

EX LIBRIS

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MAGAZINE | FALL 2023



▶ RAHALL

CONGRESSIONAL ARCHIVES HOUSE
NOW OPEN IN BECKLEY

A Letter from the Dean



I often describe the hallmarks of libraries as falling into three categories: places, collections and expert services. This year WVU Libraries has made advances in all three categories.

Our places, of course, remain a spot for students to study — whether that is solo or in groups. But they are also important community spaces for

celebration, discovery and remembering the history of our campus and region. We have done some interesting work on a number of our library spaces in our Downtown and Evansdale libraries, which you can read about in our Library Spaces article.

Our second unveiling in the Inclusive Portrait Project series brought athletic fans and community members together to celebrate Kittie Blakemore, WVU's first women's basketball coach and Title IX champion. Her portrait now enhances our Robinson Reading Room as inspiration for current and future students, and her papers reside in the West Virginia and Regional History Center for future researchers to discover how her accomplishments affected women's sports.

Our University and our donors provide us with significant dollars to bring the latest published scholarship to campus. In FY 2022 we spent \$7.3 million on scholarship sold to us by publishers. But we also continue to collect unique materials that no other library in the world has. This year we were excited to celebrate the opening of the Rahall Congressional Archives House. Former West Virginia Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II donated his papers to WVU Libraries and the WVRHC in 2015. These materials are important to future generations to understand how Congress and our democratic system work.

Our expertise was greatly enhanced this year by bringing the Humanities Center under the umbrella of the Libraries. While we have provided office space for the director since the inception of the Center, the reorganization has created better integration and partnership. Center Director Renee Nicholson has brought expertise for collaborating across campus to the Libraries, and the Libraries have provided administrative and collegial support. We have also been excited to bring new librarians and staff into our ranks who are contributing to student and faculty success.

It has been an exciting year, and I'm grateful you are here to learn more about it!

Karen Diaz
Dean of Libraries

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Fall 2023

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On the cover: Former Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II cuts the ribbon to the Rahall Congressional Archives House. Photo by WVU Tech University Relations.



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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Snapshot ▶ It's a crisp fall day outside of the Downtown Library.

HUMANITIES
CENTER

Flourishing

WITHIN WVU LIBRARIES

A poet laureate, an author and a rapper walked into a library — it's not a joke. It's the new normal since the WVU Humanities Center became part of WVU Libraries in fall 2022.

The trio are among the past year's highlights: a luncheon to honor Marc Harshman on his 10th anniversary as West Virginia's Poet Laureate; a homecoming for author and WVU alumna Valerie Neiman, who read selections from her novels; and "From WV to NY: Hip-Hop Geography," a panel discussion around hip-hop, Black culture and place, that featured hip-hop artist Deep Jackson and novelist Steven Dunn, both West Virginia natives.

"I am pleased for the Humanities Center to be part of WVU Libraries," Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said. "We are discovering a number of great synergies in working together to support multiple areas of campus. We are both committed to roles we can play in



strengthening the University's R1 status and commitment to the land-grant mission."

Humanities Center Director Renée Nicholson agrees the new arrangement benefits the campus and beyond.

"Both the Center and the Libraries serve the entire community, supporting faculty, staff, and students across all of WVU's colleges and campuses," Nicholson said. "As well, initiatives in the Libraries, such as programming connected with the West Virginia and Regional History Center and Art in the Libraries, integrate well with the goals and activities of the Center."

Traditionally, humanities disciplines include areas such as philosophy, history, literature, law, languages, religious studies, Native American studies, women and gender studies, and often spill over into other disciplines. Yet, all disciplines have some connection to the humanities, since every discipline has a history, culture and specialized language that contextualizes each discipline and how it goes about its work.

The Center supports the University's land-grant mission through events and programs that enhance student success and improve the lives of West Virginians. One example is the Humanities at Work initiative that assists undergraduates and graduate students in the humanities with career planning and support.

In addition, the Center provides grants for programs that use the humanities to enhance the academic journeys of students and improve the lives of West Virginians.

This financial support often provides early funding for work in or connected with the humanities, with the goal of producing more scholarship that is published and/or receives next-level funding, such as funds through National Endowment for the Humanities and other sources. Many outcomes of the Center's advocacy help strengthen WVU's R1 status. Also, in partnership with the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and the

Top— Deep Jackson, a Welch, W.Va., native, performs at "From WV to NY: Hip Hop Geography," a panel discussion around hip-hop, Black culture and place, presented by the Humanities Center on Oct. 20, 2022, in the Mountainlair's Blue Ballroom.

Left— Valerie Neiman **Right—** Marc Harshman



Humanities Center

Research Office, the Center has been part of a faculty writing group focused on gaining fellowships to support the writing and publication of scholarly books. Many participants in the group are in humanities disciplines.

In fall 2022, while integrating into its new home, the Center established four signature initiatives:

✓ The **Appalachian Writers, Artists and Scholars of Color Series**, established in the fall 2020, continues to help showcase, center, and support diverse voices from the region. It also serves the land-grant mission of WVU.

✓ **Connective Tissue: Health Humanities at WVU** focuses on the human conditions of health and illness by drawing on methodologies in the humanities and fine arts to fortify clinical science and patient-provider relationships. Because of the potential of the health humanities to improve care to West Virginians, this initiative also serves WVU's land-grant mission.

✓ **Humanities at Work**, a collaboration with WVU Career Services, supports student success by offering workshops, panels and other events and activities to help undergraduates and graduate students in the humanities disciplines with career preparation.

✓ **Humanities Accelerated** fortifies humanities research at WVU by providing financial and other kinds of support, which not only strengthens scholarship and programs, but can impact WVU's R1 status.

By focusing the Center on these four initiatives, the goal is to achieve a level of excellence in each. While there are many other areas of the humanities, the Center's support of humanities scholarship will certainly help fund work in public humanities, environmental humanities, digital humanities and more. ♡

“BOOK IT!” PANEL explores careers in publishing industry

In fall 2022, the WVU Humanities Center and the WVU Career Services Center partnered to create the Humanities at Work initiative to address the career development needs of humanities students.

“Studying the humanities can help students work more effectively and creatively in any career pathway they choose,” Humanities Center Director Renée Nicholson said. “The skills developed, such as writing skills, ethical decision-making, social cohesion and others are highly prized in workplaces, allowing graduates to be vital members of a flourishing workplace regardless of the industry they enter.”

The Center launched the initiative with an online panel discussion titled “Book It: Careers in Book Publishing and Promotion.”

Students interested in book-related careers could learn about job opportunities post-graduation, including how to prepare academically, personally and professionally to pursue these career paths.

Panelists included Sara Georgi, managing editor for WVU Press; Rebecca Colesworthy, senior acquisitions editor for SUNY Press; Ellen Whitfield, publicity director for BooksForward; and Lacey N. Dunham, writer and director of Literary Education Programs for the PEN/Faulkner Foundation.

Each speaker shared a presentation about their occupation and how they came to be in their position, followed by a Q&A session. A recording of the program is available on the Humanities Center's YouTube page.

Students were encouraged to work with Danica Ryan, the humanities-focused career development specialist at WVU Career Services. Ryan hosted a series of major-specific sessions called “What Can You Do with this Major,” and showcased the many resources students could use to find internships and jobs relevant to their skills.

The Center and Career Services also collaborated on a humanities-focused session with CIA-recruiters, who talked about their internship programs for undergraduates and graduate students. The CIA and other federal agencies often recruit from humanities majors because of their strong writing abilities, sharp abilities to research, aggregate data and find trends, and foreign language proficiency. ♡



Norman and Brucella Jordan

REFLECTIONS ON WEST VIRGINIA POET NORMAN JORDAN

In April, the WVU Humanities Center and the West Virginia and Regional History Center hosted Dr. Brucella Jordan for an evening of reflection on the life and work of her husband, Norman Jordan (1938-2015), one of West Virginia's foremost Black poets.

“It was a privilege to be able to daily observe the activities and thought processes of a truly creative person,” Brucella Jordan said. “He was a poet who saw poetry in everything; in every day, night, activity, life. Living and observing was a poetic drama that inspired him to see it clearly, play with it, and then interpret it to the rest of us in his writing and actions. I could see that working within him up-close and from afar.”

Norman Jordan was a leading voice in the Black Arts Movement in the 1960s and 1970s. He authored five books of poetry, including “Destination: Ashes” and “Above Maya,” and his work has been included in more than 42 anthologies.

In 2008, he was inducted into the Affrilachian Poets Collective. The term “Affrilachian” stands for an African American who is a native or resident of the Appalachian region.

Amy Alvarez, a teaching assistant professor in the Department of English, believes the work of the Affrilachian Poets brings the true nature of Appalachia to the forefront.

▲ Dr. Brucella Jordan speaks to the audience about her husband, Norman Jordan, as WVRHC Director Lori Hostuttler looks on.

“The region is often thought to be solely white and rural, but Appalachia is a richly diverse tapestry of peoples and locales,” Alvarez said. “The work of Affrilachian Poets encourages those who live here and elsewhere to see and value the multiple experiences and perspectives that people of color have in this region.”

