The Olin Transformation Project Wraps Up
Meet the Librarian Who Helped Guide the Renovation of Olin
University Libraries Collaborate on Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis
IT’S A TIME OF EXCITEMENT HERE at University Libraries, as we wrap up the Olin Transformation Project, the reimagining of John M. Olin Library that began in 2016. With the completion of the project, over the past weeks, we’ve unveiled new and updated spaces throughout the building that provide fresh opportunities for study, research, and partnership between librarians, students, faculty, and staff.

You can read about the Transformation on page 8. We’re thrilled that the project has increased our seating capacity and added more space for learning and instruction to Olin Library. Additionally, materials from our many remarkable collections are now showcased in the new Jack E. and Debbie T. Thomas Gallery, located along Olin’s main thoroughfare. If you’re in the St. Louis area, I invite you to visit and experience the new spaces for yourself.

As you’ll see from this issue, our staff members have innovative projects in the works. Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis is a cross-disciplinary endeavor involving University Libraries, campus faculty, the Missouri History Museum, the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the St. Louis LGBT History Project. Funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of the Center for the Humanities’ Divided City initiative, the project is bringing attention to an important facet of the city’s history. You can learn more about it on page 22.

Grants and acquisitions activities continue to keep staff members busy (see page 4). The acquisition of the papers of acclaimed author Joy Williams represents a significant addition to our Modern Literature Collection. A recent grant from the Newman’s Own Foundation will make it possible for us to digitize important archival materials and to process the papers of beloved writer A. E. Hotchner. I’m proud of the efforts made by library staff to add to our resources and expand our expertise.

Spring is a period of renewal, and that’s been especially true this year at University Libraries. As we continue to introduce spaces and services through the Olin Transformation, we look forward to the new opportunities for collaboration and outreach that await us. Research, learning, and instruction lie at the heart of the Libraries and serve as the foundation of the work that takes place here.

Happy reading!

DENISE STEPHENS
Vice Provost and University Librarian
Kranzberg Art & Architecture Library Holds Closing Reception

On January 19, a closing reception for the exhibit “The Open Collection — TOC02: Serially Unboxed” took place in the Kranzberg Art and Architecture Library. Part of the ongoing exhibit series “The Open Collection,” the exhibit highlighted the Magellanic Clouds (S.M.S. no. 5) were played on a turntable during the reception. The first five volumes of portfolios of S.M.S. were on display in the library’s reading room.

The inaugural exhibit in the series—“The Open Collection—TDC01: Some Books”—took place in January 2017 and featured the artist books of Ed Ruscha. Plans for future exhibits in the series are now in the works.

The second event, “Gun Violence and Libraries: Supporting Communities through Library Collections and Resources,” took place on February 1, 2018. The screening included a Q&A with the film’s director, Tracy Heather Strain, and producer Randall MacLowry, who used archival materials from the Libraries’ Henry Hampton Collection during their research. Before the screening, Strain and MacLowry visited the Film and Media Archive at the university’s West Campus to talk to students, faculty, and staff about the importance of research, telling a story, and how archives can be a key source of information.

The Henry-Hampton Film Series is co-presented by Cinema St. Louis.

University Libraries Spring 2018 Faculty Book Talk Series

January 31: Marie Griffith, John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities: Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics (Basic Books)

February 1: Brandon Wilson, Chancellor’s Fellow and doctoral student in Arts & Sciences: The Half Beneath (Touchpoint Press)

March 5: Monique Bedasse, assistant professor of history and African American studies: Jah Kingdom: Rastafarians, Tanzania, and Pan-Africanism in the Age of Decolonization (University of North Carolina Press)

April 24: Tim Bono, assistant dean and lecturer in Psychological & Brain Sciences: When Kids Aren’t Enough (Grand Central Publishing)
A significant collection of works and documents from the animation studio The Ink Tank, owned and operated by cartoonist and animator R.O. Blechman, is finding a permanent home in the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library (DMGHL). The Library specializes in the collection, preservation, and study of popular illustration and cartooning, and houses the papers, works, and archives of many graphics-industry luminaries of illustration and cartooning. Over 100 materials for some 384 commercials and design studio alumni Seymour Chwast and James McMullan. His diverse client list, which includes IBM, General Motors, Burger King, Hallmark, the Smithsonian, and MTV, demonstrates just how widespread his impact on American visual culture and commerce has been.

Blechman, who has been publishing cartoons and illustrations for the thinking man or woman since 1949, has always imbued his seemingly gentle cartoons with poignant social commentary, from race relations in 1958 and the Vietnam War in 1969 to intolerance and disenfranchisement today. These have appeared in The New Yorker, Esquire, and the Paris Review, and during the late-70s, George Plimpton said that Williams "towers over the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library (DMGHL). The Library specializes in the collection, preservation, and study of popular illustration and cartooning, and houses the papers, works, and archives of many graphics-industry leaders. Among Blechman’s best known works—sparsely drawn with his trademark wiggly line—are the talking pink stomach from a 1967 TV commercial for Alka-Seltzer, numerous illustrations for The New York Times Book Review, composer Igor Stravinsky’s L’Histoire du soldat, and the six-minute animated film visualizing composer Igor Stravinsky’s L’Histoire du soldat (The Soldier’s Tale). The latter three-year production won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animated Programming in 1984. The DMGHL is honored to receive the archives of The Ink Tank, which include the production materials for some 384 commercials and the films Simple Gifts and The Soldier’s Tale, as well as short animations for NBC, CBS, and others; and unfinished works such as the film Candoile (screened at the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art Festival in 2016). There are also drawings, watercolors, animation cells, storyboards, DVDs, and related studio and business materials and documents, all in fine condition.

