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Sally Evans to receive 2018 Distinguished Library Faculty Award

FAIRFAX, VA – March 20, 2018: Sally Evans, Coordinator, University Dissertation & Thesis Services, has been selected for the 2018 Distinguished Library Faculty Award.

Ms. Evans’ nomination packet included many glowing support letters from her colleagues in the Libraries and other Mason departments (including both instructional faculty and staff members), as well as her peers and colleagues outside of Mason. She has been cited as an “energetic, dynamic librarian,” “a credit to the profession,” and “an unflagging and passionate proponent of digital preservation.”

Evans joined the University Libraries in January 2011. Since that time, her dedication and hard work has earned the respect of many. She is praised for her expertise and her efficiency, particularly when it comes to the fact that she reviews format, accepts, processes, and archives over 500 theses and dissertations per year (in addition to other duties!). Many noted that Evans essentially runs a “one woman shop” and that they are amazed at everything she accomplishes while making every academic department feel they are provided with the support they need for their graduate students.

Faculty members across departments are enthusiastic about working with Evans. One says, “The students, without exception, report back to me that the process was easier than they anticipated, due to the guidance and support offered by Ms. Evans” and notes that Evans is “an outstanding and prominent public face of the library to the rest of the campus community, and does her job with competency, empathy, and professionalism.” Another says, “I have long admired Sally for her steady work, careful attention to detail… and concern for the students.” Throughout her work, she displays a “desire to serve the many and diverse needs of the libraries and their constituencies.”

In the words of one of her Libraries’ colleagues, Evans “works with every graduate student at Mason to ensure that their dissertation or thesis meets the required specifications for submission and that their final work will be made available through ProQuest and Mason’s institutional repository. Through her work with graduate students, Sally shows a commitment to diversity and inclusion and treats the wide range of diverse graduate students at Mason in an inclusive and equal manner.”

Most recently, Evans worked with high-level stakeholders to revise thesis and dissertation embargo guidelines that were later approved by the Graduate Council. Her successful navigation of this process has heightened the Libraries’ profile and further underscored her colleague’s assessment of her dedication to the students’ needs.
Outside of the university, Evans is equally regarded. Evans has a strong service record within the United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association (USetdA). Her colleagues there attest to her commitment to the association – serving on the Board of Directors, participating in planning efforts for the annual conferences over the last five years, and presenting at conferences.

In 2017, Evans worked to bring the USetdA’s annual conference to the Washington, DC metro area, with George Mason University as host. She helped organize the conference and ensured that the local organizing committee, including representatives from several local universities, produced a successful conference.

Of the award John Zenelis, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, said, “I am pleased to announce the award committee’s selection of Sally Evans for this year’s Distinguished Library Faculty Award, which I wholeheartedly endorse. I completely agree with Sally’s colleagues that she actively demonstrates her commitment to student success every day. She provides an invaluable service to the graduate students at Mason, in recognition of which this award is just a token.”

To be considered for the award, library faculty are assessed on the performance of their professional duties, as well as their scholarly and service contributions to the academic research library field and to higher education. Award recipients exemplify this threefold role: have a strong reputation among their colleagues at Mason and outside the institution; actively foster the teaching, learning, research, and public service mission of the Libraries; and embody organizational values such as innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

The Distinguished Library Faculty Award, now in its fifth year, is awarded on an annual basis at George Mason University’s Celebration of Teaching Excellence, organized by the Stearns Center for Teaching and Excellence. This year the event is scheduled for April 16th, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., Center for Arts, Fairfax Campus.

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