A Very Archival Pursuit

EYES ON THE PRIZE
INTERVIEWS DIGITIZED
AND AVAILABLE ONLINE
I BEGAN MY SERVICE AS LIBRARY LEADER IN SUMMER 2016. Since that time, I’ve come to know the expert staff, generous donors, and dedicated faculty library committee that make it possible for the Libraries to fulfill their mission of serving the WU community. Now, almost a year later, I continue to be delighted by the spirit of innovation and excellence that’s in the air at the Libraries.

In this issue of Off the Shelf, we share big news: Denise Stephens, university librarian at the University of California-Santa Barbara, has been appointed vice provost and university librarian at WU. Stephens will begin her tenure on July 1, and we look forward to her arrival. You can learn more about her in the story on page 5.

Even as we gain a new leader, we say goodbye to a beloved colleague. Associate University Librarian Virginia Dowsing Toliver retired in January after 35 years at WU (see page 13). Long considered the soul of the Libraries, Toliver will be missed by faculty, students, and staff. We wish her the best as she embarks on a new life chapter.

Also in this issue, we look at two very different but equally exciting digitization projects that will make the Libraries’ rare resources available to the WU community and the wider world. These projects underscore the Libraries’ ongoing goals of sharing research expertise and promoting scholarship across campus and beyond.

The previous issue of Off the Shelf provided an in-depth look at the Olin Transformation Project, an extensive renovation of WU’s main library that is now well underway. Within these pages, you’ll find an update on the renovation—an undertaking that will add 16,000 square feet to Olin Library and more than five times the exhibition space. You’ll also find reading recommendations, an overview of recent exhibitions and events, and a roundup of new staff members.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Off the Shelf. I’m impressed by what the Libraries have accomplished thus far in 2017, and I think you will be, too.

MARION CRAIN
Leader WU Libraries
A Look Back:

EVENTS & EXHIBITION NOTES

“A Look Back: “50 x 50 Missouri” Gives Classic Books a New Look

In December 2016, WU Libraries hosted a pop-up exhibit called “50 x 50 Missouri,” an offshoot of the White House initiative “Recovering the Classics,” which was on view at Olin Library from September 30 to October 7. Conceived as a tool to promote classic literature to a new generation of readers, the exhibit featured cover artwork for famous books such as Moby-Dick, Alice in Wonderland, and Little Women. The project, which is ongoing, is supported by a number of national organizations, including the Digital Public Library of America and the New York Public Library.

The national initiative gives illustrators and designers a chance to showcase their work by creating new covers for some of the greatest works in the public domain. Twenty local artists, including WU students and faculty, were included in the exhibit. The other 30 covers were selected from the national database of “Recovering the Classics.”

Bill Feng, an economics and strategy major at the Olin Business School, organized the local exhibit with WU Libraries’ Cheryl Holland, curator of exhibitions. Feng contacted different campus organizations and fellow students to garner interest in the project.

“The aim of ‘Recovering the Classics’ is to get a pop-up exhibit to appear in every state in the country,” Feng said. “I thought it would be great for Missouri to be one of the earlier states to have a pop-up exhibit.”

With the pop-ups, each state can customize their own exhibit. Holland said. Two WU artists created covers for The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Missourian Mark Twain. After the exhibit at Olin Library, Holland and Feng made the artwork available to other local organizations and institutions, particularly schools. “We want these covers to excite students, especially young readers, about classics in literature,” Holland said.

Acclaimed Book Artists Visit Olin Library

On February 14, WU Libraries and the Kranzberg Book Studio welcomed Ines von Ketelhodt and Peter Malutzi, two of the most celebrated book artists working today. Von Ketelhodt and Malutzi presented their work in Room 142 of Olin Library, drawing a large crowd of WU faculty, students, and community members.

Von Ketelhodt and Malutzi work independently and as a team to create artist books that are conceptually complex and meticulously designed. During the February 14 event, Von Ketelhodt gave an overview of her recent project, “Farbwechsel/Color Change: One Project, Six Books, Six Colors.” Von Ketelhodt treats the subject of color in different ways in the work, matching concepts, texts, and images to individual colors—yellow, green, blue, red, white, and black—with photography, ink, and paper contributing to the end result.

In a talk entitled “Three Decades of Making Artists Books,” Malutzi provided a retrospective of his career. He has shared a collaborative workshop in Flörsheim, Germany, with Von Ketelhodt since 2002. His collaboration with Von Ketelhodt, the 50-volume edition, Zweite Enzyklopädie von Tlön, a response to the story by Jorge Luis Borges, is found in collections worldwide.

Both artists have been at the vanguard of book art in Europe since the 1980s. Their presentations were followed by a reception and an exhibit in the Special Collections classroom in Olin Library.

Library Faculty Book Talk Series Spotlights WU Scholarship

In November 2016, WU Libraries hosted two inspired discussions by WU authors as part of its Library Faculty Book Talk Series. The events were held in Room 142 of Olin Library. On November 21, Andrea Nichols, a lecturer in WU’s Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, discussed her new book, Sex Trafficking in the United States: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice. In her talk, Nichols defined different types of trafficking and explored the misconceptions and legalities surrounding the commercial sex industry.

On November 29, Kimberly Jade Norwood, WU’s professor of law and editor of Ferguson’s Fault Lines: The Rise Quake That Rocked a Nation, led a panel of the book’s contributors. Participants included Brenda Roederer of the Saint Louis University School of Law and Vetta L. Sanders Thompson from WU’s Brown School of Social Work. The panel discussed topics such as for-profit policing in St. Louis County, housing and education inequalities in greater St. Louis, and the role of the media in shaping narratives about race.

The series continued in 2017 with a February 2 talk by Shanti Parikh, associate professor of Anthropology and African & African American Studies at WU. Parikh discussed her book Regulating Romance: Youth Love Letters, Moral Anxiety, and Intervention in Uganda’s Time of AIDS, which draws on ethnographic research and more than 300 letters to reveal how young people’s concepts of romance have been shaped by the moral panic surrounding HIV and youth sexuality. Parikh shared stories from her field research in Uganda and read some of the letters she collected for the book.

Each Library Faculty Book Talk includes a brief Q&A session with the author and a post-discussion reception. The talks are free and open to the public.