Professor D.B. Dowd, director of the DMGHL, says, “What I most admire about R.O. Blechman’s animation work is how subtle, lovely, and specific it is. The tempo of the movement (and the editing) is the tempo of lived experience, not the hype’d-up, super-fast cutting we have grown so accustomed to. We are devoted to telling a story of modern American life through popular sources like magazines, posters, and films, and we could not be more thrilled to have R.O. Blechman’s Ink Tank archive at Washington University and the Dowd MGHL.”

Drawings, designs and paintings are by Seymour Chwast, Jack Davis, Al Hirschfeld, Jean-Jacques Sempé, Maurice Sendak, Edward Sorel, and other luminaries of illustration and cartooning. Over 100 other drawings and watercolors are by Blechman himself. The culturally rich collection will directly benefit students in Washington University’s Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, who work with the special collections in the DMGHL in assorted studio and history classes. The Library may also loan objects for exhibition to the University’s own Kemper Art Museum and elsewhere.

Born Oscar Robert Blechman in Brooklyn, New York, in 1950, Blechman attained early success shortly after attending Oberlin College, when his illustrated Christmas story The Juggler of Our Lady became a hit in 1955. Blechman opened a design studio in 1960, followed by The Ink Tank animation studio in 1977. Projects he directed spawned creative collaborations with eminent peers, such as Maurice Sendak and Push Pin design studio alumni Seymour Chwast and James McNeill. His diverse client list, which includes IBM, General Motors, Burger King, Hallmark, the Smithsonian, and MTV, demonstrates just how widespread his impact on American visual culture and commerce has been.

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The Joy Williams Papers

WITH SUPPORT FROM the Washington University Department of English, University Libraries recently acquired the Joy Williams Papers, a collection of drafts, journals, correspondence, and other materials related to the life and work of celebrated author Joy Williams.

An acclaimed fiction writer and essayist, Williams is the author of four novels, five short-story collections, and one essay collection. Her short stories are widely anthologized. Her first novel, State of Grace (1973), was nominated for the National Book Award. Her 2001 novel, The Quick and the Dead, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and her 2001 essay collection, Ill Nature: Remains and Reflections on Humanity and Other Animals, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

From the beginning, Williams was recognized by literary giants including Harold Brodkey, James Salter, William Gass, and Raymond Carver as a major writer. In 1973, Truman Capote called State of Grace “the best novel of the year.” Williams’ first stories were published in The New Yorker, Esquire, and the Paris Review, and during the late-70s, George Plimpton said that Williams “towers over
Newman’s Own Foundation Grant

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES HAVE BEEN AWARDED
a $50,000 grant from Newman’s Own Foundation, the independent foundation created by the late actor and philanthropist Paul Newman. The award to the Libraries was made by Newman’s Own Foundation as part of its commitment to helping nonprofit groups.

The grant to the Libraries will be used to support teaching and learning at Washington University and beyond by enabling the further development and accessibility of collections related to literature, the performing arts, and university history. Funds from the grant will be used to process the papers of memoirist, novelist, playwright, and biographer A.E. Hotchner, a Washington University alumnus and co-founder of Newman’s Own Inc., and the papers of poet, novelist, and playwright David Wagoner.

The grant also will be used to support recent and upcoming acquisitions for the Modern Literature Collection and to digitize student publications, including the student yearbook, The Hatchet (1903-2011); the student newspaper, Student Life (1878-present); The Eliot Literary Magazine (1915-1947), and the Digs magazine (1919-1934), which focused on humor, satire, and cartoons.

“This generous grant will allow us to make numerous collections more accessible to researchers faster; whether it’s history students and genealogists getting digital access to Washington University student publications, or literary scholars and writing students exploring the papers of important American writers,” said Joel Minor, University Libraries’ curator of the Modern Literature Collection/Manuscripts.

most contemporary fiction.” In 2000, Plimpton declared that she was “without question one of the masters of the contemporary short story.”

In 2015, Knopf published The Visiting Privilege: New and Collected Stories, and it served as the occasion for Williams’ contemporaries to express their admiration. Don DeLillo wrote, “Joy Williams is an essential American voice, giving us a new way to hear the living language of our time, the off-notes, the devous humor—as the strange, fierce, vigorous undercurrent we sometimes mistake for ordinary.”

The book also drew comparably enthusiastic praise from a younger generation of writers raised on her work. Ben Marcus, reviewing for The New York Times, wrote that Williams inspires “the sort of helpless laughter that erupts when a profound mistake for ordinary.”

Karen Russell said of Williams, “She’s a visionary, and she resizes people against a cosmic backdrop.”

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Williams is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts prize for literature, and the Academy of Arts and Letters. Funds were awarded for Williams’ work.

Williams has taught creative writing at institutions across the country, including the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Iowa, where she is Visiting Eminent Writer in Residence. She has a long history as a visiting Hurst Professor at Washington University.

The materials in the Joy Williams Papers span her entire life, and the purchase includes future papers. The acquisition of the papers represents a significant addition to the University Libraries’ Modern Literature Collection, which is recognized as one of the world’s leading resources for the study of modern fiction and poetry. The collection is home to the papers of William Gaddis, Mary Jo Bang, and James Merrill, among many other Anglo-American poets and fiction writers.

“I am so proud to be part of the library’s stellar collection,” Williams said. “It’s Parnassus in there!”

The Joy Williams Papers are currently being processed and will be available for research in the fall of 2018.

IN MAY, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AWARDED THE inaugural Newman Exploration Travel Fund (NEXT) scholarships and grants. The NEXT awards are made possible through a generous donation from the Eric P. and Evelyn E. Newman Foundation and are open to undergraduate and graduate students as well as to faculty and staff. The awards support travel for the purposes of intellectual, cultural, and scholarly development; research toward academic goals; and service or contribution to the greater good.

The 2018 NEXT awardees were announced during the May 1 dedication ceremony in Graham Chapel of the recently transformed John M. Olin Library. More than 100 applications were received from faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students.