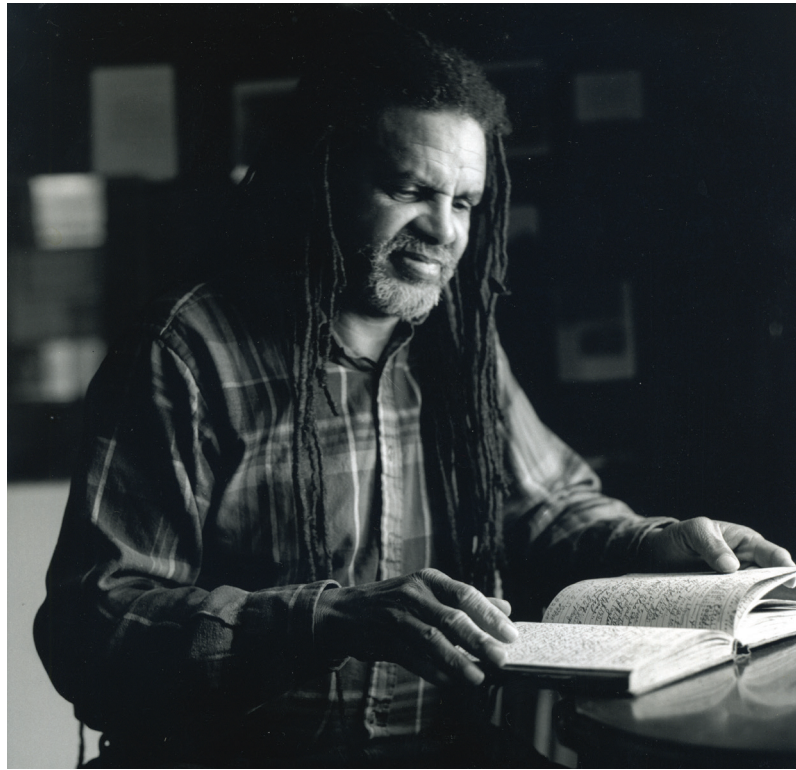
Alvarez first encountered Norman Jordan's work in the late 1990s as a fan of hip-hop. Jordan's poem “One-Eyed Critics” was sampled by rap artists Mos Def and Talib Kweli on their debut album, “Mos Def and Talib Kweli are Black Star.” But of course, Norman Jordan had been influential for decades before as a poet, playwright, educator and scholar.

“The work of Norman Jordan has been important to me as a

poet, educator, and scholar of both the Black Arts Movement and the Affrilachian Poets,” Alvarez said. “I admire his later period of work, which he named ‘stick poetry’ – these short, impactful poems key in on his experiences, observations and insights.”

The fourth of nine children, Norman Jordan was born in 1938 in the small coal mining town of Ansted, W.Va. It was there that his love for poetry was instilled.

When he was about 7 years old, his grandmother had him recite a poem in a church play she directed. When he was 10, a teacher named



Norman Jordan

Mrs. Childs included poems in her lesson plans, and they would often read poetry together.

Through Mrs. Child’s encouragement, he became familiar with the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, Phillis Wheatley, James Weldon Johnston, Edgar Allan Poe, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and others. She also encouraged him to memorize poems and to start writing his own poetry.

In 1951, his family moved to the East Side of Cleveland, Ohio. It was during this time that he wrote what he considered to be his most popular poem, “Hometown Boy.”

After a four-year stint in the Navy, Norman Jordan returned to Cleveland and began frequenting the Cleveland Public Library. It was there that he discovered international poets. Works by Chinese, Cuban, South American and African poets fascinated and inspired him as well as the poetry of American Beat Generation poets like LeRoi Jones, Allen Ginsburg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Diane Di Prima and Bob Kaufman.

“It was in the early 1960s that Norman’s style of poetry began to change and what really catapulted

the recognition of him and his poetry at that time was the Civil Rights Movement,” Brucella Jordan said. “Norman was actively involved with the CRM in Cleveland in terms of social, and political activism and he would soon also become one of the most prominent figures and a driving force in the Black Arts Movement of that era.”

Norman Jordan returned to West Virginia and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater from WVU in 1977 and soon after received a master’s in African American Studies from Ohio State University.

He would later co-found the African American

Arts and Heritage Academy, a weeklong summer program that offers teenagers the opportunity to study an artistic discipline of their choice. He also co-established the African American Heritage Family Tree Museum in Ansted with his wife, who is currently the museum’s curator.

Brucella Jordan is a historian and former professor who has been involved in a variety of historical projects. She holds a bachelor’s in history and government from the West Virginia Institute of Technology, a master’s in public history and a Ph.D. in history from WVU. She has taught classes primarily in African-American history at WVU, Marshall University Graduate College, WVU Tech, and Lane College in Jackson, Tenn.

She has portrayed the historical characters Anne Spencer and Ida B. Wells for ten years under the sponsorship of the West Virginia Humanities Council. She is the author of “Flashback: Poetry and Commentary,” “Anne Spencer: Poet of the Harlem Renaissance,” “African American Migration to Ansted, West Virginia” and “Aunt Artie’s House.” ♡



NIEMAN RETURNS TO THE SCENE

WRITTEN BY MONTE MAXWELL, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

The break-in at the Watergate Hotel led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and the conviction of about 40 people connected to the Nixon Administration. It also ignited the careers of

famed Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Robert Woodward and inspired many young people across the nation to pursue careers in newspaper and broadcast news.

A few years later, Valerie Nieman found herself heading to Morgantown to explore opportunities at the Reed College of Media (then the Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism).

“The Watergate Scandal and the investigative reporting by Woodward and Bernstein drove me and others to journalism. ‘All the President’s Men’ would come out in 1976, and we were all hot with going out and saving the world,” the author, retired editor and WVU alumna said.

That fall, Nieman sat in a Martin Hall classroom, learning the newspaper trade from legendary professors such as Paul Atkins, Harry Elwood, Dr. Robert Ours and Bill Seymour.

“Paul Atkins was the heart and soul of news editorial,” Nieman said. “I so admired and respected him, but I lived in fear of him early on.”

First, she couldn’t type, and the Journalism Program required students to type 20 words per minute. And, Atkins had a somewhat intimidating teaching style.

“Paul Atkins was a hard taskmaster,” Nieman said. “He transferred your typewritten stories onto transparencies, placed them on the overhead projector and then marked them up with a blue pencil while everyone was watching.”

“I thought I was a pretty good writer, but I was still learning,” she said.

It was an intimidating experience to have your mistakes and weaknesses exposed to the entire class, but it also pushed Nieman and her classmates to become better writers and develop their journalistic skills.

The learning process extended to the Daily Athenaeum, which occupied an old white house on Prospect Street. Her first byline there was for

covering a volleyball game, and one summer she served as news editor.

"We positioned ourselves as the alternative to the Dominion Post," Nieman said. "We were gutsy. We covered a strike at the Greer Limestone (which was owned by the same company that ran the Dominion Post)."

She also worked as a stringer for United Press International.

"I would cover things and then get on a pay phone on the corner and call the Charleston bureau and dictate my story," Nieman said.

In between classes, tests and deadlines, she worked part-time at the Ramada Inn.

"I was scrambling to earn money to live on," Nieman said. "It was a busy time, but it was great."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1978, she started writing at the Dominion Post/Morning Reporter, covering the Preston County beat. Her newspaper assignments took her from covering the Buckwheat Festival to interviewing then-Governor Jay Rockefeller.

She moved to the Times West Virginian in Fairmont, where she worked as a reporter, city editor and executive editor from 1981-1997.

As a police reporter, she spent many evenings standing on roadsides or outside of crime scenes asking questions and trying to piece together events that had just transpired. All while the clock was ticking and an editor was waiting back in the newsroom.

She covered trials of inmates who rioted at the West Virginia Penitentiary in Moundsville on January 1, 1986. And there were recurring news stories involving the coal industry and water pollution.

One story that stayed with her for decades involved a crossroads community in rural Marion County that lost its water because a Consolidation Coal Company mine destroyed its wells. The mining company responded to the situation by bringing in a water buffalo (a container used to transport water for livestock).

Nieman and a photographer visited the community and talked to the residents. A series of articles and accompanying pictures induced the company to extend a water line from Mannington.

"I felt that was my job as a reporter to help right a wrong. It wasn't a big story, but it was an important story," Nieman said.



▲ In this picture from the Monticola, WVU's yearbook, the Daily Athenaeum staff pose for a group shot at Coopers Rock. Valerie Nieman is wearing a ball cap and sitting on the picnic table.

And it's the little details of this story and countless others that have stuck with her. Two decades of reporting have filled her mental filing cabinets with experiences that she can draw from to create the people, places and events that come to life in her novels, short stories and poems.

"I love the fact that journalism threw me together with all types of people: crooked politicians, good politicians, good cops, bad cops, firefighters, grieving parents. That's a rich background to draw from," Nieman said.

"Characters are amalgams of people I've known and have worked with, detectives, biologists, reporters," Nieman said. "Every character has some element of me in it. It may be small or may be quite large. Maggie (the main character in 'In the Lonely Backwater') has quite a lot of me."

Nieman began focusing on publishing her fiction while still covering news full-time.

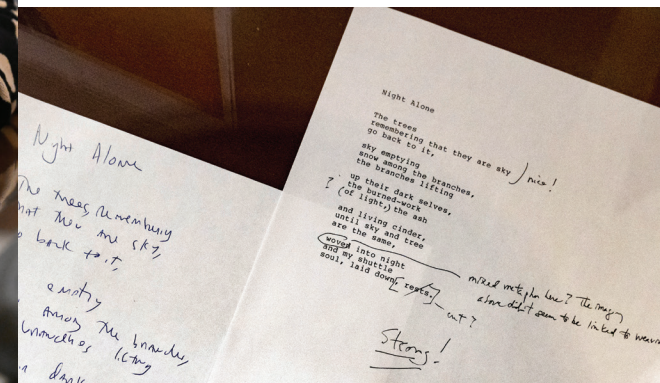
Nieman wrote her first attempt at a novel on a manual typewriter. When she reviewed the finished manuscript, she decided that it wasn't any good and it's long since lost. She quickly moved on to write her first published novel, "Neena Gathering," which came out in 1988 and was reissued in 2012.

Her other novels include "To the Bones," "Blood Clay" (winner of the Eric Hoffer Prize in General Fiction), "Survivors" and her latest novel, "In the Lonely Backwater," which received the Sir Walter Raleigh Award, North Carolina's top prize for fiction.



"THE EMOTIONAL HEART OF MY WRITING IS WEST VIRGINIA."

— Valerie Nieman



▲ One reason Valerie Nieman donated her papers to the WVRHC is to show her writing process and help new writers understand the amount of editing and rewriting necessary to arrive at a finished work.

◀ Valerie Nieman autographs a book for a reader.

Her third poetry collection, "Leopard Lady: A Life in Verse," was a runner-up for the Brockman-Campbell Book Prize. She is also the author of two other poetry collections, "Hotel Worthy" and "Wake Wake Wake," and a collection of short stories, "Fidelities."