SHANTI PARIKH
WU professor of anthropology and African & African American Studies

Kimberly Jade Norwood, WU professor of law

Andrea Nichols, WU lecturer in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Bill Feng, economics and strategy major at Olin Business School

Cheryl Holland, curator of WU Libraries' exhibitions

Ines von Ketelhodt and Peter Malutzi, artists

Anna Kong, WU student

Kimberly Jade Norwood, WU professor of law

Andrea Nichols, WU lecturer in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Shanti Parikh, WU assistant professor of anthropology and African & African American Studies
Robert Coover Reads Classic Short Story at WU Libraries

AS PART OF WU LIBRARIES’ NEUREUTHER LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES, esteemed fiction writer Robert Coover gave a reading in the Special Collections classroom of Olin Library on November 1, 2016. About 50 people attended the reading, which was sponsored by WU Libraries and the WU Department of English.

Because of the event’s proximity to the November 8 election, Coover read his classic 1968 short story, “The Cat in the Hat for President.” a clever send-up of national politics in which Dr. Seuss’s Cat in the Hat appears as a prime presidential candidate, his main strengths being charisma and a singular ability to adapt to any situation. A masterful piece of dark humor, the narrative was first published in the journal New American Review.

“Robert Coover is one of the living legends of the fiction world, so it was a great pleasure to host his reading,” said Joel Minor, curator of WU Libraries’ Modern Literature Collection. “‘The Cat in the Hat for President’ remains as timely as it was in 1968.” Coover, who is 85, is the author of 11 novels, including The Universal Baseball Association, The Public Burning, and Spunking the Mind. His newest novel, Huck Out West—a continuation of the adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer—was published by Norton in January 2017. Set around the time of the Civil War, the book was described by The Washington Post as a “magical act of literary ventriloquism.”

A pioneer in the field of electronic writing, Coover is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the recipient of many awards, including Rockefeller and Guggenheim fellowships. At Brown University, where he is the T.B. Stowell Professor Emeritus in Literary Arts, he teaches experimental narrative and literary hypertext courses. His “Cave Writing” course is a spatial hypertext writing workshop in immersive virtual reality.

The November 1 event featured a reception and an exhibit of Coover-related materials drawn from WU Libraries’ Modern Literature Collection. A video of the reading is available on the Modern Literature Collection’s YouTube channel: youtube.com/ModernLitCollection.

New Leadership for WU Libraries:

When Denise Stephens, university librarian at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), visited WU in 2016, she was encouraged to see how essential John M. Olin Library is to the university.

“I was very impressed with the scope and the depth of the academic and research programs at Washington University,” Stephens said. “And the library is at the intersection of cultural, historical, and intellectual activity on campus.”

Stephens soon will be part of the hub of activity when she begins her position as vice provost and university librarian at WU on July 1, 2017.

“Our libraries play a central role in Washington University’s mission by providing book and electronic resources to researchers and creating space for contemplation and study,” Provost Holden Thorp said in the announcement of Stephens’ appointment. “Denise Stephens will advance that mission through her vast experience developing programs, shepherding capital projects, acquiring scholarly materials, and engaging in campus life.

Stephens will manage WU Libraries’ nine locations, the system’s vast archives and special collections, and more than 150 professional and support staff. She will also lead the Olin Library Transformation Project, which is scheduled to debut in spring 2018. The renovated Olin Library will provide new spaces for study and exploration, more accessibility to specialized research services, a new north entrance, new exhibition spaces, and a vault to house the university’s growing special collections.

Stephens has experience with major renovation projects. During her five years at UCSB, she planned and executed the $80 million expansion and update of the university’s library.

“One of the important lessons I learned is that the project itself needs to be owned by—and it’s something that generates a great deal of excitement for—everybody, for the entire campus,” she said about the UCSB renovation. “It’s really not just a library project, it’s about the university.”

At UCSB Stephens managed a collection of nearly 10 million books, e-books, electronic journals and digital objects. She also developed a scholarly communications program and launched the Interdisciplinary Research Collaboratory, which supports data-centric study and research projects.

During her tenure as university librarian, Stephens served two years as interim chief information officer. In that role, she implemented a central information technology services division responsible for the campus network, IT security, telecommunications, and other functions. She has had leadership roles at several other academic libraries in the U.S. Stephens worked at the University of Kansas, where she held positions as strategic and organizational research librarian, information management coordinator, and vice provost for information services. She also served as a librarian at Syracuse University and the University of Virginia and as a senior library technician at the University of Oklahoma.

Stephens earned her undergraduate degree and master of library and information science degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Stephens is eager to begin work at WU and to help act as a bridge between the Libraries and the rest of the university. “How we communicate the responsibilities of libraries with our constituents and how we gain useful information from them about how to do that work is going to drive what the outcomes are,” she said. “It’s about the relationships we have with campus, and particularly the relationship with faculty. Like any library, it’s their teaching that most dramatically influences what we collect, in what format we collect it, and what we do with it. It’s setting up an entire foundation of engagement and planning and acting accordingly.”

Stephens was selected by a 13-member search committee led by Carmen Colangelo, the Ralph J. Nagel Dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Stephens succeeds Jeffrey G. Trzeciak, who left the university in July 2016.

Marion Crain, vice provost and the Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law, has served as the leader of University Libraries since August 2016.
never-before-seen outtakes totaling 375,000 feet of film, was the first step in ensuring that the interviews were not lost due to the deterioration of the original acetate film.

Associate University Librarian Nadia Ghasedi, Cataloging and Metadata Archivist Irene Taylor, Digital Archivist Jim Hone, and other staff from Special Collections and Scholarly Publishing contributed to the project.

“Since coming to the Libraries 10 years ago, I have dreamt of the day when we would make these historically and culturally significant interviews available in their entirety,” says Ghasedi. “I’m thankful to the Mellon Foundation and the NHPRC for their support. I’m honored to have had the opportunity to lead these projects and grateful for the expert staff members who have seen them through to successful completion.”

Taylor participated in both grants, ensuring that the film and audio elements were cataloged prior to being shipped to Colorlab, the preservation lab that conducted film-to-film preservation.

Taylor received inspection reports from Colorlab with information regarding the condition of the film, which she added to the Libraries’ catalog record. Most of the film elements were in very good condition.

