

EX LIBRIS

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MAGAZINE | FALL 2017

▶ **FLOWING OUTWARD
AND BEYOND — WVU 150**
THE JOURNEY TO GREATNESS.

 West Virginia University

A Letter from the Dean



While celebrating the 150th anniversary of the University, it is also fun to look back and see how far the University library has come in that time. While the library “Regulations” on page 1 are not quite 150 years old, they come close, likely stemming from 1885. We have come a long way! Rather than being open one day a week at the convenience of the librarian, we are now open 24/5 in our Evansdale Library and more than 92 hours in the Downtown Library ... at the convenience of our users.

If you count our online presence, we are actually available 24/7/365. We don't require a deposit or security to borrow materials, even though we do still check them out. Our “charging” system for access to our online materials is now a login with a valid WVU credential.

It is easy to see that 150 years ago the library was clearly about books, and clearly organized for the convenience of the librarian. Now we have become so much more. Yes, we still own and purchase books, but we also subscribe to journals, films, newspapers and more.

A full 90 percent of our materials budget is now spent on digital materials of all of these formats. And our librarians are not solely engaged in the acquisition and cataloging of these materials. They also teach, assist researchers (in person and virtually), do outreach in the community and on campus, digitize materials, manage public computers, develop local systems solutions, negotiate contracts with vendors, create exhibits, give presentations, manage interlibrary loan (resource sharing) networks, reach out to donors, collaborate on large projects with other libraries, engage in space planning, publish, design events to bring various disciplines together and highlight scholarship, keep up with and interpret the changing scholarly landscape for faculty and graduate students – and even design online games for undergraduates to learn about the libraries.

I encourage you to continue to explore the rich history of our University and Libraries as documented in this issue, and to also see what we are up to now!

Karen Diaz
Interim Dean of Libraries

EX LIBRIS

Fall 2017

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On the cover: *Flowing Outward and Beyond* is an oil on canvas painted by George Gardner Symons in 1928.



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.

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer – Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran.

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150
YEARS

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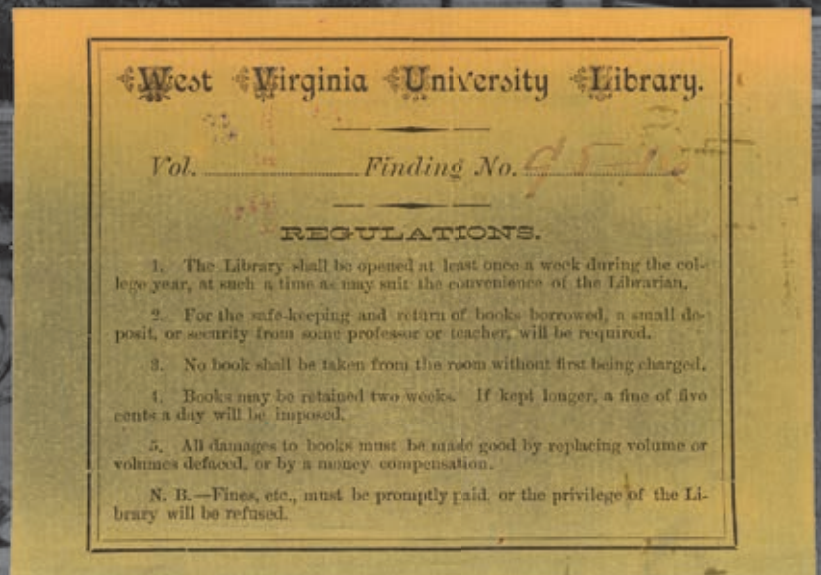
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Snapshot

- ▶ The University's second library building, eventually to be named the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library, opened its doors in 1931.

▲ WVU Library regulations.



Library Day at Sports Camp

For the past 10 years, on a July afternoon, WVU Libraries librarians and staff stop by the Shell Building to give away an assortment of books to participants of the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), which is run by the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences. Participants could choose from four titles.

The NYSP began at WVU 30 years ago to help kids ages 10-16 improve physical fitness through sports. Today, the camp enrolls about 200. All equipment, lunch and transportation are provided at no charge.



West Virginia State National History Day Competition

In April, WVU Libraries hosted the 2017 West Virginia State National History Day contest for the second year. Using the theme, "Taking a Stand in History," 55 middle and high school students competed in five categories: exhibits, papers, documentaries, websites and performances. Winners moved on to the national competition in June.

This year's winning projects included a paper on the Monongah Mine Disaster, an exhibit featuring Katherine Johnson and others of "Hidden Figures" fame, a website on union leader John L. Lewis, a documentary on labor organizer Mother Jones and a performance about a court case in Calhoun County that led to a 1943 Supreme Court decision that ruled that students could not be forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance or salute the flag. We commend all of the students for their participation.

Many thanks to all who judged or helped staff the library that day. WVU hosts the state contest through a collaboration of the Department of History, Center for Democracy and Citizenship Education, and WVU Libraries, in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education.

Open Textbook Success

Last fall, the Open Educational Resources Committee invited University faculty to participate in an Open Textbook Workshop given by David Ernst and Sarah Cohen both from the Open Textbook Network (research.cehd.umn.edu/otn). Five faculty members adopted open textbooks during the spring semester.

Class enrollment figures ran from 13 in an English editing course to 241 for an Economics 202 course. Textbook costs previously used by the faculty ranged from \$28.35 to \$252.65. A total cost savings of \$87,797.30 was seen by students in these courses who did not have to buy new print textbooks.

As the open education landscape continues to evolve and grow in complexity, another workshop will be offered this fall. As a member of the Open Textbook Network, WVU joins a community of over 350 campuses that have saved students millions of dollars.



Mark Twain Day

April 21 was Mark Twain Day in the Rare Book Room. Among the treasures on display were several of the Libraries' Twain first editions. If you missed the exhibit, the collection is permanently housed in the Rare Book Room in the West Virginia and Regional History Center on the sixth floor of Wise Library.

Please contact Stewart Plein (stewart.plein@mail.wvu.edu) for an appointment to view the collection.

We've had a busy 2016–2017 academic year!

Librarian-Led Classes Reached

11,600

Students Last Year

Laptops for in-library use were checked out

66,432 TIMES



STAY ALERT

We have three coffee shops



68

Study rooms have technology

WVU College of Law launches initiative to help Appalachia

Staff in WVU's George R. Farmer, Jr. Law Library have compiled a resource list of scholarship, op-eds and other work written by law faculty members that relate to topics surrounding legal, economic, environmental and policy issues in West Virginia's rural communities. The list is available in the library and on the AJI website to highlight work that has been done by College of Law faculty to tackle social justice issues in Appalachia.

"WVU College of Law faculty have already produced a wealth of scholarship regarding social and economic development in Appalachia," said Nick Stump, head of Reference and Access Services. "It was exciting and heartening for our library team to compile these works and to trace how the College of Law's commitment to advancing regional justice has broadened and deepened over the years."

For more information about the Appalachian Justice Initiative, future programming and events, go to aji.law.wvu.edu.

Ask a Librarian

The WVU Libraries team provides friendly, expert help whenever students, faculty and other users have questions. We can be contacted in the way that suits them best.

- ✓ In person at a service desk in any of our libraries.
- ✓ Chat at westvirginia.libanswers.com.
- ✓ Email ask@westvirginia.libanswers.com.
- ✓ Make an appointment with a subject librarian at lib.wvu.edu/instruction/consultation.
- ✓ Call us at 304-293-0355.



▲ "Object D4h" sculpture at Evansdale Library.

ART IN THE LIBRARIES SPARKS IDEAS

The Art in the Libraries program enriches the connection between the Libraries' collections and services and users' learning and understanding through exhibits and related programs that highlight the creative endeavors and scholarship of WVU faculty, staff and students.

This academic year, several existing and upcoming exhibitions and programs highlight this mission of cross-campus collaboration.

"OBJECT D4H"

An interactive sculpture on display at Evansdale Library is the result of the Community Engagement in Science through Art program (CESTA), which has assembled a team of student artists,

chemists and engineers from WVU and three other universities.

"CESTA gives its participants the unique opportunity to collaborate with others from very different viewpoints to create an original project. I don't know of anything else like it," said Todd Hamrick, assistant professor of engineering, Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

Overseeing the project, along with Hamrick, are Jessica Hoover, an assistant professor of chemistry, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and Jason Lee, an associate professor of sculpture, College of Creative Arts.

"Object D4h," a rotating, 6' x 3' x 6' metal and plastic sculpture, explores symmetry, and was designed to be an abstracted representation of a molecule synthesized

by Hoover's research group. A detailed background narrative at cestasymmetry.wordpress.com outlines the group's design and research process.

The CESTA program is funded by Hoover's National Science Foundation CAREER award, as the outreach component of the research grant. The goals of the program are to engage the community in chemistry through art and to teach WVU science, engineering and art students to work and communicate effectively across fields.

The sculpture will remain installed throughout the 2017-18 school year.

