A Letter from the Dean

Service is a Mountaineer value librarians know well. It is a foundation of our profession and a value that leads many of our employees to come work for our organizations.

Librarians serve our community through information. Sometimes this means helping a student find resources he needs for a paper. Sometimes it means providing access to our unique special collections to that remote user who cannot travel to campus but needs historical information on her community. And sometimes it means providing a venue for a student or faculty member to share their research findings with others on campus and the community through events or exhibits.

Few things are better than hearing “thank you” from a student who earned an “A” on a paper he wrote based on resources you helped her find, or learning that an exhibit you created connected people to each other in new ways that are informing their research moving forward. Perhaps a course you taught altered the trajectory of a student’s career path.

Librarians serve not only by providing information, but by engaging with our users in all sorts of ways. We are a physical and virtual venue for information access and sharing in all directions. What sets libraries apart from other information organizations is that we have a service value. We aren’t just broadcasting or selling information, we are serving our users’ information needs. We bridge that gap between real people and the information they need. Our service takes the form of teaching, exhibit curation, digitization, programming, acquiring information resources, and the creation of new partnerships. And these are services that do not require financial transactions each time they are used.

As a library at an academic institution, we are here to support the mission of West Virginia University through partnerships around the research and information needs of our students, faculty and staff. As a land-grant university, WVU is committed to serving the people of our state, so WVU Libraries is also committed to the citizens of West Virginia.

If you browse through this issue of Ex Libris, you will discover the variety of ways we serve all of our constituents — students, faculty, staff and all West Virginians.

Karen Diaz
Interim Dean of Libraries

EX LIBRIS

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The West Virginia University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all users of our facilities. WVU Libraries follows all University, state and federal guidelines regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For the latest information about our facilities, services and policies, please visit wvulibraries.com/covid-19.

The Downtown Campus Library Atrium is home to part of the yearlong WATER exhibit.
WVRHC debuts archives research website

The West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) has a new tool to assist researchers anywhere in the world who have an interest in exploring the history of the Mountain State and its region.

The Center’s new Guide to Archives and Manuscripts provides enhanced descriptions for more than 4,300 archival collections, and that number grows every week. The new site is available at archives.lib.wvu.edu.

“Towards the enhanced ability for researchers to refine their searching with subjects, names and dates will improve the effectiveness of their searching, and perhaps lead to the discovery of additional research material that may otherwise have been overlooked,” manuscripts curator Michael Ridderbusch said.

The state’s leading historical archives repository, the WVRHC holds primary information resources in all formats documenting every aspect of West Virginia culture and history. Included are the papers of politicians, authors, business leaders, artists, musicians, coal miners and people from all walks of life. The Center also holds the most extensive family and community history resources in West Virginia.

Faculty Exhibit Award

The Art in the Libraries Committee presented the Staff/Faculty Exhibit Award to Professor of Communications Jaime Banks and Interaction Lab Associate Nick Bowman for their proposal, “Avatars and their Players: From Object to Other.”

Over the past nine years, Banks and Bowman, together and separately, have researched the experiences and effects of video gamers’ connections with their avatars. This exhibit will synthesize the primary findings of that body of work by presenting the findings across more than 20 studies examining the phenomenon across thousands of gamers. The exhibit will be on display this fall, coinciding with Games Day in November, and include a public program. Banks and Bowman were awarded $1,000 in professional development funds to further their research.

Drones bring together Library and WVU Keyser Campus Police

The Teaching and Learning Commons — Keyser Affiliate, a component of the Mary F. Shipper Library, joined forces with the WVU Potomac State campus police and Criminal Justice Department to explore new ways to use drones in public safety and law enforcement. Multimedia specialist David Miller and Potomac State Police Chief Brian Kerling spoke to 55 students and criminal justice professors at the West Virginia Criminal Justice Educators Association’s annual conference in fall 2017. Kerling and Miller showcased projects that were created using the high-resolution imagery generated by a drone. Video of a simulated active shooter situation and a felony traffic stop were created, providing law enforcement with real-time situational awareness as well as a resource that can be used for training and evaluation. Using still images captured by the drone, a high-resolution 3-D map was created of the J. Edward Kelley Complex on the Keyser campus. Criminal Justice Professor Heide Samuels noted that many learned new applications for drones.