Nieman was a 2013-14 North Carolina Arts Council poetry fellow, and has received an NEA creative writing fellowship as well as grants from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the Kentucky Foundation for Women.

She moved to North Carolina in 1997, working as an editor for the News & Record before returning to school to get an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte. She taught for many years at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where she is professor emerita.

She returned to campus March 7 for an event hosted by the WVU Humanities Center and the West Virginia and Regional History Center in the Downtown Library's Milano Reading Room. She read from "In the Lonely Backwater" and other of her works of prose and poetry.

Her visit coincided with recently donating her papers to the WVRHC, part of WVU Libraries.

"I thought about where I wanted my papers to be. And to me, the emotional heart of my writing is West Virginia," Nieman said. "It's where I became a writer, it's where I published my first work, it's where I learned how to become a writer and put it into practice."

She hopes her collection of notebooks, awards certificates, articles and drafts of poems and novels will inspire future writers to take pen in hand and transform a blank page with their words.

"I collected stuff over the years. Not in any organized way, but just dumping in a bin, thinking maybe someone will care about this someday," Nieman said.

"The WVRHC is proud to be the home of Valerie Nieman's archives," WVRHC Director Lori Hostuttler said. "Her papers are now among the collections of many notable West Virginia writers and enhance the Center's literary holdings." ♡

RAHALL CONGRESSIONAL ARCHIVES HOUSE NOW OPEN IN BECKLEY

There is an abundance of worthwhile material to explore when you visit the Rahall Congressional Archives House at the WVU Institute of Technology in Beckley.



▲ Former Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II addresses the crowd gathered to celebrate the opening of the Rahall Congressional Archives House at the WVU Institute of Technology in Beckley. Photo by WVU Tech University Relations.

Former West Virginia Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II represented West Virginia's Third Congressional District from 1977 to 2015, serving under six presidents.

During that time, Rahall was a leader in Congress on mining issues and served as chairman of both the House Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources (1985-1993) and the Committee on Natural Resources (2007-2011). He championed regulations to support coal miners, and he helped

enact legislation creating the Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Bluestone National River.

He was also the top Democrat on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

And a book could be written on his work with national and foreign policy related to the Middle East.

But, a good place to start at the Archives House might be with a black and white photograph of Rahall with U.S. senators Jennings Randolph, Mike



▲ Former Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II talks with Sen. Joe Manchin about an exhibit in the Rahall Congressional Archives House. Photo courtesy of the Office of Sen. Joe Manchin.

Mansfield and Robert C. Byrd in June 1976. Before he was elected to Congress, Rahall worked in Byrd's office, and the senator became a mentor for Rahall.

The picture is displayed among other images, memorabilia, news clippings and documents that chronicle Rahall's numerous contributions to national policy and state projects.

Rahall donated his papers to WVU Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center in 2015. The collection, at more than 2,089 record cartons, is one of the largest in the Libraries' holdings.

Shortly after WVU Libraries received Rahall's papers, WVU established the Rahall Congressional Archives House at WVU Tech.

"This is not about my legacy; this is our legacy," Rahall told a crowd of dignitaries and community members who gathered for the facility's ribbon-cutting on August 2.

But those sharing the podium took turns touting his achievements.

"As we open the Rahall Congressional Archives, we are now fully recognizing and celebrating all the hard work Congressman Nick Rahall did for West Virginia and our country," Senator Joe Manchin said.

Manchin noted that Rahall remains the youngest elected and, with 19 consecutive terms, longest-serving member in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"From strengthening our transportation system to laying down the foundation for the New River Gorge's designation as a national park, Congressman Rahall always fought for the people he so proudly represented," Manchin said. "After his dedicated years of service to the Mountain State, it is wonderful to see Congressman Rahall's legacy forever memorialized so his work can inspire future generations of leaders."

"We are humbled and honored to house the archives of Congressman Nick J. Rahall II on the campus of WVU Tech because Beckley is his home," WVU Tech President Ramon Stuart said.

"Congressman Rahall always embraced his southern West Virginia roots, so it is fitting to plant his archives on our campus because this

"THIS IS NOT ABOUT MY LEGACY; THIS IS OUR LEGACY."

— Nick Joe Rahall II

affords current and future generations the opportunity to enjoy Congressman Rahall's legacy and contributions to our region, state, nation and world."

WVU Libraries Dean Karen Diaz believes WVU Libraries archivists are accomplishing much more than preserving history. She said the potential for learning is near limitless for those who delve into this vast collection.

"Congressman Rahall's archives tell the stories of Southern West Virginia and its people, of public policy and the ways it shapes our lives and landscapes, and of the hard work of representative democracy," Diaz said. "Congressman Rahall's archives will continue to serve as a living legacy, providing master lessons in leadership and diplomacy, building a bridge from the past and inspiring our students to become the leaders of tomorrow."

Other speakers at the dedication included U.S. Rep. Carol Miller, R-W.Va.; Gov. Jim Justice; and WVU President E. Gordon Gee. Several of Rahall's former staff members, numerous current and former elected officials from across the West Virginia, higher education leaders from the state's universities, former Gov. Bob Wise and former state treasurer John Perdue were among the guests.

For more information about the Rahall Congressional Archives House and collection visit rahall.lib.wvu.edu.

WVU LIBRARIES UNVEILS KITTIE BLAKEMORE PORTRAIT

WRITTEN BY MONTE MAXWELL, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

In April, WVU Libraries unveiled a portrait of Virginia “Kittie” Blakemore, the first coach of the WVU’s women’s basketball team, in the Downtown Library’s Robinson Reading Room.

“Kittie Blakemore is a pivotal figure in WVU history because of her determination to implement Title IX at WVU and her status as a beloved coach of women’s basketball. We are excited and proud to include her in the archives at the West Virginia and Regional History Center,” WVRHC Director Lori Hostuttler said.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX.

Blakemore’s painting is part of the Inclusive Portrait Project, an initiative by WVU Libraries’ Art in the

Libraries Program to expand the WVRHC portrait collection through the creation of three portraits painted by a current BFA or MFA student or recent graduate who identifies as female. The project is funded by a Women of WVU grant.

Nikki Izzo-Brown, head coach of the Mountaineer women’s soccer team, credits Blakemore for the University recruiting her away for West Virginia Wesleyan to establish the Women’s Soccer Program in 1995.

“Kittie took a big risk on me. I was young, I was naïve, but what I was willing to do was listen, and Kittie was the best teacher,” Izzo-Brown said. “If I could live

up to Kittie and be who she was to all the people in the room, then I’ve accomplished what I’ve wanted with my career here at WVU and as a women’s soccer coach.”

In 1973, WVU Athletics Director Leland Byrd hired Blakemore to be the first coach of WVU’s newly established women’s basketball team. Blakemore

Under Blakemore’s leadership, the basketball program produced All-American Rosemary Kosiorek, all-conference players Donna Abbott, Alexis Basil, Olivia Bradley, Jenny Hillen, Cathy Parson and Georgeann Wells, the first player to dunk in a women’s collegiate game.

After retiring from coaching, Blakemore served as WVU’s assistant athletic director for sports development and senior women’s administrator until her retirement in 1997.

This year’s Inclusive Portrait artist is Julia Zaph, a Morgantown native who graduated from WVU in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Painting. Zaph said she is grateful to be selected to paint for the Inclusive Portrait Initiative because it made her feel truly connected with her artwork.

◀ Former WVU women’s basketball player Becky Franklin displays an intramural apron she and teammates wore over T-shirts in lieu of official uniforms.



▲ Former members of the WVU’s Women’s Basketball Team – Carol Mousseau Biddington, Jean Mewshaw, Becky Franklin, Lori Quertinmont Martin, Jan Kiger, Lisa Stolar and Mary Hennen – pose with Coach Blakemore’s portrait.

compiled a 301-214 record over 19 seasons, which included the 1989 Atlantic 10 tournament championship, the 1992 regular season A-10 titles and NCAA berths in 1989 and 1992.

“Coach Blakemore didn’t have it easy when she began. She constantly competed for gym time at the Coliseum and resorted to having practices at the Fieldhouse,” former WVU women’s basketball player Becky Franklin said.

For the first few games, Franklin recalled, players lacked official uniforms and wore intramural aprons over T-shirts. But there were no complaints. The players were happy to wear them, because they got to play basketball.

“Coach Blakemore built a team from girls who didn’t know much about basketball. She never gave up on vision for a successful women’s basketball program at WVU or a young player from the Laurel Highlands,” Franklin said. “My four years as a Lady Mountaineer were some of the proudest of my entire life. Being part of this incredible sisterhood for each other and the love for the game has made my life more special.”

Last year, Anna Allen, a 2021 WVU BFA painting graduate, painted a portrait of Victorine Louistall Monroe, the first known Black female to receive a graduate degree at WVU and the first Black female to join the University as a faculty member.

Blakemore’s portraits will join Monroe’s in the Robinson Reading Room on a semi-permanent basis and then be added to the WVRHC’s collection. The WVRHC holds a small collection of papers that document Blakemore’s professional career and the development of intercollegiate women’s sports at WVU. ♡



▲ WVU President E. Gordon Gee poses with Julia Zaph, the artist who painted the portrait of Kittie Blakemore.

ENHANCED SPACES TO SERVE STUDENTS

A **Sensory Safe Space** opened on the first floor of the Downtown Library in spring 2023. This space has been designed with low lighting, soft seating, plants and wall-hangings to create a soothing environment. In addition, users have the option to borrow noise-cancelling headphones and personal white noise machines. The space is accessible to students, faculty and staff. This project is a result of careful planning and effort by the Downtown Library Access Services Team: Hilary Fredette, Andrea McDaniel, Hattie Murphy, Savannah Owens, Sam Rahall and James Shaver.



Sensory Safe Space

Active Workspaces



Active Workspaces are a student-led initiative that aims to enhance movement opportunities across campus. These spaces are designed to enable students to incorporate physical activity into their work routine or take a refreshing movement break, resulting in improved productivity, focus, energy and overall health.