"LOOKING AT APPALACHIA"

In September, the Arts in the Libraries committee re-installed the "Looking at



▲ Raymond Thompson

Appalachia” exhibit to include 20 new images. “Looking at Appalachia, Selected Images from 2014 - 2016,” a juried collection of images by amateur and professional photographers, is currently on display at the Downtown Campus Library.

West Virginia native Roger May directs the ongoing project, which chronicles life in the 13-state region more than 50 years after President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty. May’s goal is to expand the image and description of people in Appalachia beyond impoverished.

“BODIES OF TRUTH”

At the Health Sciences Library, “Bodies of Truth: An Artist’s Creative Exploration through Cancer” showcases the artwork of the late Wheeling-based artist Lacie Wallace. The bright and intimate mixed media works are coupled with narratives by the artist and those around her including members of her healthcare team. The exhibit runs through February and is a collaboration between Expressive Writing in the Cancer Institute Project, WVU Cancer Institute, WVU Health Sciences Library, and the Quality of Life Initiative and WVU Libraries.



▲ Three friends pose for photographer Dennis Savage in Cabell County, W.Va. The image is part of the “Looking at Appalachia” exhibit.

“THE DIVIDE”

“The Divide,” an exhibit of photographs and audio, on display in the WVU Libraries’ Downtown Campus Library Atrium, documents a van trip for families from urban Virginia to visit their relatives incarcerated in Appalachia.

The images, by Raymond Thompson, a multimedia producer with WVU University Relations, reveal both the significance and difficulty of these trips, which strengthen social ties to family and community. The display, partially funded by College of Law Library, will be on view through December.

The WVU Reed College of Media, the Department of English and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology also partnered with WVU Libraries to bring this project to fruition.

“HIDDEN FIGURES”

In October, an augmented-reality exhibit inspired by this year’s Campus Read, “Hidden Figures,” made typically unknown stories of West Virginia come alive with the sweep of a cell phone. The WVU Reed College came together with the History Department, WVRHC and WVU Libraries to create this unique experimental exhibit that will be displayed on the second floor of the Downtown Campus Library through December.

COMING IN 2018

In January, the Libraries will install contemporary designs of classic Appalachian book covers from the WVU Libraries’ Rare Books Room. Rare Books Curator Stewart Plein will work with College of Creative Arts Professor Joseph Galbreath to curate this graphic design class assignment. Selected designs will be displayed in study rooms, complemented by a temporary exhibit of three-dimensional designs at Evansdale Library.

College of Creative Arts Professor of Photography Michael Sherwin celebrates ten years of teaching the Jackson Hole Photography Workshop with an exhibition featuring images taken by himself and his students in the Downtown Campus Library Atrium Jan-June.

From the Hampton History Museum, “When the Computer Wore a Skirt: NASA’s Human Computers,” will be on view in the Rockefeller Gallery in January and at the Evansdale Library in February.

For more info see exhibits.lib.wvu.edu or contact Sally Deskins, exhibits coordinator, at sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu. ♡

WVRHC DIGITIZING HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

The West Virginia & Regional History Center received a \$210,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue digitizing newspapers published in West Virginia more than a century ago.

The award is the Libraries' fourth NEH grant as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). The collaboration between the NEH and the Library of Congress enlists libraries and institutions from around the country to create a digital database of historical U.S. newspapers.

"We are honored that the NEH recognizes the tremendous value of the historical newspapers archived in the WVRHC," Director John Cuthbert said. "We are thrilled to make more of these resources accessible to the world." The *Chronicling America* website (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) provides access to more than 12 million newspaper

pages from 1789 to 1924. So far, WVU has contributed 300,000 pages from 39 historic West Virginia newspapers.

The WVRHC holds the most comprehensive collection of West Virginia newspapers, including more than 50,000 reels of microfilm. The collection is the Center's most frequently consulted resource.

"Newspapers are possibly the most significant single resource for studying the history of civilization since newspaper publishing began. They are a daily chronicle of what is happening in society," Cuthbert said.

Curator Stewart Plein said the grant will enable the Center to digitize 100,000 more newspaper pages. They will focus on a period of significant change with the opening of coalfields and the influx of African Americans who

migrated to West Virginia for jobs, and the expansion of the railroad and the corresponding birth of Huntington.

The African American population in the state increased from 25,800 in 1880 to more than 64,000 by 1910.

"African Americans in Huntington developed and established a self-supporting community within the city that drew on the African American quest for identity, the need for education, the desire to own property, supportive kinship relationships and steady employment," Plein said.

With the initial \$266,000 grant in 2011, the Center began its efforts by focusing on the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, which they identified as the most



ESTABLISHED 1861.

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1907.

MINE NOW BURNING

SCENES AT MINES ARE DISTRESSING

ELEVEN BODIES ARE TAKEN OUT

MONONGAH, Dec. 7.—At 3:15 this morning mine No. 8 caught afire, with no prospect of extinguishing blaze, and hundreds of dead miners will be burned. Excitement is intense and the whole town is out fighting the flames.

CLARKSBURG MEN AMONG VICTIMS

Of the Long List of American Miners Known to Be Dead Below—
FRIENDS ON THE SCENE
The tags and machinery connected with No. 8 mine for keeping the atmosphere within the mine free from dust and gas had a capacity of 240,000 cubic feet per minute and 240,000 cubic feet of equipment at mine No. 6 had a capacity of 100,000 feet of equipment in the state in these as well as other respects for the safety of the miners.

HEROES RISK THEIR LIVES

MONONGAH, Dec. 7.—(Special.) The opening of the Monongah coal mine No. 6 is a few feet below the Fairmont & Clarksburg Traction Company's intersection with Fairmont & Clarksburg Traction Company's intersection with the West Virginia directly opposite the town of Monongah. It is one-fourth mile below the trolley station at the head of Bridge street. There is a high cut on the north side of the river.

ALL IS GLOOM

Death-Like Stillness Possesses Town Except at Scenes of the Awful Horrors.

significant newspaper of the antebellum and early statehood period. Along with being the only daily newspaper published in western Virginia at the start of the Civil War, it held anti-slavery and pro-Union stances, and supported the statehood movement.

The WVRHC received grants of \$135,000 in 2013 and \$155,000 in 2015 and expanded its scope to include papers from around the state. These additions brought reporting on both sides of the Civil War conflict and pivotal issues and events such as the growing antebellum conflict between eastern and western Virginia, John Brown's raid, West Virginia's statehood movement and establishment and West Virginia's 1872 constitution, Reconstruction and the United States' Centennial.

Reflecting West Virginia's unique heritage, the WVRHC contributed two socialist papers, Charleston's *Labor Argus* (May 1906–April 1913) and Huntington's *Socialist* and *Labor Star* (May 1913–January 1915); *Pioneer Press* (1884–1888 and 1911–1917) published in Martinsburg for African Americans; and *La Sentinella del West Virginia* (February 1911–May 1912), an Italian language paper published in Thomas. ❧



WVRHC SEEKING COPIES OF RARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

The West Virginia & Regional History Center is seeking copies of or information about three African-American newspapers published in the early 20th century in Huntington in an effort to preserve their content through the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). WVRHC Curator Stewart Plein said very little is known about *The Breeze*, *The Huntington Enterprise* and *The West Virginia Spokesman*, all published in Huntington about 100 years ago.

“Although I have found references to all of these newspapers in my historical research, I have yet to locate even a single surviving issue in any library,” Plein said.

Her goal is to borrow any existing issues of the newspapers, scan them and return the originals to the owners and add the electronic versions to the NDNP.

To assist in the search, please contact Plein at: stewart.plein@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-0345.

150 Years of **West Virginia University**

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY —

*The foundation for **greatness***





150
YEARS

In the fall of 1867, WVU President Alexander Martin and six faculty members welcomed six college students and 118 preparatory department students (young men preparing to attend college) to campus. Their initial home included the former Woodburn Female Seminary building, which stood on the site of today's Woodburn Hall, and a brick structure on High Street.

It would be three years before the school opened its first new building, University Hall, which would later become Martin Hall. The admission of women and the establishment of a football team lay nearly a quarter century in the future.

Yet, the University's founders and early leaders were already struggling with many of the same issues that concern leaders today: increasing enrollment, improving infrastructure, fulfilling the land-grant mission and preparing students to achieve greatness.

In an article published in the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* on July 29, 1886, WVU President Eli Marsh Turner, (1885 – 1893), shared his vision for the state's flagship University.

The reporter wrote that Turner "sees no reason why (WVU) ought not be made a great national celebrity and rank among the standard colleges and universities of the country. The benefit that would accrue to the state could not be estimated."

Turner clearly understood the land-grant mission and strongly advocated the necessity of state funding in achieving their goals. In the interview, he argued that the State Legislature should be generous in "granting its support to the University so that the poor and ambitious young men of the state may have placed at their doors opportunities that only the wealthy can secure at Princeton and Harvard without great sacrifice."

That case has been restated again and again over the past century and a half.

