As a child, Shoko Tokoro was fascinated by watching figure skating on television. For as long as she can remember, ice skating was an activity that was popular in her home town of Gifu, Japan. So when her love for figure skating convinced her to try her luck at it—she did. And when she took her first skating lesson in New York years ago, she realized that she could do what she did as a child: stand up, keep her balance, and actually glide on the ice. Since then, she’s learned that the initial skating lesson was a result of something that turned out to be very meaningful—it helped her find her passion.

For nearly three years now Tokoro has been taking weekly skating lessons at the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail, NC. Her dedication to the sport has given a new meaning to what “routine” is all about as she fits skating into her lifestyle by staying consistent and building on her knowledge and skill level. “I really love ice skating. I enjoy learning new techniques with turns and spins and applying what I learn on the ice.”

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See Joy page 6
We’ve made it to the well-deserved holiday break. It was a fast, but eventful fall. Thank you to the entire staff for all of your outstanding contributions this year. The Staff Development and Activities Committee will begin its first award program to recognize the fantastic efforts of our faculty and staff in January 2017. The Lifesaver Award is explained in this issue. Be thinking about who you can recommend!

Personnel Changes
Welcome to Kim Looby who joined us as Reference and Instruction Associate on November 28. Kim was an Atkins Fellow last summer in the Assessment unit, so she is known to us already.

Events
The two millionth volume celebration was a rousing success with approximately 160 in attendance. Thank you to the planning committee who worked for months to create an informative and exciting evening. The committee members were Sharon Reichard, Betty Ladner, Mark Reynolds, Lee Jefferson, Dawn Schmitz, Lolita Rowe, Michael Winecoff, Bridgette Sanders, Jeff McAdams, Tina Wright, and Stephanie Otis.

Plus all of Special Collections and University Archives and others across the Library. Thank you especially to Sharon Reichard! We will remember this event for a long time!

The opening reception for the NLM/NIH traveling exhibit: Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine was phenomenal. The reception attracted faculty, students, kids, and community members to visit our library and enjoy the dramatic skills of our employees such as Tricia Kent, Judy Walker, and Chesney Klubert. Thank you to Abby Moore for arranging for a 2nd traveling exhibit. Terrific work by the planning committee members: Marc Bess, Lolita Rowe, Pamela Mason, Annette Boston, Judy Walker, and Sharon Reichard. We anticipate more fun at the other events planned through the end of the exhibit on January 20, 2017.

We will soon be preparing the annual report for 2016. Here are just a few of the projects we completed this year that directly impacted UNC Charlotte students, faculty, and staff. What an amazing list!

I list the following service improvements in presentations to campus groups:

Family Friendly Library Room
Technology Support Services on 2nd Floor, including Equipment Lending, 3D Printing, Poster Printing, Makerspace, Multimedia Lab, new Microforms Reader Printer, Adobe Creative Cloud, Technology Training, etc.

Digital Display Monitors

Take Note continued on page 5
LifeSaver Awards

The LifeSaver Award is presented to Atkins Library faculty & staff employees who have been nominated by fellow staff members for going above and beyond in the workplace. Nominations will be made by an individual who feels that the employee deserves recognition for their work performance, work ethic, and their overall positive attitude in supporting a positive organizational climate.

All permanent employees (faculty/staff/dean) are eligible to nominate individuals for this award.

Award recipients will be announced during monthly All Staff Meetings. Presentations will be made by the nominating party or a member of the Staff Development & Activities Committee.

For more information on the LifeSaver Award, please visit the Staff Development website.

I'm from Charleston, IL. I moved back and forth from North Carolina to Illinois. I originally came to Gaston County to intern at a museum for three months but loved it and stayed the full year. I wanted to stay a little longer so I got a job with the public library system. I enjoyed my work and enrolled in the University of Illinois’ library program. There I worked in the academic libraries as a graduate assistant and decided I wanted to be a college student forever. I knew I wanted to come back to this area, so I was excited to see the summer fellowship program and applied to the assessment portion.

I enjoyed the library immensely so I applied to the reference and instruction position which was similar to what I did at the University of Illinois. I'm excited to be here and apply what I learned in assessment over the summer to my reference and instruction sessions.

Outside of work I am very active outdoors. I regularly run, hike and road bike. I'm trying to learn to mountain bike because we don't have that where I'm from. It's so flat in my part of Illinois that my road bike club has given all of our hills names because there are so few of them. I'm also very interested in ancestry and genealogy research. Librarianship and teaching run in my family. My mother was a children's librarian and my dad was the head of media services.

