

EX LIBRIS

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MAGAZINE | FALL 2015

► **PRESERVING
THE DREAMS AND
ASPIRATIONS OF
STORER COLLEGE.**



STORER

A Letter **from the Dean**



One of the most rewarding parts of being dean of West Virginia University Libraries involves our service to residents of the Mountain State. All of us at WVU Libraries take great pride in the active role we play in fulfilling WVU's land-grant mission. This issue of *Ex Libris* will give you a glimpse into a few of the recent events and initiatives happening here.

In June, the Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) marked West Virginia Day by celebrating the 150th anniversary of Storer College. Established in Harpers Ferry as one of the first institutions of higher learning open to African Americans south of the Mason-Dixon line, Storer contributed greatly to the Civil Rights Movement. Over its 90-year life, it educated more than 7,000 students and served as the meeting place for an organization that grew into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. We were honored to host several alumni and their families during our two-day program. Among the festivities, we heard from John Newcomer, great-grandson of Storer College founder Dr. Nathan Cook Brackett, and David M. Fryson, vice president for WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We then welcomed attendees to the opening of an extensive exhibit of Storer memorabilia, documents and photographs that will be on display in the WVRHC's Davis Family Galleries through the fall semester.

To recognize the occasion, WVU Press published a commemorative edition of "American Phoenix: A History of Storer College from Slavery to Desegregation, 1865–1955." As you will read, WVU Press makes significant and meaningful contributions to scholarly communication and promotes the state's history and culture.

I am also thrilled to share two of our latest endeavors: the WVU Libraries Resident Librarian Program, a unique diversity initiative, and our Wikipedian in Residency for Gender Equity, a first-of-its-kind position that is supported by a grant from the Wikimedia Foundation. The three new librarians are excited about the learning opportunities available to them, and they are eager to contribute to the University community. With the hiring of a Wikipedia editor, we are taking the lead among academic libraries. Our peer institutions will be watching us to see how the work supports our land-grant mission and benefits state residents.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue. Again, it is a great honor and privilege to lead and represent all the people who make up WVU Libraries! With your support, we will continue serving the University community and all the people of West Virginia.

Jon E. Cawthorne
Dean of Libraries

EX LIBRIS

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The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities.

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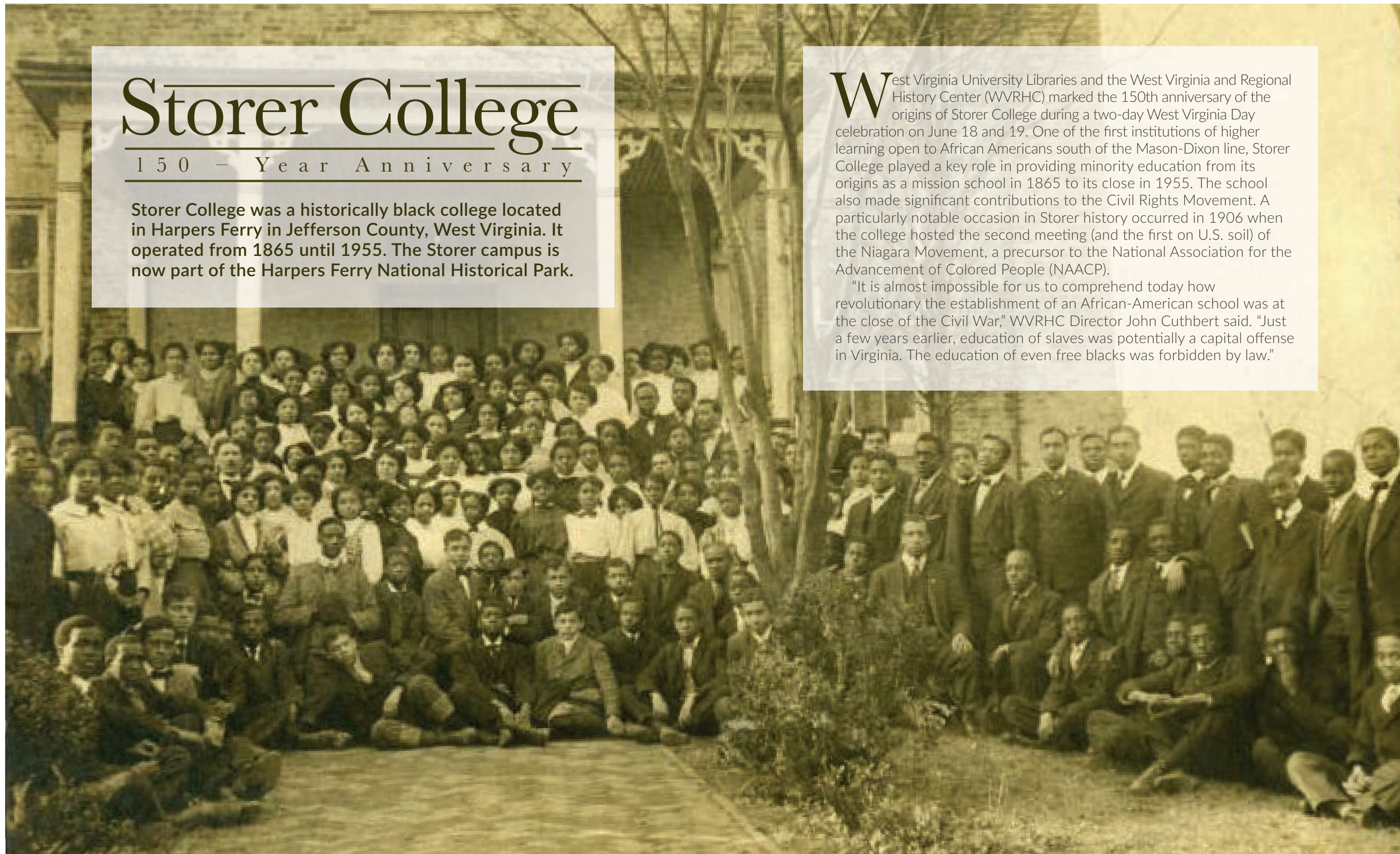
Storer College

150 – Year Anniversary

Storer College was a historically black college located in Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County, West Virginia. It operated from 1865 until 1955. The Storer campus is now part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

West Virginia University Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) marked the 150th anniversary of the origins of Storer College during a two-day West Virginia Day celebration on June 18 and 19. One of the first institutions of higher learning open to African Americans south of the Mason-Dixon line, Storer College played a key role in providing minority education from its origins as a mission school in 1865 to its close in 1955. The school also made significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. A particularly notable occasion in Storer history occurred in 1906 when the college hosted the second meeting (and the first on U.S. soil) of the Niagara Movement, a precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

“It is almost impossible for us to comprehend today how revolutionary the establishment of an African-American school was at the close of the Civil War,” WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. “Just a few years earlier, education of slaves was potentially a capital offense in Virginia. The education of even free blacks was forbidden by law.”





Author Dawne Raines Burke talks with Bruce E. Mitchell II, a diversity specialist with WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as she signs a copy of her book.

To order a copy of “An American Phoenix,” please visit wvupressonline.com.



Festivities kicked off on June 18 with an evening reception at the WVU Visitors Center to announce a commemorative edition of “American Phoenix: A History of Storer College from Slavery to Desegregation, 1865–1955” being published by WVU Press.

In the first book-length study of Storer College, Dawne Raines Burke, an assistant professor of education at Shepherd University, tells the story of the historically black institution from its post-Civil War origins to its closure following the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that ended segregation in public schools.

“An American Phoenix” provides a comprehensive and extensively illustrated history of this historically black college, bringing to life not just the institution but many of the individuals who taught or were educated there. It fills a significant gap in our knowledge of African-American history and the struggle for rights in West Virginia and the wider world.



Dawne Raines Burke greets James Green Jr., a descendant of a Storer graduate and member of the Storer College National Alumni Association.



Dean of Libraries Jon Cawthorne discusses the West Virginia Day program with David M. Fryson, vice president for WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Paul Finkelman, a specialist in American legal history and slavery, chats with Ron Lewis, professor emeritus of history at WVU.



Jessica Sell, regional coordinator for Senator Joe Manchin, reads a Congressional Proclamation honoring Storer College and its alumni.



Storer College alumnae Jannie Goldston, Elizabeth Hizer, Della Meekins and Joan Blue.



Dawne Raines Burke, assistant professor of education at Shepherd University; David M. Fryson, vice president for WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; John Newcomer, great-grandson of Storer College founder Dr. Nathan Cook Brackett; Jon Cawthorne, dean of Libraries; and John Cuthbert, WVRHC director, pose during the Libraries' West Virginia Day Celebration.