Most recently, in delivering the keynote address at the WVU Libraries' West Virginia Day celebration on June 20, Dr. Ronald L. Lewis, professor emeritus in the WVU History Department, provided a deep exploration into the University's aspirations to greatness.

▲ Eastern view of what would soon be Woodburn Circle, circa 1872. Martin Hall is on the left and the Woodburn Female Seminary is to the right. Martin Hall was the first building constructed for the University. The former seminary building served as a dormitory and burnt down in 1873. Woodburn Hall was built soon afterwards on the site.

Still *Aspiring* to *Greatness*: **WVU at 150**

On June 20, 2017, Dr. Ronald L. Lewis, professor emeritus in the WVU History Department, addressed the West Virginia Day Celebration in the Downtown Campus Library's Milano Reading Room. His presentation was based on his book "Aspiring to Greatness: West Virginia University since World War II" (WVU Press, 2013). The following text is an abridged version of his talk.

On West Virginia's 154th birthday, in the year of WVU's sesquicentennial, it seems appropriate to assess the evolution of the state's flagship university toward its long-held goal of becoming one of the nation's great institutions.

A few words about the title are in order. "Aspiring" raises the question among the faithful: "isn't WVU great already?" I use "aspiring" to refer to the common aspiration of the WVU community at-large that the University should assume its rightful place among the nation's great universities.

The title also begs the question, "What is a great university?" "Greatness" refers to the goal expressed by every WVU president since World War II that WVU should be a major research university — one that is a leader in discovering new knowledge and technologies,

advances scholarship, and at the same time offers excellent, accessible educational programs. How close we are to achieving "greatness" depends on which University constituency we ask, and there are many: students, parents, alumni, faculty, administrators, politicians, sports fans, donors and the public at large.



▲ Faculty, circa 1885.

Each has its own perspective on how the University is measuring up.

In this presentation, and the book on which it is based, I have focused on historically significant developments that mark WVU's evolution from a small provincial institution to one that stands at the threshold of national prominence.

The history of WVU since WW II tracks the three major eras that shaped American higher education generally: expansion, 1946 to the

early seventies; diversification, 1970s into the nineties; and commercialization, beginning in the late eighties to the present.

Expansion: 1946-1967

Policies initiated by the federal government during the Cold War greatly stimulated college enrollment during the era of expansion from

1946 to the mid-sixties. The GI Bill of Rights played a major role in financing the approximately eight million World War II and Korean War veterans who attended the nation's colleges upon their return from military service.

The Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik in 1957 caused a panic in the national defense community, and triggered passage of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 to ensure that students of ability were not denied access to higher education because of financial need.

And then the post-war baby boomers flooded college campuses. The number of undergraduates attending the nation's colleges grew by nearly 500 percent. Enrollment at WVU mirrored national trends by nearly doubling from 3,500 in 1938 to 6,735 in 1948, and doubling again to 14,888 by 1965.

Diversification: 1970-1990s

The historic expansion in higher education after WW II ended as the sixties came to a close. Enrollments continued to climb, but universities



▲ A man and two women walk on a path towards Woodburn Hall, circa 1910.

accustomed to a small, homogeneous, white, and mostly male student body now confronted a large, diverse student population insisting upon change.

WVU opened its doors to African Americans immediately following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision that the segregation of public schools was unconstitutional. For the next two decades, life was not easy for the relatively few who enrolled. Black athletes played the most visible role in desegregating previously all-white campuses, including WVU.

Life in Morgantown could be uncomfortable for African American students who found themselves barred from fraternities and sororities, refused service in restaurants, unwelcomed at dances, motion picture theaters, and other events where the races might mingle; even finding a barber posed a problem.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination in employment, and the education

amendments to the act in 1972, particularly Title IX, resulted in a greater racial and gender balance in college sports and traditionally white male majors, such as engineering, business and the professions.

The enrollment of women rose much more dramatically in each decade after 1960, and as their numbers grew the multitude of traditional restrictions on women students, such as curfew, checking in and out of the dormitory, wearing long pants or shorts, playing in the marching band and participating in intercollegiate athletics, were abandoned in the sixties and early seventies.

Arrival of the baby boomers also coincided with passage of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, lowering the minimum voting age from 21 to 18. Consequently, colleges and universities were relieved of their traditional responsibility of "in loco parentis" (in place of parents). These

changes stimulated even greater protests against the status quo. There were the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, civil rights and black power protests, as well as the Peace Movement, the Women's Movement, the Environmental Movement, the Gay Rights Movement, all of which found supporters (and resisters) among WVU students.

The curtain was lowered on the era of expansion and went up on the era of diversity in the early seventies when a decline in white males was offset by the increase in women, African Americans and Hispanics. Even though the racial and ethnic mix lagged behind the national averages, the number of women enrolled at WVU rose dramatically from about one-quarter of the 8,628 student body in 1960, to reach one-half of the 20,854 student body in 1990.

Major demographic changes also forced WVU to adapt to conditions beyond its control. WVU faced a

150 Years of **West Virginia University**

declining number of West Virginia high school graduates, a trend that began in the early eighties, and therefore a corresponding decline in tuition revenues, empty dormitory rooms, under-utilized facilities and a reduction in employees and course offerings. Its only option was to increase enrollment and find ways to generate more of its own income.

Commercialization, 1990–Present

There is nothing new about universities engaging in commercial practices. Since the 1920s, industrial firms have been forging links with science and engineering faculties, and after World War II college football and basketball emerged as major revenue sports. Naming rooms, buildings, scholarships, professorships and chairs for major donors has been a common practice at universities for a very long time.

What distinguishes the modern commercialization of universities is its acceleration, scale and the embrace of corporate values. This

trend is signified by the wholesale replacement of professional educators on university boards of directors by influential individuals drawn from business and the professions, a shift resulting from the long-term decline in government funding for higher education.

At WVU, the ensuing financial pressure from the loss of State support, compounded by an anemic state economy, forced the University to increase enrollment to offset the financial losses. Since the decline of college-age students was a national trend, however, campus beautification projects, and upgraded classroom facilities, dormitories, food services, recreation, and entertainment all became essential to success in the recruiting wars. WVU's new student-centered emphasis was, therefore, a serious business decision to accomplish an educational end.

If WVU were to succeed in its mission as a land-grant university, rather than merely survive,



▲ Stalnaker or Women's Hall, circa 1920.

commercialization was its only option. The legislative reforms passed from 1995 to the present, imposing major budget cuts and mandating that WVU absorb additional fixed costs, all have emanated from what is now the prevailing commercial ethos governing higher education policy-making.

To forestall this cluster of problems, the University initiated a concerted effort to attract more out-of-state students. Therefore, the percentage of out-of-state students at the Morgantown campus has changed dramatically over the decades: 11 percent in 1950 to 49 percent in 2017.

Student tuition and fees have also risen. Over the last 20 years, tuition at WVU has risen more than 150%, and the average student debt of graduates is around \$24,000 — higher at other state institutions.

WVU researchers were also forced to become more entrepreneurial. Research in the STEM fields has become a university-managed enterprise. The WVU Research Corporation was created in 1987 to stimulate grant development and provide management, patenting and marketing services for faculty inventors. An Office of Technology Transfer (1999) was created to protect, promote and commercialize research. A Business Incubator was established to assist entrepreneurs in creating new businesses. WVU's Research



▲ Classroom in Woodburn Hall, circa 1913.



▲ Aerial view of Evansdale, circa 1969.

Park was established to advance the commercialization of inventions through collaborations between WVU, industry and government.

Today, 40 percent of the University's revenues come from research grants as opposed to only 15 percent in 1970.

Conversely, only about 15 percent of the University's budget currently comes from State appropriations, compared with 50 percent in 1950. Although student tuition and fees have risen dramatically in real terms, as a percentage of revenues, they have remained roughly the same, currently 35 percent compared with 40 percent in 1970.

Private giving has also assumed an ever greater role in WVU's operations. President Neil Bucklew launched the first major capital campaign in 1988, which garnered \$130 million; President David C.

Hardesty Jr. initiated the second major campaign in 2000, which yielded over \$336 million; and the most recent capital campaign surpassed its goal of \$1 billion.

WVU's progress toward achieving greatness has been two steps forward and one step back. Perhaps the greatest obstacle confronting the University throughout its history has been political interference.

Self-Governance

WVU's quest to become a major research university has always depended on its ability to be self-governing, and even more so in the current environment.

WVU has been self-governing for only 35 of its 150-year existence. Even though its growth over the last 70 years in size, complexity and competency is striking, the time and creativity of every WVU president

have been diverted away from leading the institution to defending it from hostile sectional and political factions, and direct political intervention.

All too frequently State policy has also exerted a powerful constraint on WVU's development as a major research university.

For example, World War II and the Cold War presented American universities with strategic opportunities to use federal money to expand their science facilities. Many state universities enthusiastically embraced the opportunity and elevated themselves to a higher level. Unfortunately, WVU could not be one of them, and the cumulative loss to the University and the state has been immeasurable.