The interviews, along with accompanying transcripts, can be accessed via WU Libraries’ Digital Gateway (digital.wustl.edu/eyesontheprize).

In late 2016, WU Libraries’ Film & Media Archive completed the “Eyes on the Prize Digitization and Reassembly Project,” making the complete interviews from the groundbreaking television series Eyes on the Prize available to scholars, researchers, and the general public for the first time.

The interviews, along with accompanying transcripts, can be accessed via WU Libraries’ Digital Gateway (digital.wustl.edu/eyesontheprize).

The completion of the project was made possible by a 2016 grant of $130,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Produced by filmmaker and WU alumnus Henry Hampton and his company Blackside, Inc., Eyes on the Prize attracted more than 20 million viewers when it aired in the 1980s and 1990s. It was praised by the Boston Globe as “one of the most distinguished documentary series in the history of broadcasting.” Today Eyes on the Prize is considered the definitive work on the Civil Rights Movement.

The Eyes on the Prize interviews are part of WU Libraries’ Henry Hampton Collection, which is housed at the Film & Media Archive. WU Libraries staff began preserving the interviews in 2011 with funding from a four-year, $550,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The preservation of over 75 hours of complete interviews, including

“SINCE COMING TO THE LIBRARIES 10 YEARS AGO, I HAVE DREAMT OF THE DAY WHEN WE WOULD MAKE THESE HISTORICALLY AND CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE IN THEIR ENTIRETY. I’M THANKFUL TO THE MELLON FOUNDATION AND THE NHPRC FOR THEIR SUPPORT. AS A RESULT OF THE LIBRARIES’ EFFORTS, THESE STORIES OF STRUGGLE AND PERSEVERANCE WILL LIVE ON FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.” —Nadia Ghasedi, associate university librarian

In reassembling these interviews, some of which had no identifying information, the grant team had to do detective work to piece back together material from multiple reels, both sound and audio.

“Hampton and his crew of fledgling filmmakers were trying to develop a project original in both subject matter and approach for Capital Cities/ABC. The Blackside team shot over 30 interviews during this first phase of production before creative differences brought a temporary halt to the work.

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In reassembling these interviews, some of which had no identifying information, the grant team had to do detective work to piece back together material from multiple reels, both sound and audio.
The preservation of over 75 hours of complete interviews, including never-before-seen outtakes totaling 295,000 feet of film, was the first step in ensuring that the interviews were not lost due to the deterioration of the original acetate film.

A good example of the challenge posed by this process involved Hone’s reassembly of a 1979 interview with John Lewis. Hone was dismayed to discover that more than five minutes of sound for the first camera roll of the interview were missing.

This led to more detective work involving a short reel of audio tape that Judy Richardson, one of Blackadie’s longest-serving producers, sent to the archive several years ago. Richardson mentioned that the tape featured Lewis talking about his childhood on a chicken farm.

“I wasn’t familiar with this tape or the story of its provenance,” Hone says. “But Irene Taylor thought it was the missing audio segment from Lewis’s 1979 interview. It turns out that John Lewis wanted to be a pastor from his early childhood and in his zeal would preach to the chickens!”

Mislabeled and misidentified reels were another problem the grant team encountered. Such discrepancies were often discovered during the digitization process. Team members corrected spelling and name errors and also added time code to the transcript files, so that the video and transcripts would synchronize at two-minute intervals.

This synchronization of video and text allows viewers to identify exact quotes and view sections of the interview side-by-side. This work was done by Film & Media Archive Processing Assistant Barry Kelley, Film Preservationist Tyler Bequette, Taylor, and Alison Carrick.

“Adding time code so that the video and the transcripts would synchronize meant that watching the interviews was necessary,” says Taylor. “This was perhaps my favorite part of working on the project. I’m honored to have been a part of it.”

During the final stages of the process, Kelley and Film & Media Archive Curator Brian Woodman revised and edited the biographies of the interviewees. Woodman solicited feedback about the project and the functionality of the web interface from a diverse group of stakeholders, including filmmakers, archivists, and faculty and students at WU and other universities.

The Film & Media Archive is proud to have been able to preserve and digitize the historic never-before-seen outtakes from a diverse group of stakeholders, including filmmakers, archivists, and faculty and students at WU and other universities.

The Film & Media Archive and community members attended the talk. About 300 WU students, faculty, and community members attended the talk.

On October 24, 2016, WU Libraries and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts hosted legendary designer Seymour Chwast. Chwast delivered a lecture about his work entitled “God/War/Sex” in a jam-packed Steinberg Auditorium. About 300 WU students, faculty, and community members attended the talk.

Chwast presented a retrospective slideshow of his career, which spans six decades. During the talk, he offered an inside look at his creative process and artistic influences. After the lecture, he took questions from the audience.

Chwast was born in 1931 in New York City and is a graduate of The Cooper Union, where he studied illustration and graphic design. In 1954, with Cooper Union colleagues Milton Glaser, and Edward Sorel, he established Push Pin Studios. The firm’s unique style has influenced contemporary visual communications around the world. In 1981 the studio’s name was changed to The Pushpin Group. Chwast now serves as its director.

A frequent contributor to The New Yorker and The New York Times, Chwast often combines social issues with humor in his illustrations. His work has been featured in advertisements, animated films, and on record covers. He has designed and illustrated more than 30 children’s books and has developed several typefaces. He also published Push Pin Graphic, a magazine with subscribers across the globe.

“It was a pleasure to spend time with Mr. Chwast during his visit to Washington University, and an even greater honor to have the opportunity to hear his lecture,” said Skye Lacerte, curator of the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library.

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—Irene Taylor, cataloging and metadata archivist
ON FEBRUARY 2, 2017, AN EXHIBIT CALLED "Thirteen Washington University Students and Their Deep Dive into the Study of the Holocaust" opened at the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. The exhibit was based on the travels of WU students, faculty, and staff, who visited Holocaust sites in Europe in May 2016 as part of the College of Arts & Sciences' FOCUS program "The History, Memory, and Representation of the Holocaust."

The exhibit, which ran through April, was curated by FOCUS students Cecily Hibbs, Talia Wazana, and Abigail Wippel, with assistance from Germanic Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, and European Studies Librarian Brian Vetruba.