Activities on June 19 began with a reception in the James and Ann Milano Reading Room of the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library, followed by a showing of the documentary “Storer College: A Legacy of Light and Learning”, written, directed and produced by award-winning filmmaker Midge Flinn Yost. Guest speakers included John Newcomer, great-grandson of Storer College founder Dr. Nathan Cook Brackett, and David M. Fryson, vice president for WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

JOHN NEWCOMER

Three generations of Newcomer's family were intertwined with Storer College. In 1865, Brackett and his wife, Louise Wood Brackett, left the comfort and securities of their home in Maine to support efforts by the Free Will Baptists to establish a mission school in a war-torn building in Harpers Ferry.

His grandmother, Celeste, taught at Storer. His father, John Nathan Newcomer, served on the college's board and his mother, June Hungerford Newcomer, worked as business manager/registrar until the school closed and its assets were distributed to organizations including the National Park Service, which took possession of the school's campus in 1960. All told, 10 of his relatives were connected to the institution.

His grandmother passed on stories about the early days at Storer and events happening near their Eastern Panhandle home.

Newcomer recalls her telling him about the numerous hostilities the family faced, such as the time in the 1880s when a group of rowdies pulled Nathan Brackett off a horse and began beating him in

Charlestown. Brackett was rescued by a former Confederate soldier whom he had saved on a battlefield years earlier.

The soldier had been left for dead, when Brackett, working with the Christian Commission (the precursor to the Red Cross), found him and got him to a home in Winchester, Va., for medical care.

“The former soldier stepped forward and said ‘That man saved my life. Let him alone.’ There was a lengthy article in the newspaper about it,” Newcomer said.

His grandmother also shared her personal experiences, such as the long train trips she and her siblings took back to Maine every summer because of racial tension in town.

“They couldn't go outside and play because they were hated,” Newcomer said.

A half century later, he experienced similar unfortunate run-ins.

In first grade, he came home from school crying one day. His teacher told his parents that a group of kids ganged up on him and called him a derogatory name.

It was a year earlier, when he was five years old, that his father woke him up at 6:30 one morning and asked if he wanted to tag along with him as he took care of a situation. His father was called because of a burning cross in front of the president's house at Storer College.

“The men discussed what to do with the cross, and I remember they threw it in the back of the mayor's pickup truck and took it to the dump,” Newcomer said.

They went home and didn't talk about the incident again.

“It was kept quiet,” Newcomer said. “Nobody said a thing. We weren't allowed.”

Years later, he saw a documentary in which the former president of Storer mentioned the cross burning.

But there were also good times.

His father talked about playing basketball with then-student Nnamdi Azikiwe, who went on to become the first president of Nigeria.

Growing up, Newcomer spent most of his evenings during the week on campus in the library. His parents would take him to football and baseball games and the occasional concert.

“I have very fond memories of growing up in Harpers Ferry,” he said.

One of his favorite stories draws an interesting link between him and his ancestors.

“It turned out that everyone in the family bought used furniture. All of the furniture we bought in the Shenandoah Valley and especially Charles Town,” he said.

The story goes that sometime after they settled in to their home, which had been abandoned by the government and left in bad condition, Nathan Brackett promised Louise Brackett that one day they would have nice things again.

“On an early trip, Nathan Brackett bought her a Wedgewood tea set and said it was symbolic of what they would have someday living in Harpers Ferry,” Newcomer said. “My sister still owns the tea set.”

DAVID M. FRYSON

Fryson believes the history of Storer College shows how West Virginia has always been at

the forefront of inclusion and excellence in the area of civil rights and offers inspiration for today's leaders and activists.

“The foresight and the progressiveness that led to the establishment of Storer College to educate without regard to race or gender should be acknowledged and applauded today,” Fryson said. “We see an institution that was superior to the 1862 Morrill Act that established the land-grant colleges and universities or even the 1890 Morrill Act, which gave us the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

“We see an institution that was superior to the 1862 Morrill Act that established the land-grant colleges and universities or even the 1890 Morrill Act, which gave us the Historically Black Colleges and Universities but perpetuated the myth of ‘separate but equal schools.’ When you put it in this context, Storer College was one of a kind.” - David M. Fryson

but perpetuated the myth of ‘separate but equal schools.’ When you put it in this context, Storer College was one of a kind.”

At the end of the Civil War, lawmakers, activists and common citizens discussed and debated how newly freed slaves would be inculcated into society. Many agreed the answer was education, but laws and public opinions hampered progress.

Into this chasm stepped Nathan Brackett and the Free Will Baptists, who were determined to establish mission schools in the Shenandoah Valley. They were assisted in their endeavors by John Storer, a Congregationalist and Sanford, Maine, businessman, who donated \$10,000 to their cause. The benefactor also tied a few very progressive stipulations to his gift: the school must become a degree-granting college and be open to all applicants regardless of race or gender. Soon after, the West Virginia Legislature granted Storer a charter as a degree-granting institution.

“Imagine, 100 years before Title VII, which outlawed discrimination based upon

race or religion, and 100 years before Title IX insured gender equality, and at a time when it was not certain how the newly freed slaves would be treated, in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia, a higher education institution was founded on the basis of equality,” Fryson said. “As a West Virginian, I am very proud of this fact. How about you?”

Storer College's significance extends far beyond the 7,000 students who attended the institution. There are the people and families whose lives intersected with them.

The ripple grows even wider when one considers that in 1906 the campus hosted the first meeting on U.S. soil of the Niagara Movement, the precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Among the Niagara Movement's leaders were activist W.E.B. Du Bois and J.R. Clifford, a Storer alum and West Virginia's first African-American attorney.

Ironically, Storer College became a victim of the change it espoused and closed its doors in 1955 following the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision that ended segregation.

Yet, 60 years later, Fryson said there is still work to be done. He's calling new generations of people to step forward to share their expertise and talents to reignite the spirit of Storer College.

“People of faith were in the midst of this idea of freedom for all, and it needs to be replicated today to keep the dreams and aspirations of Storer College alive,” Fryson said.



The Storer College colors, old gold and white, are well represented by the student beanies and banner in this exhibit case, and the alumni banner.

Loving Cup donated by the Storer Club of Wheeling in 1938.



Storer Catalogues, 1882–1936. These booklets contained basic information that all potential and enrolled students needed to know in order to thrive as part of the Storer community, including academic calendars, course descriptions, course requirements, a physical description of the campus and lists of alumni.



The notes below, totaling \$2,300, represent part of the funds needed to match John Storer's grant of \$10,000 to found Storer College. The matching fund total was raised with the tremendous help of a \$6,000 contribution from the Freedmen's Bureau.

The Morning Star, a weekly newspaper owned and published by the Free Will Baptists in New England, passionately campaigned against slavery. After the Civil War, the paper focused on the betterment and education of African Americans.





Founding fathers of the Second Niagara Conference: seated is W.E.B. Du Bois; standing, from left to right, is J.R. Clifford (West Virginia's first African-American attorney), L.M. Hershaw and F.H.M. Murray.

Holy Ground

The building that had become known as John Brown's Fort holds a significant place in Storer College's history and legacy.

On October 16, 1859, abolitionist John Brown and a band of followers seized control of the Harpers Ferry Armory in a plot to build an army to overthrow the South and free the slaves. Less than two weeks after the failed incursion, Brown stood trial at the Jefferson County Courthouse. Found guilty of treason, he was hanged in Charles Town on December 2, 1859.

As he stepped toward the gallows, Brown reportedly handed a guard a note containing his last words. In it, he wrote: "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood." The Civil War began a year and a half later.