Federal research programs during World War II that produced the atomic bomb, radar, radio-controlled fuses, ballistic missiles, penicillin and

150 Years of **West Virginia University**

other scientific breakthroughs were coordinated by Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and founder of the National Science Foundation. Prior to his appointment as WVU's president in 1946, Irvin Stewart had been a prominent federal science administrator, most notably on the Manhattan Project, and a close associate of Vannevar Bush — close enough that Bush presided over Stewart's inauguration.

Nevertheless, try as he might, Stewart was unable to position WVU to tap into federal research funding. Why not?

Because under state law, grants coming to WVU had to be routed through the state treasurer's office and, therefore, legally became property of the State rather than the University. The federal government did not allow this practice. Also, the state constitution forbade agencies from going into debt, so WVU could not front research grants and then accept repayment from the grant later. For similar reasons, WVU did not participate significantly in the billions spent by the Appalachian Regional Commission for regional development during the sixties and seventies.

“There is nothing new about universities engaging in commercial practices. Since the 1920s, industrial firms have been forging links with science and engineering faculties, and after World War II college football and basketball emerged as major revenue sports.”

As a result of the University's inability to compete for the federal resources it sorely needed to elevate its programs and facilities, WVU and the state missed unprecedented opportunities to use federal dollars to become a major research university. Public universities in other states not so constrained leapfrogged ahead of WVU.

The University made major strides over the next 22 years after the legislature vested self-governing powers in the University Board of Governors. Then, in 1969, following a major reorganization of the state's higher education system, West Virginia's colleges and universities were placed under the control of a single Board of Regents (BOR).

What followed was a slow-moving disaster for WVU.

The complex bureaucratic maze that was the BOR simply did not accommodate the needs of a research university and at times nearly incapacitated WVU. Scientists who successfully competed for research funding were hamstrung by having to seek the BOR's approval to purchase basic laboratory supplies. President E. Gordon Gee complained in 1985, “Do you know how difficult it is to buy rhesus monkeys through state purchasing?” In a similar vein, President Bucklew claimed that if he had the authority to write a check for up to \$1,000 he could save the University \$1 million a year.

After 20 years under the Board of Regents, no one in Morgantown mourned Governor Gaston Caperton's decision in 1989 to close down the BOR at the end of that fiscal year. It was replaced by a University of West Virginia system that incorporated the two universities; the four-year colleges were placed under their own governing board.

But, the new system simply picked up where the old one left off.

Gov. Caperton renewed efforts to move the WVU Health Sciences Center to Charleston — medical education at WVU, Marshall and the osteopathic school in Lewisburg would be centralized in Charleston, and the emphasis would be focused on training physicians and other health professionals to serve in rural areas.



▲ Health Sciences and surrounding area, circa 1980. “Sprawling West Virginia University Medical Center in Morgantown overlooks 50,000-seat Football Stadium. Unique Personal Rapid Transit System, which connects the complex with the other WVU campuses and downtown Morgantown, is at the lower right. The two main units of the Medical Center are the Basic Sciences Building (left) and the 450-bed University Hospital (right).”



▲ Construction of Beechurst PRT station as seen from across Beechurst Ave. Summit Hall and Armstrong Hall in background. Top of Woodburn Hall visible on the far right. Circa 1972.

WVU strenuously objected. The WVU School of Medicine Advisory Board quickly mobilized and virtually overnight contacted colleagues throughout the state, urging them to call the governor's office to support the University.

Upon learning from President Neil Bucklew that WVU had already taken steps to establish clinics in most of the counties where medical students would be trained, the governor backed away from the proposal. Convinced of WVU's commitment, Gov. Caperton took the lead in obtaining a \$6 million Kellogg grant to assist the University in completing its rural healthcare initiatives. The role of Gov. Caperton was motivated by what was best for the state as a whole, and on

these terms WVU showed itself to be more than a willing partner. That WVU is now one of the best in rural healthcare education indicates what can happen when the State and University cooperate.

In recent years, the legislature again exerted its brand of political "ownership" over WVU by setting goals for the University without providing the funding to achieve them. In addition, cumulative budget cuts between 1995 and 2005 resulted in an estimated \$118-million-dollar loss to WVU's base budget, and the elimination of more than 500 faculty and staff positions.

In his 2005 State of the State Address, Gov. Joe Manchin announced that he wanted "to remove

the shackles from higher education" because the colleges needed the "flexibility to be able to compete in the marketplace." Soon after, managing authority was finally restored to WVU's Board of Governors.

If the past can prepare us to manage the future, wise political leaders might have drawn a powerful lesson from the state's historical approach to university governance. A simple comparison of WVU's progress toward its lofty aspiration during those brief periods when it was self-governing and the rest of its history would provide a compelling case.

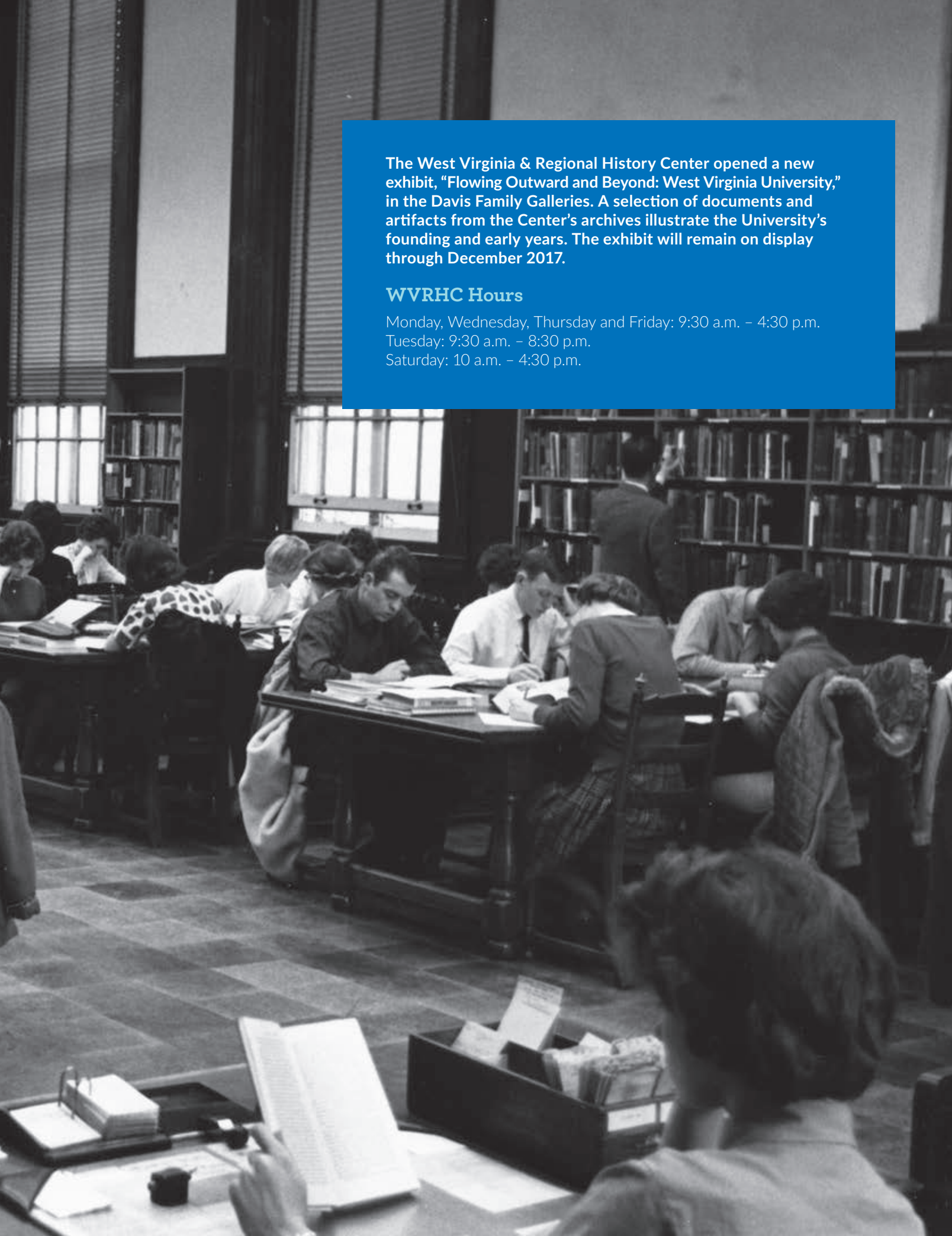
Even with the shift in values governing higher education during the modern era of commercialization, which academics generally lament, there is no denying that WVU has never had it so good. The main reason is that even though we face the anxiety of having to pay more of our own way, the independence that comes with self-governance has facilitated progress toward the University's aspirations by allowing the institution the administrative flexibility to adapt to market conditions.