Geared toward first-year WU students, the FOCUS program on the Holocaust spanned the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters and concluded with the trip overseas. Erin McGlothlin, associate professor of German and Jewish studies, and Anika Walke, assistant professor of history, designed and co-taught the seminar, offering courses that addressed the scope of the Nazi genocide and depictions of the Holocaust in literature and film. Along with Vetruba and Michael Getty, an assistant dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, they accompanied the students on the trip. The exhibit featured 18 posters with photographs from their travels and a video of student interviews.

"Getting to know the students was a great experience," says Vetruba. "This project provided a perfect opportunity for some of them to get involved with the Libraries, and they really took the initiative and made the exhibit happen. I was excited to have the chance to show our faculty that we can support the curriculum in a way that we don’t normally demonstrate."

Wippel, an anthropology major from Hernando, Mississippi, found it interesting to work in the professional setting of the Libraries. "We had meetings to discuss content and things like deciding what color and size the panels should be," she says. "I have newfound respect for the people who curate exhibits professionally, because a lot of thought and planning goes into it."
memorial site near Veliuc. They were the first visitors there for the year.

The contrast between that lonely location and Auschwitz, which receives 2 million visitors annually, stood out to Vetruba.

“What spoke to me were all the different depictions and memorials of the experience,” he says. “There is such a variety. And yet there is so much work to be done, still.”

McGlothlin, who has been teaching about the Holocaust for nearly 20 years, has noticed an increase in student interest in the period—an upsurge she feels has been caused by recent developments in American politics. It’s an interest that Vetruba wants to build upon. He hopes to plan another Holocaust-related trip through the FOCUS program for 2018.

“The fact that a new generation is interested and invested in this is very important,” he says. “There is such a variety. And yet there is so much work to be done, still.”

Vetruba assisted them with the layout and the design. He also interviewed the students featured in the video, which was edited by Sean Garcia, digital media editor in Arts & Sciences.

“We were all really invested in it,” Vetruba says. “We put everything we had into the project,” she says. “We were all invested in it.”

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The complexity was brought home to Vetruba during the course of the trip. In Lithuania, the group journeyed to a remote site in some woods near Veliuc—a hard-to-access spot where Jews had been taken and shot. Their guide said they were the first visitors there for the year.

As they approached the site, Vetruba and her group were left with the stark reality of the event.

“The South back in those days was centered around the needs of white farm owners, so black schools were in split sessions,” she said. “So we’d go to school in summer because we had to be out in time to pick the cotton. And then you’d go another few months, and you had to be out in the spring to chop the cotton for the next crops, so we didn’t have the regular school rear. That schedule was only in the rural black schools.”

EARLY BEGINNINGS

Toliver grew up in the segregated South, in rural Mississippi. From the time she was 5 years old until she went to college, she worked in the cotton fields.

“The South back in those days was centered around the needs of white farm owners, so black schools were in split sessions,” she said. “So we’d go to school in summer because we had to be out in time to pick the cotton. And then you’d go another few months, and you had to be out in the spring to chop the cotton for the next crops, so we didn’t have the regular school rear. That schedule was only in the rural black schools.”

Toliver’s connection with others, her candor, and her sense of humor are well known in the Libraries. “She has helped the staff by making them feel valued,” said Associate University Librarian Jackie Lorrainne. “When she talks to you, she’s concerned about what’s going on in your life, not just your professional career. She’s there for you.”

Marion Crain, vice provost and leader of Washington University Libraries, summed up Toliver’s contributions: “She is, to put it in a word, indispensable.”

Virginia Dowsing Toliver worked in every area of administration for the University Libraries, including building, facilities, human resources, technology, and two multi-year renovations of John M. Olin Library.

McGlothlin feels the project rounded out the students’ coursework and travels by giving them a chance to reflect on the FOCUS experience and consider the disparate ways that people in specific places at specific times experienced those events based on their class, gender, national origin, degree of religious practice, sexual identity, and political affiliation. The exhibit shows how the FOCUS group tried to come to terms with this extreme complexity and diversity.

The FOCUS trip was made possible by funding from the Bahan and Gloria Feldman Family Education Institute, the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, the Holocaust Educational Foundation, the College of Arts & Sciences, and WU Libraries. To view the students’ exhibit, visit openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present/25/.

DURING HER TIME AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY,
Virginia Dowsing Toliver worked in every area of administration for the University Libraries, including building, facilities, human resources, technology, and two multi-year renovations of John M. Olin Library. But after more than 35 years, the associate university librarian was ready to retire. Hundreds of friends, family members, and WU staff and faculty celebrated with Toliver at her retirement party on December 21, 2016, at Anheuser-Busch Hall.

“In the four years I’ve been here, there are a few people that I’ve always felt were the go-to people, the people that always knew what was going on,” said Provost Holden Thorp in his remarks at the celebration. “At the top of that list has always been Virginia Toliver. She is somebody who knows all the people you need to know to do what you want to do. She is somebody who has the intellect and experience to advise people on how to get things done. And she is the heart and soul of the University Libraries.”

Toliver has dedicated her time to countless committees and groups on campus, among them the Danforth University Management Council, the James E. McLeod Honors and Awards Program Planning Committee, the Chancellor’s Roundtable on African American Student Recruitment, and the Human Resources Advisory Committee. She also has been a progress counselor for the College of Arts & Sciences to help students on academic probation.

For Toliver, working with colleagues has been the highlight of her career: “I love being around people,” she said. “This is my family.”

Toliver, known as ‘Heart and Soul’ of the Libraries
She ranks her ability to bring “chaos into control” as her greatest achievement at WU. “Establishing business operations that are functional and compliant and getting a handle on the budget has been good,” she said. “Now that’s second nature to everybody, but it wasn’t at first when we didn’t have it. It’s a quiet achievement, but I like that behind-the-scenes planning and implementation.”

Rudolph Clay, head of library diversity initiatives and outreach, has worked with Toliver since she started her internship at the Libraries in 1981 and says her willingness to share information has been a great benefit. “Human resources is so rule heavy that it was nice to have someone in the library who could make it more humane,” Clay said. “She could always explain a policy to you, so that you would at least understand—even if you didn’t agree with it—why that particular policy was in place.”