Recipients will complete their travel within the next nine months and will share their experiences upon their return. Through presentations, reports, and peer-to-peer talks, the NEXT travelers will reveal how their journey impacted them and the difference it made in their lives and their research.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Undergraduate students

Savannah Bustillo, who is studying studio art at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, will travel to Scotland to study the history of witchcraft trials. Gabriele Hall, a systems engineering student at the School of Engineering & Applied Science, will conduct robotics research in Germany and gain an understanding of the public’s relationship with the German scientific and academic community.

Graduate student

James Lucas, a PhD candidate in ecology in Arts & Sciences, will document papermaking traditions in Nepal, Vietnam, and Japan and introduce the global origami community to these traditions.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Faculty

Laurie Maffly-Kipp, the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, will travel to Ghana and Portugal to study the history of the African slave trade.

Staff

Thomas Malkowic, video producer at Public Affairs, will go to Vietnam to explore the country, learn from faculty research and develop relationships with the Vietnamese students at Washington University.

Janary Stanton, administrative assistant for African and African American Studies in Arts & Sciences, will go to Kenya to work on the African Oral History project.
The renovation that kicked off in May 2016 has added about 20,000 square feet to the library building, increased the number of collaboration and instruction rooms and study spaces, and quintupled the amount of the library’s exhibition space. As the project progressed, more than 8,000 tons of dirt were excavated from beneath Olin to make room for new spaces.

As part of the project, two additional entrances to the library were created—one on the north side of building, and one on the east side through the library’s cafe, Whispers—providing the Washington University community with greater accessibility to Olin.

Speaking at the John M. Olin Library Transformation Dedication on May 1 in Washington University’s Graham Chapel, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said, “This transformation is going to benefit students, faculty, and staff for generations to come. This is a time of great excitement and transition.”

During spring break 2018, when many faculty, staff, and students were away from campus, members of the University Libraries’ Julian Edison Department of Special Collections installed the exhibits now on display in the new jack e. and debbie t. thomas gallery. A state-of-the-art exhibit space located along the Level 1 pathway that spans the distance between the north and south entrances of Olin, the Thomas Gallery will be used to showcase the Libraries’ unique special collections, as well as loaned and traveling exhibits. The gallery’s current exhibit, “Lasting Legacies,” pays tribute to seven influential Washington University alumni, including Tennessee Williams, Mary Wickes, and Henry Hampton, and will be on display until fall 2018.

“the thomas gallery assures that all visitors have the immediate opportunity to explore and engage with distinctive and often one-of-a-kind materials from university libraries’ extensive special collections.”

—vice provost and university librarian denise stephens
The BLAEU ATLAS DISPLAY is one of the highlights of the Newman Exploration Center. Containing around 600 maps, the Blaeu Atlas was the largest and most expensive book published in the 17th century.

The NEWMAN TOWER OF COLLECTIONS AND EXPLORATION spans four stories of the library, from the Newman Exploration Center on Level A to the Sky Room on Level 3. The tower is home to new exhibit and study spaces.

The NEWMAN EXPLORATION CENTER is a special study space filled with vivid, exploration-themed displays that tell the stories of explorers past and present—including Washington University alumni. The dynamic space showcases the university’s international activities and provides information related to international and national study, research, and travel. The center’s new Expedition Office offers travel resources for Washington University students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

“EACH TIME THAT I’VE BEEN TO THE LIBRARY TO SEE THE NEWMAN TOWER, I’VE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE CREATORS, EXPLORERS, AND INNOVATORS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US.”
—Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton

A quiet study space with tables and lounge seating on Level 3, the SKY ROOM offers views of the sky both day and night through Olin’s lantern windows. It also features a color mosaic “selfie” of the Curiosity Mars rover taken in 2015 while the vehicle was perched on a hill. Raymond Arvidson, James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor at Washington University and the deputy principal investigator for the Mars Exploration Rovers, selected the image.


“NO MATTER WHAT MAJOR OR BACKGROUND A STUDENT HAS HERE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, THE LIBRARY CONNECTS US ALL.”
—Le’Aysha Pearson (2019), elementary education and African and African-American studies major and a Gephardt Institute Civic Scholar
LEVEL A now houses a variety of new flexible, technology-rich spaces for consultation, collaboration, library instruction, data visualization, and audio and video creation. University Libraries’ Data Services has been centralized on Level A. The unit oversees the new Research Studio, a hub for collaborative learning equipped with computing stations that have specialized software for group and individual work involving large data sets and mapping data. In the Data and Visual Exploration (DaVE) room, located in the Data Services suite, users can experience data visualization and exploration in virtual reality and augmented reality environments. The A/V Studio, an innovative, technology-enhanced space on Level A, will provide tools such as lightboard technology, video cameras, microphones, a green screen, lighting kits, and a podcasting kit.

Three new and improved instructional rooms on Level A offer enhanced opportunities for partnership and consultation among librarians, faculty, students, and staff. The rooms support a variety of teaching and learning styles, from active to lecture. Created for library instruction, each room contains collaborative technology, allowing users to share their screens with the entire class.

Located on Level 2 of the Newman Tower, RISA’S LANDING is a collaborative study area with an open balcony that offers views of surrounding study spaces and Whispers Café on Level 1. The ceiling of this unique space features a NASA image of the Milky Way. The tables in Risa’s Landing display images of recreated desktops of prominent individuals with ties to Washington University, including Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and his wife, Risa Zwerling, for whom the space is named.

INSPIRING SPACES

Around the perimeter of Risa’s Landing on Level 2 of Olin Library, seven tables are available to visitors, each a source of inspiration and creativity. The table surfaces were modeled on the desktops of seven remarkable people connected to Washington University, including artist Al Parker.

Parker studied at Washington University’s School of Fine Arts from 1923 to 1928. An illustrator for magazines such as House Beautiful, Collier’s, and Ladies’ Home Journal, Parker was elected to the Society of Illustrators’ Hall of Fame in 1969. On the table, visitors can see images of his May 1953 cover illustration for Good Housekeeping and fan mail he received from Norman Rockwell in 1948. The Al Parker Collection—an archive of the artist’s original works and other materials—can be viewed at the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library.