Ultimately, the question is where will WVU be in 20 years? Will it be a regional institution laboring under the burden of parochialism, or will it continue to find a way to rise above these constraints and become a national land-grant institution at the forefront of research, and an engine for economic development of the entire state? WVU is now ranked a Carnegie Research I - high activity institution, so we're close enough to smell success.

Given the freedom to govern itself, the flexibility to set its own priorities and an adequate level of State support, history indicates that WVU will not be deterred in its quest for that place among the great universities to which it has aspired since World II. ♡



▲ Students studying in the Wise Library Reserve Room, circa 1960.



The West Virginia & Regional History Center opened a new exhibit, "Flowing Outward and Beyond: West Virginia University," in the Davis Family Galleries. A selection of documents and artifacts from the Center's archives illustrate the University's founding and early years. The exhibit will remain on display through December 2017.

WVRHC Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ALUMNUS DONATES HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS TO WVRHC



▲ Steve Wolfe (right) and his wife, Darla, along with WVU President E. Gordon Gee, display a copy of the Chicago Daily Tribune that erroneously reports “Dewey Defeats Truman.” This newspaper is one of large collection of historical newspapers Steve Wolfe donated to the WVU Libraries’ West Virginia & Regional History Center.

Newspapers have chronicled key events from throughout our nation’s history – from crowning achievements like the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and Neil Armstrong’s moon walk to dark moments such as President Kennedy’s assassination and the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

West Virginia University alumnus Steve Wolfe, BA ’81, Political Science, is quite familiar with those historic moments and their media coverage. He spent more than two decades acquiring more than 150 newspapers that reported on these and other pivotal happenings.

Wolfe has now donated the impressive collection to the WVU Libraries’ West Virginia & Regional History Center.

“I wanted the newspapers to find a long-term home where they would be properly preserved and appreciated,” Wolfe said. “I could have chosen any number of similar organizations who had an interest, but WVU is always foremost in my mind, and I knew that they would be in good hands with the WVU Libraries.”

WVHRC Director John Cuthbert enthusiastically welcomed the collection, which spans from a 1666 issue of the *London Gazette* reporting on the Great Plague to the *Washington Post*’s 1991 banner headline trumpeting Gorbachev’s resignation and the end of the Soviet Era.

“Steve Wolfe assembled a tremendous collection of newspapers,” Cuthbert said. “He pursued critical occurrences and found copies in great conditions. These papers are a wonderful addition to the WVRHC and will be a great resource for researchers.”

A large part of the collection is devoted to the Civil War, including many dealing with West Virginia statehood and Civil War fighting within the state’s boundaries.

“I could think of no better place for these newspapers to be than the principal library of the only state in the nation to be born of that otherwise difficult chapter in American history,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe began collecting newspapers while growing up in Charleston in the late 1960s and early 1970s. As a newspaper carrier for the *Gazette* in 1970, he would keep copies of newspapers with significant headlines of the day. Wolfe’s interest was also encouraged by his father, who had amassed a large collection, some of which are in the collection he donated to WVU.

Wolfe stepped up his acquisitions around 1985, when he had the ability to search for and afford much older and rarer editions. In those pre-internet days, he would write to dealers to get on their mailing lists and buy directly from them.

He looked for newspapers in his favorite topic areas: the Civil War, politics, spaceflight, and significant events such as wars and natural disasters like the Great Fire of London in the late 1600s. One gem is the *Chicago Daily Tribune* with the banner headline that infamously declares: “Dewey Defeats Truman.”

“My collecting interest sort of ran out of gas sometime around 2000, when I ran out of topics of interest and room to store them,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe considers the donation a natural extension of his long-term support of his alma mater. In 1997, he founded the C. Stephen Wolfe II Fund for the Study of the American Presidency in the Political Science Department. He also served on the Eberly College Alumni Board and the Political Science Department Alumni Advisory Committee.

“My WVU experience remains one of the most important chapters in my life, and it’s a privilege to be able to give back,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe and his wife, Darla, reside in Bethany Beach, Del., and Blue Bell, Pa. After retiring from a career as an institutional investor, Steve Wolfe went into Virginia politics and earned a second master’s degree in history from George Washington University. He also holds a master’s in public administration from the University of Syracuse. Darla Wolfe received her bachelor’s degree from Temple University and her MBA from Villanova University, and is a member of the Villanova University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The donation was made through the WVU Foundation, a private nonprofit corporation that generates and provides support for WVU. The Foundation is currently conducting A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia’s University which runs through December 2017. For more on the campaign, visit astateofminds.com. ♡

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS ONE SELFIE AT A TIME

JING QUI
ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

During 2016-17 academic year, more than 3,000 students in the WVU Class of 2020 played LibCrawlr for course credit. Data shows the positive effect of educational gamification.

So what exactly is gamification? How is it different from a game? Gamification applies game mechanics and game dynamics in non-game applications. The tasks in LibCrawlr are normal, “scavenger-hunt-like” activities for students to interact with the facility.

We gamified the tasks by wrapping a story around them with fantasy characters and images, awarding points for successful attempts, providing feedback, etc. Gamification does not aim at creating a game but offering gameful experience. The goal is to increase people’s engagement and to promote certain behaviors.

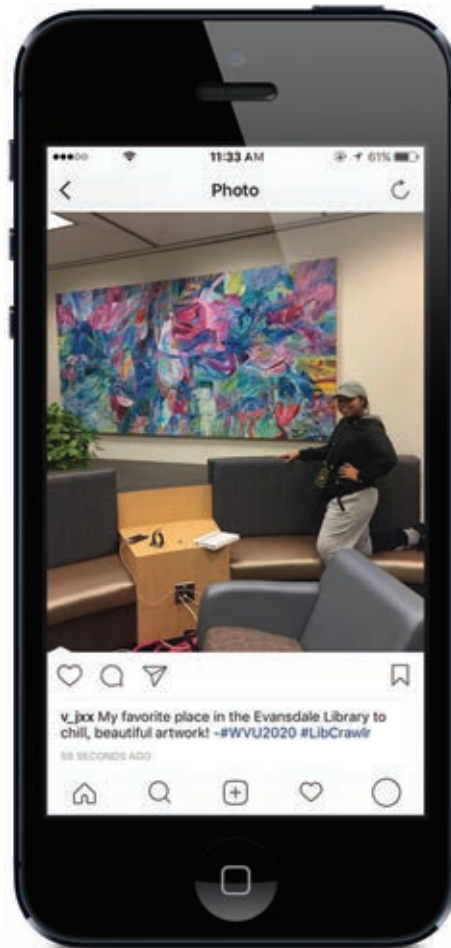
A great many studies on gamification find positive effects. It helps increase the efficiency, effectiveness, motivation and engagement of students in e-learning.

Gamification has some common elements with the behaviorist learning theory, such as superiority of positive reinforcements, small step-by-step tasks, immediate feedback and progressive challenges.

Behaviorism is a worldview that assumes a learner is essentially passive, responding to environmental stimuli. All behavior is caused by external stimuli. In gamification, with the accelerated feedback, clear goals and challenging tasks, all these elements help promote and motivate certain behavior.

We see many examples of gamification in our daily lives. When you use fitness tracking on your phone, you are awarded points for your workouts and advance through levels based on points collected. You gain achievement badges for fitness milestones. You connect with other people who also work out.

Customer loyalty and rewards is another commonly seen gamification. The more you spend, the more discounts and perks you get. Starbucks gave badges to people who checked in on social media at



▲ Students submitted selfies as part of their course work.

multiple locations and offered discounts to people who checked in most frequently at an individual store.

Political campaigns use gamification to engage and interact with prospective voters. Voters can earn points for tickets to the rallies.

There are many examples of gamification in lessons, tutorials and programs in education. Educational gamification uses game-like rule systems, player experiences and cultural roles to shape learners’ behavior.

The essence of gamification does not lie in technology, but the diverse learning environment, all aimed at increasing motivation and reaching higher levels of engagement in the learning process. Similar to active learning, the theory behind gamification is that students learn better and retain more information if they are actively involved in the process of learning rather than just sitting there and listening.

Testers of LibCrawlr during development phases found the game much more engaging than a traditional librarian-led tour. The majority of the players last year liked their experience with LibCrawlr. The before-and-after data shows a dramatic increase in their comfort level with using the library after playing LibCrawlr. Judging by the photos students uploaded, we can tell that a lot of them were obviously having fun.

On September 6, 2016, when more than 600 students played the game in one day, someone asked on Twitter, “Why is #wvu2020 trending?” That was because these students were giving us a shout-out on social media using the hashtags #wvu2020 and #libcrawlr.

Moving into 2017-18 academic year, the development team has added 10 tracks in LibCrawlr for students to choose their own adventure based on their majors or interests. The team continues to make improvements and strive for higher level of engagement based on the feedback from usability testing, actual players and faculty who incorporate LibCrawlr in the curriculum. ♡

PRESERVING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

DANIELLE EMERLING
ASSISTANT CURATOR, CONGRESSIONAL AND POLITICAL PAPERS ARCHIVIST, WVRHC

In 1976, a 27-year-old native of Beckley, Nick Rahall II, entered the race for the West Virginia Fourth Congressional District. Although he was young, Rahall was no stranger to politics, having worked in the office of then-U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd and as assistant to the Majority Secretary of the Senate. He also was a

rising star in the Democratic Party who had been named “Outstanding Young Democrat of the Year” in 1971. Rahall won the Fourth Congressional District seat and was re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for another 18 terms (1977–2015), making him the longest-serving congressman in West Virginia history.