At Toliver’s retirement party, Churchwell recounted how the two of them discovered that several members of the Libraries’ staff did not take advantage of the university’s retirement program. “We had a discussion, Virginia and I, and I said, ‘You have to let them know that they’re making a big mistake,’” Churchwell said. “She sat down with staff members and told them about the matching program. Those (staff members) that Virginia convinced have all retired and are enjoying their retirement. It’s a quiet achievement, but I like that.”

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“Human resources is so rule heavy that it was nice to have someone in the library who could make it more humane,” Clay said. “She could always explain a policy to you, so that you would at least understand—even if you didn’t agree with it—why that particular policy was in place.”

Renovating Olin Library

Toliver put her organizational and communication skills to good use when she tackled one her biggest projects. Shirley Baker, former dean of the University Libraries and vice chancellor for scholarly resources, asked her to oversee the first renovation of Olin Library. “It was a gut rehab that took three years, from 2001 through 2004, and we kept the library open all the time,” Baker said. “One of the things that made it work very well was that Virginia had excellent relations with the workers all up and down the line, from the architects at the top and the designers who worked with us to the building and grounds crew who were absolutely critical to it.”

The renovation increased user space, opened up the building with windows to bring in more light, and made the Whispers department. Because every level of the library was affected, every member of the staff had to move at least once; the Shelving Unit moved seven times.

“We never had gone through a renovation before, and we never closed, so we just ran into unexpected things,” Clay said. “One morning we came in and all of the sudden there was a dust cloud by the reference desk, and you couldn’t see your hand in front of you. Virginia was helpful to the staff, and she was there telling us what happened and what we were going to do.”

Despite the disruptions and the long duration of the project, Toliver found the experience, especially working with the various team members, rewarding. “It was different, and I think that’s why I enjoyed it,” she said. “So much of what I do is routine; the budget’s going to be pretty stable, statistics, facilities, even HR is pretty straightforward. It was a challenge as someone who knew nothing about the construction industry.

When the first phase of the Olin Transformation Project started in May 2016, Toliver had only one bit of advice for her colleagues: “Just get some earplugs.”

Serving the Community

In addition to her work at Washington University, Toliver has been involved in professional organizations, the community, her church, and her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She served as vice chair of the Literary Awards Committee at WU Libraries, was a member of the Association of Research Libraries, an opportunity to serve on the Council on Library Resources, and was on the Planning and Finance Committee of the Association of Academic Libraries of Mississippi. Toliver was selected to serve on the board of directors of the Women’s Cancer Care of St. Louis.

Toliver was also a member of the board of trustees of Eden Theological Seminary. In 2006, she was selected as chair of the board, the first African American and the first woman to hold that title in the seminary’s 160-year history.

In 2012, she was the recipient of the Gerry & Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award. Presented by the Community Service Office of the Gephardt Institute for Public Service, the award recognizes WU community members who exemplify a character of service and giving to the St. Louis region.

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Toliver has seen major changes in the Libraries over the past three decades, with the introduction of computers and the phasing out of card catalogs. The composition of the staff has also changed. A larger number of support staff was needed in the 1980s because so much of the work was manual in circulation and in technical service areas like acquisitions and cataloging. Now the Libraries have a higher proportion of professional staff in specialty areas that didn’t exist earlier.

The students have evolved, too. They are more independent and more connected, she said. “No one had a cellphone or a computer or any electronic device when I started. When I say telephone, I mean the telephone that the librarian. You knew the students, and you knew what they were working on because there was such direct involvement with them.”

Toliver knows the shifts in technology will continue to change libraries. “Electronics will continue to be sweeping, and budgets will have to increase significantly to keep up with the industry,” she said. “That also means an increase in consortium arrangements because no library will have the budget to do everything. There has to be a change in the perception of library users so they agree to this library sharing.”

But future changes at the Libraries will have to happen without Toliver. She plans to move back to rural Mississippi and continue to be involved in community activities. “It’s been a wonderful 35 years,” she said. “I’m going to miss it, but I’m excited about turning off the alarm clock and sitting in my WU rocking chair. As for the cotton fields—my house now sits on one of them!”

Mary Butkus
THE RENOVATION OF WU’S JOHN M. OLIN LIBRARY, which kicked off in May 2016, is moving forward as planned. During winter break 2016–2017, excavation of Levels A and B was completed. In February, work began on the new north entrance of the library and on the areas of Level A that will connect the future Newman Exploration Center with the existing Arc, the library’s teaching, learning, and computing hub. The installation of steel beams within the excavation site also started in February. Thanks to this progress, the new footprints of Level A and Level B are beginning to take shape. Preparations for building the Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, which spans Levels A, 1, 2, and 3, are also well underway.

IMPORTANT TARGETS ON THE TRANSFORMATION TIMELINE:

– After final exams in May, renovation of the Arc on Level A is expected to begin.
– After Commencement in May, construction of the Thomas Gallery, an exhibition space on Level 1, will begin.
– By mid-summer 2017, the new north entrance to Olin is expected to be open and operational.
– Soon after the north entrance opens, the existing south entrance will close for renovation. The south entrance is scheduled to reopen in the middle of the fall 2017 semester.
– The Transformation will be substantially complete by mid-December 2017, with new spaces available to library users for the spring 2018 semester.

NEW STUDY SPACES COMING WITH THE OLIN TRANSFORMATION

With more than 1,800 seats and a variety of spaces for quiet study and group work, Olin Library is already a well-used and appreciated place among students and the campus community. When the Olin Transformation is complete, the library will boast even more seats and an even greater variety of welcoming study spaces. Below is a guide to help you begin planning your exploration of the new Olin Library.

Whispers Café, Level B: Since it opened in May 2004, Whispers has given students a relaxed, study experience in a café setting. The Olin Transformation will bring a rebuilt, expanded Whispers with more than 135 seats. Visitors will also find new furniture, including tables and chairs, lounge and bar-height seating, with plenty of access to power outlets, coffee, and snacks.

Newman Exploration Center, Level A: Located right below Whispers, the Newman Exploration Center will be a special study space with a capacity for about 40 visitors. The area will offer lounge and table seating and thematic elements that evoke the mind-expanding process of exploration.

