinking of the DeWitt Wallace Library popular movie collection, largely built through Ron's "anonymous" donations. It is without a doubt that if there was an award for humble generosity, kindness, creativity, and compassion, it would go to Ron every year.

Contributed by Angi Faiks

Ron's presence in our library is sorely missed and will be, long into the future. I was inspired daily by Ron's enthusiasm for Open Educational Resources, his unwavering support of student employees, his dedication to the faculty and students he most closely worked with, and the many creative ideas and projects he moved forward, throughout the years. Ron was a daily example to me of abundant generosity. He taught me much over the years, and I will miss his insights, creative spark, and leadership. It will simply not be the same without him here with us.

My sincere hope is that his work in our library made him proud and happy and that he was keenly aware of the significant impact of his work on us, those we serve, and on the profession as a whole. He has left an indelible mark on this

place and the people, and I am deeply grateful that we had the good fortune of having him in our lives. Thank you, Ron.

Contributed by Angi Faiks

Treats

Ron was so generous to the students. I remember helping him out over the course of several years with his “treat break” for students during Finals. He would buy all sorts of stuff from the grocery store—fruit drinks, pop, pastries, cookies, fruit, potato chips, other chips, salsa, chocolate, etc. We would set it all up in the Harmon Room, make an announcement over the PA system, and then watch as the hordes arrived from every corner of the library. The students loved it, and Ron always had a big grin on his face (as there was on mine as well).

Contributed by Beth Hillemann

When Ron was supervising students, he always gave each of them a box of Girl Scout cookies. I remember him ordering 35 boxes of Thin Mints—his favorite!

Contributed by Laura Secord

“What can I do to help?”

I was so saddened to hear of Ron’s passing. Ron was a wonderful colleague and I so appreciated his expertise and good natured ways. As I think about my conversations with Ron over the years, the phrase that stands out is: “What can I do to help?” Ron was always offering to lend his time and talents to support colleagues and students. He was generous with his time and overall just wonderful to work with. I valued Ron and will miss him!

Contributed by Nancy Bostrom

Mentor

Ron was a mentor to me; first as a library school intern working at the Macalester DeWitt Wallace Library and later as a colleague serving for many years on the Library Technology Conference Steering Committee.

I recall vividly as an intern working with Ron and his team of students on the DeWitt Code, an online Clue type of game designed to provide incoming first year students with an orientation to campus spaces and services (including the library). Students would get cards for completing various online tasks and if I recall, they could win a prize if they collected them all. Even though the software was fairly rudimentary by today's standards, we still were able to create a pretty cool multimodal, interactive experience.

This early experience helped shape my thinking of what the modern academic library/librarian was capable of accomplishing with respect to media services and likely helped me earn my first professional position. During this process Ron was always welcoming (indeed soliciting) input from us as students to try and solve the numerous challenges that arose. In fact, I think he almost got more out of engaging with us than whatever outcome came from the final product!

That in a nutshell is the Ron I grew to know. A man who was genuinely curious; refreshingly authentic in sharing his thoughts; a well of creative ideas; and the kind of infectious, beaming enthusiasm and heart that made those around him want to be a part of whatever project he was proposing (even if it was not entirely clear what you were signing up for at that moment!). I am forever grateful for his early guidance and will deeply miss his presence.

Contributed by Scott Spicer

Passion and Enthusiasm

Ron's passion and enthusiasm were so infectious, and I enjoyed every single interaction I had with him over the years. I was particularly struck by multiple examples over the years when he would launch into a project or start talking about an idea, and I would think "I'm glad someone's interested in that, but it's not really my area of interest." But then by the end of the conversation or the project, I would be a full convert to his way of thinking, and I would be full of ideas about ways we could move forward. And he did all this in the kindest, gentlest manner, full of humor and grace. I grew to look forward to that moment when I would realize he'd done it again — I was yet again convinced that his vision was not only wonderful, but also wonderfully achievable, and that we would all come out of the experience with renewed enthusiasm for our work.