The Active Study spaces are a collaboration between the Libraries, WVU Student Recreation Center, the Student Government Association and WELLWVU. The Downtown Library equipped four study rooms with yoga mats, yoga balls, stationary bikes and instructional posters to create "Active Study Rooms." In a second phase of the project, stationary bikes with standing desks were placed on the sixth floor. Hilary Fredette (Libraries) and Sera Zegre (Student Rec Center) helped lead this project.

Digital Photography Studio



The Evansdale Library now features a **Digital Photography Studio** that is open to students, faculty and staff who wish to capture professional, studio-quality photographs. It offers individuals and groups the opportunity to take group and portrait shots, document portfolio photography, conduct product photography and even shoot videos. Equipment can be checked out from the Public Services desk, or users can bring their own personal equipment.

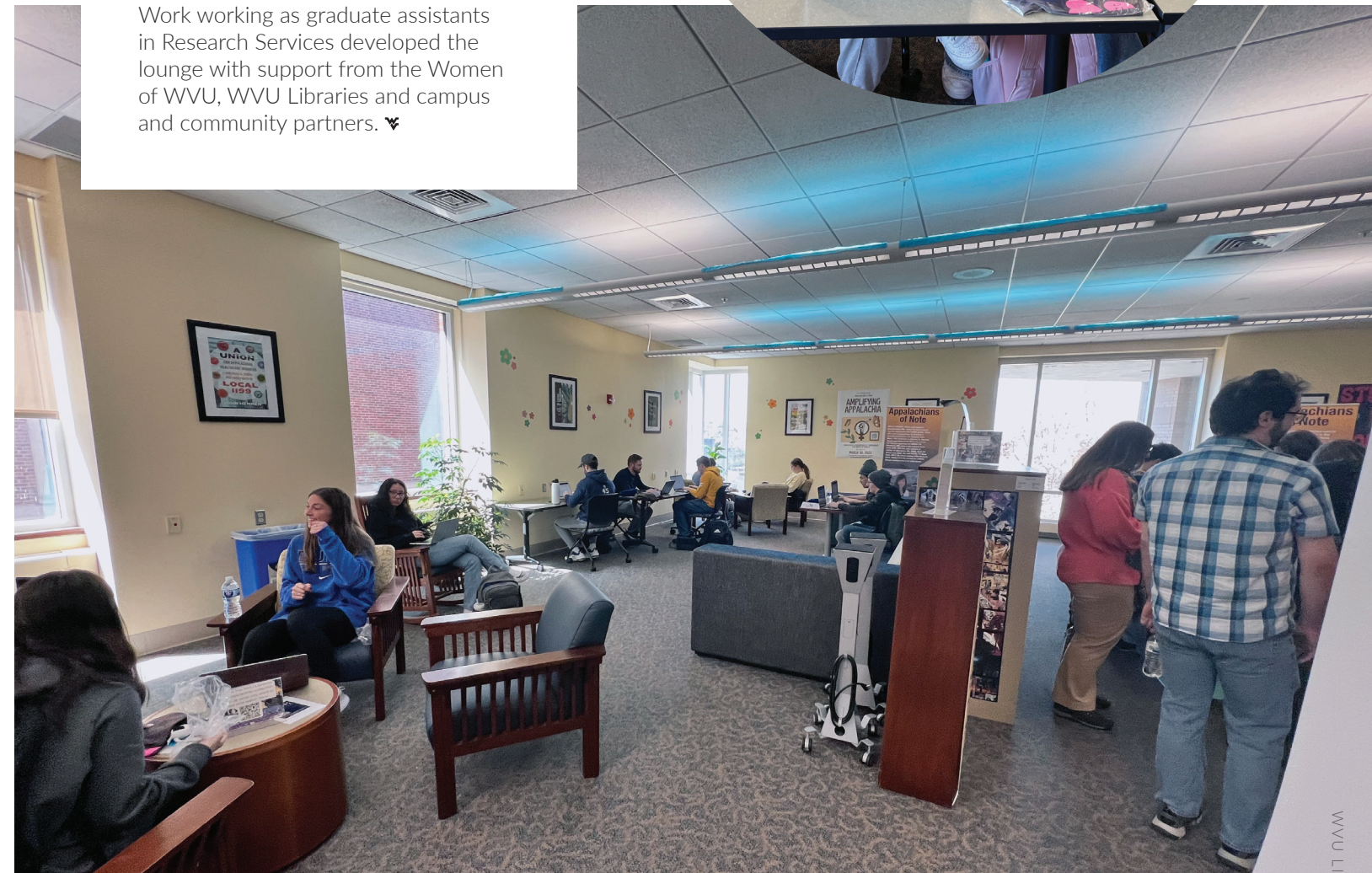
Student Lounge



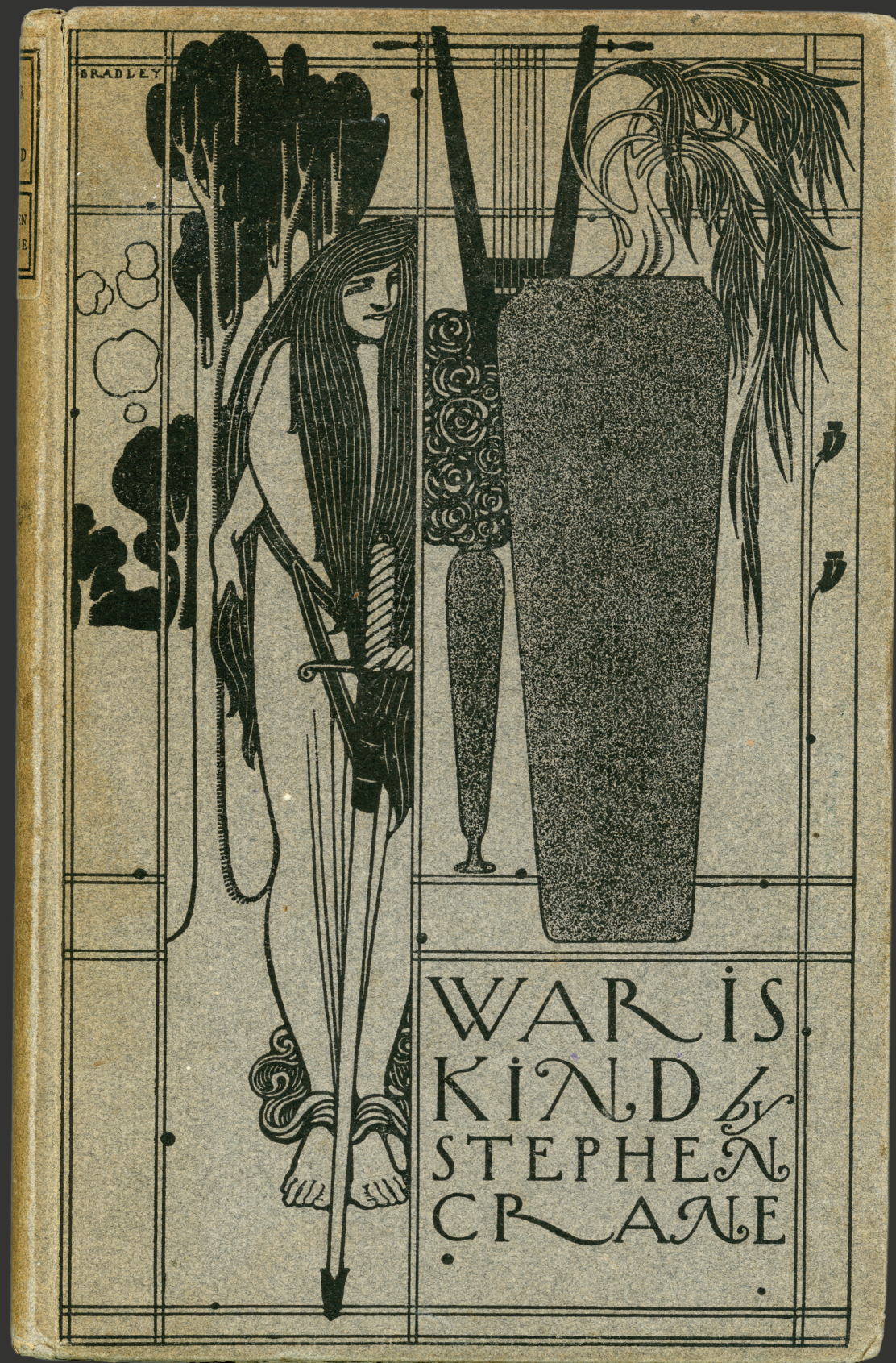
The **Student Lounge** on the second floor of the Downtown Library is a sanctuary and multiuse space focused on supporting student success, nurturing a sense of belonging and amplifying student voices. Features include comfortable seating, art, manga and textbook sharing collections, filters to subdue the lighting and plants.

In March 2023, the Libraries used the space to host an in-person editing session for the "Amplifying Appalachia" Art + Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon, an initiative designed to bolster underrepresented Appalachian stories.

Students in the School of Social Work working as graduate assistants in Research Services developed the lounge with support from the Women of WVU, WVU Libraries and campus and community partners. ♡



▲ Students gather in the Downtown Library's Student Lounge to participate in a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon.



▲ The cover of "War is Kind" by Stephen Crane

A MASTERWORK IN POETRY AND ILLUSTRATION COMES TO THE RARE BOOK ROOM

WRITTEN BY STEWART PLEIN, CURATOR, RARE BOOKS AND PRINTED RESOURCES

Stephen Crane, perhaps best known for his novel "The Red Badge of Courage," read by high schoolers in English classes all over America, is less well known for a volume of poetry titled "War is Kind."

Published in 1899 by New York publishers F.A. Stokes & Company, in an era when book covers were decorated with gold and colored inks and poetry often rhymed, Crane's volume of poetry received a different visual and artistic treatment that, when combined with his verse, make this volume a masterwork.