Kim Looby

continued on page 5
Getting to Know Atkins Library

Notable Names

**Betty Ladner**
I am the Executive Director of External Relations.
I have worked for Atkins for seventeen years.
I am originally from New Orleans, Omaha, Cincinnati, Chicago and Winston-Salem.
In my free time I like to try new restaurants, go to plays or movies, go for walks, and play with grandkids.
Many people don’t know that I have two sisters who are also librarians, and one is my twin.
The last movie I saw was *Sully: Miracle on the Hudson*.
When I was younger, I wanted to play a musical instrument (better than I did).
If I had three wishes they would be: having my whole family in the same city, renting a villa in France or Italy for a month and having friends come visit, and having a kinder world.

**James Vorhies**
I am the University Library Technician, focusing mainly on periodicals and collections maintenance.
I have worked for Atkins for one year and four months.
I am originally from Takoma Park, Maryland and my home growing up was one block from the Washington, D.C. border.
In my free time I like to do woodworking projects around the house and watch sports, any kind of sport on TV.
Many people don’t know that I played rugby in college.
The last book I read was *Satchel Paige* by Lesa Cline-Ransome. I’m currently reading *The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford* by John Robert Greene. The last movie I saw was *Dr. Strange*.
When I was younger, I wanted to be a Ninja Turtle. Surprisingly, I have yet to achieve this goal.
If I had three wishes they would be for good health, happiness, and that Ninja Turtle thing still sounds pretty good.

**Stephen Kidd**
I am the Technology Resources Coordinator.
I have worked for Atkins for almost eight months now.
I am originally from Wilmington, NC and moved to Charlotte in April of 2016.
In my free time I enjoy playing video games, being outdoors and/or near the water, cooking, and doing various projects around the house.
Many people don’t know that I am left handed and that I am an only child.
The last movie I saw was *Doctor Strange*. (I’m a big Marvel fan!)
When I was younger I wanted to be a Meteorologist.
If I had three wishes, they would be to win the lottery, for acceptance and tolerance worldwide, and to have the opportunity to travel the world.

**Katie Howell**
I am the University Archivist.
I have worked for Atkins for ten months.
I am originally from Wauwatosa, WI, but moved to Charlotte from Austin, TX in 2011.
In my free time I like to read, play outside with my 18-month-old daughter, Henrie, and cook.
Many people don’t know that I used to play in a competitive skeeball league.
The last book I read was *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead and the last movie I saw was *Arrival*.
When I was younger, I wanted to be an architect.
which was a part of the university library in my home town. I have become a perfect blend of their careers. My grandmother also taught nursing at the college level for most of her career. She was said to be such an encyclopedia that students weren't able to stump her on any question.

Test Your Knowledge Answers:

- Both worked with Erskin Bowles in the White House while he was chief of staff for President Bill Clinton
- Cato College of Education
- New South Voices

Collection Services

- Inventory of the stacks
- Journal discard project
- Reestablishment of periodicals binding
- Creation of the UNC Charlotte Streaming Video website
- Creation and maintenance of new collections
  - Career Resources
  - Faculty Publications
  - New Books
  - Popular DVD/Greenbox
  - Popular Reading
  - Special Display
  - Two Millionth Volume

Relocation of collections to appropriate space for technology and student areas

- 8th Floor
  - Maps
  - Phonodiscs
  - Phonotapes
  - Videocassettes
- Ground Floor Compact Shelving
- Documents Microfiche
- Microfiche
- Microfilm
- Reference

Disbandment of the NASA collection
Relocation of the Juvenile Literature collection adjacent to CIMC

Technology and Digital Strategies (in addition to the above)

- Library Information Kiosk: Chat, Technology
  - Borrowing Availability, Room Availability
  - and Scheduling, Events, Catalog, Greek Life Sign-In, etc.
- Study Room Reservation System Enhancements & Receipt Printing.
- Self-Check Units
- 90 All-in-one computers on 1st Floor, 90 new computers, and older computers in the Tower
- Completely redesigned website
- Card swipe access to building between Midnight and 7:30 a.m.
- Card swiping at many services
- Integrated chat services

Departments submitted the following:

Workshops presented

- Introduction to 3D Printing Day of Convocation: delivered on (8/22/16), 10/4/16, 11/10/16, 11/30/16
- Introduction to Adobe Creative Cloud: delivered on 11/1/16, 11/18/16, 12/14/16

Take Note continued on page 8
And focusing on improving her techniques has paid off for Tokoro. In the short amount of time that she has been taking lessons, she’s moved up from the beginner’s level all the way to the advanced level. Practicing plays a role too. Along with weekly half-hour lessons on Saturday mornings, Tokoro also spends an equal amount of time practicing after her sessions and perfecting her craft. Learning is doing, but for Tokoro, learning is also about watching and seeing. “My skating lessons have helped me understand the sport of skating—how things are achieved on the ice. For me, it’s all about compulsory skills and the techniques that are involved in skating. I guess I see skating as similar to the work that I do in my job. I’m interested in how things work or fit together, she says.” According to Tokoro, not only does she enjoy the actual activity of ice skating, she also enjoys going to various skating competitions. “Every year I go to Skate of America, the Grand Prix Series, which was in Chicago this year. This past October, I also went to Boston to attend the World Championships,” says Tokoro.