Contributed by Iris Jastram

Student Work Supervisor

Ron was a kind man and a delight to have as a student work supervisor at the library. I never saw Ron say a negative word about anybody. Working in the library was a calming reprieve in what could be a hectic academic life when you worked with Ron. He will be missed by everyone in the library and everyone that knew him on campus.

Contributed by Matt Edelman

When I worked as a library student worker during the summer, I would usually arrive early to the opening shift. Ron would often be the only other library employee there yet — a testament to his dedication. During those opening shifts, I would often have a chance to chat with him about politics, current events, and what he was getting up to. I always appreciated his kind and friendly presence on those early summer mornings in the otherwise empty library.

Additionally, I remember Ron's love of trivia. In the summer, I always looked forward to the trivia lunches he would organize with elaborate multi-round set ups. Those trivia lunches were something really special that brought library staff and student workers together and I don't think they would have happened so successfully without Ron.

Probably one of my favorite memories of all was the time in the last week of summer when Ron bought pizza for all of the student workers. I think he bought more pizzas than there were students workers. A great feast indeed!

Contributed by Sam Greenstein

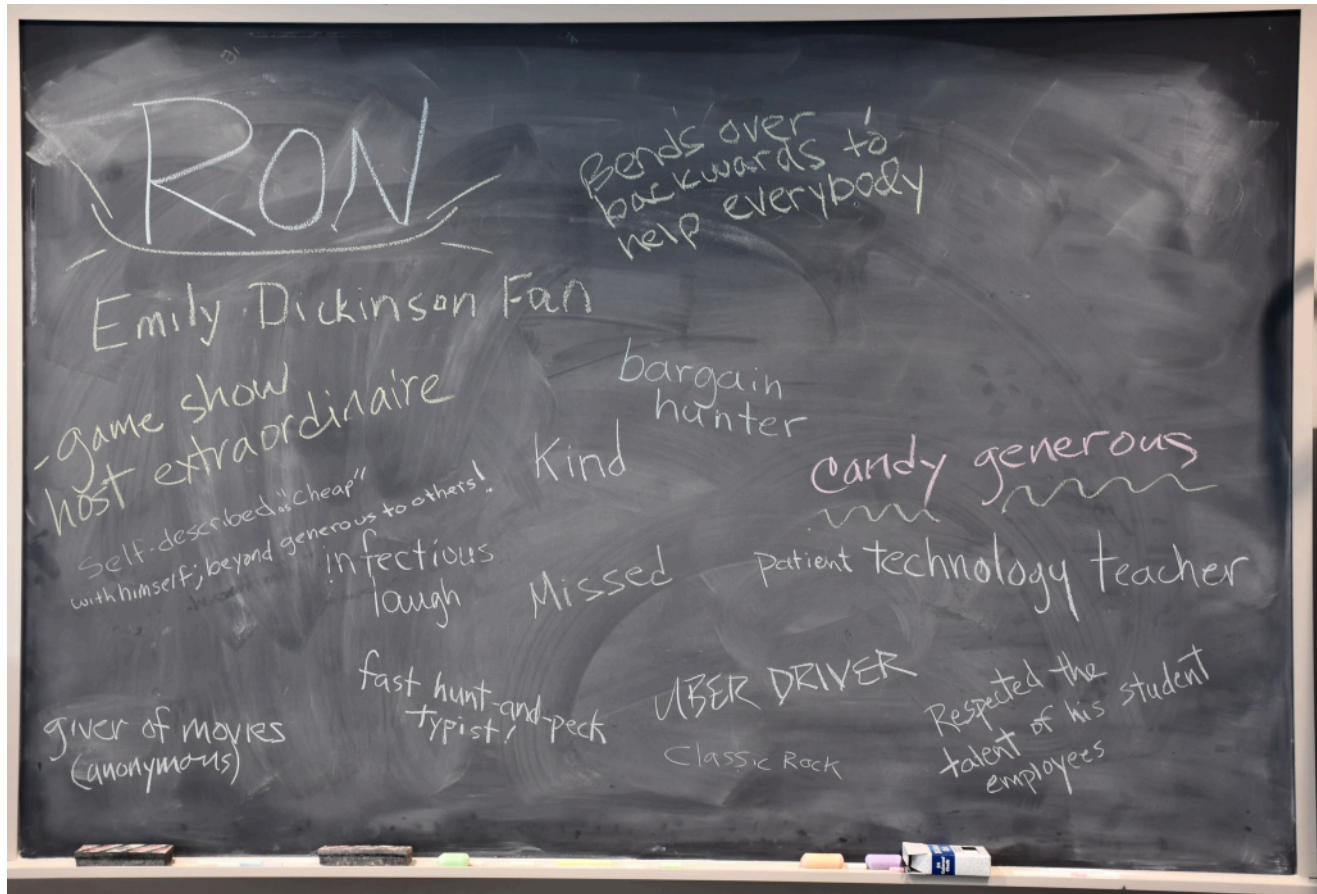
Ron was my boss/supervisor when I was a student worker at the library at Macalester. Ron was always warm and understanding. As someone new to the culture of the Country, State and Campus, Ron always made me feel welcome and appreciated. He treated everyone equally and with respect. He also made sure we felt appreciated, as he always bought treat, such as Girl Scout Cookies. Rest in peace, Ron.