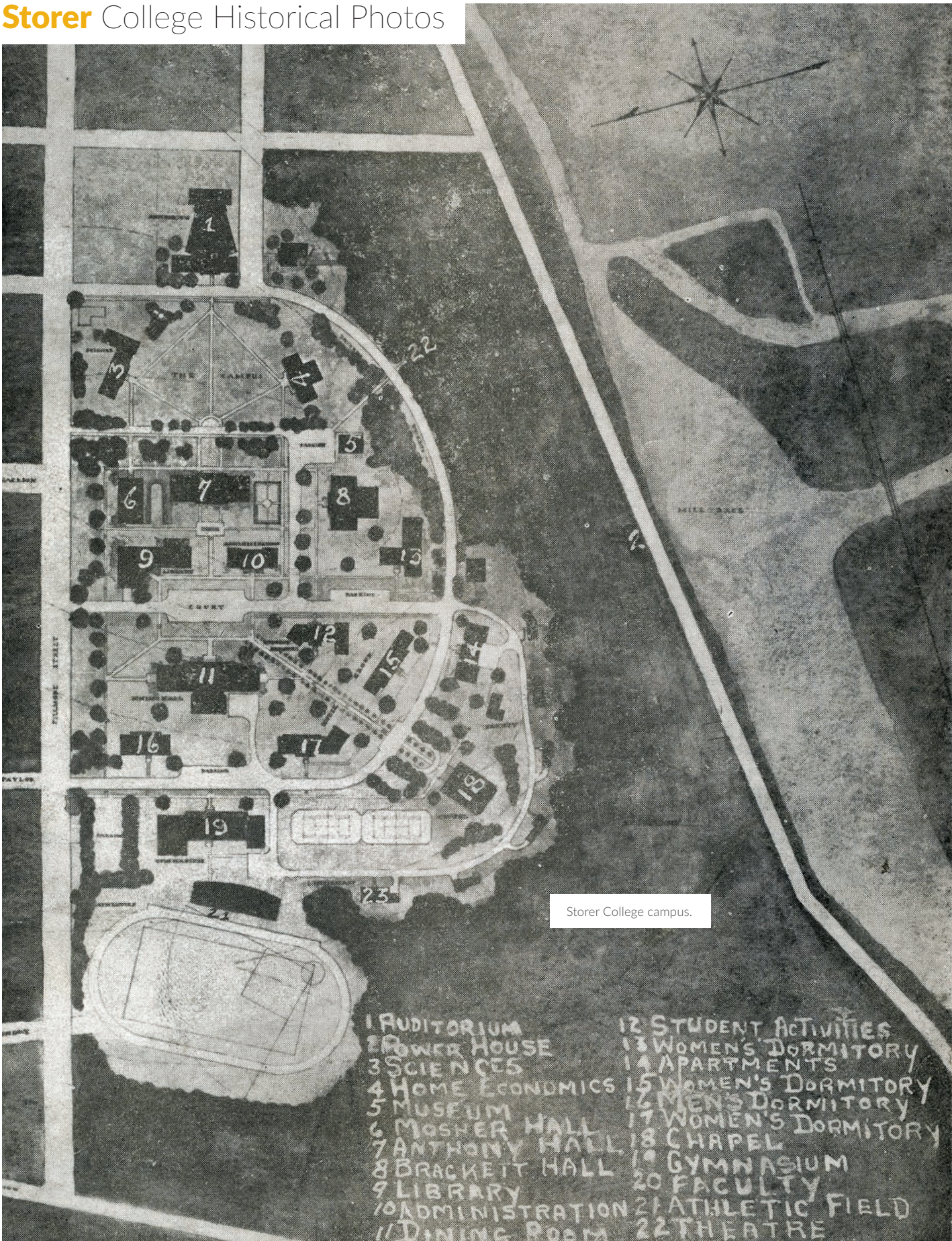
Forty-seven years later, W.E.B. Du Bois was among a group of civil rights pioneers who made a pilgrimage to the structure, which had been relocated to a farm near the Storer campus. The men called the site holy ground and removed their shoes and socks in recognition.

Their visit occurred during the Second Niagara Conference, the first meeting on United States soil of the predecessor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The group met the previous year in Canada. Storer College hosted the gathering August 15-18, 1906.

Du Bois cofounded the Niagara Movement with J.R. Clifford, a Civil War veteran, Storer College alumnus and the first African-American attorney in West Virginia. Clifford also contributed toward civil rights as editor and publisher of the *Pioneer Press*, the first African-American weekly newspaper in the state.

The Niagara Movement supported an end to segregation and disenfranchisement. Du Bois called for the unimpeded right to vote, the end of discrimination in public accommodations, the right to interact with all people, regardless of race and without interference and the federal government to end illiteracy.

"The United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States," Du Bois told the attendees.



Storer College campus.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 AUDITORIUM | 12 STUDENT ACTIVITIES |
| 2 POWER HOUSE | 13 WOMEN'S DORMITORY |
| 3 SCIENCES | 14 APARTMENTS |
| 4 HOME ECONOMICS | 15 WOMEN'S DORMITORY |
| 5 MUSEUM | 16 MEN'S DORMITORY |
| 6 MOSHER HALL | 17 WOMEN'S DORMITORY |
| 7 ANTHONY HALL | 18 CHAPEL |
| 8 BRACKETT HALL | 19 GYMNASIUM |
| 9 LIBRARY | 20 FACULTY |
| 10 ADMINISTRATION | 21 ATHLETIC FIELD |
| 11 DINING ROOM | 22 THEATRE |



Storer College students sit outside on campus, circa 1950.



Storer College Cornet Band, circa 1908.



Storer College football team, circa 1920.



Storer College Class of 1895.



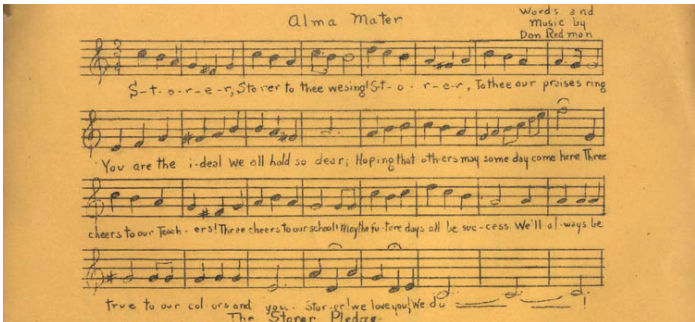
Storer College baseball team, circa 1910.



Storer College basketball team, circa 1924.



Storer College women's basketball team, circa 1920.



Storer College faculty, circa 1901.

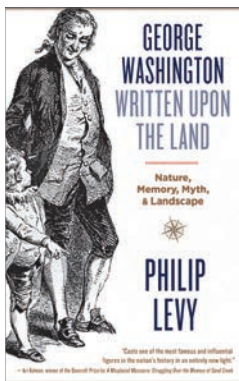


Storer College Band, circa 1914.



Storer College Homecoming, 1952.

NEW BOOKS



“George Washington Written upon the Land: Nature, Memory, Myth, and Landscape”

Philip Levy
December 2015

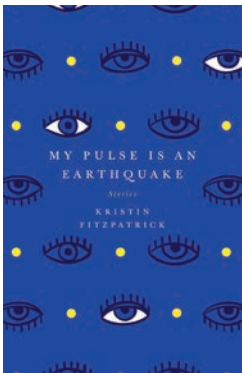
George Washington's childhood is famously the most elusive part of his life story. For centuries biographers have struggled with a lack of period documentation and an absence of late-in-life reflection in trying to imagine Washington's formative years. In “George Washington Written upon the Land”, Philip Levy explores this most famous of American childhoods through its relationship to the Virginia farm where much of it took place. Using

“In this beautifully written and deeply researched book, Philip Levy reveals connections that have eluded generations of scholars. Which is to say, “George Washington Written upon the Land” accomplishes the impossible: it casts one of the most famous and influential figures in the nation’s history in an entirely new light. Readers will be delighted and surprised in equal measure by this extraordinary work.”

— Ari Kelman, winner of the Bancroft Prize for *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek*

approaches from biography, archaeology, folklore and studies of landscape and material culture, Levy focuses on how different ideas about Washington's childhood functioned—what sorts of lessons they sought to teach and how different epochs and writers understood the man and the past itself.

Philip Levy is a professor of history at the University of South Florida and was co-director of the National Geographic Society team that discovered and excavated George Washington's boyhood home, a project that made national news in 2008. He is the author of “Where the Cherry Tree Grew: The Story of Ferry Farm, George Washington's Boyhood Home.”



“My Pulse Is an Earthquake”

Kristin FitzPatrick
September 2015

The nine stories in “My Pulse Is an Earthquake” take place in the clutches of grief. Characters struggle to make sense of sudden losses of life, love and community. From 1970 to the present day, children and young adults from the Rockies to the Appalachian Mountains guide readers through the valleys of their lives as dog breeders, immigrants, Catholic school delinquents, rookie policewomen, drummers, ballerinas, teenage brides and even an accountant who keeps a careful inventory of losses.

Kristin FitzPatrick lives in Southern California, where she is working on a novel and teaching writing at CSU Channel Islands. This is her debut book. Learn more at kristinfitzpatrick.com.

“FitzPatrick’s vivid plots and immaculate prose carry her readers to the edge of darkness. A terrific debut.”