Risa’s Landing, Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, Level A: A round study space located in the Newman Tower, Risa’s Landing will feature an open balcony with views of the surrounding study spaces on Level 2 and of Whispers below. More than 35 seats at tables will support collaborative study and give visitors a visual taste of the treasures to be found in the library’s collections.

Sky Room, Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, Level g: The Sky Room will delight those seeking higher heights and a quieter environment. Featuring tables and lounge seating for about 20, it will offer views of the sky both day and night through Olin’s lantern windows. The round, airy space is sure to become a favorite place for many Olin users and visitors.

The Olin Transformation Project is made possible thanks to the generous support of philanthropists Eric and Linda Newmann, University Trustee Andy Newmann and his wife, Peggy, and University Trustee Jack Thomas and his wife, Debbie.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a grant of $34,133 to WU Libraries to fund the project “Liberating the Spoken Word: Poetry Readings and Literary Performances in St. Louis, 1969-2005.” The grant will allow the Libraries to digitize and create metadata for 947 audio recordings from three archival collections: the River Styx Archive, the Jan Garden Castro Papers, and the Michael Castro Papers. Selected recordings will be made available online.

During the late 1960s and early ’70s, WU alum Michael Castro, St. Louis’s first poet laureate (see interview on page 19), and Jan Garden Castro, a noted author and arts activist, were instrumental in starting the River Styx Poets radio show and the literary journal River Styx. They also helped establish St. Louis’s renowned River Styx poetry series, a program of regular public readings by prominent regional, national, and international writers, with an emphasis on diversity.

Held at Buff’s Restaurant, the monthly readings featured guests such as South African poet Dennis Brutus and Native American writer Joy Harjo, as well as a host of local poets. A second program, the River Styx PM reading series, which started in 1981, featured the likes of James Baldwin, Adrienne Rich, Robert Bly, and Margaret Atwood. More than 700 poets were recorded through the radio show and reading series.

A wealth of archival material connected to the literary organization can be found in the River Styx Archive, the Jan Garden Castro Papers, and the Michael Castro Papers, which are housed in the Manuscripts unit of Special Collections at WU Libraries. The collections contain small-press publications, correspondence, and ephemera, as well as audio recordings, and provide an intriguing overview of St. Louis literary history.

PRESERVING POETRY: WU LIBRARIES’ “LIBERATING THE SPoken word PROJECT” GIVES NEW LIFE TO RARE RECORDINGS

A CLASSIC COLLECTION ENTERS THE DIGITAL AGE

The NHPRC awards funding each year to select archival projects. WU Libraries’ was one of seven institutions selected for a grant from a pool of 48 applicants. The two-year grant started on March 1.

“The funding from the grant will allow us to provide complete public access for the first time to the recorded River Styx performances,” says Joel Minor, curator of the Modern Literature Collection and Manuscripts at WU Libraries.
Michael Castro lives by this rule: Never read your poetry unasked. If asked, never refuse. He can’t recall where he came upon these words of wisdom—in a fortune cookie, maybe, or the Analects of Confucius—but the concept made a lasting impression.

For Castro, the invitations to read have been on the upswing since 2014, when he made St. Louis history by being selected to serve as the city’s first poet laureate. A beloved figure in local literary circles, he was chosen from a pool of 64 candidates in a unanimous vote by the City of St. Louis Poet Laureate Taskforce. He was officially inaugurated to the two-year post on January 31, 2015, in a ceremony at the Regional Arts Commission.

From the early immersion in Native American cultures that led to his groundbreaking book Interpreting the Indian: Twentieth-Century Poets and the Native American (1985) to more than four decades of teaching, translating, and composing poetry (not to mention a brief stint in the ’70s as secretary to Allen Ginsberg, with whom he collaborated on a poem), Castro’s past primed him for the position of poet laureate. He came to St. Louis from his native New York in 1967 to attend Washington University, earning a doctorate in American literature. He went on to teach at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Lindwood University.

He was an early advocate for diversity. In the 1970s, Castro helped shape the arts scene as a co-founder of River Styx, a St. Louis-based literary organization that promoted multiculturalism before the term was in use and advocated for an inclusive approach to poetry. The group put out the first issue of its award-winning journal, River Styx, in 1975 and is still publishing today.

During his 32-year tenure at Lindwood, Castro established the MFA program in creative writing. Now 71, he has published 10 verse collections. His term as poet laureate ended in January, but he continues to act as a sort of literary prime minister for the city of St. Louis, speaking at civic events and mentoring aspiring writers.

Acclaimed poet and St. Louis native Eugene Redmond, who has known Castro for 36 years, spoke at his inauguration in 2015. “Michael Castro has no equal in this country for his service to poetry and poets,” Redmond said. “Wherever poetry can grow, you’ll find Michael Castro.”
On the Job: REFLECTIONS FROM A SOCIAL SCIENCES AND USER EXPERIENCE LIBRARIAN

BORN A CRIME

By Trevor Noah (Spiegel & Grau, 2016)

Born a Crime is a memoir by Trevor Noah, the South African comedian who shouldered the unenviable task of succeeding Jon Stewart as the host of The Daily Show in late 2015. Subtitled “Stories from a South African Childhood,” the book provides a window into two extraordinary personalities—those of Noah and his Xhosa mother Patricia Nominiyisele Noah, who dared to fall in love and bear a child with a white man under apartheid. Patricia Noah is a force of nature, and the author’s relationship with her is the axis around which the book revolves.

Trevor spars tales of childhood adventure, teen heartbreak, and occasional hair-raising violence (if you’re a cat lover, you may wish to skip the first couple of pages of Chapter 7). He reveals himself to be relentlessly curious and curious, forever exploring the possibilities available to him despite the oppression of apartheid, the weight of which is felt throughout. I lost count of how many languages Noah speaks but am fairly sure he would require the fingers of more than one hand. Indeed, Noah is a walking advertisement for diversity, for the fact that his life spans so many borders—between languages, races, countries, and eras of South African history—and what it has made him what he is, one of the most cognitively perceptive commentators currently on the air.

Reviewed by Paul Hahn
Library assistant, Caygill Music Library

A GOLDEN AGE

By Tahmima Anam (Spiegel & Grau, 2008)

Lately, I have enriched my commute with audiobooks from Olin Library’s Neureuther Popular Literature collection. One of my favorites is Tahmima Anam’s A Golden Age, a novel of family and belonging set during the Bangladesh War of Independence of 1971.