Contributed by Selam T.

Celebrating Ron's Gracious Life

I am very sorry to miss Ron's celebration of life. He really did breathe life into the library. He was always the one who volunteered to pick up conference speakers, job candidates and vendors at the airport. He spontaneously purchased treats and meals for students on a regular basis. Ron claimed he didn't have a green thumb, yet he was always bringing in plants to liven up the place. The popular DVD collection at the library would not be as robust as it is without Ron's donations. Lastly, I have never seen Ron happier than when he was the trivia game show host for student events, not only for student employees, but also during class nights and welcome week. He was the most generous and compassionate person I have ever worked with. Sending my condolences but also celebrating Ron's gracious life.

Photos & Mementos



Photos

Due to “camera shyness” the library has a limited number of photos of Ron. Here are a few:



2015 Staff Photo



2014 Worldwide Web Birthday Celebration



2013 Staff Library 25th Anniversary



2013 Move in Day



2013 Senior Dinner





2011



2002 Staff Photo

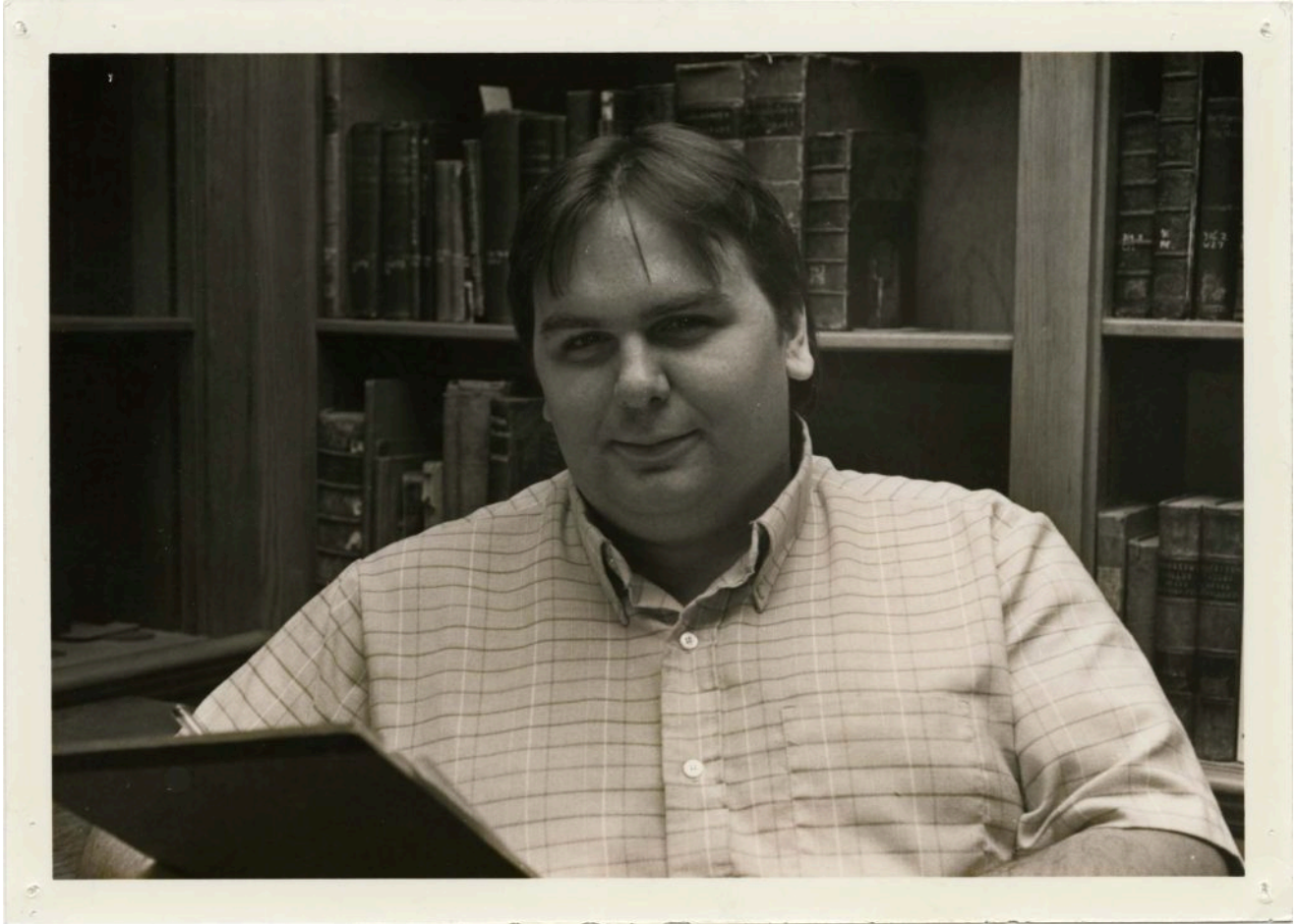


Photo from the archives

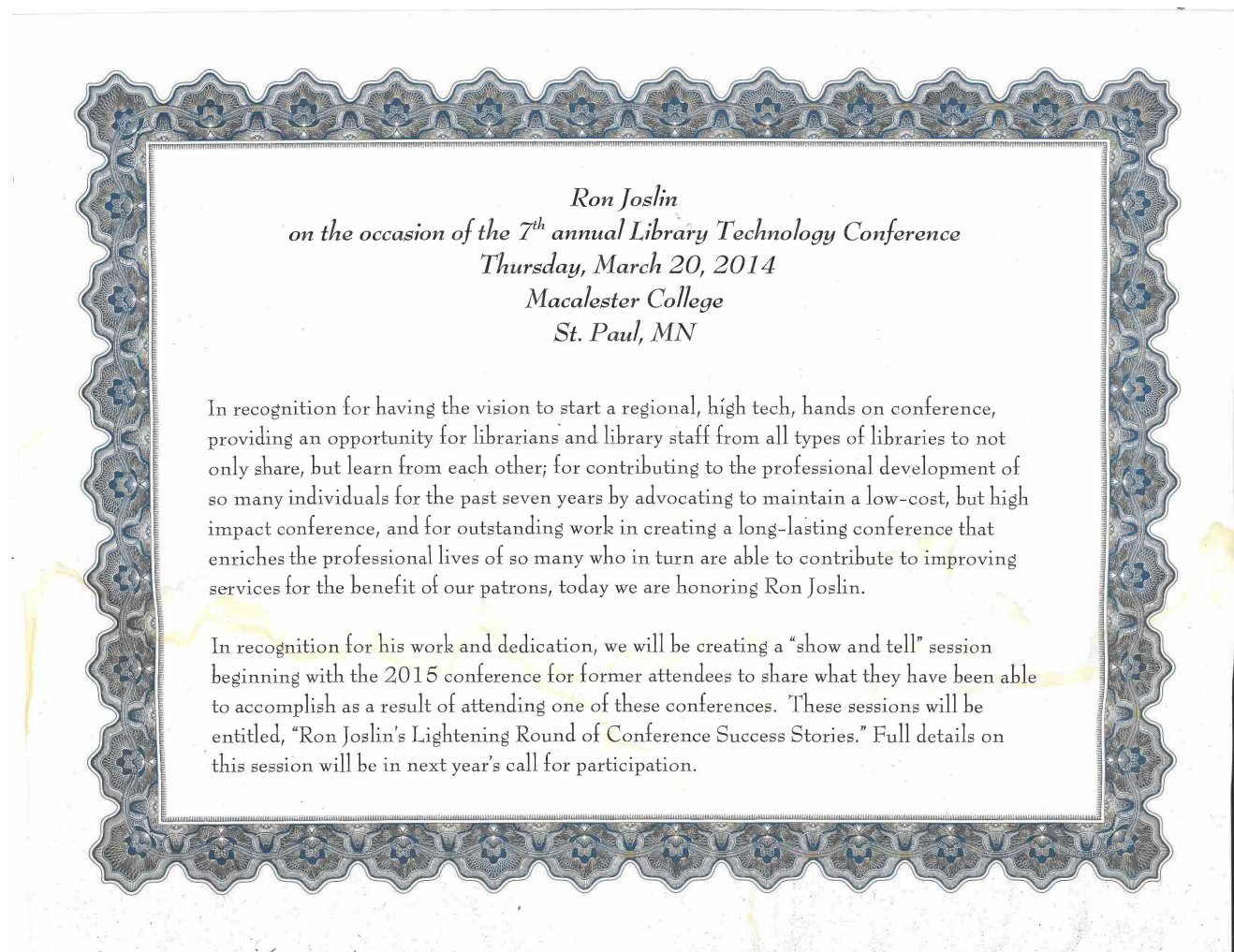


Ron's Office



Ron's Office

Library Technology Conference Recognition



PDF: https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/app/uploads/sites/518/2019/02/LibTech_Conference_Recognition.pdf

Library Technology Conference 2014 Keynote video in which Ron is recognized: <https://www.ustream.tv/recorded/45093864>


Wisconsin "E"ffordability Summit Dedication


Slides from the 2019 "E"ffordability Summit keynote, with dedication to Ron:

**OPEN:
FROM ACCESS
TO JUSTICE**

Robin DeRosa
@actualham

Rajiv Jhangiani
@thatpsychprof





"open" by [Helen Cook](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Dedicated to
Ronald Joslin
1960-2019



Slides by Robin DeRosa and Rajiv Jhangini and available at: <http://bit.ly/2Dplsqr>

Webinar: OER Initiatives and the Liberal Arts College

OER Initiatives and the Liberal Arts College


Case Studies from Franklin & Marshall College,
Gettysburg College, and Macalester College

Christopher Barnes, Caitlin Carter, and Ron Joslin

Webinar recording on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HBPfYwVScI>

Webinar: Infusing 'Open' into an Undergraduate Global Education Course

Ron participated in a webinar with Professor Sonia Mehta for the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC), titled *Infusing 'Open' into an Undergraduate Global Education Course*. Access the video from October 25, 2018, below (view minutes 18:30 to 36:00)