The Libraries purchased the book with funds provided by an endowment given to the Rare Book Room by donor Robert D. Hughes, a WVU graduate who received a Master of Arts Degree in Learning Sciences in 1977. Along with an endowment to be used for the

purchase of rare books and book conservation, Hughes left his own extensive personal collection of rare books as well as his collection of the letters of literary authors to WVU's Rare Book Collection at the Wise Library.

A poem lamenting the death of husbands, fathers, brothers and sons, Crane's "War is Kind" recalls the immense loss of life during the Civil War. Though he was born after the war, it figured prominently in his literary works. Crane's prodigious output is remarkable for a writer whose brief life tragically ended at age 28 from tuberculosis.

"War is Kind" was released months before he died in June 1900. A brief five stanzas, the poem is laid out across the pages of the book rather than on a single page.

The beauty of Crane's poetry

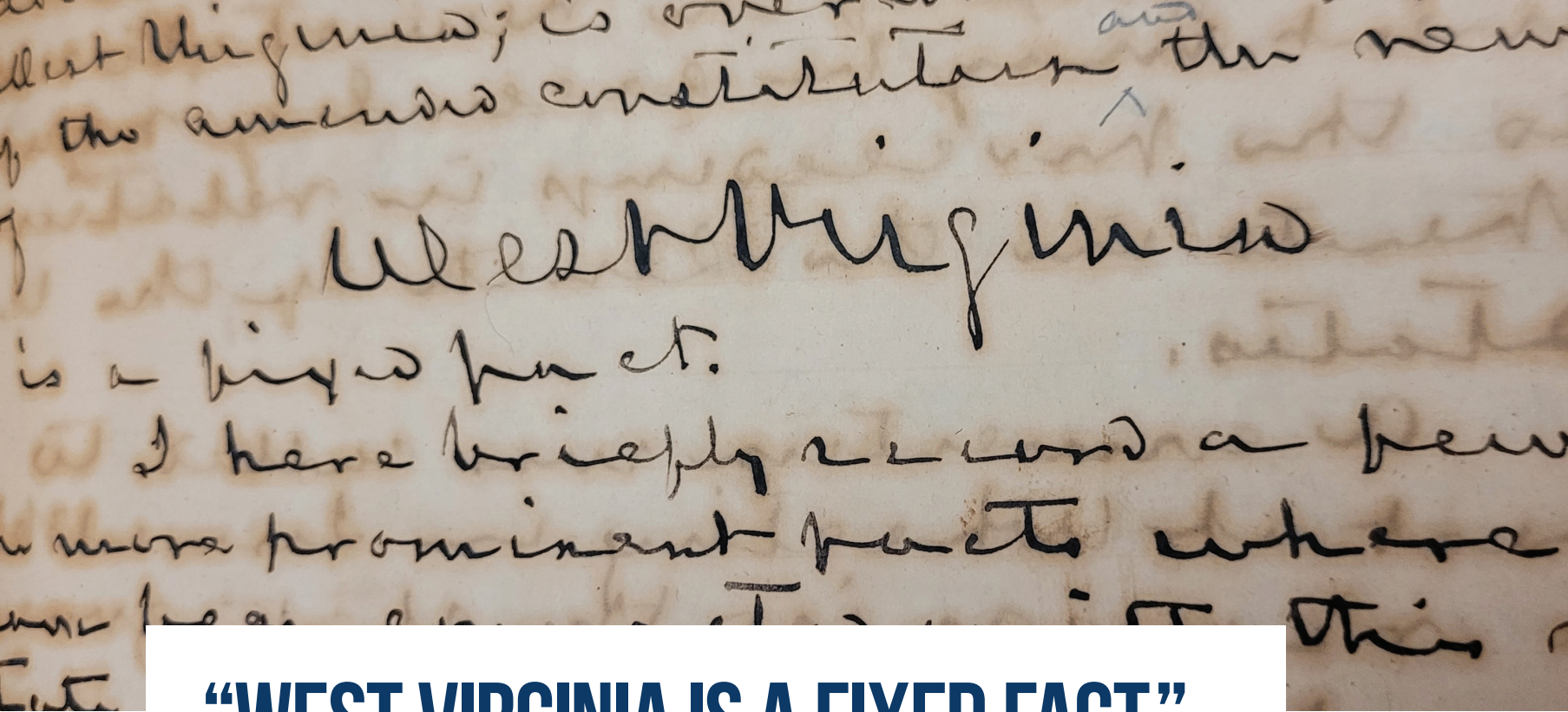
is equaled by the beauty of the art and the handmade blue paper that forms the text. Will H. Bradley, the artist who created the illustrations and the cover's design for the book was, and remains, one of America's premier artists, well known for his poster art and his magazine, the Chap-Book.

According to the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Bradley's influences included the Japanese aesthetic so popular at the time. As a master of the poster style, Bradley worked "in flat, broad color planes and cropped forms," which is evident from the cover illustration. His style drew upon the Art Nouveau movement as well as the work of English illustrator Aubrey Beardsley.

To experience this remarkable volume first hand, please contact Stewart Plein, curator of rare books and printed resources, for an appointment to view this beautiful work of art and poetry. ♡

**DO NOT WEEP, MAIDEN,
FOR WAR IS KIND.
BECAUSE YOUR LOVER
THREW WILD HANDS
TOWARD THE SKY
AND THE AFFRIGHTED
STEED RAN ON ALONE,
DO NOT WEEP.
WAR IS KIND.**

"War is Kind" by Stephen Crane



“WEST VIRGINIA IS A FIXED FACT.”

There’s a lot of history packed into the sentence — “West Virginia is a fixed fact.”

The line comes from a journal belonging to Waitman T. Willey, a founding father and one of the Mountain State’s first U.S. senators.

He wrote the sentence on March 31, 1863. To emphasize the importance of the declaration, he dedicated an entire line to the words — West Virginia — and wrote the letters twice the size as others on the page.

Willey’s journal, along with his other papers, is preserved in the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

Willey was probably still excited from the historic happenings a few days earlier, on March 26, 1863, when West Virginia ratified a revised constitution to include the gradual emancipation of slaves. This action reflected the state’s commitment to the abolition of slavery.

And, of course, these actions followed President Abraham Lincoln signing the bill admitting West Virginia to the Union on December 31, 1862. Lincoln would later, on April 20, 1863, issue a proclamation that West Virginia would officially be recognized as the 35th state on June 20, 1863.

On June 20 of this year, WVU Libraries and the

WVRHC welcomed the University community and the public to celebrate West Virginia’s 160th birthday.

Lincoln’s motivation in granting statehood was the focus of the program’s featured speaker, Dr. Scott MacKenzie, historian and author of “The Fifth Border State: Slavery, Emancipation, and the Formation of West Virginia, 1829-1872.” MacKenzie discussed how slavery influenced the founding of our state.

“Contrary to long-held belief, long-standing political, social and economic grievances did not motivate the northwestern counties to reject Virginia’s secession in 1861,” MacKenzie said.

He contends that its formation stemmed from the war and the issue of slavery.

“Like the four other border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, mostly conservative Unionists in northwestern Virginia heeded President Lincoln’s appeals to protect the institution and remained in the Union. They initially sought to form a new slave state. Yet, in early 1862, more radical Unionists took over the movement when Lincoln made emancipation a war aim. Their support for abolishing slavery led the president to reward West Virginia with its statehood,” MacKenzie said. ▼



▲ A page from Waitman T. Willey’s journal on which he wrote in large lettering “West Virginia is a fixed fact.”

▲ A West Virginia Day program attendee browses the exhibit in the West Virginia and Regional History Center.



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2



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HACKING THE LIBRARY

On display in the Downtown Library through May 2024

The hacker ethos in the positive sense is about the ability to deconstruct and reconstruct information systems. Hacking starts with reconceptualizing libraries. Libraries are now beyond the book.

As libraries evolve into a new sort of space — still a place for research, learning and study, but also for community engagement and collaboration — library exhibits present a unique opportunity for exhibitors, librarians and library users.

“Hacking the Library” presents artwork that highlights the intersecting values that shape our libraries, reflecting on challenges and definitions of libraries past and as

we move into the future. The artwork is contextualized by “community connections” — that is, responses from librarians to the artwork in the exhibit. This idea came directly from the experience of the committee as we met to review the exhibit applications. Some of us were charmed by entries others found perplexing.

In short, choosing the artwork for the exhibit spurred a conversation that we would like to keep going. Librarians from across the nation, from big and small institutions, academic, elementary and public, responded, presenting a peek inside both librarians’ personal experiences and the state of libraries in the past, present and into the future.

Sponsors of the exhibit include the WVU Humanities Center, WVU Office of the Provost, Morgantown Printing and Binding, Marshall University Libraries and Virginia Tech Libraries.

The Exhibit Consultation Committee includes Karen Diaz, dean of WVU Libraries; Sarah Palfrey, director of Morgantown Public Library System; Christine Hoffmann, WVU associate professor of English; Lois Raimondo, WVU associate professor of journalism; and members of the WVU Art in the Libraries Committee.

After June 2024, the exhibit will travel to Marshall University and Virginia Tech libraries. ♡

Artists include: **1 Matthew Conboy** (Pennsylvania, digital); **2 Irmari Nacht** (New Jersey, book arts); **3 Trudy Borenstein-Sugiura** (New Jersey, book arts); **4 Ryan Lewis** (Michigan, video); **5 Xueer Gao** (Pennsylvania, book arts); **6 Jackie Andrews** (Maryland, mixed media); **7 Chantel Foretich** (New Mexico, sculpture); **Sally Jane Brown** (West Virginia, drawing); **Shan Cawley** (West Virginia, painting); **Robin Miller** (West Virginia, mixed media); **Chris Revelle** (Arkansas, sculpture); **Erin Tapley** (North Carolina, sculpture); and **Liuqing Ruth Yang** (West Virginia, mixed media, honorary artwork).

WVU LIBRARIES NAMES TWO MUNN SCHOLARS

West Virginia University Libraries' Instruction Steering Committee selected **Roxanne Rankin** and **Lauren Volk** as 2023 Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars.

"We are pleased to recognize Roxanne Rankin and Lauren Volk as Munn Scholars," Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said. "They rose to the top of numerous applicants for their thoroughly researched topics and impressive works of scholarship."