The other tables in Risa’s Landing pay tribute to activist Edna Gellhorn, filmmaker Henry Hampton, Jr., architect Eugene Mackey III, student Lois Meier, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, and his wife, Risa Zwerling.
As part of the Olin Transformation, University’s Olin Library Department of Special Collections was renamed in honor of the late Julian Edison, a longtime library supporter.

Unveiled during the ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Olin Library on May 1, the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE exhibit is located next to the Thomas Gallery. The exhibit features a rare broadside copy of the Declaration printed by Solomon Southwick in Newport, Rhode Island, and dated July 12, 1776. Only seven copies of the Southwick broadside exist. The Newman Family acquired it and displayed it in their family home for more than 60 years before generously donating it to University Libraries in 2015. The Declaration will be on permanent display in the Thomas Gallery.

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“LASTING LEGACIES,” the current exhibition in the new Jack E. and Debbie T. Thomas Gallery, pays tribute to seven influential Washington University alumni, including actress Mary Wickes (1910–1995), who had a successful career on stage and screen. Wickes wore the boots shown here in a theater production.

The St. Louis Browns, a former Major League Baseball team of the American League, is spotlighted in an exhibit in the Newman Tower. The team made one World Series appearance in 1944, losing to rivals the St. Louis Cardinals. Nine years later, the Browns were sold and moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to become the Baltimore Orioles. The exhibit features a jersey worn by pitcher Al Gerhauser in 1948.

Materials in the Life of Money exhibit in the Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration are part of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society collection. Newman was an expert on the history of currency. Shown above: an illustration of a screw press used to press designs and text onto coins, along with a selection of coinage dies.

“FOR SO MANY OF US ON THE FACULTY, THE LIBRARY IS THE LOCATION OF DISCOVERY. IT’S A PRIVILEGE TO PURSUE MY RESEARCH IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AND WELCOMING FACILITY.”

—Peter Kastor, professor and chair, Department of History, professor, American Culture Studies Program

The Olin Transformation project was made possible by the support of Adele Dilschneider; Hope and the late Julian Edison; Ken and Nancy Kronberg; the late Eric and the late Evelyn Newman; University Trustee Andy Newman and his wife, Peggy; University Trustee Jack Thomas and his wife, Debbie; and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNS).

When the freshly remodeled WHISPERS CAFE opened at 7:30 a.m. on the first morning of spring semester 2018, four students were already occupying a new booth, sharing breakfast and snapping photos. One of the most popular spots on the Washington University campus, Whispers offers ample seating and robust Wi-Fi connectivity.
Meet the Librarian

WHO HELPED LEAD THE OLIN TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

BY JULIE HALE

Starting in 2014, Laaker and members of University Libraries’ administration visited institutions around the country to gather ideas for the renovation. Their tour included the Berry-Baker Library at Dartmouth College; the Cambridge Public Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and the Boston Public Library, where the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, with its gallery of rotating exhibitions, provided a model for library exhibit space.

In 2013, Laaker headed to North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh for a conference called Designing Libraries for Users. During the conference, she toured the James B. Hunt Jr. Library, a cutting-edge facility that was entirely new when it opened in January 2013. The Hunt Library has been featured in Time, Scientific American, and The Boston Globe and earned many honors for innovation and design. (The library uses bookbot, a robotic system that pulls, sorts, and barcodes books. Patrons can watch the system in action via a glass wall on the first floors of the library.) Laaker also toured NCSU’s D.H. Hill Library, another award-winning building that underwent a two-year renovation beginning in 2010. As part of the upgrade, the west wing of the library, which once held periodicals, was converted into a study area, with a silent reading room and new technology spaces. The renovation made it possible for library administration to experiment with new furniture and technology options that they planned to implement later in the Hunt Library.

The decision made by NSCU to renovate an existing area of Hill Library instead of constructing another entirely new facility made an impression on Laaker. She finds the upgrade approach appealing, as it can result in a mix of traditional and modern elements, with different types of seating, contemporary study spaces that coexist with classic reading rooms, and places for both quiet study and interactive work. It’s the approach that was taken by the Olin Transformation team. With the Olin renovation in its final stages, Off the Shelf asked Laaker to answer a few questions about the project.

I’ve been thinking about how, at NSCU, the Hill Library was used as a sort of test bed for the Hunt Library. I think it’d be great to do something similar here, to put together a plan for a footprint of space based on what we learn or observe from users and watch that space, gather information about it, and look at how it can be improved or applied elsewhere. I like the idea of engaging in smaller-scale projects that can teach us things to inform further changes. I think it’s going to be rare that we build entirely new libraries. We’ll be focusing instead on balancing different needs and being flexible.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE REIMAGINED OLIN, AND WHY? I’m excited about the new north entrance to Olin Library—not just as an entrance/exit point, but because it has opened up an area of the building that was once closed off. It’s a much brighter, more welcoming area now. I’m also very happy with the new counter seating in Whispers Café, which is getting a lot of use. It has WiFi and plenty of power outlets, so that students can set up their laptops and plug in their phones. This is a new type of seating for us, and I think it could easily be implemented in other parts of the library. Students seem to gravitate toward it, and I’m happy to see that.

OLIN TRANSFORMATION PROJECT PLANNING TEAM

Washington University Libraries Project Manager
Sarah Laaker
WURFLI Facilities Project Managers: Brian Newman and Neal Schaffner
Exhibits designer: C&G Partners

The new north entrance to Olin Library is one of Laaker’s favorite features. (WU Libraries)

Since the Olin Transformation kicked off in 2016, Sarah Laaker has spent many of her working hours giving presentations about the project to the Washington University community, leading hard-hat tours of the construction site, and hopping from meeting to meeting on campus. As University Libraries’ project manager for the renovation, she checks in regularly with Vice Provost and University Librarian Denise Stephens and confers frequently with architects, general contractors, and representatives from Washington University Facilities assigned to the project. From making sure the right door fixtures get ordered to keeping abreast of the construction schedule, Laaker juggles a broad range of responsibilities.