— Margot Livesey, author of *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*

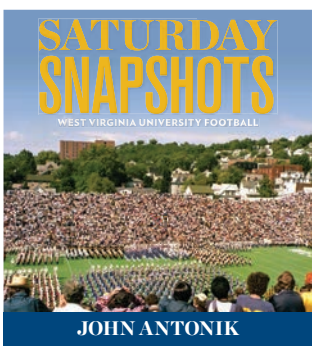


On September 20, 2015, “My Pulse Is an Earthquake” was performed on stage by L.A.'s longest running spoken word series, The New Short Fiction Series, an event sponsored by Barnes & Noble.

The New Short Fiction Series is a recognized standout in Southern California's artistic landscape. Each performance features carefully selected excerpts from new works of short fiction by a West Coast writer.

The New Short Fiction Series is directly responsible for placing six newly released books on the Los Angeles Times' bestseller list and has been the jump off for many collections and novels from unpublished stories featured in the series.

A publication launch at The Federal Bar in North Hollywood followed the event, which included a performance by musical guest Lucy Peru.



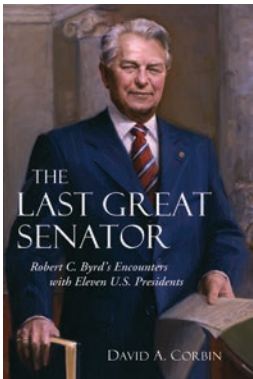
“Saturday Snapshots: West Virginia University Football”

John Antonik
August 2015

For decades, hundreds of photographs chronicling some of the greatest moments in West Virginia University football history have been hidden away beneath piles of dusty media guides, tattered game programs and yellowed newspaper clippings. Within the annals of the WVU Athletic Department, these archival treasures have been overlooked and forgotten over the years. That is until now. With nearly 25 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics at West Virginia University, John Antonik brings these long-lost photographs to life with a narrative that highlights the key players, coaches and the greatest moments in Mountaineer football history.

By spanning WVU football's entire history—from that first game in snowy Morgantown on Saturday, November 28, 1891, to West Virginia's appearance in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tennessee, on December 29, 2014—these snapshots will keep you turning the pages until the clock runs out.

John Antonik is director of digital media for intercollegiate athletics at WVU and is the author of “West Virginia University Football Vault: The History of the Mountaineers,” “Roll Out the Carpet: 101 Seasons of West Virginia University Basketball,” and “The Backyard Brawl: Stories from One of the Weirdest, Wildest, Longest Running” and “Most Intense Rivalries in College Football History.”



“The Last Great Senator: Robert C. Byrd's Encounters with Eleven U.S. Presidents”

David Corbin
October 2015

No person involved in so much history received so little attention as the late Robert C. Byrd, the longest-serving U.S. senator. In “The Last Great Senator,” David A. Corbin examines Byrd's complex and fascinating relationships with 11 presidents of the United States, from Eisenhower to Obama. Furthermore, Byrd had an impact on nearly every significant event of the last half century, including the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Kennedy's New Frontier, the Watergate scandal, the Reagan Revolution, the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the Iraq War. Holding several Senate records, Byrd also cast more votes than any other U.S. senator.

“A must-read for people interested not only in Senator Byrd, but the U.S. Senate and the presidency. I thank David for putting this book together about my good friend and former colleague.”

—Sen. Howard Baker (R-TN), former Senate majority leader

In his sweeping portrait of this eloquent and persuasive man's life and career, Corbin describes Senator Byrd's humble background in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. He covers Byrd's encounters and personal relationship with each president and his effect on events during their administrations.

David A. Corbin served as a Senate staffer for 26 years—six years on the leadership staff of Senate majority leader Byrd and 10 years on the leadership staffs of Senate majority leaders George Mitchell and Tom Daschle. He also served as Senator Byrd's speechwriter for the last 10 years of his career. Corbin is the editor of “The West Virginia Mine Wars: An Anthology” and the author of “Life, Work, and Rebellion in the Coal Fields: The Southern West Virginia Miners, 1880–1920.”

To order a copy of a title shown, please visit wvupress.com.

TWO NEW BOOK SERIES FROM WVU PRESS



“Teaching and Learning in Higher Education,” a book series edited by James M. Lang

“Teaching and Learning in Higher Education” will feature compact, practical books about how to teach at the college level. Series books will be attentive

to challenges and opportunities related to new technologies and will incorporate the latest insights from the burgeoning field of cognitive science to impart perspectives on how students actually learn. Emphasizing the importance of “books written by human beings,” the series promises to provide a welcome antidote to jargon-heavy prose more typical of books about higher education. All books in the series will have a solid theoretical foundation in the learning sciences, offer practical strategies to working faculty and provide guidance for further reading and study.

The series seeks to publish books on a number of broad topics, including teaching in flipped classroom environments, writing instruction in the digital age, large-class learning and the role of emotions in motivating student learning.

James M. Lang is professor of English and the director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Assumption College. He writes a monthly column on teaching for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and is the author of several books, including “Cheating Lessons: Learning from Academic Dishonesty”; “On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to Your First Semester of College Teaching”; and “Life on the Tenure Track: Lessons from the First Year”. He is a member of the Fulbright Senior Specialist roster in higher education.



“Histories of Capitalism and the Environment,” a new book series edited by Bart Elmore

In recent years the history of capitalism has generated excitement both within and beyond the academy, including front-page coverage in the New York Times of the emerging subdiscipline. Very little of this attention, however, has drawn connections to the work of environmental historians. The new “Histories of Capitalism and the Environment” series will address this significant gap by bringing capitalism back to the ground. It will highlight the environmental transformations wrought by capitalist enterprises in the modern era and also expose the ways in which nature shaped capitalism’s contours. Taking inspiration from field-defining books like Richard White’s “Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America,” the series will unite two of history’s most vibrant subfields. Its subject matter will range from how nature was implicated in the ideological origins of capitalism to studies of capitalism at the scale of human bodies.

Bart Elmore is assistant professor of history at the University of Alabama and the author of “Citizen Coke: The Making of Coca-Cola Capitalism,” a book that traces the global environmental history of the Coca-Cola Company. He is a contributor to the *Huffington Post*, *Salon* and *Fortune*.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY PRESS



What is a university press?

A university press serves the public good by publishing works of scholarly, intellectual and creative merit for a diverse range of readers.

University presses differ from commercial publishers because of their place in the academic landscape. A university press is an extension of its parent institution, and it is also a key player in a more general network — including learned societies, scholarly associations and research libraries — that makes the scholarly endeavor possible. Like the other nodes in this network, university presses are charged with serving the public good by generating and disseminating knowledge. That’s why the government has recognized our common interest in the work of university presses and similar mission-driven scholarly publishers by granting them not-for-profit status.

West Virginia University Press’s primary goal is to find, develop, select, publish and disseminate scholarship and creative works of highest quality and enduring value in areas that align with the strengths of West Virginia University. Through the publication of all such works, WVU Press helps to fulfill West Virginia University’s land-grant mission.

At the same time, the mission of West Virginia University Press extends far beyond the University and the state. As a publishing house, the Press provides a complete range of publishing services—editing, design, production supervision, advertising, publicity, sales and marketing and distribution. Because of these services, WVU Press books, e-books and journals reach a valuable, international audience.

While publishing books, WVU Press must also acquire and maintain reciprocal affiliations with the authors and editors of our products. Some of our partners call WVU and West Virginia home, while others live and work across the United States and in other countries such as Great Britain and Portugal. These professional and scholarly relationships impact scholarship and research in several areas, including history, geography, anthropology, African American studies, sociology and fiction.

Within these disciplines, we publish e-books, books and journals with editors and board members in various international locations, while professors and students around the world adopt our books for use in the classroom.

Visit wvupress.com to join our mailing list for updates on books and events. Follow WVU Press on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.



**Member:
Association of American
University Presses**

15-20
books published a year.

5 journals published a year. **2** Imprints.

Customers from over
100 countries.

4 full-time employees. **2** part-time employees. **1** part-time graduate assistant.



DEREK KRISOFF
DIRECTOR

I'm responsible for setting WVU Press's editorial priorities and for conveying our mission to the wider world. Working closely with WVU faculty, I establish the Press's areas of focus, developing new books and series and managing partnerships with academic and cultural groups like the West Virginia Humanities Council. I travel frequently to conferences, where I talk with potential authors and try to stay informed about developments in scholarship and publishing. All of this work involves close collaboration with a team of six terrific publishing professionals; more about them below.



ABBY FREELAND
SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER AND
ACQUISITION EDITOR, VANDALIA PRESS

As the sales and marketing manager, I am responsible for all things related to marketing, sales and publicity. My duties include sales and marketing analysis and strategy, sales team preparation; public relations; website management; inventory and distribution management; copywriting; event planning; and the design of marketing materials. As the acquisitions editor of Vandalia Press, our creative imprint, I am responsible for evaluating all fiction manuscripts under consideration, as well as exploring and developing ideas for new publications and projects under this imprint.