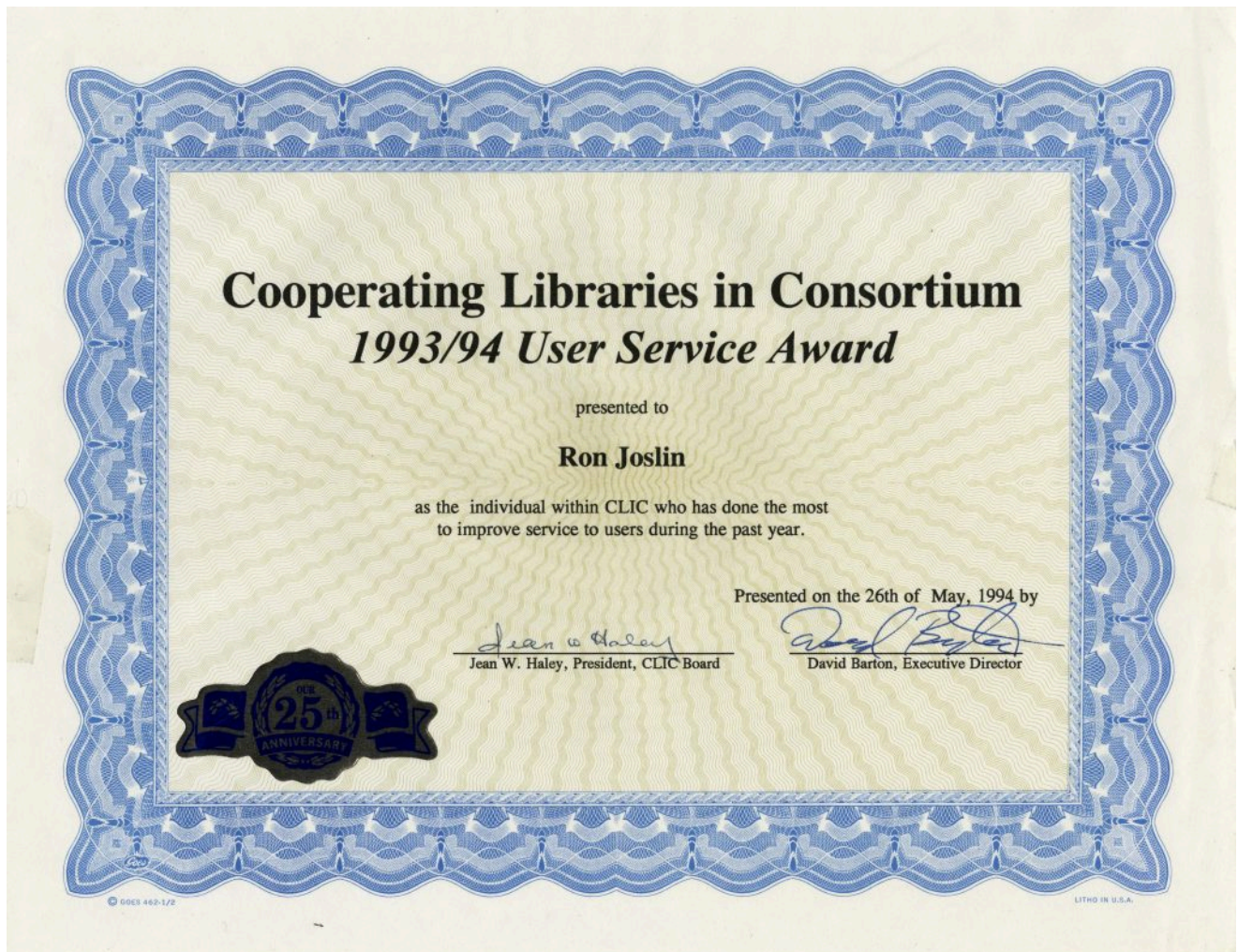
OER Programs at Private Liberal Arts Institutions
SCELC Webinar
Thursday, October 25, 2018