The WVU Libraries and the Honors College established the Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars Award in 2009 to honor Dr. Robert F. Munn, dean of library services from 1957-1986. The award goes to one or more students for an outstanding humanities or social sciences thesis based on research conducted in the WVU Libraries.

Along with a \$1,000 award, their names will be added to a plaque in the Downtown Campus Library and their theses added to the Research Repository @ WVU. Both papers can be read at researchrepository.wvu.edu/munn.

"The research conducted by Roxanne and Lauren expands our knowledge of literature, education and their importance in our world," Honors College Dean Kenneth Blemings said. "We're thrilled two of our most talented students were selected for this award."

Rankin won for her thesis titled "The Postmodern and the Personal in Edna St. Vincent Millay's 'Aria Da Capo.'"

"'Aria Da Capo,' Edna St. Vincent Millay's 1919 play, has thus far been largely ignored in literary criticism," Rankin wrote. "This essay, through a historical survey of Millay's previous critical reception followed by a close reading of Aria Da Capo, attempts to explain and then bridge this gap in academic scholarship. A postmodernist reading of the play will then illustrate why Millay's work still confounds scholars today and how Aria Da Capo specifically continues to be relevant more than 100 years after it was first produced."

The Colorado Springs, Colo., native will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in English in December.

She is considering moving to Pittsburgh after graduation and would like to pursue a career in publishing, but hasn't decided yet what she wants to do long term.

"Although I do not yet have concrete plans, I hope to continue pursuing art and knowledge; I want to help people understand why we create and what creation enables us to do for other people and for ourselves," Rankin said.



Roxanne Rankin



Lauren Volk

Volk, of Cross Lanes, W.Va., won for her thesis titled "Banned or Grand?: Why Graphic Novels 'Maus' and 'Persepolis' Belong in the Classroom."

"My capstone essay, 'Banned or Grand?: Why Graphic Novels 'Maus' and 'Persepolis' Belong in the Classroom,' seeks to research both the objections to oft-banned memoir graphic novels being incorporated in the secondary school curriculum and the reasons why these graphic novels should not only be incorporated into the curriculum, but also why they assist students in developing necessary skills, such as higher-level critical thinking, a deeper understanding of complicated historical events, and the analysis of form and structure in literature, rather than just content," Volk wrote. "To enhance my research, I connected my main points to the pedagogical theory of learning transfer."

In May, Volk graduated summa cum laude and as an Honors Foundations Scholar with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Secondary Education.

This fall, she will begin teaching 8th grade English/language arts at Mountaineer Middle School in Monongalia County. She plans to pursue a master's degree in educational administration (after gaining several years of experience in teaching) to eventually become a school principal.

"I want to be the best teacher I can be and inspire my students to do their best and climb higher," Volk said. "In the future, I hope to become a National Board certified teacher, obtain my master's and do everything I can to help my students succeed." ♡

Two students receive Dean of Libraries' Student ARTS AWARD

The Art in the Libraries Committee and Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz selected **Lilly Adkins**, a junior double majoring in painting and sculpture, and **Kieah Hamric**, a sophomore majoring in graphic design, to receive the 2022 Dean of Libraries' Student Arts Award.

Adkins won for her work titled "Detroit Fox Theater 1934 to 2022." This mixed media painting compares the same area, nearly 100 years apart, emerging from times of turmoil.

"In 1934, the Fox Theater's dramatic rise in attendance became a symbol of Detroit recovering from the Great Depression," Adkins said. "In more recent times, the reopening of nonessential places that allow large crowds indicates society entering a post-COVID-19 world. Although the periods and circumstances are different, how society 'returns to normal' remains the same."

Adkins said she went from sailing on the great lakes of Michigan to exploring the dense mountain forests of West Virginia, and often reflects on these areas for inspiration.

"In my work, I focus on subjects that examine people's relationships with the world and combine traditional techniques with a wide range of nontraditional mediums and surfaces," Adkins said.

Hamric won for her painting titled "In a Man's World" that she created on Adobe Illustrator.

"It's a visual representation of the world women are currently stuck in," Hamric said. "Men throughout history have had their hands in so many decisions regarding women and they continue to do so. This piece utilizes a bold red color to show the warning and danger women face when men push them aside or back and make decisions for them."

Both paintings were displayed in the Mesaros Galleries at the Canady Creative Arts Center and moved to the Evansdale Library. ♡



JING QIU

Jing Qiu retired December 31, 2022, with 30 years of service to WVU Libraries. Qiu began her career here as coordinator of bibliographic instruction, which became library

instruction. Six years ago, she assumed the role of liaison with the Reed College of Media and the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

Originally from Shanghai, China, Qiu majored in English and American literature and became a teacher of English for five years at Fudan University in China. She came to the United States in 1990 to pursue her graduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Although she was first admitted into the Teaching English as a Second Language Program, she switched to library science because she liked the subject better.

As she looks back over her career, she most fondly remembers all of the nice and interesting people — coworkers, faculty, staff, students — whom she met and got to know.

"The last 30 years have been good. I will miss these people," Qiu said.

Going through old email she saw an email from 2018 in which a faculty member relayed a story of a student calling her "the goat." The professor explained that the term was actually high praise; it means "greatest of all time."

"This stuck with me," Qiu said. "Nice to know that I made a difference with that one student on that encounter."

Another highlight was being involved with the Libraries' exchange program with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics that began in 2012 when their president decided to send two librarians, Deyu "Ben" Gong and Yu "Henry" Huang, to Morgantown for a semester.

The following year, Qiu and Martha Yancey, director of the Evansdale Library, traveled to SUFE to represent WVU.

"Even though I was born and raised in Shanghai, I never knew how libraries — academic or public — operated in China. That visit gave me the opportunity to see that part. It was really interesting," Qiu said.

Her advice: "Visit other countries you feel connected to. It opens your horizon and changes your worldview. Sometimes it doesn't have to be an international trip; just step out of your local community once in a while."

Qiu plans to travel, spend time with her daughter, MoMo, who lives in Los Angeles, and focus on the things she enjoys — a comfortable home, good food, and happy people. ♡

NEW LIBRARIANS 2022-2023

CATHERINE FONSECA joined WVU Libraries as the cultural and social sciences librarian in July 2022. She earned her master's in library and information science from Indiana University and previously served as the outreach and inclusion librarian at Sonoma State University Library. Shortly after starting her position at WVU Libraries, Fonseca took on two new liaison areas, including History and World Languages and Literature. In the fall of 2022, she collaborated with the instruction coordinator of the Department of Communication Studies to embed library instruction across all sections of COMM 104.

JONAH MCALLISTER-ERICKSON joined WVU Libraries as the scholarly communication librarian in June 2022. The Pittsburgh native previously worked in the Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing at the University of Pittsburgh. In his role, McAllister-Erickson is responsible for managing the WVU Libraries' publishing program, focusing on open access publishing and open educational resources (OER). He assists WVU authors with understanding their rights as creators of copyrighted works and users of other people's works. He also works with the Research Repository @ WVU, assisting with electronic thesis and dissertations (ETD) among other materials shared through the repository. Finally, he assists researchers in understanding best practices in research data management, and the impact of their publications through bibliometrics and altimetric.

EVA MURPHY joined WVU Libraries as the electronic resources librarian in 2022. She earned her master's in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh and previously held a position as a library associate in the Libraries. Murphy's primary focus is coordinating electronic resources management activities, providing technical support for e-resource issues, assisting the KARM director, and supervising the Electronic Resources Unit. Recently, Murphy worked on the Equity-Oriented Purchasing Alternatives Initiative, where she presented the project at the WVLA Fall 2021 Conference. In September 2022, she presented her poster titled "Shifting the Narrative: Illuminating Resources that Prevent Violence by Supporting Healthy Relationships" at WVU's Prevention Summit.

SETH NEWELL joined WVU Libraries as the new discovery services librarian on April 26. In his role, he manages the current discovery layers while seeking to optimize discovery for the variety of WVU Libraries users. Newell came to WVU from Kanawha County Public Library where he served as the technical services and collections manager. He has a bachelor's in history from Oklahoma Christian University and a master's in library science from the University of Kentucky.

ASHLEY PURVIS began March 30 at the Health Sciences Library. As the Health Sciences scholarly engagement librarian, she works with the School of Dentistry and several disciplines in the School of Medicine. Previously, she was a quality engineer with the Qualitest Group; the children's librarian at Huntington City-Township Public Library, Huntington, Ind.; and the digitization project manager at Ball State University Libraries. She earned her master's in library and information sciences from the University at Albany, State University of New York; a master's in history from Ball State University; and a bachelor's in history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

JESSI ROBINSON joined WVU Libraries this summer as the humanities librarian. In that role, she will build and maintain liaison relationships with the departments of English, Philosophy and Religious Studies. She will also be a member of the Downtown Library's Research Services team, providing general research support and teaching information literacy courses and instruction sessions. Previously, Robinson was the teaching & learning librarian for humanities and social sciences at Brock University in Ontario. She earned her master's in library and information studies from the University of British Columbia, a museum and gallery studies graduate certificate from Georgian College and a bachelor's of dramatic arts from Brock University.

TERRA ROGERSON joined WVU Libraries as the agricultural sciences librarian on November 7, 2022. She earned her bachelor's in English from WVU and her master's in library and information studies from Florida State University. Rogerson previously worked as an information literacy instructor at Duquesne University. In her first few months at WVU Libraries, Rogerson has resurrected the AgNIC project, which focuses on the digitization of "West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletins" for storage in the Research Repository.

EMILY ZUMBRUN joined WVU Libraries as the rural entrepreneurship librarian at WVU Potomac State College in September 2022. She earned her master's in library and information studies from the University of Maryland and previously worked as a library services specialist for acquisitions, continuing resources, and e-resources management at Frostburg State University. Zumbrun will focus on the development and delivery of information literacy content for campus constituents with a focus on business and sustainable agricultural entrepreneurship, providing research assistance to students, faculty, staff and the community, and community outreach with organizations involved in economic development. During her first year, Zumbrun hosted events like "Grow with Me: Gardening for Kids," which focused on sustainable food production education.