Laaker joined University Libraries in 2010 as circulation librarian. In 2012, she began taking on space planning and space management responsibilities in Olin Library—a shift that led to her current staff role, head of Operational Planning and Assessment, and a step that made it possible for her to act as University Libraries’ lead in the Olin Transformation. Laaker came to Washington University from John Wood Community College in Quincy, Illinois, where she served as assistant director of Library Services and the Academic Support Center. She earned a master’s degree in library and information science at Dominican University.

On the job, she radiates calm. Over the past two years, Laaker has brought a sense of order to a complex period in the life of Olin Library, making sure staff understand what’s coming down the pike, whether it’s an increase in construction noise or the arrival of a new electrical crew, and keeping project stakeholders apprised of new developments. Papers and blueprints cover almost every available space in her office.

“I’m a piles person, so I’ve always got stacks of things,” Laaker says. “There’s a lot of material here, but I know where things are. If I can’t find something, then I know I’m in trouble.”
Washington University Honors William H. Gass

On April 6, 2018, members of the Washington University community came together to celebrate the legacy of William H. Gass, who died on December 6, 2017, at the age of 93. The university flag over Brookings Hall was flown at half-staff in remembrance of Gass and his contributions as a teacher and author.

Gass taught at Washington University for 30 years and in 1990 became the co-founder and first director of the university’s International Writers Center (IWC) in Arts & Sciences—now known as the Center for the Humanities. He led the IWC for a decade with the assistance of associate director Lorin Cuoco. During that time, the IWC presented numerous visiting writers, hosted conferences, and published six books.

In 1999, Gass retired from the university as the David May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities. His many books include In the Heart of the Heart of the Country and Other Stories (1968), The World Within the Word (1978), The Tunnel (1995), Reading Rilke (1999), A Temple of Texts (2006), Middle C (2013), and Eyes (2015). The recipient of many prizes over the course of his career, Gass won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism three times. In 2000, he received the PEN/Nabokov Award and the PEN/Nabokov Lifetime Achievement Award.

On April 6, University Libraries held an open house in Gass’ honor in the Julian Edison Department of Special Collections at John M. Olin Library. The event included a viewing of materials from the William H. Gass Papers and the Libraries’ rare book collections, organized by Joel Minor, curator of the Modern Literature Collection. Handwritten and typed manuscripts, drafts, correspondence, photos, and a range of materials from the IWC were on display for visitors to examine.

After the viewing, brief remarks were delivered by Gass’ friends and colleagues, including Kathryn Davis, Hurst Writer in Residence at Washington University; Catherine Keane, chair of the Department of Classics; Martin Riker, lecturer in the Department of English, and Mark Rollins, professor of philosophy, chair of the Performing Arts Department, and dean of University College. The open house event was followed by an evening program and reception at Holmes Lounge.

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On the Job

By Stephanie Bemberg

In January 2017, I joined University Libraries in the newly created position of Grants and Accounts Specialist. In this position, I serve as the point person in all pre-award grant proposals as well as post-award grant management. Because this is a new position, I’ve been working with University Libraries’ Chief of Staff, Jessica Cassell, to create new processes pertaining to pre- and post-award work and to refine the processes already in place.

My first approximately 16 months here at University Libraries have been really busy! We’ve received federal grants from such agencies as the National Film Preservation Foundation, the International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Daily funding searches have been set up to receive notices of potential grant opportunities. A new in-house proposal approval process has also been established. Grants workshops and various presentations have been given on subjects ranging from data management to finding foundation funding. I also had the opportunity to meet last year with various library staff members to learn about their interests and needs relative to grant funding.

Fourteen proposals were submitted in 2017, and several more have been submitted this year. Depending upon the agency, each proposal may have different guidelines governing such areas as budget, the mandatory documents that are to be attached to the proposer package, and the steps involved in the actual submission process. Staring the conversation early with the principal investigator (PI) and all necessary stakeholders is an important step in the proposal process. Establishing an in-house proposal approval checklist has helped us standardize this part of the procedure.

An additional component of the proposal process involves Research Administration Services, Washington University’s central grants office, through which all grant proposals are submitted. When the grant arrives, I make sure it’s set up properly in the accounting system. If applicable, I also make sure that the terms and conditions of the grant are reviewed and approved by the Research Administrative Services contracts team.

Because the field of grants administration involves dealing with complicated agency regulations, detailed guidelines, and exacting proposal submission processes, continued education is necessary, not only for me but also for PIs. Research administrators are constantly dealing with the details and the “what-ifs” of various grant-related activities. To that end, I look for training opportunities in order to improve or increase my skills and to keep up with changes in agency and federal guidelines. Last year, I attended several Washington University training sessions on pre- and post-award management and on the new research management system, which went into effect in April. I also am a member of groups here on campus, including the Arts & Sciences Research Administrators Group and the Danforth Research Administrators Council (DRAC), and I attend the Research Administrators Forums, which are campus-wide meetings involving all research administrative support personnel on the Danforth Campus. Involvement with these organizations helps me to build the valuable connections that are necessary in the world of research administra-
tion. In April, I also attended the Society of Research Administrators International conference here in St. Louis.

To inform the Danforth and Medical School campuses of University Libraries’ grants-related services, I arranged for library staff members Jennifer Moore, Data Services coordinator and anthropology librarian, and Cynthia Hudson-Vitalé, Data Services coordinator and research transparency librarian, to give presentations to the Arts & Sciences Research Administrators Group, the Research Administrators Forums, and DRAC. These kinds of presentations help to raise the visibility of services here at the Libraries that are helpful to PIs across campus.