Infusing 'Open' into an Undergraduate Global Education Course

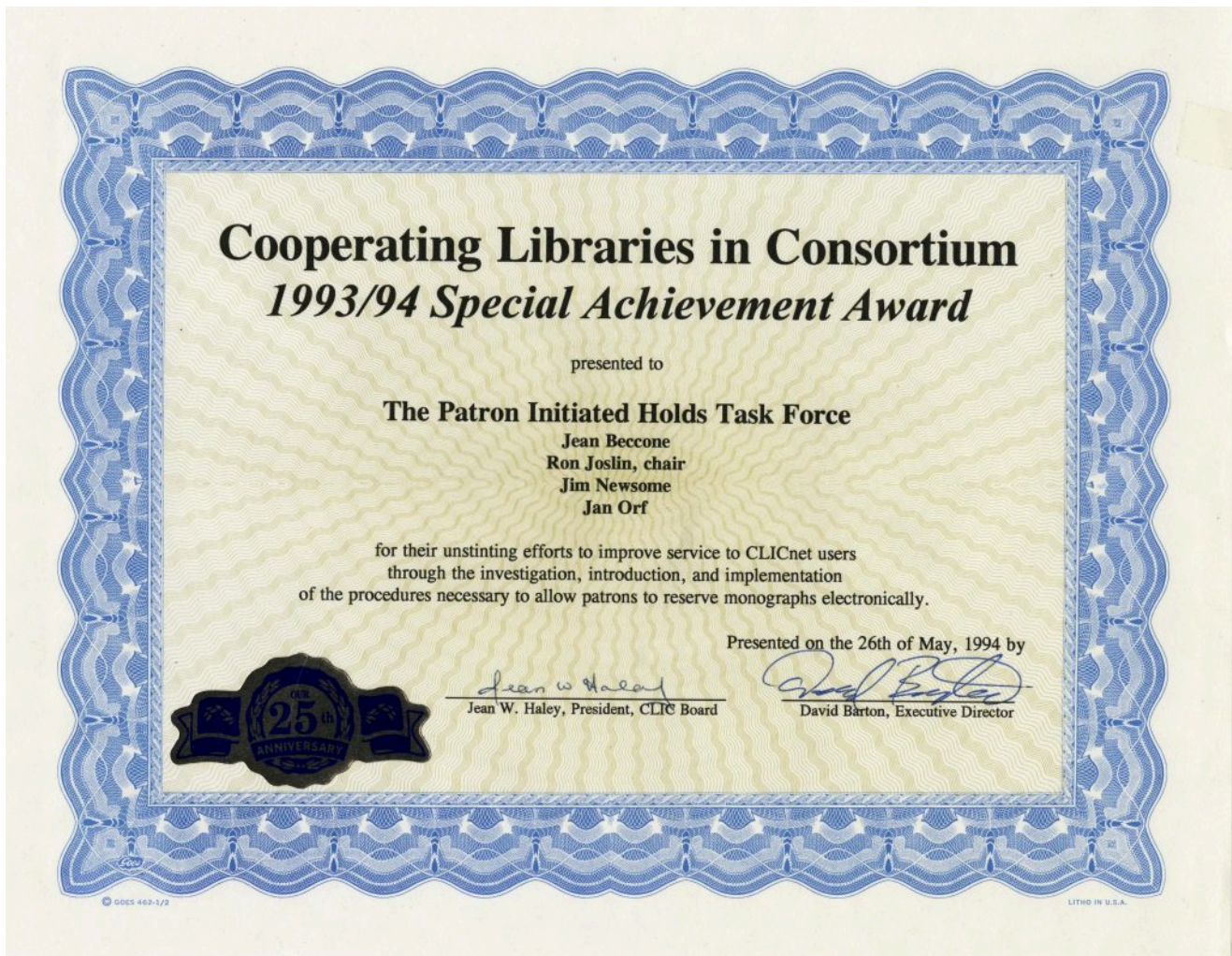
Sonia Mehta Visiting Professor (NTT) Educational Studies Macalester College	Ron Joslin Research & Instruction Librarian OER Coordinator Macalester College
---	--

View: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eO9T0IsaU9WFkdmqTUF3WVBoMCPV7Rzs/view>

Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (CLIC) and other Awards



CLIC User Service Award 1993-94



CLIC Special Achievement Award 1993-94



Information Services Recognition 2000