PUBLICATIONS

✓ **ANNA CRAWFORD** authored an article titled "Improvement in Quality of Life after Septoplasty in Children: A Systematic Review" in International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology.

✓ **CATHERINE FONSECA** authored a book chapter titled "Saying No to Say Yes: Mediating Student Technology Needs in Times of

Crisis" in "Managing Crises in the Academic Library: Past, Present and Future," published by the Association of College & Research Libraries.

✓ **NICHOLAS GARDNER** authored a research report titled "Geology, Pleistocene Paleontology, and Research History of the Cumberland Bone Cave: Potomac

Heritage National Scenic Trail" in a National Park Service Internal Report.

✓ **JANE LABARBARA** authored an article titled "College and University Archivists: Doing It All for Less" in The American Archivist.

✓ **JENNIFER MONNIN** authored an article titled "Adaptation of an Evidence-Based Fall-Prevention Program for Adults with Traumatic Brain Injury: Focus Group Results" in "Physiotherapy Theory and Practice."

✓ **RENEE NICHOLSON** authored an essay titled "Spokes" in

storySouth. Nicholson also writes a regular column in Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal.

✓ **STEWART PLEIN** authored a book chapter titled "A Sense of Place: The Rhododendron as Regional Identification on the Covers of Appalachian Local Color Literature" in "Appalachian Ecocriticism

and the Paradox of Place"; a journal article titled "ASA Special Collection Committee Response to Kentucky Flooding" in Appalachian Curator; and a journal article titled "Digitizing West Virginia's Historic Newspapers 2011-2022" in Appalachian Curator.



GRIMM named Associate Dean for Special Collections and Exhibitions

An example of a great day for Tracy Grimm is when the class of local 6th graders who are

visiting to learn about primary sources do not want to leave the hands-on history workshop to head to lunch.

A great day is also when an evening session in the archives with a University student club stretches way beyond the 8 p.m. agreed-upon end time because the students, so excited by what they are discovering in the archives, want to stay longer and talk about what else is in the archives.

Grimm has a passion for introducing students to primary sources and the investigative process of research. Rare and historical documents that relate to people's experiences lend naturally to teaching critical thinking skills. She passionately believes that developing and practicing critical thinking skills are essential to student success, innovation in the workplace, and healthy communities.

Coming to WVU by way of the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University, where she managed the papers of artists, writers, inventors and aviation pioneers such as Neil Armstrong and Amelia Earhart, Grimm is a connection-maker and collaborator.

She was drawn here by the regional scope of the History Center's collection and its significance in the nation's history, along with vibrant initiatives such as partnering in Library of Congress' Chronicling America Project and our leading role in the American

Congress Digital Archives Portal, as well as the Art in the Libraries initiative.

In her 20-plus year career, Grimm has produced collaborative creative projects with the Smithsonian Institution, fine artists, a master printmaker, theologians, scientists, and engineers all incorporating archives or artwork with student experiential learning components.

Along the way she has learned important lessons about sustainability and the stewardship of deep research enterprises in higher education. She comes to WVU with a firm belief that sustainable funding streams for academic archives and special collections are essential. She has had firsthand experience of funding streams disappearing with administration changes as well as first-hand experience where endowments for named archivist positions, and thus, impactful work stood strong during budgetary difficulties. Sustainability is essential to meet the demand for partnerships in teaching as well as for the preservation of the history documented in historical collections. She intends to focus her role to help to build endowments to ensure impactful work continues at Libraries. The labor-intensive work needed to collect, preserve and make accessible primary sources and special collections, or to organize exhibitions is often invisible to institution administrators, alumni, and the public until passionate people tell stories of the impact an encounter or experience in the archives has had on them.

As soon as Grimm arrived at WVU she began a listening tour to meet with people to learn what they loved about their encounters and partnerships with the Libraries' special collections and arts programming.

One user shared: "The Center staff are very knowledgeable but what they do very well is spark! You see a spark in their eyes when they are asked for help with research. They make you excited about it. It is more than good service, it is a spark of wanting to know the answer to your question and help you research it. If they do know, they genuinely can't wait to share it with you."

Comments like that let Grimm know she had landed in the right place — amid a community of faculty, staff, students and alumni who love the mission of WVU Libraries and are passionate about serving the campus, our state and the world.

Going forward, Grimm intends to draw upon her experience to help WVU Libraries build on our strong foundations to ensure a sustainable future while remaining committed to enhance learning, innovation and discovery one primary source, rare book, encounter with a historical document, creative work, archivist, curator or artist, at a time. ♡

collections and exhibitions, said. "She also brings extensive teaching experience and a passion for mentoring students to the museum. I am thrilled to have her join the WVU Libraries' team of curators and archivists."

Thompson has extensive experience in historical interpretation, exhibit research and design and digital history projects. She has also taught history courses at several colleges and universities. Her interests include Civil War and mental health historical research.

She comes to WVU Libraries from AmeriCorps for which she worked with Clio — a digital history platform, the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, Arthurdale Heritage, and the West Virginia Association of Museums.

She has authored chapters in "Wars Civil and Great: A Comparative Analysis of the American Civil War and World War I" and the yet-to-be released "Playing at War: Identity and Memory in American Civil War Era Video Games."

Thompson earned a Ph.D. in nineteenth century/ Civil War America and a master's degree from WVU.

The Neal Museum highlights West Virginia's groundbreaking innovations and discoveries, chronicling breakthroughs from the frontier days in West Virginia to WVU's modern advancements.

Tracing the history of the schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Public Health, added over the course of 150 years, exhibit-goers can experience a vast amount of history while learning about West Virginia and Appalachia's contributions to healthcare.

The museum displays health-related artifacts, rare manuscripts and other holdings from WVU Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center, in addition to items provided by faculty, alumni and friends of the University. Some features are available through touch screens, making the exhibition interactive.

The museum was conceptualized by the late Dr. William A. Neal, pediatric cardiologist, author of "Quiet Advocate: Edward J. Van Liere's Influence on Medical Education in West Virginia" and distinguished WVU School of Medicine alumnus, and named in his honor to recognize his hard work, dedication and passion for sharing with the world West Virginia's contributions to healthcare. ♡

THOMPSON named Neal Museum Curator



Katie Thompson joined the West Virginia University Libraries as curator of the William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences in the Health Sciences Center. Thompson will lead in the development of new exhibits and programming for the museum.

"Katie has a passion for engaging students and the public with history that is apparent from the get-go; just start a conversation with her next to one of the Neal Museum's exhibit cases and you will see," Tracy Grimm, associate dean for special

PUBLICATIONS (cont.)

✓ **CELIA SHI, KELLY DIAMOND** and **MIRANDA SMITH** co-authored an article titled "Different Grouping Methods in Asynchronous Online Instruction: Social Presence and Student Satisfaction," in TechTrends.

✓ **KATIE THOMPSON** authored a chapter titled "Healing the Unseen Wounds of War: Treating

Mental Trauma in the Civil War and the Great War" in "Wars Civil and Great: The American Experience in the Civil War and World War I."

✓ **FAYTHE THURMAN** authored a book chapter titled "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Hiring and Onboarding in Academic Libraries" in "Sustainable Online

Library Services and Resources: Learning from the Pandemic."

✓ **JESSICA VANDERHOFF** wrote a book chapter titled "Upping the Baseline for Data Literacy Instruction" in the "ACRL Data Literacy Cookbook."



HOSTUTTLE named WVRHC director

Lori Hostuttler was named director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center on May 1.

"Lori Hostuttler has a demonstrated commitment and deep passion for West Virginia history and its application to the educational and land-grant mission of West Virginia University," Tracy Grimm, associate dean for special collections and exhibitions, said. "Critical for this time in WVU's history, Lori is and has been for a number of years part of a network of WVU campus faculty partners actively engaged in advancing students' academic experiences through encounters with historical sources and guided experiential learning opportunities within the WVRHC."

Additionally, Hostuttler has facilitated, sparked and partnered with successful and ongoing initiatives to identify and preserve multiple untold stories and hidden primary source collections to shed new light on West Virginia's rich and diverse heritage.

As a leader in multiple local and regional history and professional organizations, she has established a network of individuals across the state and has and will continue to foster the advancement of WVU as

the research center for scholarship on West Virginia's unique contributions to our nation's history.

"Lori's leadership, combined with a deep care for faculty, staff and the sustainability of the WVRHC, will carry the Center into the next phase of growth and increasing relevance for the mission of WVU," Grimm said.

Hostuttler served as interim director since the retirement of former WVRHC Director John Cuthbert on December 31, 2021. She previously served as the Center's assistant director for five years.

Hostuttler earned her bachelor's in secondary education/social studies from WVU, a master's in public history from WVU and a master's in library and information science from the University of South Carolina.

The WVRHC director leads the Center's activities. In consultation with Library administration, the director sets and supports the Center's strategic direction, outreach programming and fundraising.

The WVRHC is the foremost historical archives library in the state, acquiring and preserving more than one million photographs and tens of millions of original documents and manuscripts pertaining to the history of West Virginia and the central Appalachian region. ♡

WVRHC receives sixth NEH grant to digitize HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

The West Virginia and Regional History Center received a \$162,155 grant — its sixth from the National Endowment for the Humanities — to continue digitizing newspapers published in West Virginia from 1791 to 1927.

The award is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program, a collaboration between the NEH and the Library of Congress to enlist libraries and institutions from around the country to create a digital database of historical U.S. newspapers. This grant brings the NEH's total funding of the WVRHC's efforts to \$1,293,568.29.

"We are honored that the NEH continues to support our efforts to enhance access to the historical newspapers preserved in the WVRHC," Director Lori Hostuttler said. "It's a testament to the incalculable value of these resources and the influential role West Virginia has played in our nation's history."

The Chronicling America website — [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](https://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) — provides access to more than 15 million newspaper pages from 1690 to 1963. So far, the WVRHC has contributed 500,000 pages from more than 105 historic West Virginia

newspapers. And, because of this grant, another 100,000 pages will soon be added to the site.