As for PI training, I gave two workshops last year: one was an introduction to grants, and the other was an overview of my role in that world. This year, the Grants Program has several presentations planned that will delve into details about the proposal side of the grant process, starting with the PI perspective on matching funding with projects and federal funding searches.

If you have questions about University Libraries’ Grants Program or our upcoming workshops, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at sbemberg@wustl.edu or 314-935-7277.
Points of Reference: NEW PROJECT MAPS ST. LOUIS’ LGBTQ PAST

BY JULIE HALE

Friedman, who teaches courses on queer and sexuality studies, signed on for the project, which developed into Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis. In spring 2016, with the Missouri History Museum and the St. Louis LGBT History Project on board as collaborators, the project received funding from the Center for the Humanities’ Divided Cities initiative (see sidebar on page 24 for full list of team members). Funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the initiative supports research that explores the nature of segregation through the filters of architecture, economics, urban design, social work, and public health. Friedman and Foster felt that a map would work well for conceptualizing a city divided by sexuality.

Foster was co-directing the project with Friedman in the summer of 2016 when she left Washington University. After her departure, Miranda Rectenwald, University Libraries’ curator of local history, stepped into the role of co-director. Rectenwald views the map as a historical repository and as a practical tool that allows users to look at both chronology and geography in relation to St. Louis’ LGBTQ history.

“From a local history standpoint, we’ve been working to strengthen efforts in the community to preserve this history,” Rectenwald says. “Being able to connect the public with sites and stories central to the city’s LGBTQ past has been very gratifying.”

CREATING A USER-FRIENDLY TOOL

When research for the map started, the team had a list of roughly 200 sites provided by Steven Brawley, founder of the St. Louis LGBT History Project. To expand the list, student workers conducted research at the State Historical Society of Missouri, located on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. A partnering institution on the project, the State Historical Society of Missouri has gay and lesbian archives that were compiled by community groups in the 1980s and ’90s.

The students spent about seven months on research, visiting local libraries and archives. They looked through telephone books, old city directories, newspapers, and other publications in an effort to pinpoint sites related to the LGBTQ community. For the purposes of mapping, they needed to find verifiable addresses and specific locations (a computer can’t assign a location for a street that no longer exists, or a P.O. box), but that information wasn’t always available.

The researchers also obtained information by searching University Libraries’ subscription databases containing digital content from ONE Inc. in California, the largest archive of LGBTQ materials in the world, and other archives across the nation. With time and research, the team increased the initial list of 200 to approximately 800 sites, including parks, bars, coffeehouses, community centers, beauty salons, churches, and many other kinds of locations. In compiling background histories for the sites, the team drew upon archival sources.

Jennifer Moore, Data Services coordinator at University Libraries, played a central role in creating the tool. Along with a student researcher who worked on geocoding—changing street addresses found in archival sources into geographic coordinates that can be plotted—Moore prepared data and formatted the actual maps that users see when they visit the project site.

Some of the primary sources used by researchers to locate points on the map.

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis, a cross-disciplinary project involving University Libraries and campus and community partners, is bringing attention to an important facet of the city’s history. Through the creation of a digital map plotted with locations related to LGBTQ culture, the initiative aims to increase awareness of the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities in the region.

An interactive tool that spans nearly five decades—1945-1992—the map, which is available for public use online, is helping to tell a story that has been only partially documented. Archival collections connected to LGBTQ culture in St. Louis are patchy, and the topic had generated one scholarly article, one published book, and two websites when the mapping project started two years ago.

“We’re trying to put together the pieces of what’s already known and bring to light new information,” says Andrea Friedman, project co-director and professor of history and women, gender, and sexuality studies at Washington University. “Telling the stories of people whose histories aren’t often heard is important from a social justice perspective. We’ve had a great response from people who’ve lived here for a long time, some of whom have been involved in trying to bring this history to the forefront, and who feel like the map is an important next step in that process.”

The roots of the project can be traced back to 2016 and the efforts of Makha Foster, former subject librarian for women, gender, and sexuality studies at University Libraries. Foster reached out to Washington University’s Department of Women Gender and Sexuality Studies to find out if faculty would be interested in participating in a project related to University Libraries’ new LGBT Collecting Initiative. The initiative was the result of a partnership between the Libraries and the St. Louis LGBT History Project, a community archive working in collaboration with the Missouri History Museum and the State Historical Society of Missouri to preserve materials related to the region’s LGBTQ past.

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"Visualizing data is very powerful," Moore says. "Being able to connect a place or a location to an event really impacts how we understand that event and how it relates to other points in history. That's part of what makes this mapping project so important."

To build the map, Moore used ArcGIS Online, a web-based mapping platform, and ERI Story Maps, an application that’s part of ArcGIS. A story map provides more than a standard digital map by incorporating interactive elements such as text, images, and video. ERI offers different story-map templates for map builders. The team chose Story Map Cascade, which features a scrollable, full-screen display that can include segments of text and different media. They were careful to include start and end dates for every location, so that users can navigate different time periods and observe how the data changes.

The map begins in 1945, at the conclusion of World War II—a time when marked population shifts like white flight were taking place—and ends in 1992, the year in which St. Louis City passed its first gay and lesbian inclusive civil rights ordinance. The map also has essays on gender, segregation, political activism, and crime and policing that were written by Rectenwald, Friedman, and senior researcher Ian Darnell.

As the project moved forward, the team members developed a more complete vision of how they wanted to use GIS to display change over time. "It wasn’t enough to know that a place existed in 1947. We wanted to know if it also existed in 1950 and 1953," Moore says.

WHAT THE MAP REVEALS

The map is a testament to trends and developments within St. Louis’ LGBTQ community. By the 1950s and 1960s, multiple gay and lesbian bars were in operation, and a number of them were located in what is now the Grand Center district of St. Louis. Establishments such as the Onyx Room and the Golden Gate Bar were popular spots for socializing. The bars, Friedman believes, were relatively safe and private.