▲ Signed photograph of Congressman Nick Rahall meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a congressional delegation trip in July 1982.

Rahall's lengthy career is preserved in his archives at WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Center, and in the fall of 2017, the first part of his collection was made available for research. The materials now open to the public come primarily from the press files of the collection and include speeches, press releases, newspaper clippings, audio and video recordings and thousands of photographs.

These records document Rahall's numerous accomplishments and contributions to national policy and state projects.

Throughout his career, he was recognized for his expertise relating to transportation, infrastructure, technology, energy and the environment. He led the development of federal highway and transit legislation, including the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which secured funding for designated highway projects and the establishment of the Rahall Transportation Institute at Marshall University.

In the House of Representatives, he served as chair of both the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources (1985–1993) and the Committee on Natural Resources (2007–2011). He was a leader on mining-related issues and sought to protect coalfield citizens by extending the Abandoned Mine Reclamation program. He strove to improve mine health and safety as well as benefits for those suffering from black lung disease.

However, his work on the Resources Committee was not all related to mining. He authored legislation in 1978 to establish the New River Gorge National River as a unit of the National Park Service, and ten years later, he helped enact legislation to designate the Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Bluestone National Scenic River.

As the grandson of Lebanese-Protestant immigrants, Rahall took an interest and leadership role in national and foreign policy related to the Middle East, making numerous delegation trips to the region during his congressional service.

Congressman Rahall donated his papers to WVU Libraries in 2015. The collection is one of the largest in the Center's holdings at more than 2,089 record cartons, and it continues to be processed. Researchers interested in using the collection should contact Danielle Emerling, assistant curator and congressional and political papers archivist, at danielle.emerling@mail.wvu.edu. The collection guide can be found online at rahall.lib.wvu.edu. ❖



▲ Signed photograph of Congressman Nick Rahall meeting with President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale at the White House in October 1979.



▲ New River Gorge National River Canyon Rim Visitor Center dedication: James W. Coleman, Mid-Atlantic regional director, National Park Service; Congressman Nick Rahall; Senator Robert C. Byrd; James W. Carrico, superintendent, New River Gorge National River, May 7, 1983.

MARKING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

DANIELLE EMERLING
ASSISTANT CURATOR, CONGRESSIONAL AND POLITICAL PAPERS ARCHIVIST, WVU

As Congress and the nation debate the future of healthcare in America, WVU Libraries has been reflecting on the lessons learned from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) on the 20th anniversary of the legislation. The exhibit "A Healthy Start: The Children's

Health Insurance Program" draws on former Senator Jay Rockefeller's congressional archives to explore the history of CHIP, his work to navigate the conflicts and compromises in Congress that brought it to fruition, and the real effects of policy on individuals.



▲ Senator Rockefeller was instrumental in passing the Children's Health Insurance Program in Congress. Here, he speaks with two unidentified girls in 1992.



▲ Senator Rockefeller championed healthcare issues throughout his career. Here, he meets with unidentified children holding a sign that reads, "Children Need a Chance."

The story of CHIP's path through Congress and its implementation through state and federal collaboration provide context and substance to current policy discussions about healthcare reform. Senator Rockefeller was instrumental in creating CHIP and in forming a bipartisan coalition in Congress that backed the expansion of children's healthcare despite an inimical political climate. On August 5, 1997, President Bill Clinton signed CHIP into law, extending health coverage to millions of uninsured children with the largest federal investment in children's health since the creation of Medicaid in 1965.

The exhibit opened in the Downtown Campus Library's Rockefeller Gallery in April and will travel to events across West Virginia through the end of the year. In September, the exhibit was featured at the Children's Health Policy Summit: Understanding the People, Place and Policy behind Healthcare.

The summit was sponsored by the WVU Libraries, the John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics and the Health Sciences Center and featured former Senator Rockefeller and West Virginia native Sylvia Burwell, president of American University and former secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as

keynote speakers. The summit and traveling exhibit received financial support from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

During his 30-year Senate career (1985 - 2015), Rockefeller was known as a leader for healthcare reform and an advocate for improving the lives of children and working families. He introduced and co-sponsored more than 2,000 pieces of major health-related legislation and provided leadership on healthcare reform for both the Clinton and Obama administrations. He was appointed to the Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Healthcare in 1987 and served as chair and ranking member until his retirement. In 1987, he also was elected chair of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on Comprehensive Healthcare, also known as the Pepper Commission.

In November 2014, Rockefeller designated WVU Libraries as the permanent home of the John D. Rockefeller IV Senatorial Archives, and WVU dedicated the John D. Rockefeller IV Gallery in the Downtown Campus Library in honor of the senator's nearly 50 years of public service to the citizens of West Virginia. ♡

THE SUMMER POLICY INSTITUTE



More than two dozen undergraduate students from West Virginia and neighboring states participated in a weekend of developing policy ideas during the second annual Summer Policy Institute sponsored by the West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy. Danielle Emerling, congressional and political papers archivist in the WVRHC, and Jay Wyatt, director of programs and research at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, led students in a hands-on activity using the archives of Governor Arch Moore Jr. and Senator Robert C. Byrd. Students used primary sources like maps, memos and reports to compare local, state and federal government responses to the 1985 Election Day flood and the resulting policies.

DIAZ NAMED INTERIM DEAN OF LIBRARIES

Karen Diaz, the former associate dean of libraries, was appointed interim dean of libraries effective July 31. She stepped into the role following the departure of former Dean Jon Cawthorne, who left for a position at Wayne State University.

“Having been a professional librarian in higher education for 30 years, Karen obviously has tremendous experience,” said Provost Joyce McConnell. “She also has a clear understanding of how university libraries like ours need to redefine their role and the nature of their collections in the 21st century. I know that under her leadership, our talented library staff will flourish and our libraries will grow as extraordinary campus resources.”

Diaz joined WVU Libraries in January 2016. As associate dean, she has worked with department heads to meet the needs of the Libraries’ various departments. She also initiated efforts to meet the challenges of a growing a 21st century research library and has worked to bring two open access initiatives to fruition. Additionally, she has introduced a new “engaged librarian” model and created cross-functional teams within the libraries.

“I’m excited for the opportunity to continue the many initiatives begun at the WVU Libraries by Dean Cawthorne,” Diaz said. “Just like higher education in general, academic libraries are in a time of great change, so there is much opportunity before us. I am honored to work with the campus, the library staff and our many partners across the state and nation to make this the best library for WVU at this time.”

Diaz’s interim appointment will extend into the 2018-2019 academic year. McConnell said that the University will likely conduct a national search for a new dean in fall 2018.



“Having been a professional librarian in higher education for 30 years, Karen obviously has tremendous experience. She also has a clear understanding of how university libraries like ours need to redefine their role and the nature of their collections in the 21st century.”

– Provost Joyce McConnell

LIBRARIES AND HONOR COLLEGE NAME TWO MUNN SCHOLARS

West Virginia University Libraries and the Honors College selected Hayley Harman and Janelle Vickers as 2017 Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars.

The Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award was established in 2009 to honor Munn, who served as dean of Library Services from 1957-1986. The \$1,000 prize goes to one or more graduating Honors students for an outstanding humanities or social sciences thesis based on research conducted in the WVU Libraries.

“The work that Hayley and Janelle have done for their senior theses together show the wide range of ways that we can address issues of social importance,” said Ryan Claycomb, associate dean of the Honors College. “While good research takes different forms across the disciplines, the importance of sound, thorough and critically engaged research is crucial to the way we tackle tough problems both abstract and concrete. We were so impressed by each of these projects and their ability to marshal their resources to reach such insightful and important conclusions.”

Harman, the daughter of Ed and Ashley Harman of Morgantown, won with her paper “Electronic Cigarette Expectancies in Adolescents: Exploring the Relation between User Status and Beliefs.”

The thesis is based on a study completed with Dr. Christina Duncan in WVU’s Pediatric Psychology Research Lab, which has been interested in the rise of e-cigarette use. Since the 1990s, the rate of regular cigarette use among middle and high school students has plummeted, while e-cigarette use has skyrocketed. Nationwide, 500,000 middle and high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the past year.

“Studies have shown how students think using an e-cigarette makes them look cool and will help them fit in better with their peers. I was interested in how these perceptions affected e-cigarette use,” Harman said.

Harman graduated with degrees in biology, psychology and Spanish, with a minor in leadership studies. She plans to begin a two-year public health associate program with the Center for Disease Control. Participants are assigned to locations around the country to work for a health department or non-government organization to address the needs of that region.