JASON GOSNELL
MANAGING EDITOR

I am the managing editor at West Virginia University Press, and I am responsible for overseeing manuscripts and journals through the publication process. I communicate with authors and freelancers to ensure manuscripts are error-free and meet publication deadlines. I enjoy seeing projects go from the beginning stages, consisting of Microsoft Word documents, into the finished product, which is usually (though not always in our digital age) a bound book.



THAN SAFFEL
PRODUCTION MANAGER AND
ART DIRECTOR

My position is artsy, but also logistical and technical. I have to turn each manuscript into a book that satisfies and delights. I design some covers and layouts, and I work with talented designers to create under my direction. In doing so, I get to collaborate with creative professionals and printers around the world. It's tremendously satisfying, especially when the final product gets a "Wow!" from an author, reader or reviewer.



FLOANN DOWNEY
PROGRAM ASSISTANT, ASSISTANT TO
THE DIRECTOR, AND OFFICE MANAGER

I assist the director with accounting needs, communication and other various tasks that pop up along the way. I manage the daily needs of the office and am in charge of handling our royalties, book data and contracts. I am also the main liaison to our distribution warehouse. I handle accounting and oversee and process all necessary forms for our authors, vendors, reviewers, graduate assistants and interns in coordination with the business office of the Library. I also handle our journal order processing and fulfillment, along with local book fulfillment.



HEATHER LUNDINE
EDITOR

As editor at large, my primary focus is to expand WVU's catalog of books for general readers. I will be acquiring regional works with an emphasis on history, culture and the environment. I am interested in food, music and creative nonfiction, so these will no doubt be part of my acquisitions efforts as well.



MEAGAN SZEKEY
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

I am the editorial and production graduate assistant at WVU Press. I provide any support needed for the editorial and production departments, as well as the sales and marketing and editorial departments. I contribute to various stages of the publishing process, including copyediting, proofreading, layout, communication with authors and project management. As a WVU Press graduate assistant, I receive a stipend and graduate course credit for my work.

GREATER WESTERN LIBRARY ALLIANCE EXPANDS HORIZONS FOR WVU



The Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) granted membership to the West Virginia University Libraries, expanding the reach of both organizations and giving researchers easier access to a multitude of resources.

“Being a member of the Alliance will immediately benefit WVU faculty and students by giving them access to a wider array of special collections and resources,” Provost Joyce McConnell said. “It also will open the door to many more projects and partnerships with other member institutions.”

Richard Clement, dean of libraries at Utah State University and immediate

past president of the Alliance, said, “We are thrilled to welcome West Virginia University Libraries as the newest member of the Greater Western Library Alliance. The WVU Libraries and Press bring outstanding people, resources and innovative thinking that will help position the consortia for the 21st century.”

GWLA is a consortium of research libraries at 35 institutions located in the central and western United States, nationally recognized as a leader in the transformation of scholarly communication, and a facilitator in the application of new information technologies.

Criteria for membership include land-grant university status, classification as a Research University (High Research Activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and unique collections that can contribute to the consortium.

“I am delighted and humbled to join 34 library leaders who make up Greater Western Library Alliance membership,” said Jon E. Cawthorne, dean of the WVU Libraries. “The vote for membership acknowledges the importance of our collections and resources to the greater academic world, and foreshadows our future as an innovative and great institution.”

LIBRARIES TAKING ON WIKIPEDIA'S GENDER GAP



West Virginia University Libraries' newly hired Wikipedian-in-residence for gender equity, Kelly Doyle, will help Wikipedia address its gender gap while increasing the presence of Mountain State

natives in the online encyclopedia.

“We are thrilled for Kelly Doyle to lead West Virginia University in this extensive endeavor to enhance Wikipedia's content and reliability,” Dean of Libraries Jon E. Cawthorne said. “This project will enable us to promote the accomplishments of West Virginians, both historical figures and those making a difference in the world today.”

A Wikipedian-in-Residence (WiR) is an editor based at an institution to facilitate the creation and improvement of Wikipedia articles related to that institution's mission. A relatively new role, the first WiR was a volunteer at the British Museum in 2010. By

2014, there were 31 Wikipedians working at institutions around the world.

WVU caught the attention of the Wikimedia Foundation in March when the Libraries and the Reed College of Media collaborated on a program titled “Where Are all the Women? Wikipedia's Gender Gap” to spark critical discussion regarding Wikipedia's gender gap. A few months later, the Wikimedia Foundation awarded the Libraries with a \$27,100 grant to fund a WiR.

“We're excited to partner with WVU to create the first gender-focused Wikipedian-in-Residence. This role will help us get significantly closer to Wikimedia's vision of sharing the sum of all human knowledge,” said Siko Bouterse, director of community resources for the Wikimedia Foundation.

According to Wikipedia, nearly 90 percent of the site's volunteer editors are male. As a result, there is generally more content about men and male-related topics than about women and female-related topics on Wikipedia. The Wikimedia Foundation wants a 25 percent increase in the number of articles about West Virginia

women and gender studies by the end of the year-long project.

“I'm excited about the social justice aspect of addressing Wikipedia's gender gap,” Doyle said. “Our goal is to make the online encyclopedia's content better and more accurately reflect the world around us.”

Doyle currently teaches in the WVU Department of English. She holds a bachelor's in English from University of Delaware and a master's in English literature from the College of Charleston and The Citadel Graduate College.

She will work closely with Carroll Wilkinson, director of Strategic Library Initiatives for the WVU Libraries, who assisted in organizing the Wikipedia panel and applied for the Wikimedia grant.

“We are excited to have Kelly Doyle on board, and we are eager to begin work on improving the public's knowledge about so many amazing West Virginia women and the important issues they face,” Wilkinson said.

In **Memoriam**

Legacy of Leadership

Dr. Paul Miller, West Virginia University's 15th president and a leading benefactor of the West Virginia and Regional History Center, passed away on June 5 at age 98, leaving a legacy as one of WVU's most visionary leaders and a devoted Mountaineer.

"I believe that few institutions equal WVU in what has happened in the educational, research, medical and development services that now cluster and grow at its base. And looking backward, WVU's history is nothing short of a saga of how a university serves its state as a center of imagination," Miller said during a West Virginia Day Forum held on campus in 1992.

The event was a homecoming for Miller, who served as president at WVU from 1962-1966. He shared the stage with former WVU presidents Elvis Stahr, Harry Heflin and Diane Reinhard, and then-current President Neil Bucklew. Each shared their perspectives on the University. ►

Miller explained to the audience that his experiences at WVU made him a lifelong advocate of the land-grant university philosophy.

"The gap between rich and poor is this: the well-educated get richer and the poorly educated get poorer," Miller said.

The seeds for Miller's commitment to West Virginia and to service were probably sown while participating in 4-H activities while growing up in Hancock County.

After graduating from WVU, he worked as a WVU Extension agent in both Ritchie and Nicholas counties. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps when the United States entered World War II and served as a navigator in the AAF Ferry Command. After the war ended, he enrolled in graduate studies at Michigan State University and earned a Ph.D. in anthropology and sociology in 1953.

Miller then began what was to become a 50-plus year academic career, first at

Michigan State where he served as a faculty member, director of Cooperative Extension, and provost. In 1962, he returned to his alma mater as president.

With his background with Extension, Miller made expanding the University's land-grant service mission a major priority. At that time, Extension programs generally operated out of schools of agriculture.

"I felt extension was so powerful that it needed to come out of that narrowly defined role and become an arm of the whole university," Miller said.

Miller built such a strong reputation for academic and service leadership that President Lyndon Johnson appointed him the first Assistant Secretary for Education in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1966.

After two years in that role and a year as professor at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, he served for a decade as president of the Rochester Institute of

Technology (RIT). After stepping down as president, he continued to serve as a professor there. Following retirement from RIT, he served as an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia well into his 90s.

"Paul Miller viewed the University as not simply an educational institution but as the key resource to improving the lives of every citizen in the state," said John Cuthbert, director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center. "From medicine to agriculture, economic development to the arts, he endeavored to expand WVU's reach into every corner of the state and recast its image as a true statewide flagship university. Every president since has shared these lofty goals."

Francena, Miller's wife of 44 years, passed away in 2010. The couple created a scholarship to assist eligible 4-H members and an endowment to support the WVRHC.

A Dedicated Curator



George Parkinson, the former curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection (WVRHC), passed away June 17.