Touchdown Challenge benefits research at Health Sciences

In February, WVU Libraries used funds raised through the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge to purchase a much-needed poster printer for the Health Sciences Library. It’s been a huge success, with students printing more than 500 posters during the spring semester. Students regularly create posters to document and share their research as part of class assignments or to present at conferences. The benefits were evident with 84 posters being printed for the Health Sciences Center Van Liere Research Day. The annual event honors Edward J. Van Liere, MD, the “Father of the WVU Medical Center.” Van Liere was a professor and chair of physiology before being named dean of the School of Medicine in 1937, a post he held until 1960. During his tenure, he developed the two-year medical school into a four-year accredited program.
In November 2017, the Art in the Libraries Committee awarded students Megan Grindle and Christina Kang with the Dean of the Libraries’ Arts awards. Grindle’s work, “Exposure” (acrylic paint, ink, glitter and art resin), was displayed at the Evansdale Library during the spring semester. Kang’s “Creatures of Dichotomy: Finding a Bridge Between” (screenprint under etching, watercolor, pins) will remain on display in the Downtown Campus Library through December 2018.

The awards the WVU Potomac Alumni Office presented at its banquet in October 2017 had their start in the Teaching and Learning Commons — Keyser Affiliate. After learning about the library’s new 3-D printer, the Alumni Office asked for help in designing an alumni award based on the PSC Catamount statue at the WVU Keyser campus main entrance. Library Technical Assistant Nick Gardiner and student worker Noah Cline shot hundreds of pictures of the statue from all angles, and multimedia specialist Dave Miller used the pictures to create the three-dimensional image, which he sent to the 3-D printer to create a prototype. An outside company used the prototype to create a mold and then the final product — the alumni award. Everyone was impressed, and the awardees were pleased.

Pro Se inventors (those who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent) can now come to the Evansdale Library to meet with a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) patent examiner via a WebEx web conference. This free service is open to all Pro Se inventors who visit the Evansdale Library, home to Morgantown’s Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC). The examiner will provide assistance with the patent application process but cannot dispense legal advice or make patentability determinations prior to an application being filed. Appointments are required and can be made by emailing PTRC Librarian Marian Armour-Gemmen at marmour@wvu.edu.

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EXPLORING THE SIGNIFICANCE, POWER AND PLAY OF LIFE’S CRITICAL RESOURCE

Whether it’s navigating the raging rapids of the Gauley River or splashing in a kiddie pool, people love playing in water. That same substance can quench thirst, nourish crops and generate electricity as it rushes through a dam. If there’s too much, a small stream can spill over its banks and flood a community. Its absence can bring drought and famine.
Throughout the 2018-2019 academic year, the Downtown Campus Library is hosting WATER: A Cross Disciplinary Exhibit Exploring the Significance, Power and Play of Life’s Critical Resource, a collaborative, cross-disciplinary exhibit that explores the power, control, scarcity, abundance, play and impact of water in its various forms.

“We are thrilled to bring together such a diverse group of talented people, each with a wealth of knowledge and expertise in their respective fields, as we push off into this yearlong trek to learn about and better understand the myriad issues that surround water,” said Sally Deskins, exhibits and programs coordinator for WVU Libraries.

The exhibit begins on the Downtown Campus Library main floor and winds up through the staircase and into the Atrium. Visual displays of scholarship, fieldwork and art by more than 20 contributors from across campus and the community cover themes ranging from environment, adventure and creativity to impact, management and pollution.

Beginning this exhibition has been a bit of an exploration into unknown territory. While Deskins has expanded the Art in the Libraries program with projects that pull together scientists and artists, WATER adds more parts to the equation — adventure sports. Take a hydrologist and a painter and introduce a river guide.

“When people first see the kayak, paddle board and whitewater-themed murals in the main stairwell, we hope it raises their interest in joining us on this adventure,” Deskins said.

Complementing these exhibits is a series of lectures, panel discussions, events and other programming scheduled during the fall and spring semesters.

“Two of our goals are to inform people about the array of issues and concerns about water and to start conversations,” Deskins said. “You may walk away with an appreciation for the environment, a desire to try a new hobby or a desire to find a solution to a problem plaguing the world.”
Can a class assignment make a difference in the world?
Along with earning an “A,” could a student use their research to help a local nonprofit organization better serve its clients? Could a group of students poring through databases on a computer in the Downtown Campus Library make it easier for someone to maneuver a wheelchair through a park west of Morgantown? The short answer is yes, and it’s one of the goals of a new course at WVU called ULIB 302, Research for Non-Profits. “We’re taking some of the same research skills we teach in ULIB 101, the basic library resource course, and adding a direct application that benefits the community,” Librarian Alyssa Wright said.