“I want to gain hands-on skills working with health policy and public health while learning more about specific communities’

“While good research takes different forms across the disciplines, the importance of sound, thorough and critically engaged research is crucial to the way we tackle tough problems both abstract and concrete. We were so impressed by each of these projects and their ability to marshal their resources to reach such insightful and important conclusions.”

– Ryan Claycomb



▲ Munn Scholars Janelle Vickers and Hayley Harman. (l. to r.)

immediate health needs,” Harman said. “Through my studies and volunteer and work experiences, I have become interested in medicine and the delivery of healthcare, though my original inclination to be a physician has evolved over time into a desire to meet healthcare needs on a wider scale.”

Vickers, the daughter of Susan Chaikowsky and step-father Bob Young of Moundsville, won for her thesis “So Why Do We Choose the Boys That Are Naughty?: An Examination of the Byronic Hero in the Modern Age.”

The Byronic hero is a literary trope that has always interested Vickers. With the recent revival of the sci-fi television program “The X-Files,” she applied the trope to the show’s main character, Fox Mulder.

“For a lot of people, when they think about academics, they don’t think pop culture should be studied or can be studied,” Vickers said. “But looking at the impact of something in pop culture, the ramifications of what these characters being repeated over and over means for our society, and studying why something is relevant in pop culture is important.”

Vickers graduated with degrees in English literature and communication studies, with minors in women’s and gender studies, and Arabic studies. She is now working on a master’s in communication theory and research at WVU. ♡

PLEIN EARNS RARE BOOK SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Stewart Plein, WVU Libraries' rare book librarian, received a certification in rare book librarianship from the University of Virginia's Rare Book School (RBS), the top professional development program for rare book and special collection librarians, rare booksellers and collectors.

"Rare book librarianship isn't for the faint of heart," said Tom Congalton, an RBS instructor. "There is an enormous barrier to acquiring the necessary knowledge and practical experience required to be an effective special collections librarian, and it isn't always easy to know where to start. Stewart has the energy, the motivation and the tenacity to go out and acquire that knowledge to master a subject that isn't always inclined to reveal itself easily."

While regular librarianship teaches how to accumulate and organize books and materials, it might ignore the importance of primary sources of information that make up the building blocks of scholarship.

Congalton said instructors discuss methods for finding and acquiring manuscripts of books and how those manuscripts may have evolved through multiple drafts or how the author's thought might have developed over time.

They explore why studying diaries and journals could shed light on a particular historic figure's motivation or thought processes, or how early business records or military or political documents might suggest a different interpretation of a generally accepted version of history.

"Special librarians need to have the knowledge required to acquire, analyze and prioritize these sorts of materials to serve their academic community better," Congalton said.

Jay Cole, senior advisor to President E. Gordon Gee, applauds Plein for her



"There is an enormous barrier to acquiring the necessary knowledge and practical experience required to be an effective special collections librarian, and it isn't always easy to know where to start. Stewart has the energy, the motivation and the tenacity to go out and acquire that knowledge to master a subject that isn't always inclined to reveal itself easily."

- Tom Congalton

dedication to the Rare Book Room and work to enhance the academic environment at WVU.

"The library is the heart of any university, and information circulated by the library is a university's lifeblood. Within our wonderful Libraries, WVU is very fortunate to have an outstanding Rare Books Collection, with items from William Shakespeare to Isaac Asimov," Cole said. "We are equally fortunate to have a rare book librarian such as Stewart Plein, whose passion is matched only by her expertise. By earning a certificate from the prestigious Rare Book School, Stewart has added to her knowledge and brings distinction to herself and the entire university."

She's excited to have an active role in preserving these important parts of U.S. history and making these materials accessible to students and faculty at WVU.

Plein regularly welcomes classes into the Rare Book Room for general tours or presentations on a specific topic. The prized collection means students and faculty don't have to travel to New York, Washington, D.C., or wherever collections are located because they can get that experience in Morgantown.

"One of the greatest benefits of our Rare Book Room is that visitors get to interact with and handle these materials," Plein said. "This is not just a storeroom. It is an interactive educational facility."

The tours never grow old for her.

"You see that moment when their eyes light up," she said. "There's nothing like that, when a student gets it, puts it into perspective and understands the importance of primary resources." ❖

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FIELD

Several WVU librarians wrote articles and book chapters over the 2017 academic year.

Linda Blake (who recently retired as the Libraries' science librarian) wrote an opinion piece in *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* (ISTL.org).

Resident librarian **Ashleigh Coren** wrote an article on the role of librarians in academic advising for *ACRL* (ala.org/acrl).

Resident librarians **Ashleigh Coren** and **Chanelle Pickens** published an article titled "Diversity Residency Programs: Strategies for a Collaborative Approach to Development" in the online journal *Collaborative Librarianship*, vol. 9, issue 2.

Jon E. Cawthorne (former dean of libraries), **Ashleigh D. Coren**, **Lori Hostuttler**, **Lisette Hernández**, **Chanelle Pickens** and **Martha Yancey** contributed the chapter "Establishing the Diversity Alliance: Recruiting, Retaining, and Developing Librarians from Underrepresented Groups" to the book *Leading in the New Academic Library*, Libraries Unlimited, 2017.

Interim Dean **Karen Diaz** published a book chapter with Brian Leaf called "Reflective Information Seeking: Unpacking Meta-Research Skills through Digital Storytelling." The chapter appears in "Digital Storytelling in Higher Education: International Perspectives," which is available at link.springer.com.

Kelly Diamond, head of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support, was appointed to the ACRL Literatures in English Section's Research Competences task force, where she will assist editing the current Research Competencies document to better incorporate elements for the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy. Also, Diamond co-authored two book chapters with Dr. Laura Brady, WVU English Department, for "Theory Driven: Integrating Educational Theory and the ACRL Core Concepts into

Library Instruction in Higher Education." The chapters are titled "Hashtags & Filter Bubbles: Engaging Students with the ACRL Framework, Searching as Strategic Exploration" and "Patch and PACT Writing: Engaging Students with the ACRL Framework, Research as Inquiry." In addition, Diamond has submitted a chapter written with Gregg Thumm, professor, WVU English Department. The chapter, tentatively titled "Problem-Based Learning and the ACRL Frameworks: Revamping a Technical Writing Course," is currently being reviewed for publication in "Information Literacy and Writing Studies: Purdue Information Literacy Handbooks."

In partnership with the Women's Media Center, **Kelly Doyle**, the Libraries' Wikipedian-in-Residence for Gender Equity, published an article about her work at WVU. wmcspeechproject.com.

Danielle Emerling, congressional and political papers archivist, co-authored an article for the 2018 National History Day theme book titled, "Congress Constructs the Great Society through Conflict and Compromise." The article draws on a two-year collaborative digital project of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, which Emerling co-curated from 2015-2016. The book provides students and teachers with guidance and ideas for NHD projects and is available at nhd.org.

WVRHC Curator **Kevin Fredette** contributed an article to the fall 2016 MARAC Newsletter (marac.memberclicks.net). It features the works of Gray Barker, the author of *The Silver Bridge*.

Nicholas Stump, head of Reference and Access Services, Law Library, published two articles in *Oxford Human Rights Hub* (ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk): "Food Deserts in Appalachia: A Socio-Economic Ill and Opportunities for Reform" and "Environmental Human Rights in the Trump Era: Modes of Resistance and Reform." He also published an article with *The Conversation* (theconversation.com/us) titled "Is a Healthy Environment a Human Right? Testing the Idea in Appalachia." *Huff Post* and *The Chicago Tribune*, among other sites, picked up the article. ♡



▲ Myra Lowe

A CAREER OF DEVOTION

If Myra Lowe were to offer advice on securing your dream job, it might include persistence, hard work and desk placement.

Lowe, who retired from West Virginia University on June 30 after more than 40 years of service to WVU Libraries, began her career in 1972 as assistant acquisitions librarian. Although she enjoyed her work,

she harbored a strong desire to work in Reference and she made a practice of sharing her aspirations with Dr. Robert F. Munn, dean of Libraries at the time.

“I would periodically stop by Dr. Munn’s office and remind him of my dream, but he would tell me that he needed my help in Acquisitions,” Lowe said.

A few years later, as Lowe was preparing to take leave for care for her newly born

daughter, Elizabeth, Munn advised her to take advantage of her free time to pursue a second master’s degree.

She disagreed on the limitless free time she would enjoy while caring for an infant, but she did begin exploring graduate program options and started working on her MBA when her daughter was about 1 year old.

Two and a half years later, in the summer of 1978, she once again found

herself in Dr. Munn's office. This time, she was accepting a position as a reference librarian.

"As I thought would be the case, I loved my work as a reference librarian," Lowe said. "I met and worked with hundreds of students and faculty during those years."

She was assigned a desk that sat immediately behind the large reference desk in the former Reference Room (currently, the Milano Reading Room). The arrangement positioned her to be approached by many users even when she wasn't officially scheduled to handle inquiries.