"Privacy was important," she says. "The LGBT community was figuring out how to survive in a hostile society. The bars at the 1950s and 60s were semi-private, semi-public spaces where they could come together. Because we can now put these locations on the map, the project helps us see some of the ways in which privacy was created in public."

Over time, too, the map shows the disappearance of some of those spaces—a reflection of a shift in culture. "The mainstreaming of the LGBT community is part of what brought on this change," Friedman says. "Now that some members of the community feel comfortable going just about anywhere, there isn’t the same urgency for space and for privacy, although it’s important to recognize that others still feel unsafe as they traverse the city."

The map also demonstrates how patterns of racial segregation were sometimes interrupted by queer spaces. In the 1950s and 60s, Friedman says, gay and lesbian bars were often situated in spaces that could be considered racially transitional. Perhaps because such spaces were needed to operate under the radar, or because people didn’t want to be seen going into them, the bars were located in areas where white patrons wouldn’t have encountered friends and family. Friedman thinks that, as a result, there may have been more interaction between races—between gay whites and African-American neighborhood residents—than was otherwise the case in racially divided St. Louis. Nonetheless, she notes, most of LGBTQ life was strictly segregated by race.

"In a city like St. Louis that’s divided by socioeconomic status, by race, and by access to education, being able to examine these divisions in ways that haven’t been noticed before and to understand how they continue to divide people is really important," Friedman says.

A PROJECT WITHOUT AN ENDPOINT

On October 11, 2017, Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis was launched online, and a party was held at the Missouri History Museum to celebrate. About 200 people attended the event, and community members had the opportunity to share stories and memories related to sites on the map.

"Since the launch, people have given us feedback and helped us flesh out things about certain locations," Moore says. "That’s been a real gift."

Moore is focusing on refining the map in order to make it as user-friendly as possible and plans to make a data set from the project available on University Libraries’ Open Scholarship repository in the coming months. To keep the public up-to-date about new developments, Rectenwald maintains a Twitter feed and a blog on University Libraries’ homepage (see sidebar at left).

The team views the map as a work in progress and would like to find a new source of funding that would support its expansion. Adding another span of years or widening the tool’s geographic scope are two possibilities for the future. With more discoveries to be made about St. Louis’ LGBTQ past, the project has enormous potential.

"Maps inevitably lead to new information and give rise to new questions," Moore says. "As long as history keeps unfolding, a map like this is never ending."

Scharff Receives Award from Music OCLC Users Group

The Executive Board of the Music OCLC Users Group (MOUG) selected Mark Scharff, music cataloger at the St. Louis Public Library, as the 15th recipient of MOUG’s Distinguished Service Award. The award was established to recognize and honor those who have made significant professional contributions to music users of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a global library cooperative and provider of shared technology services and research. The MOUG Executive Board selects recipients based on nominations received from the membership.

Scharff has been at University Libraries since 2015, when he was hired as an electronic document delivery assistant. He holds a master’s degree in history from Southern Illinois University and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to joining University Libraries, he was an adult services provider at the St. Louis Public Library. Scharff has taught history and other courses as an adjunct professor at St. Louis Community College and Southern Illinois University.

University Libraries staff member Michael Schaefer was named subject librarian for history and religious studies in March. His responsibilities include serving as liaison to the Department of History, the Religious Studies program, and the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. He also selects library materials, participates in user-education activities, and provides subject-specific research services.

Schaefer has been at University Libraries since 2015, when he was hired as an electronic document delivery assistant. He holds a master’s degree in history from Southern Illinois University and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to joining University Libraries, he was an adult services provider at the St. Louis Public Library. Schaefer has taught history and other courses as an adjunct professor at St. Louis Community College and Southern Illinois University.
Vecchiola Named Head of Distributed Libraries

Art and Architecture Librarian RINA VECCHIOLO was appointed head of distributed libraries in March. In her new role, Vecchiola is head of the Kenneth and Nancy Krauernberg Art & Architecture Library, the Ronald Retnerr Earth and Planetary Sciences Library, the Garbad Music Library, the AI and Ruth Kopelow (Business) Library, the Chemistry Library, and the East Asian Library. She promotes cooperative and collaborative relationships among distributed libraries staff and the entire University Libraries organization and provides coordinated leadership for issues such as research assistance, instruction and outreach, scholarly communication and publishing, and resource discovery efforts.

Zeller Appointed Columns Editor of Journal of Copyright in Education and Librarianship

Copyright Services Analyst MICAH ZELLER has been elected to serve a three-year term as Columns Editor for the Journal of Copyright in Education and Librarianship. The open-access publication provides peer-reviewed articles, reviews, and case studies that analyze the impact of copyright law on public, school, academic, and digital libraries, archives, museums, and research institutions and their educational initiatives. Zeller’s first column, an interview with Jacob Rooksby, the newly appointed Dean of Gonzaga Law School, appeared in the May issue.

Rouner Presents Paper at Conference

In May, Digital Library Director ANDREW ROUNER presented a paper entitled “Identity and Idolatry in the Prologue to Exodus” at Primary Source: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Memory and Identity. The conference took place at Fontbonne University and the Missouri History Museum and was co-sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Ghasedi Selected for 2018 Leading Change Institute

Associate University Librarian NADIA GHASEDI was chosen to participate in the 2018 Leading Change Institute, which took place in Washington, DC, in June. The Institute is designed for leaders in higher education who are interested in working collaboratively to promote and initiate change on critical issues affecting the academy.

Jennifer Killion

NEWMAN EXPLORATION CENTER GUIDE

Jennifer Killion joined the University Libraries’ staff in March. As the Newman Exploration Center Guide, she manages the Newman Exploration Center and Expedition Office, coordinating usage of the space with campus stakeholders and library staff. She also works with library staff to build and maintain various print collections associated with the space. Killion comes to the University Libraries with more than 16 years of experience as a Washington University employee. She worked as the marketing manager for the Edison Theatre and as production coordinator for Washington University’s The Common Reader. She has expertise in developing and executing special events, marketing design and management, social media, and email marketing. Killion holds a bachelor’s degree in public relations from Webster University.