The protagonist, Rehana Haque, is a widow whose first loyalty is to her family, and who has little investment in nationalist politics. Her narrative centers around the daily rituals of homemaking, monitoring her children’s health, and especially food. Despite Rehana’s efforts to maintain normalcy and quiet amidst the violence of war, she finds herself drawn into the thick of the revolutionary movement.

A Golden Age is also the story of a mother whose children are coming of age and asserting their independence. By interlacing personal and political drama, Anam gently prepares the reader for the difficult decisions that the characters must make and the pain of sacrifice. Madhur Jaffrey, the audiobook narrator of A Golden Age, conveys the emotion of both dialogue and narrative with her voice, making for an enjoyable listening experience. A Golden Age is the first volume in a trilogy by Anam. I look forward to reading the other books in the series, The Good Muslim and The Bones of Grace.

Reviewed by Al Robinson
Islamic, Near Eastern, and South Asian Studies Librarian

THE MEMOIRS OF LADY HYEGYO ´NG: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITINGS OF A CROWN PRINCESS OF EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY KOREA

Translated by JaHyun Kim Haboush
(University of California Press, 2013)

In 1744, at only 9 years old, Lady HyeKyong was chosen to be the wife of Prince Sado, the future king of Korea, and taken to live in the royal palace. Eighteen years later, Prince Sado was executed at the command of his father, King Yongjo, who ordered him to climb into a rice chest, where he died of starvation.

Korean historians are still divided over what led up to that dramatic moment. Was Sado the innocent victim of political enemies, or a mentally ill killer who was unable to control himself and unfit to rule? Lady HyeKyong’s Memoirs, which paint her husband as a sensitive, unstable young man desperate to please his father and prone to obsessive thoughts and delusions—and to cutting off people’s heads—are the chief evidence for the latter opinion.

The book covers Lady HyeKyong’s childhood and life as a princess and offers a fascinating look at the political intrigue and culture of the royal palace, as well as a firsthand account of her husband’s terrifying mental illness and tragic death. Haboush’s translation is excellent, and her extensive notes give the necessary historical and cultural context, so no special knowledge of Korean history is needed to understand Lady HyeKyong’s story. This is an excellent book for anyone interested in Korean history or women’s narratives.

Reviewed by Ryan Wallace
Library assistant, Ronald Bunter Earth & Planetary Sciences Library
WU Libraries welcomed AMANDA ALBERT as information literacy coordinator in February. Albert’s responsibilities include coordinating the Libraries’ activities with the College Writing 1 program and providing support for library employees who serve as instructors. Prior to joining WU Libraries, Albert worked as a services coordinator for the Medical Center Library at Saint Louis University, as an information associate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and as a distance learning librarian and librarian assistant professor at Kennesaw State University. Most recently, she served as instructional services librarian and assistant professor at Saint Louis University Libraries. Albert holds a bachelor’s degree in religious studies from Webster University and a master’s degree in library and information science from Syracuse University.

STEPHANIE BEMBERG joined WU Libraries in January as grants and accounts specialist. Her responsibilities include overseeing grant operations, working with principal investigators on pre- and post-award grant processes, and maintaining an online database of grants. Bemberg also works to identify grant opportunities and match them to WU Libraries programs, generating new funding opportunities that fit the Libraries’ organizational priorities. Bemberg comes to the WU Libraries with more than 19 years of experience, including work as a research grant analyst in WU’s Office of Sponsored Research Services. She holds a bachelor of music degree from Missouri State University and a master of music from the University of Arkansas. She completed post-graduate studies in piano at Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris in Paris, France.

WU Libraries welcomed NICOLE FRY as library technical assistant for the Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP) project in January. In this two-year, grant-funded position, Fry oversees digitization work for the Newman portal, supervises a team of student workers, and manages NNP collections in the Internet Archive. Fry worked as a student on the NNP project in 2016. With her previous experience, she brings knowledge of the project’s goals, workflows, and staff. Fry holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in studio art from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a master of fine arts degree in studio art from Washington University.

BRYAN HENDERSON joined the staff of the WU Libraries in October 2016. As a library technical assistant, he is part of the Support Services unit. Henderson handles ordering, shipping, receiving, mail delivery, and assembly at WU Libraries’ Danforth Campus and West Campus locations. He has more than six years of work experience, including time spent as a customer service associate with AT&T. Henderson holds a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in drawing from Webster University.

DERRICK NICKSON began work at WU Libraries in November 2016 as a library technical assistant. Nickson is part of the Support Services team. His responsibilities include ordering, shipping, receiving, mail delivery, and assembly at WU Libraries’ Danforth Campus and West Campus locations. Nickson brings more than two years of experience to the WU Libraries, having worked as a customer service associate with Executive Management.

ELLEN RINEY came to the WU Libraries in December 2016. As a library assistant in the Koplow Business Library, she is responsible for all circulation services, including reserve material. She also handles citation analysis and prepares print journals for binding. Additionally, she hires, trains, manages, and performs budgeting for student assistants in the Koplow Business Library. Before joining WU Libraries, Riney spent seven years at Barnes and Noble, where she trained new employees, managed inventory, and organized in-store events such as book fairs and author signings. Riney holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Maryville University.

In February, SARAH WEEKS joined the Keenzberg Art & Architecture Library team as library assistant. She manages the library’s service desk, hires, trains, and supervises student assistants, and provides circulation, research, and technology support to users. Weeks’ background includes work as an evening and weekend librarian at Landerwood University and as corporate librarian at Anheuser-Busch InBev. Weeks has experience in historic preservation and recently developed a WordPress website and implemented ILS and CollectiveAccess archival database software and metadata schema for the National Building Arts Center library collection. She holds a bachelor’s degree in rhetoric from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Washington.

Special Collections Outreach Program Introduced at WU Libraries

WU Libraries’ Special Collections unit introduced a new outreach program in 2016. The goal of the program is to strengthen connections between Special Collections and other areas of WU Libraries, to raise awareness of Special Collections’ holdings and services among staff, and to spread knowledge of archival practices. The program will offer a variety of lectures, workshops, and tours for staff, with fellowship opportunities in the department planned for the summer of 2017.