Parkinson served at the helm of the WVRHC from 1972-1990. Among his accomplishments were increasing the WVRHC's holdings in Civil War and political history materials and strengthening collections relevant to the history of women and ethnic groups. He oversaw several major acquisitions, including the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Fund Archives, the Louis Watson Chappell folklore archives and the personal papers and artworks of artist, author and statesman David Hunter Strother.

As interim library development director, Parkinson also played an important role in increasing the visibility of the WVU Libraries within the University, state and region and in establishing a program of financial development.

Parkinson left WVU in 1990 to head the Ohio Historical Society's Archives Library Division. As Ohio's state archivist, Dr. Parkinson oversaw the historical society's 200,000-volume library and 4,000 historical collections.

His family has asked that gifts be directed to the George Parkinson Memorial Fund, West Virginia and Regional History Center, WVU Libraries, P.O. Box 6069, Morgantown, WV 26506-6069.



Helen Holt and her husband, Senator Rush Holt.

A Pioneer in Service

Helen Froelich Holt, wife of a U.S. Senator, mother of a U.S. Congressman and first woman to hold a statewide office in West Virginia, died on July 12 at age 101 in Boca Raton, Fla.

“Helen Holt is perhaps the most inspirational person I have met during my long career at the West Virginia and Regional History Center,” WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. “Indeed, the saga of her incredible life stretches the imagination — part fairy tale, part tragedy. It is above all a saga of lifelong devotion to public service, of rising to the occasion each time she was called upon.”

Holt’s bond with West Virginia began in 1940 when she was teaching biology at National Park College for women in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her students contributed her picture to *Life* magazine for a photo spread of attractive teachers challenging the dour schoolmarm stereotype. The dynamic young Senator Rush Holt of West Virginia happened to see the spread and was enthralled by Helen’s picture. His sister said she knew that teacher from a national sorority association and could arrange a meeting. The Senator and the teacher met and soon after married.

Following a reelection defeat, the couple moved back to West Virginia and began raising three children, including a nephew who joined their family.

Rush Holt was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1954, but died of cancer the following year at age 49. Upon his death, Helen was appointed by Governor William C. Marland to finish her husband’s term. Two years later, Marland’s successor, Governor Cecil Underwood, appointed her to fill a vacancy as Secretary of State, thereby making her the first woman to hold statewide public office in West Virginia. In 1958, she ran unsuccessfully for a full term as a Republican, despite being her party’s leading vote-getter in the state that year. Subsequently, Governor Underwood appointed her to serve as West Virginia’s Assistant Commissioner for Public Institutions, a position in which she oversaw state long-term care facilities and the women’s prison.

In 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Holt to implement the newly authorized program in the Federal Housing Administration to set standards for long-term care facilities and provide insured mortgages for the construction of nursing homes meeting those standards.

Her work setting up that program and advancing other housing programs for the elderly was so successful that Holt was reappointed to positions in the Department of Housing and Urban Development by six subsequent presidents, from Kennedy through Reagan.

In retirement, Holt devoted herself especially to church activities. She also campaigned with enthusiasm and determination for her son, Rush D. Holt Jr. who represented New Jersey for eight terms in the U.S. Congress.

Holt credited Natalie Tennant, the current West Virginia Secretary of State, with resurrecting her professional reputation. Tennant’s public interviews with Holt drew attention and resulted in several public appearances of the nonagenarian. In 2013, WVU awarded her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. As the 99-year old concluded her speech, the large audience rose to its feet in ovation.

Holt was a longtime friend of the WVU Libraries and the WVRHC and established an endowment to preserve and catalog the Senator Rush Holt Archives.

WVU'S INAUGURAL GROUP OF RESIDENT LIBRARIANS

The West Virginia University Libraries Resident Librarian Program will provide a unique training and educational experience for underrepresented graduates of professional library degree programs who are either early career librarians or new to research libraries.

"We are excited to promote diversity at WVU while helping new academic librarians lay strong foundations for their careers," Dean of Libraries Jon E. Cawthorne said. "We also anticipate positive benefits for the entire campus community as our resident librarians work with students and faculty."

The three-year program will give the resident librarians broad experience in an academic library environment, as well as the opportunity to specialize in a specific skill area, participate in professional development activities and engage in research. WVU has also formed a collaboration, called Diversity Alliance, with American University, University of Iowa and Virginia Tech, where similar programs are being established.

"The WVU Resident Librarian Program is an important development for the West Virginia University Diversity outreach agenda. I commend Dean Jon Cawthorne for developing this innovative program, and we look forward to the collaboration with the other institutions in the Diversity Alliance."

— David M. Fryson, Vice President for WVU Diversity



ASHLEIGH COREN

Coren previously was a part-time reference librarian at Emerson College and the High School/College Success Initiative AmeriCorps Advisor for Steps to Success, an academic achievement program that works with students from low-income families. She received her master's in library and information science, archives management concentration, from Simmons College in August 2014. She also holds a bachelor's in art and visual culture from Bates College.

What do you hope to gain from your experience at WVU?

I hope to learn more about professional development and capacity building for librarians and staff. Hopefully I will get a chance to be an academic coach and work with students outside of the library. I also look forward to developing various partnerships both within and outside the library, and learning more about WVU. This is a special place, and I am excited to be a part of the community.

What does the residency program mean for you and your career?

Dean Cawthorne has made it quite clear that this residency is not just about exposure to different departments; this is a chance for the residents to focus on pursuing their passions and to try new things. As a Resident I have the resources and support to both achieve my personal and professional goals. Honestly, it doesn't get any better than that.

What are your goals? Where do you want to be in 10 years?

My ultimate goal is to become a consultant for libraries and cultural heritage sites. In 10 years I would like to be working from home.



CHANELLE PICKENS

Pickens earned a master's in library and information science, with an archives and records management focus, from San Jose State University in 2014 and a B.S. in communications from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2004. She is a certified archivist and intends to conduct meaningful research related to library instruction during her time at WVU. When she isn't causing a ruckus in the library, Pickens practices yoga and develops her skills as an amateur photographer.

What do you hope to gain from your experience at WVU?

I hope to gain a full spectrum view of the WVU Libraries and to understand their place within the fabric of the campus community. This insight will be valuable for creating programs and services to meet the constantly evolving needs of a diverse student and faculty population. Additionally, I hope that I am challenged to see my individual role as librarian, archivist, student and colleague in new ways.

What does the residency program mean for you and your career?

I have three (seemingly unrelated) areas that I hope to intertwine during this residency. First, I plan to transfer my love of all things branding and marketing to the world of information centers by creating meaningful and dynamic campaigns for the Library and each of its specialized units. I also look forward to identifying digital humanities projects that can highlight the wealth of knowledge available to us through archival and special collections. Finally, I will identify and implement new techniques and methods for library instruction.

What are your goals? Where do you want to be in 10 years?

I don't like projecting that far into the future. Obviously I hope that I am happy and healthy (owning a Tesla would be pretty nice too). Ultimately, I would like to be in a position with the ability to positively influence how we think about information centers and their lasting importance to our society. It's important to me that I can create new ways for engagement with and interpretation of the vast amounts of information we deal with on a daily basis.



LISETTE HERNÁNDEZ

Hernández received her bachelor of arts from the University of Florida in 2008. In 2013, she earned a minor in Information Sciences from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and returned in the fall of that year to attend UTK's School of Information Sciences. Lisette earned her master's degree in the summer of 2015.

What do you hope to gain from your experience at WVU?

It is my hope of hopes that the experience I gain from my time at WVU will temper me into both a leader and a torch-bearer. Even though I have been here for a little over a month, I have witnessed from the back-end how selection committees choose their candidates; this has given me great insight on how to sculpt myself further as a professional. I hope, as well, that I can leave an impression on WVU, or rather, to be able to impart something to this institution which has already given me so much.

What does this residency mean for you and your career?

I want to use this residency as a foundation upon which I can build my career. The Library and Information Science field is quite competitive, and this residency will give me an edge and a shine that I might not have had without it. Through my rotations, I get to sample different facets of the academic library as a whole information organism. I feel very fortunate and humbled to be allowed to experience this.

What are your goals? Where do you want to be in 10 years?

My goal for after the residency position is to return to school in order to acquire my Ph.D. Actually, that is my main priority when I have finished my time here. Dr. Cawthorne is such an inspiration for me, and I want to become a dean so that I, too, can use the library as a vehicle for enlightenment and empowerment.



Munn Award winners Matthew Trickett and Jordan Lovejoy pose with Dean of Libraries Jon E. Cawthorne.

The West Virginia University Libraries selected Jordan Lovejoy and Matthew Trickett as 2015 Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars.