Olivia Mosley

HELP DESK ASSISTANT

University Libraries welcomed new staff member Olivia Mosley in April. As Help Desk assistant in Olin Library, Mosley assists patrons with a wide variety of research needs, connecting them with the appropriate library resources for meeting those needs. Examples include navigating electronic resources, locating materials in the University Libraries catalog or from resource-sharing partners when not available locally, assisting with library equipment, providing directional guidance, explaining policies that govern library services, and referring users to other library staff when specialized assistance is needed. Before joining the staff of University Libraries, Mosley worked as a library assistant at Washington University’s Bernard Becker Medical Library. She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in printmaking from Washington University.

Phillip Suda

SYSTEMS ENGINEER

Phillip Suda became a part of the University Libraries team in April. As a systems engineer, his duties include building, maintaining, and automating the Libraries’ services and applications. Suda comes to University Libraries with more than 12 years of library experience, having worked at the St. Louis Public Library, the New Orleans Public Library, and Boeing. Suda has a wide variety of experience in cataloging and collections and as a systems librarian. His expertise includes programming in Python, Ruby on Rails, Java, and SQL. Suda holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature and letters from Loyola University of Chicago and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri. He recently earned a bachelor’s degree in applied computing from Tulane University.

Dave Surmon

SYSTEMS ENGINEER

Dave Surmon began work at University Libraries in March. His responsibilities as a systems engineer include building, maintaining, and automating library services and applications, such as resource discovery, streaming media, and repository operations. Before joining the University Libraries, Dave worked as a software engineer at the University of Southern California. He has more than 22 years of work experience, with expertise in a variety of programming languages and technologies, including Java, Ruby, JavaScript, and XML. He holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of California-Santa Cruz. His recent accomplishments include building graphical naval missile simulations and creating the Alzheimer Antecedent Biomarkers Database, a web application used to archive and search potential biomarkers of Alzheimer’s disease.
Longtime University Libraries Staff Member Retires

TONY CHANG, East Asian studies and Chinese studies librarian at University Libraries, retired in December 2017 after 28 years of service.

Chang completed his undergraduate education in China. In 1983, he earned a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of California-Berkeley. From 1983 to 1989, he served as Chinese catalog librarian at Ohio State University Libraries. He joined the staff of Washington University in 1989 as Chinese studies librarian. In 1999, he took on the role of East Asian studies/Chinese studies subject librarian, a position he held through 2017.

Chang’s many accomplishments include adding East Asian languages e-resources to the library’s holdings, an effort he began in the late 1990s. He also provided library services to support Washington University’s East Asian Studies programs.

In 1999, he published the book China During the Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976. A Selected Bibliography of English Language Works. Chang also collaborated with faculty from the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture and received support from the department to help the library acquire books, DVDs, databases, and other materials.

While at University Libraries, Chang recruited and trained four Japanese studies librarians. During his tenure, more than 40 people received doctorate degrees from Washington University’s Chinese studies program.

Chang and his wife, May, plan to move to Fort Lauderdale, where they have relatives.

In Memoriam:
Steven Lopata, May 24, 1942–March 5, 2018

Steven Lopata, friend of Washington University and University Libraries, died on March 5, 2018. A member of University Libraries’ National Council since 1987, he was a strong supporter of library development at the university. His parents, Stanley and Lucy Lopata, were longtime university benefactors, and various sites around campus honor their memory, including the Lucy and Stanley Lopata House and Lopata Courtyard.

A native of Newark City, New Jersey, Steven Lopata attended chemical engineering classes at Washington University. As an army volunteer, he served for three years in Vietnam, achieving the rank of sergeant. He went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from Southern Colorado State College in Pueblo, Colorado, and to serve as director of Latin American operations for the Carboline Company. His interests included art and literature—particularly science fiction and fantasy.

A volunteer teacher at the Logos School in St. Louis, Lopata was an advocate for the school’s libraries, and he also provided library services to support Washington University’s East Asian Studies programs.

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In February, University Libraries took part in #ColorOurCollections, a week-long coloring celebration on social media involving libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions around the world. Using materials from their collections, participating institutions shared free coloring content to patrons, inviting them to get creative and post their handiwork on social media accompanied by the hashtag #ColorOurCollections. The staff of University Libraries joined in the fun by creating a free coloring book that was handed out to students. Also available on the Libraries’ website, the coloring book features visuals drawn from the materials in the Julian Edison Department of Special Collections. Shown here: images from William Morris’ The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer: Now Newly Imprinted (Triple Crown Collection) and Petrus von Rosenheim’s Rationarium Evangelistarum (Philip Mills Arnold Semelology Collection).

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EXHIBIT EXPLORES ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY’S EAST END

“Transformative Visions: Washington University’s East End, Then and Now” was on display in the Garen Gallery of the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum from February 2 to May 21, 2018. The exhibit provided a fascinating historical overview of the evolution of the east end of Washington University’s Danforth Campus. The exhibit was prompted by the construction project that’s now transforming the east end—a section of the university bordered by Brookings Hall and St Louis’ Forest Park that serves as a primary access point to the university.

As “Transformative Visions” revealed, development for this critical area of campus dates back to the late 1800s. Drawing upon a wealth of archival material, including photographs, blueprints, and building plans from University Archives, the exhibit examined the multiplicity of design approaches that have influenced the development of the east end through the years. The exhibit was curated by Leslie Markle, curator for public art at the Kemper Art Museum; James Kolker, university architect and associate vice chancellor; and Eric Mumford, who is the Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. The William T. Kemper Foundation, Elissa and Paul Cahn, and members of the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum provided support for the exhibit.