In August, Joav Novak, head of collection management and outreach for Special Collections, kicked the program off with a talk called “Archives 101.” Novak discussed the key concepts of archival theory in the Arc Lab in Olin Library. A September “Behind the Scenes” tour of the West Campus Special Collections vault and processing areas was led by Jim Hone, Andrea Beneguer, Sarah Schnuriger, Irene Taylor, Tyler Bequette, Barry Kelley, Tony De Marinis, Mary Whiteley, and Rose Haynes.

The program’s “Curator Conversations” workshops offer overviews of exhibit materials, collections, and the work that goes into managing them. University Archivist Sonya Rooney led a session in September that focused on how University Archives supports teaching and learning in the campus community. In March, Silv Lacerte, curator of the D.R. Dods Modern Graphic History Library, gave a talk about digitizing tear sheets from the Walt Reed Illustration Archive, a project funded by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Nowak is excited about the program and happy with the response from her colleagues. “Special Collections has so much to offer that the staff will find interesting,” she says. “We plan to provide a variety of workshops and to keep the topics diverse. Some of the sessions come from an academic, theoretical perspective, while others are focused on collections and materials.”

The department will present workshops throughout the year, with new topics and possible repeat sessions held for new staff.

Three GIS Staffers Contribute to Publications


Data Specialist CINDY TRAUB co-authored an article that appeared in March in the international weekly science journal Nature. Traub worked with Michael Frachetti and C. Evan Smith of WU’s anthropology department and Tim Williams of University College London on an exploration of the patterns and predictability of Silk Road sites in Asia. Their research resulted in an article called “Nomadic ecology shaped the highland geography of Asia’s Silk Roads.” GIS Programmer MOLLIE WEBB also contributed to the project.

Holland Chosen for PLAN Program

CHERYL HOLLAND has been chosen to join the 2017 cohort of WU’s Professional Leadership Academy & Network (PLAN). PLAN is a yearlong professional development program stewarded by the Office of the Provost that cultivates future leaders at WU. PLAN offers a curriculum that enhances staff growth and productivity in order to provide the university with leaders who will contribute to initiatives and projects. The program includes a project retreat and monthly Lunch and Learns.

Zeller and Stenberg Publish Book Chapter

Copyright Services Analyst MICAH ZELLER and Digital Publishing and Digital Preservation Librarian EMILY STENBERG co-authored a chapter called “Faculty Require Online Distribution of Student Work: Enter the Librarian” that was included in the December 2016 book Open Access and the Future of Scholarly Communication (Roseman & Littrell). The chapter addresses legal mechanisms, privacy rights, online identity, platform choice, and ethical questions related to maintaining a digital presence.

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Survey Results:

WHAT STUDENTS TOLD US

MORR THAN 800 STUDENTS RESPONDED TO WU LIBRARIES’ STUDENT LIBRARY SURVEY IN OCTOBER 2016. The purpose of the survey was to provide a clear snapshot of user needs, highlighting areas for deeper investigation. While we continue to analyze the data, there are already some preliminary findings to share.

Overall, student satisfaction with WU Libraries is strong, although the early stages of the Olin Library renovation have caused some disruptions. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very satisfied, the overall scores landed at 3.9.

Olin Library hosts Major/Minor Open House

IN SUPPORT OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES’ ARTSCI MAJOR-MINOR WELCOME WEEK, Washington University Libraries held an open house for students February 9-10. Geared toward freshmen and sophomores, the open house gave students an opportunity to meet with librarians from Research Services and learn about resources connected to their potential areas of study. About 180 students stopped by tables set up in the lobby of Olin to pick up information on library services and grab a snack. Students also had the opportunity to make original button artwork related to their desired majors. Along with Research Services, other library units, including Special Collections and Scholarly Communications, set up tables at the event with takeaway material for students. A joint Access Services/Instructional Support Services table had examples of the technology items (digital cameras, video projectors, and more) available for checkout at WU Libraries. Tours of Olin were also offered.

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WHAT STUDENTS TOLD US

THE 2016 SURVEY INCLUDED A NEW SECTION OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EMERGING SERVICES in the WU Libraries. Graduate students rated research data support as their highest priority, while undergraduates rated the ability to plug their computers in to multiple or larger screens as most appealing (see chart at left).

THE 2016 SURVEY YIELDED OVER 1100 COMMENTS ABOUT COLLECTIONS, SERVICES, AND SPACES. A few of the factors we’re now tackling include:

- The volume of printing in Olin Library, which has resulted in systems issues
- Better access/navigation to online resources, particularly e-journals

The Library teams are working with students to understand and respond to these and other issues. As progress is made, we will post the information on the WU Libraries website. For more information about the survey, contact Assessment Coordinator Carol Mollman at mollmena@wustl.edu or 314.935.6415.

THE 2016 Survey Results:

WHAT STUDENTS TOLD US

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING EMERGING SERVICES?

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| Ability to plug in your computer to multiple screens or a larger screen |
| An intellectual “maker” space, where you can explore new ideas with innovative software tools |

| Undergraduate student |
| Graduate student-Masters program |
| Graduate student-Doctoral program |

WILLIAM J. MOLL AND MELISSA R. VETERAN OF THE MAJOR/MINOR OPEN HOUSE
A single image provides many perspectives for visitors to WU Libraries’ Department of Special Collections. This 1964 aerial shot shows St. Louis’ Chinatown (highlighted in blue), a frequent topic of research for American Culture Studies students at WU. Established in the mid-1800s in the block between Market, Walnut, and 7th and 8th streets, by 1966 the neighborhood—also known as Hop Alley—was removed to make way for the construction of Busch Stadium.

The Entre Nous (designated by the blue marker), one of the city’s earliest gay bars, which operated at 617 Pine Street from the 1930s through the 1950s, was also in the area. WU Libraries is working with the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies on the project “Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis” to create GIS-encoded maps that highlight the region’s under-documented queer history. Finally, the photo shows the Mississippi riverfront under construction.

The development of the riverfront is a subject that landscape architecture students are researching in order to learn how the planning and construction of the Gateway Arch altered the city’s greenspace (shown here about half-way complete). To learn more about Local History collections available in Special Collections, see libguides.wustl.edu/stl-urban-history.