WVRHC Curator Stewart Plein said this round of newspapers will focus on the timber industry and the three major impacts resulting from its operation within the state: its exponential growth, the devastating effect of deforestation and the rise of conservation and reforestation.

Newspapers selected for this grant cycle will cover six counties, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Randolph, Tucker and Webster, all in the mountainous regions of the state.

"The story of the timber industry in West Virginia is as much a boom-and-bust cycle as that of the lumber towns that rose and fell in the path of clearcutting and deforestation. The unprecedented growth in lumbering operations not only changed the face of West Virginia, but as the only state entirely within the borders of Appalachia, the impact on forestry and timbering was felt across the region," Plein said.

As settlements grew and towns emerged, small lumber companies set up operations near available water sources that made it possible to move logs via rafts. The introduction of the railroad and the advent of steam-powered equipment made previously unreachable mountainous regions accessible.

As late as 1870, thousands of square miles of virgin forest lay untouched. By 1880, there were 472 lumber mills in the state employing 3,765 men, with an output of 180,112,000 board feet of lumber a year.

At the height of lumber operations, in 1909, there were 83 band mills and 1,441 lumber operations, producing one and a half billion feet of lumber in that year alone, Plein said. Between 1879 and 1912 more than 20 billion board feet were cut. That number represents 8,500,000 acres of virgin forest, or 85 percent, of the total timber in West Virginia. ♡



▲ Men are seen loading spruce logs for transportation to the mill, Tucker County, W.Va., ca. 1880-1930. This image is part of the Thompson Family of Canaan Valley Collection.



▲ William Long and Bunyan Long pose with a newly fallen tree in Canaan Valley, W.Va., ca. 1894.

NEH awards WVU Libraries funds to

EXPAND ONLINE PORTAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL ARCHIVES

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE EMERLING, ASSOCIATE CURATOR, CONGRESSIONAL AND POLITICAL PAPERS ARCHIVIST

West Virginia University Libraries has received a nearly \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to expand the American Congress

Digital Archives Portal, (congressarchives.lib.wvu.edu)

the first-ever online portal bringing together congressional archives from repositories throughout the United States.

"The personal papers of members of Congress are vitally important for understanding Congress as an institution, public policy development, and the many diverse stories that comprise the American experience," Danielle Emerling, congressional and political papers archivist at WVU Libraries and project director, said. "We are honored to have support from the NEH to make more congressional archives available to everyone."

The NEH awarded WVU Libraries the initial grant to launch the project and create the portal in 2021.

"Danielle has done a fantastic job building partnerships and developing a prototype for this project," WVU Libraries Dean Karen Diaz said. "We are so excited that the NEH has selected this work to receive funding to carry the project further along, allowing us to build a tool that will be important to students and researchers into the future."

WVU Libraries is partnering with other institutions that hold congressional archives, including the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma, the Dirksen Congressional Center, the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas, the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at University of Georgia, and the University of Hawaii Congressional Papers Collection. The project also includes an advisory board composed of leading individuals in the areas of congressional archives and scholarship.

The project addresses many practical access barriers to using congressional archives.

Unlike presidential papers, which are centralized in one location, congressional collections are geographically dispersed across institutions large and small. For researchers, collections may be difficult to use, both because of a lack of travel funding and varying levels of description in congressional archives.

"This project will specifically address the critical needs of rural and geographically isolated regions of our country to make national records available to all citizens," Dr. Kelli Nakamura, associate professor of history at the

University of Hawaii, said. "It will also highlight the connections that exist between members of Congress and illuminate the collaborative efforts that often ensure the successful passage of legislative bills and initiatives."

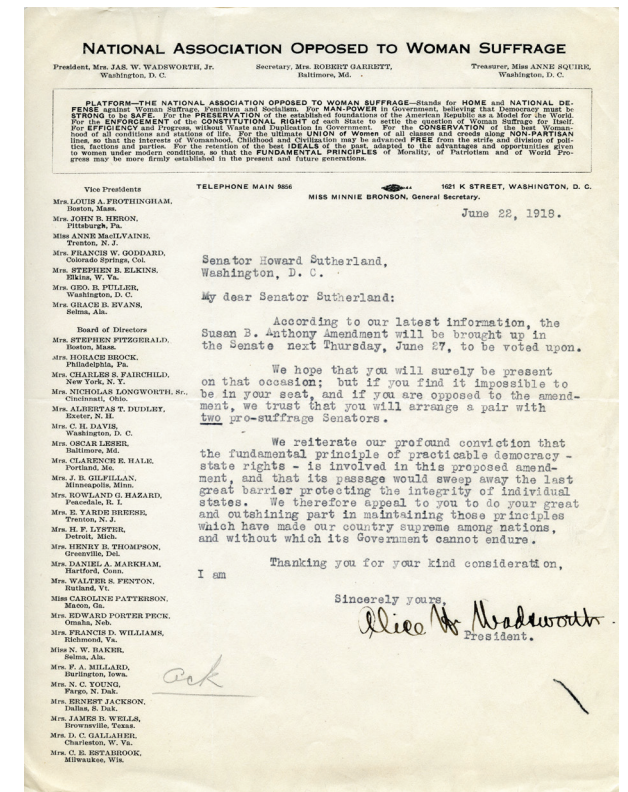
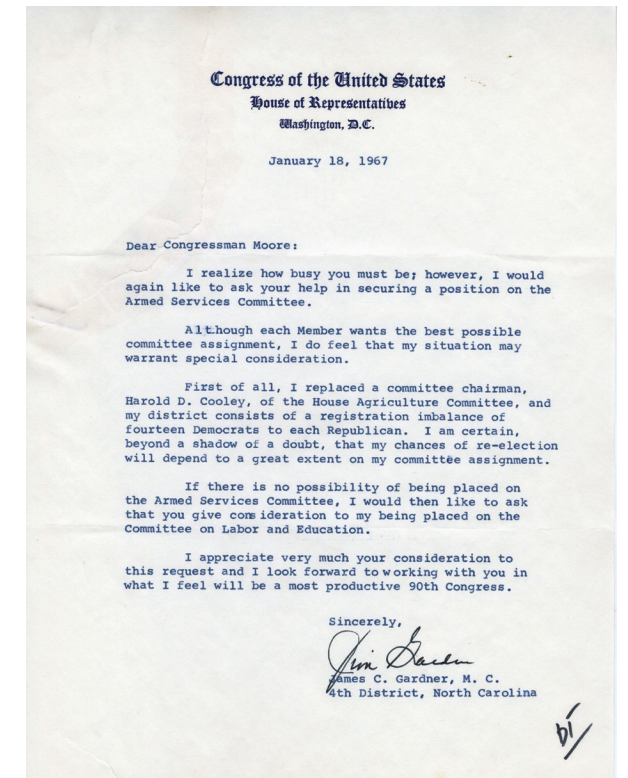
The project will include a breadth of materials dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century and support civic and history education initiatives that help connect the past to the present.

"Without question, the portal will allow teachers at all levels to introduce students to the work of Congress," Sean Q. Kelly, political science professor at California State University Channel Islands, added. "Using documents from House and Senate collections, teachers can animate the challenges of representation, the value of compromise, and the power of popular sovereignty invested in the most powerful legislature in the world."

This grant project builds on an NEH foundations grant awarded in 2021, which resulted in a prototype portal and included archives from WVU Libraries, the Dole Institute of Politics and the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. The project has also received support from LYRASIS and the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress.

The NEH's Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Program supports projects that provide an essential underpinning for scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities. The project was selected for funding, in part, by a new agency-wide special initiative, "American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future," which invests in humanities projects and new programs that support civics education, foster civic engagement, increase media and information literacy and examine threats to America's democracy.

WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Center (wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu) holds archives of West Virginia's congressional delegations from the founding of the state in 1863 to the present. Resources from several collections will be included in the portal. ❖



▲ A sample of congressional documents from the West Virginia and Regional History Center that are now digitally archived on the American Congress Digital Archives Portal.

Gifts to **Libraries**

FUNDING SECURED FOR CLASSROOM ENHANCEMENTS

WVU Libraries received \$250,000 in congressionally directed spending to improve classroom technology at the Downtown and Evansdale libraries, making them more hybrid-friendly.

The funding comes thanks to Sen. Joe Manchin and Sen. Shelley Moore Capito who supported the Libraries' application to the Department of Education.

The proposed enhancements will significantly improve WVU Libraries' ability to make classes, events and programs more accessible to both onsite and remote participants, facilitating better programming for the campus community and residents across the state.

These rooms play a crucial role; librarians use them to conduct information literacy skill workshops, archival research sessions and scholarly research workshops. Moreover, the Libraries host various programming organized by many units on campus, including the WVU Humanities Center, English Department, History Department and the Office of the Provost. The upgraded facilities will further enhance the Libraries' capacity to deliver exceptional educational experiences and support a wide range of academic activities. ♡

All programs identified in "Ex Libris" are able to accept individual donations, recurring gifts and corporate matches. WVU Libraries relies on the continued, yearly financial support of the entire alumni community and Friends of our Libraries. Gifts-in-kind and gifts through a will or a retirement account are all great methods of providing enrichment and resources for our students.

Contact WVU Libraries Development Director at 304-293-0303 or email paula.martinelli@mail.wvu.edu. Visit library.wvu.edu/give to make an online donation. Be sure to identify your fund or program designation by name, or contact our office for the specific fund number.



**ONWARD.
FORWARD.
FIRST.**

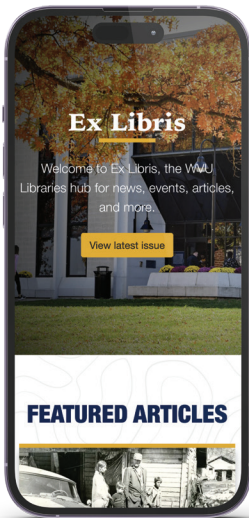
Dr. Clay Marsh, chancellor and executive dean for WVU Health Sciences, addresses the audience gathered to celebrate the dedication of the William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences on Oct. 28, 2022.



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