Perhaps things really do happen for a reason—at least when climate is concerned and when one chooses a state where the seasons change and it just feels right to ice skate. Before coming to Atkins, Tokoro lived in Hawaii, where she earned her master’s degree at the University of Hawaii. She also lived in Dallas, TX, where she worked as the Electronic Resources Cataloger at Southern Methodist University. She also spent time at the University of Arizona where she was a librarian. “I don’t care too much for really warm weather. I like cold seasons. The weather in Charlotte is similar to the weather in Japan,” says Tokoro.

But her skating hasn’t been all grace and poise. Ice skating also involves taking risks and accepting that there will be falls as well as bumps and bruises. In addition, skating requires patience and the courage to “get right back up again,”—something Tokoro has had to accept. “For some, skating can be a little dangerous. You have to be careful on the ice. I’ve had two minor concussions that happened within a few months of each other.
Joy continued from page 6

I'm fine now, but I didn’t like taking time off to recuperate from my injuries, although I had to. When I hurt myself, my doctor made me take an entire week off from the ice. When I was healthy enough to return to skating, I had to protect my head by wearing a hat while I skated on the ice, says Tokoro.

One would think that just one concussion would influence an amateur's decision to continue to skate, but for Tokoro, it just reinforced her love for skating. She says, “falling and getting two concussions didn’t scare me. I made sure I followed my doctor’s orders so that I could get back out there and skate again. I don’t ever want to stop skating.”

Maybe the passion for the sport was instilled in Tokoro from early on, way before the initial ice skating lessons began. And maybe she was meant to do it. “I did gymnastics when I was little. I liked balancing and doing all the acrobatic stuff. As an adult I feel that ice skating also helps me with yoga—which also involves a great deal of balancing,” says Tokoro.

Tokoro has definitely found her niche in life, or she re-found it. As she recalls memories of skating as a child, she describes skating as one of those things that always comes back to you—like riding a bike. “When I skated as a child, I would do it for fun. I wasn’t taking lessons or getting any training. I enjoyed it so much that I would stay out on the ice for hours, all day long—I just loved it so much. Now, I still love it, but even if I had the time to spend more time at the rink, I probably couldn’t stay on the ice as long as I did as a child, says Tokoro.”
Public Services

New active learning classroom under construction (122/123)
Extended in-house chat to overnight (and cross training for chat in Access services)
Conducted review of print journals
Library instruction mapping project
Prospect for Success support (May 6 all faculty presentation, increased library involvement in Business and CHHS)
Hired Director of Access Services (Shelly Hypes)
Hired A+A librarian (Jenna Duncan)
Participated in planning and staffing of Welcome Tables
Promotion of AskAtkins program

Special Collections and University Archives

3-year grant-funded $260,000 from the State Library, re-granted from a federal program digital project, "Living Charlotte: The Post-war Development of a New South City" completed and celebrated with a gala event at Center City June 30.

Donation by Harvey Gantt of his political papers and more personal papers will be forthcoming.

Donation by Dr. and Mrs. Julian D. Mason of the 2 millionth volume, a very rare edition of the slave narrative, Olaudah Equiano's *The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano* (London, 1793, 6th ed.) considered a masterpiece of the genre. A gala celebration was held Nov. 17.

The transfer of all data about the University Archives -- the permanently valuable records documenting the institution -- from an old outdated system to a new, secure system.

A visit from U.S. Representative Alma Adams (NC 12th District), who met with constituents and viewed some highlights from our civil rights manuscript collections.

From Brittany Kicklighter, Executive Assistant for Constituent Relations to Lolita and me: "Thank you both so much for all of your help with coordinating the visit with Congresswoman Adams. It was a wonderful setting and she was really very impressed with our collections. Please see the pictures below that include her time in the library."

https://www.flickr.com/photos/stakeyourclaim/albums/72157672114304332

Personnel: New University Archivist started, new Records Analyst hired, Digital Production Librarian started permanent position, Public Historian hired, Associate Dean moved to permanent status in that position, Reference and Instruction Librarian search to be completed by the end of the year.

—Anne