“All of us at the WVU Libraries are pleased to name Jordan Lovejoy and Matthew Trickett as Munn Scholars,” Dean of Libraries Jon E. Cawthorne said. “Jordan and Matthew produced impressive works of scholarship. Both did a tremendous job researching their topics and presenting their findings.”

The WVU Libraries and the Honors College established the Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award in 2008 to honor Dr. Robert F. Munn, dean of Library Services from 1957-1986.

The award goes to one or more graduating Honors students for an

outstanding humanities or social sciences thesis based on research conducted in the WVU Libraries. Writing a thesis is a graduation requirement for Honors students. Along with receiving a \$1,000 award, the scholar’s name is added to a plaque in the Downtown Campus Library. There have been 12 Munn Scholars.

Ryan Claycomb, assistant dean of the Honors College, said this year’s Munn Award winners’ submissions demonstrate the range and quality of undergraduate research in the social sciences and the humanities.

“While both have an important component that analyzes gender, Lovejoy’s interpretive and lyrical eco-feminist approach to narratives of our Appalachian landscape complements Trickett’s data-based approach to the influence of gender roles on depression,” Claycomb said. “Together they show us how much influence the humanities and social sciences have on the quality of the lives we lead, and how excellent student work in these fields underscores

the importance of higher education in preserving, teaching and developing these ways of knowing our world.”

Lovejoy, the daughter of Jeffrey and Rebecca Lovejoy of Pineville, won the award with her paper titled “Speaking with the Silenced: Unquiet Ecologies in the Appalachian Writing of Denise Giardina.” Her thesis explores how Giardina wove environmental issues and activism into her novels.

“One of the most important things I learned is that literature has an influence and a power in the actual world, and the actual world has a power and influence on literature,” Lovejoy said.

She developed her concern for the environment while growing up in southern West Virginia, where she witnessed the effects of the mining industry on the surrounding landscape and experienced the loss of friends in mining accidents.

“It opened my eyes to things happening in my community,” Lovejoy said.

Her perceptions grew when she enrolled in an Appalachian literature class and started reading historical fiction and non-fictional accounts related to life in the Mountain State and surrounding region. She credits Dr. Lowell Duckert, who teaches a class that examines Shakespeare’s references to ecology and the environment in his plays, for introducing her to ecocriticism, which blends the study of the environment and literature.

Relations between CES-D Subscale Scores and MRNI-SF Masculinity Scores.” For the thesis, he studied depression in both men and women and compared their depression scores to a masculinity measure.

Trickett got the idea for his paper while working with doctoral students in Dr. Amy Fiske’s lab and focused two semesters on the research and writing. Much of that time was spent searching out and then scouring journal articles related to his topic in the

“Reading can lead to writing, which can lead to activism. Writing is a type of activism.”

– Jordan Lovejoy

“Reading can lead to writing, which can lead to activism. Writing is a type of activism,” Lovejoy said.

While writing her paper, Lovejoy spent a lot of time in the West Virginia and Regional History Center, where she found a wealth of resources concerning Giardina.

“The WVRHC has Denise Giardina’s manuscripts and her personal notes from while she was developing and writing both of her novels,” Lovejoy said. “That was great because I wanted to look at her life and what made her want to write these.”

Along with being an Eberly Scholar and a McNair Scholar, Lovejoy was also a Udall Scholar. The Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation annually selects 50 college sophomores and juniors committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or Native American healthcare.

Lovejoy graduated with a triple major in English, Spanish and women’s and gender studies. She wants to teach Appalachian literature and ecocriticism on the college level. In the fall, she will begin studies at The Ohio State University in a master’s/ Ph.D. program in literature.

Trickett, the son of Walter and Bonnie Trickett of Sandyville, won the award with his paper titled “Investigation of the

Downtown Campus Library.

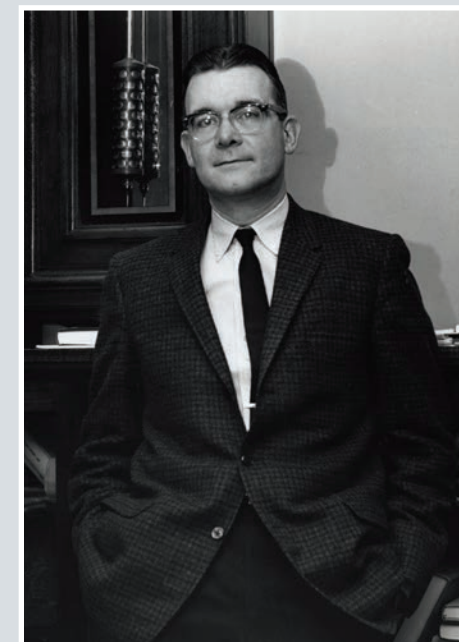
“You have to find out what other people have already written to see if it’s been done so that you’re not just replicating someone else’s work,” he said.

Trickett feels gratified by the Munn Award and appreciates the financial boost. He also believes that his long hours in Wise Library’s Milano Reading Room will pay off, too.

“Writing this paper has been a stepping stone for research I’ll do in graduate school. It’s been a great learning process,” he said.

Trickett came to WVU as an art education major and later switched to psychology because of his interest in how people think and react to different situations and stimuli. He received the PROMISE Scholarship as well as the University’s Presidential Scholarship for his first four years at WVU.

Since graduating in December with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, he has been working to save money for graduate school and build his art portfolio. His interest is in child psychology and art therapy. He plans to enter a Ph.D. program in fall 2016.



DR. ROBERT F. MUNN

Dr. Robert F. Munn served as the director of libraries from 1957-1986. During his tenure, the West Virginia University Libraries became West Virginia’s first research library with more than one million volumes, and the West Virginia and Regional History Collection developed into the most significant archives in the state.

A scholar and author of numerous articles and several books relating to various topics including Appalachia and the coal industry, Munn was dedicated to promoting scholarship and literature, especially regarding West Virginia subjects. In the 1960s, he founded the WVU Press as a vehicle to publish manuscripts of merit chiefly of state and regional interest.

Munn also served as provost under three presidents (Paul Miller, Harry Heflin and James Harlow) and as an adviser and confidant to several more.

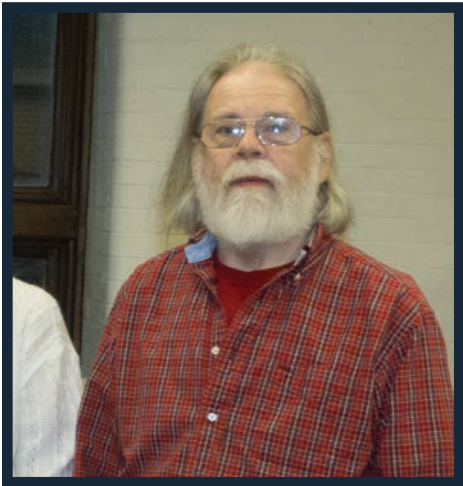
In recognition of his profound contributions, Munn was inducted posthumously in 1986 into the Order of Vandalia, WVU’s highest honor for service to the institution.



Allyson McKee and WVU President E. Gordon Gee

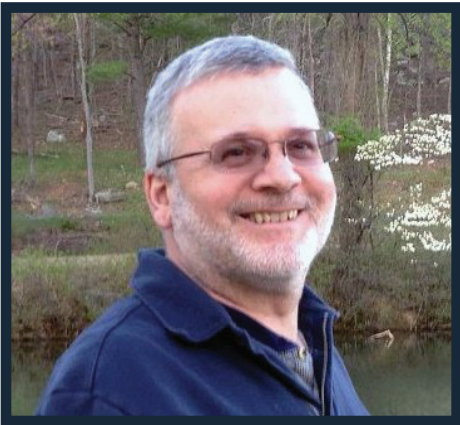
Allyson McKee retired from West Virginia University on June 30, 2015, as the head of Continuing Resources: Acquisition & Cataloging for the WVU Libraries with 43 years of service. After graduating from WVU in December 1969 with a bachelor's degree in zoology, McKee moved to Fort Belvoir, Va., where her husband, Clark, was stationed with the military. Upon returning to Morgantown in 1972, McKee