She also worked Friday nights, which was a popular time for faculty to work on research that was too time consuming for them to do during the school week.

"In that time of reference work, the librarians often were very involved with researchers," Lowe said. "Through such intense involvement, one learned a great deal about the research and often formed long and lasting friendships with the individuals you assisted."

Two whom she remembers well are Dr. Jack Bowman, from the College of Law, and the late Dr. Jack Frost, a faculty member and the county coroner.

After a decade of demanding and rewarding work as a reference librarian, she was named head of the Reference Department in 1989.

"Those were very special years as we all lived through massive changes in the way our research world worked," Lowe said. "We moved from a totally manual process of using the card catalog and book resources to installing a row of computers to give our users access to a much wider array of resources."

Also during this time, Lowe successfully championed librarians obtaining faculty status.

"I am happy that I was able to play a significant role in achieving this outcome, and I hope this system will continue to thrive and provide an excellent way to foster outstanding service by our librarians, career achievement for them and the ability to grow and succeed by moving on to other libraries when they choose," Lowe said.

This breakthrough represents just one occasion for which Associate Provost C.B. Wilson has recognized Lowe's efforts and

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- Myra Lowe

dedication to supporting the needs of the Libraries, library employees, and the University.

"Over many years, Myra's interactions with me were consummately professional, and characterized by thoughtfulness, care for her librarian colleagues, loyalty to the institution and common sense," Wilson said.

Lowe was appointed interim dean of Libraries from July 1998 to June 1999 and then served as associate dean of Libraries from October 2000 to December 2011. In both posts, she played a critical role in planning the new Downtown Campus Library, which opened its doors in January 2002.

"We managed to build an impressive library that continues to provide outstanding space to the large number of people who use it every day," Lowe said. "Students have loved it."

Her second tenure as interim dean, which ran from January 2012 to March 2014, also brought some stellar accomplishments. In addition to all of the daily operations, Lowe:

- ✓ Oversaw the transformation of the Libraries' newsletter into a glossy, full-color magazine format, which has enabled the Libraries to better share developments and successes.
- ✓ Participated in the official launch of the A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia University.
- ✓ Coordinated the nomination process that led to Harold M. Forbes, the former associate curator of the WVRHC, winning the national I Love My Librarian contest sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and The New York Times.
- ✓ Directed the planning for multiple events and programs to celebrate the 150th anniversary of West Virginia's founding.

"I cannot think of anyone who has contributed more to the remarkable evolution that has taken place within the WVU Libraries over the past quarter century than Myra," said John Cuthbert, director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center. "Due in no small part to her sustained efforts in her various administrative roles, the Libraries have gone from being an underutilized resource to serving as the true heart of the campus today. Myra's outstanding interpersonal skills, continual and highly effective advocacy for improved resources and her commitment to developing a culture of professionalism within the Libraries have been key to this transformation."

But, Lowe is always quick to credit successes to others on her team.

"Throughout my career at the WVU Libraries, I was proud to be part of an organization that had many employees who were very devoted to our unit and to the University. It was a rewarding atmosphere, and while I appreciated it at the time, it is only now as I reflect back on most of my years of work that I realize how truly lucky I was," Lowe said. "My colleagues and I worked hard, we cared about our work and the Libraries and we tried within the limits of our abilities to give our very best to our endeavors. And I think we should be proud of what was accomplished." ❖



▲ Linda Blake (second from the left) poses with her sisters Martha Wine, Judy Schuda and Mary Talbott.

DEDICATED TO STUDENT SUCCESS

It would be difficult to calculate the number of students Linda Blake assisted over the years at the reference desk, as a guest lecturer, in one-on-one consultations or on a multitude of other occasions.

Although nearly innumerable, every encounter was important to the former science librarian and she always made sure the student had identified all of the needed information and felt confident to proceed on their work.

“I always told people that the reason I come to work every day is I knew I was helping students to reach their research and career goals,” Blake said. “And I think that’s one of the biggest accomplishments you can have as a librarian.”

Blake retired from West Virginia University on June 30 after two decades of service to WVU Libraries. She came to WVU Libraries in 1997 as manager of the NASA library in Fairmont. In 2003, she moved to the Downtown Library to become the science librarian.

Her journey into librarianship, though, began at Glenville State College, where she received her bachelor’s of arts in English and library science. She earned her master’s of library science from the University of Kentucky.

“I really liked engaging with the students, and I was particularly successful in the geography classroom. We had some great interactions,” Blake said.

One example happened in 2009 when she collaborated with Tim Warner, an associate professor of geology and



“Linda’s outreach to faculty created strong and lasting collaborations that elevated academic achievement for the Libraries and the disciplines with which she worked. She was a dedicated and effective teacher, alert to new methods of instruction and devoted to student success.”

– Penny Pugh

geography in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. He received a grant to enhance his course “Introduction to Remote Sensing” by incorporating information literacy concepts.

Warner credits Blake’s work on developing a module and teaching the material for improving his students’ research habits and the overall quality of their research papers.

Others shared Warner’s admiration.

In 2010, the WVU Library Faculty Assembly named Blake as the Outstanding Librarian. The award recognized her commitment to teaching, her work as a bibliographer for numerous science departments and manager of the Libraries’ electronic journals collection

and her dedication to the profession.

“It’s impossible to overstate the value of Linda Blake’s contributions to WVU during her long and distinguished career with the Libraries,” said Penny Pugh, head of Research Services at the Downtown Campus Library.

“Linda’s outreach to faculty created strong and lasting collaborations that elevated academic achievement for the Libraries and the disciplines with which she worked. She was a dedicated and effective teacher, alert to new methods of instruction and devoted to student success.”

Her behind-the-scenes endeavors have also been critical. Pugh praised Blake for tirelessly working to build an outstanding

collection of electronic journals and revolutionizing the Libraries’ methods of managing them — ensuring that the most important scholarship was readily available to the campus community.

“Linda brought a keen intelligence, a depth and breadth of knowledge and a can-do attitude to all of her work. She leaves a lasting legacy of excellence for the Libraries and West Virginia University,” Pugh said.

As a member of the West Virginia Library Association and American Library Association, Blake also worked hard to promote libraries in the region and nation. She has been an active member of the state association since 1984 and served a multiyear term as the West Virginia Councilor to the American Library Association.

Retirement will bring a different daily routine and a slower pace.

“I will miss the camaraderie and the intellectual rigor of being in an academic library on a university campus. I still read, but it’s not like studying to prepare for a class,” Blake said.

She expects to be back on campus often. She’s a devoted fan of the University’s Festival of Ideas lecture series. And she recently began a part-time assignment focused on processing and promoting minority community collections in the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

Soon, she will begin taking friends up on invitations to visit them in South Carolina and Vermont. A winter trip with her sisters to Costa Rico is on her calendar, too.

Also, she intends to increase her volunteer hours with a few nonprofit organizations and add some other groups. One of the tasks on her list is helping the West Virginia Botanic Garden organize its small library. ♡

SCORE!

THE MOUNTAINEERS AND LIBRARIES RENEW THE TOUCHDOWN CHALLENGE



The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and WVU Libraries are teaming up again for the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge, a fundraising campaign that benefits the Libraries.

The initiative, in its seventh year, enables participants to pledge a dollar amount per touchdown the Mountaineers score during the 2017 season and bowl game. The proceeds support a variety of projects within the Libraries.

“The Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge is a fun and exciting way to help enhance the academic experience for students while cheering on the Mountaineers,” Director of Athletics Shane Lyons said. “I encourage our alumni and fans to join us in the Challenge and support our Libraries at WVU.”

Football Coach Dana Holgorsen has been involved in the Touchdown Challenge since arriving in Morgantown in 2011. He said he and his team find it rewarding that they are bolstering academics by winning games.

“We expect to throw a lot of passes and score a lot of points this fall,” Holgorsen said. “It’s gratifying to know that every trip into the end zone will also help students studying in the library.”

Over the past few years, the Touchdown Challenge has helped with several projects. The most popular has been a presentation practice room equipped with digital cameras and a computer with cutting-edge software that streamlines the recording and editing process.

This fall, students began enjoying new West Virginia-crafted desks and refurbished furniture in the Downtown Campus Library Atrium. Gat Creek, a furniture manufacturer based in Berkeley Springs, generously donated the desks, and the Touchdown Challenge allowed for a facelift of the entire space.

The Libraries will consult with students to determine where to direct funds raised during the 2017 Touchdown Challenge.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to make WVU Libraries a part of WVU’s football tradition,” Interim Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said. “We appreciate Shane Lyons, Coach Holgorsen, every student-athlete and every fan who make the Touchdown Challenge a success.”

If you’re up for the Challenge, visit give.wvu.edu/touchdown-challenge. For more information, contact Paula Martinelli, development director for WVU Libraries, at paula.martinelli@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-0303. ♡



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.

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

To discuss making a donation, creating an endowment, or writing a bequest, please contact Paula Martinelli at **304-293-0303** or paula.martinelli@mail.wvu.edu.



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