The class pairs groups of students with nonprofit organizations in need of funding for specific purposes or general operating expenditures. Wright then tasks each team with researching foundations and potential funding sources, determining the type and amount of information required for grant proposals, and finally, building a portfolio that will enable their organization to pursue funding opportunities. “Students come into the class thinking it’s easy and just involves a few keyword searches, but they figure out that it’s very difficult and it’s time-consuming,” Wright said. “We jumped at the opportunity because over the past few years funding from grants has been difficult for us. Funding for adult education has taken a hit,” said Amanda Young, volunteer coordinator for Literacy Volunteers. Literacy Volunteers provide basic literacy and English as a Second Language tutoring. They have three part-time employees and two AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members. Their needs include replacing outdated technology and paying general operating expenses. “It was such a positive experience,” Young said. First, the students came to their initial meeting prepared with questions about Literacy Volunteers and its services, and they spent time meeting with the staff. Later in the semester, each member returned to volunteer a few hours with the organization. Come presentation day, they exceeded expectations with their recommendations. “They were able to find a few different options we hadn’t thought of or even heard of, so it was great. One of our VISTAs is going through [the] binder they gave us and beginning to pursue those grants,” Young said.

Justin McKenzie was one of the students who created a portfolio. He found locating private sources relatively easy thanks to one of the Libraries’ online resources, the Foundation Directory Online, which contains more than 100,000 U.S. grant-makers. However, identifying government grants was a nightmare because many of them come with disqualifying factors. “The government gives to a lot of niche organizations,” McKenzie said. “I was surprised to learn that Literacy Volunteers worked with English as a Second Language and the immigrant community, which I thought was awesome because that’s a community that people don’t particularly pay attention to,” McKenzie said. “I have my ProLiteracy certification now and just got a call to pair with a learner. The experience also landed Literacy Volunteers a new volunteer. "I was surprised to learn that Literacy Volunteers worked with English as a Second Language and the immigrant community, which I thought was awesome because that’s a community that people don’t particularly pay attention to," McKenzie said. "I have my ProLiteracy certification now and just got a call to pair with a learner."

WE’RE TAKING SOME OF THE SAME RESEARCH SKILLS WE TEACH IN ULIB 101, THE BASIC LIBRARY RESOURCE COURSE, AND ADDING A DIRECT APPLICATION THAT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY.”
— Alyssa Wright

Wright said, “They also figure out that there’s not a lot of money out there waiting for someone to apply for it, and that it’s very competitive and it takes a lot of effort to do fundraising for nonprofits.” So far, she’s taught the course twice: fall semester 2017 and spring semester 2018. After an inaugural class focusing on one nonprofit, the Mountaineer Spay and Neuter Assistance program, Wright partnered with the Communication Studies and Political Science departments to increase student enrollment. With help from the Center for Service and Learning, they received applications from 20 community nonprofits organizations and selected five: In Touch and Concerned, Literacy Volunteers of Monongalia and Preston Counties, Mason-Dixon Historical Park, Morgantown Community Kitchen and the WVU Office of Sustainability. “We jumped at the opportunity because over the past few years funding from grants has been difficult for us. Funding for adult education has taken a hit,” said Young. "I recommend it to anyone," he said. “Even if you don’t plan to write a grant, knowing how to properly research is important.”

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I’ll probably start that with the fall semester.”
Out in Core, WV’s, Mason-Dixon Historical Park Superintendent J.R. Petsko was looking for help in making improvements to his 300-acre spread. He wants to develop the park into more of a recreational area with trails, bridges and an ADA-compliant path through a wildflower area. Currently, he’s the only full-time employee, along with two seasonal workers.
“Time, people and money are always the problem,” Petsko said. “I’ll take whatever help I can get.”
He was impressed with his students from the interview session through the entire process. He said they carried themselves as if they were a professional firm and they treated him like a valued client.
And he was definitely sold on the end product.
“I thought they’d find one grant. They gave me a binder,” Petsko said. “They did a wonderful job. I would never have time to do all that research.”
One of his students was Morgan McMinn, who graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in history and has since started in WVU’s History PhD program. She picked the Mason-Dixon Park project because she took a public history class the previous semester.
She took the class because she had her eyes on the future.
“I knew I wanted to go into academia so I knew that being able to get funding was important,” McMinn said. “I thought I’d start accruing that skill set now.”
She quickly learned that finding funding for anything ADA-related is difficult.
“Grants can be incredibly specific in their purpose, and funders can be very specific in what they will provide money to do,” McMinn said.
And there are so many steps in the process and details to consider:
- You have to use government databases;
- You have to use open-source databases that people have accrued of specific funders;
- You have to look at the regions they fund;
- You have to look at their mission statement; and
- You have to look at their giving history to see if your cause is a good fit.
After all that, many funders have their own unique application process. Some require people to sign up just to get information. Some only receive applications through the mail. Some want you to complete a survey.
“It was a wonderful experience because it was a different type of research from what you usually do in school,” McMinn said.
“I thought it was a wonderful class. It was very informative and hands-on. Anyone who wants to [go to] graduate school or work in [the] public sector should take this class.”
She’s not alone in that judgment. She mentioned the course and her experience when she was applying to graduate school.
“One professor said, ‘you are already steps ahead of most graduate students,’” she recounted.