began working as a library technical assistant II alongside librarian Theodore Judy. Her transition to librarianship came rather abruptly after she earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1978. Dr. Robert Munn, the former director of Libraries, approached her in the hallway and said he had heard she finished her library degree. When she responded in the affirmative, he shot back, "How would you like to work at the Medical Center Library?" McKee accepted the cataloging position and began her new job only a few days later. It was at the Medical Center Library (later called the Health Sciences Library) that she became an early explorer of the Internet. The Library had MEDLINE (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online), the first electronic database. McKee would dial a number and then place the phone into an acoustic coupler modem to connect the Beehive terminal with the database. With a connection speed of 300 baud (30 characters a second) it took one minute to receive 360 words of text. "That was fast then," she said. McKee had worked at the Health Sciences Library for 15 years when former Dean of Libraries Ruth Jackson named her head of Technical Services for the Libraries and moved her to the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library. Later, former Dean of Libraries Frances O'Brien named her head of Acquisitions. The past two decades brought multiple waves of change. Card catalogs and the chore of typing on and filing 3 x 5 cards gave way to an online catalog, and paper journals that arrive by mail were overtaken by electronic journals. McKee joked that the fast-changing digital resources landscape required expertise in contract law. Many publishers were struggling as they transitioned from a world in which a physical copy of a journal could be used by only one person at a time to an electronic world in which dozens of people at one institution could read the same article within an hour. Thankfully, she often sought advice from Lauren Twigg Krupica with WVU's Office of Legal Affairs. While McKee is proud of her accomplishments — all of the collections and resources she brought into the Libraries, all the agreements she signed and initiatives she worked to make happen — she considers the most valuable to be the relationships she built. "I will miss the people, the 'lunch bunch' who I spent time with every day. They're like another family," McKee said. "The people really matter." People are high on McKee's retirement plan. She's looking forward to spending more time with family. Her son, Sean McKee and his wife, Stephanie, are recently married; and her daughter, Lisa Wotring and husband, Jeff, have three kids: Devan, Loryn and Tyler. There may be trips soon to visit family in the Florida Keys and back in Maryland. McKee's retirement plans also involve travel. Her husband, Clark, wants to take a cruise. She prefers trains, and she has a list of train trips throughout West Virginia that includes a "Murder Mystery" train ride.



Sam Butler retired from WVU in December 2014 with close to 40 years of service with the Libraries. Butler grew up outside of Charleston in the Campbell's Creek area. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1969 and a master's degree in 1978, both in history. He began working at the Library's Cataloging Department in February 1975. Over four decades, the basics of his job didn't change that much.

"Whether it was catalogue cards or computers, the goal was the same: get books and information out as quickly and as accurate as possible. It was only the method that changed; that however changed greatly," Butler said. Health has been his focus during retirement so far. Diagnosed with cancer in late 2014, he finished chemotherapy in August. The effects are waning and he is starting to feel better and is slowly returning to his normal activity level. Butler has been spending his time reading and working in his garden, and he and his wife have made a couple trips. "More is definitely in the plans," Butler said. Butler advises those thinking about retirement to really think about how they will fill the hours. "It takes a while to get used to not having work or school to supply a framework for day-to-day life," Butler said. "You have to build your own schedule and find an activity that you enjoy. Above all else, keep busy."



Joe Morasco retired from WVU on April 1, 2015, with 30 years of service at the Libraries. Morasco began his career at the circulation desk in the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library in 1985. However, his connection with libraries dates back to his childhood and began on another continent. His father a government worker with the U.S. military, Morasco was born in Berlin and grew up in the shadow of the Berlin Wall. In those pre-Internet days, a library was a bright shining light for people living abroad on a U.S. military base.

"Our small, but very well-stocked, base library was a focal point where service members could keep in touch with what was happening stateside with various U.S. newspapers, current magazines and a large audio and monograph collection," Morasco recalled. "My family was always bundling into our car for a visit to the library." After his father left federal service in the 1970s, his family settled in Morgantown. He enrolled in WVU in 1975. A favorite part of his job at the WVU Libraries was interacting with students and faculty. He especially liked teaching scholars how to work with scanning software and hardware. The biggest change he witnessed during his tenure was how the Internet enhanced the delivery of materials to users. "We now deliver documents around the world in seconds as opposed to days or weeks 20 years ago," Morasco said. Since retiring, Morasco is still using the skills he learned at the Downtown Campus Library. He's designing websites, digitizing various forms of older media and dabbling with some multimedia production — all pro bono.

LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION HONORS TWO STAFF MEMBERS



Thea Browne, Library Staff Association Staff Person of the Year, and Joe Morasco, Library Staff Association Continuing Excellence Award winner, pose with Associate Dean of Libraries Myra N. Lowe and LSA Chair Jennifer Dubetz.

During a ceremony in June, the WVU Library Staff Association (LSA) presented Thea Browne with the Library Staff Association Staff Person of the Year Award and Joe Morasco with the Library Staff Association Continuing Excellence Award. The nomination letter for Browne, executive assistant to the dean, praised her for making exceptional contributions toward the Libraries and the delivery of library services. "Thea exemplifies the attribute of consistently providing excellent service to students, staff, faculty and members of the larger public. She makes things happen from conception to implementation," the letter states. "Thea solves problems creatively, assists co-workers cheerfully and accepts additional responsibilities readily." The Continuing Excellence Award recognizes the 30-year career of Morasco, who retired in April. Working in Document Delivery, Morasco regularly assisted students, teaching faculty and library employees. His nominator called him the go-to-person for technology questions and commended him for being detail oriented and constantly working to improve processes, procedures and outcomes. "Over the years he has served on committees and subcommittees, been supportive to fellow employees through all the changes and did whatever was asked of him with professionalism and skill. Joe is a problem solver and will stay with a problem or a person until there is a satisfactory outcome. His contribution is immeasurable and will be missed," the nomination reads. Browne and Morasco's names have been added to a plaque located near the atrium of the Downtown Campus Library.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES THAT FOLLOW

Great libraries are the cornerstones of great universities. Great libraries provide the best resources available and latest research for students, faculty and staff to create ideas, to solve problems and to dream. Great libraries welcome users with knowledgeable librarians and staff to guide them in their efforts. Great libraries are a place where students collaborate on projects, study for exams or find solitude to focus on assignments.

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man."

T.S. Eliot, poet, essayist and playwright

As you plan for your family's future, you can plan for the Libraries, too. A worthwhile option is to consider including a gift provision in your will or revocable trust with the wording of "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries."

You may have your attorney specify that your gift is to be used for electronic journals, technological resources, facility improvements, collection acquisition and preservation or discretionary purposes. Funds for all of these aspects of the Libraries' ongoing efforts are needed.

It's an opportunity to meet your charitable goal at a level you never thought possible and, at the same time, provide a financially secure future for you and your family.

To discuss making a donation, creating an endowment or writing a bequest, please contact Monte Maxwell, Communications Coordinator, at 304-293-0306 or monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu.

MOUNTAINEERS AND LIBRARIES KICK OFF FIFTH TOUCHDOWN CHALLENGE



The West Virginia University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and WVU Libraries are teaming up again for the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge, a fundraising campaign to benefit the Libraries.

The initiative, in its fifth year, enables participants to pledge a dollar amount per touchdown the Mountaineers score during the 2015 season and a subsequent bowl game. The proceeds will support a project within the Libraries.

"I am thrilled to continue the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge and support WVU Libraries," Director of Athletics Shane Lyons said. "It's exciting to know that our success on the field translates into needed library resources to benefit all students."

Head football coach Dana Holgorsen helped launch the Touchdown Challenge when he came to WVU in 2011. He likes that the program spotlights the importance of academics and enhances the scholarly experience at WVU.

"The Touchdown Challenge has been a lot of fun for all of us. Our players take pride in knowing their performance also helps the Libraries better serve

students," Holgorsen said. "We are always looking to put points on the board, and any extra incentive to help the University is welcomed."

Funds raised through the Touchdown Challenge have supported multiple enhancements within the Libraries. The most popular has been the creation of a presentation practice room outfitted with digital cameras, a computer, editing software and other equipment. Donations from the 2014 season supported cutting-edge software that streamlines the recording and editing process.

Student feedback will determine where the Libraries will direct funds raised during the 2015 Touchdown Challenge.

"All of us at WVU Libraries are excited and humbled to be connected with West Virginia University's proud football tradition," Dean of Libraries Jon E. Cawthorne said. "We appreciate Shane Lyons, Coach Holgorsen, every player and every loyal fan who make the Touchdown Challenge a success."

If you're up for the Challenge, visit mountaineerconnection.com/touchdownchallenge.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE WVU LIBRARIES

Our mission is to enhance the academic environment for students, faculty and staff. You can help WVU Libraries continue making a difference in the lives of our users by making a gift to the Libraries.

You can become a Friend of the WVU Libraries with an annual gift of \$50. All individuals who establish an endowment or make a planned gift become lifetime members of the Friends. If you already created an endowment or bequest, you're on our list.

Friends of the WVU Libraries receive *Ex Libris*, our annual magazine, and invitations to special events and receptions.

To make a donation, visit lib.wvu.edu/about/giving or use the enclosed envelope.





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