Photo collage — top left: Lindsey Rinehart, academic service-learning coordinator for the Center for Service and Learning, commends students for the quality work and commitment to their non-profit clients. Top right: Kate Burgess (left) talks with Alyssa Wright. Bottom left: Katelyn Clark and Catherine Moore consult with teammates before responding to a question. Bottom right: Bryan Phillips (right) asks for feedback following his team’s presentation.
LAW AND LAWYERS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Libraries, WVRHC examine law and lawyers for West Virginia Day celebration.

Photo collage — Top left: Dr. Ray Swick, historian emeritus for West Virginia State Parks. Top middle: David C. Hardesty, Jr., WVU President Emeritus. Top right: Gregory Hinton, senior professor of Business Law, Fairmont State University, discusses his presentation. Bottom left: John Fisher (center) talks with Robert Steptoe, Jr. and Stewart Plein, WVRHC associate curator. Bottom right: Marjorie McDiarmid, Steptoe & Johnson Professor of Law & Technology, WVU College of Law.
To mark the 155th anniversary of West Virginia’s founding on June 20, West Virginia University Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center focused on the key role the legal profession has played throughout the history of the Mountain State.

“Few people are aware that West Virginia has made nationally significant contributions to law and legislation in fields including labor and industry, natural resources, medicine and education, among others,” WVBHC Director John Cuthbert said.

Speakers included David C. Hardesty, Jr., WVU president emeritus; John Fisher, the William J. Maier, Jr. dean emeritus, WVU College of Law; Dr. Ray Swick, historian emeritus for West Virginia State Parks; Gregory Hinton, senior professor of business law, Fairmont State University; Mayorrie McDiamid, Steptoe & Johnson professor of law and technology, WVU College of Law; and Robert Steptoe, Jr., member and former CEO and managing partner, Steptoe & Johnson.

BEFORE STATEHOOD

“We are aware that West Virginia’s statehood is the result of Virginia’s secession from the Union, and it is the events following Virginia’s secession that we tend to remember. However, the story of statehood began much earlier,” Fisher said.

Fisher noted a section from the book “The West Virginia State Constitution” by College of Law Professor Robert Bastress: “The idea of separate statehood for the western counties of Virginia was not newly formed with the advent of the Civil War. The notion of a separate entity for the area west of the Alleghenies had been advanced even before the Declaration of Independence. By 1773, the Committee on Plantation Affairs and the Privy Council had each approved the concept of a 14th colony to be called Vandalia, which included almost all of what is now West Virginia.”

The idea made it to King George shortly before the Revolutionary War erupted.

“Following the Declaration of Independence, the inhabitants west of the Alleghenies petitioned the Continental Congress for recognition as the 14th State ‘Westsylvania.’ In part, disputes over the land titles in the Trans-Allegheny region kept this petition from going forward and succeeding,” Fisher said.

THE FOUNDERS

When the Virginia legislature met to consider whether it should secede from the Union, it became obvious to Trans-Allegheny delegates that Virginia would soon join the Confederacy. Delegates from what is now West Virginia, several of whom were lawyers, left Richmond, returned home and began pondering the future of their region, Hardesty explained.

“To make a long story short, the founders adopted a very pragmatic multiphased strategy, the parts of which were often couched in legal terms, and submitted to both legislative bodies and the general public,” Hardesty said.

“First, activists declared seats of the existing offices of the commonwealth ‘vacant’ because of the ‘unconstitutional’ and treasonous actions taken by the former Virginia officials during the course of succession.

“Second, they declared a ‘restored government of Virginia,’ which then elected or appointed its officeholders, and began functioning as the proper, or ‘de jure,’ government of Virginia.”

“Third, the western counties petitioned the restored government Virginia to recognize a new state, defined its proposed boundaries, and named it ‘Kanawha.’ It was later renamed ‘West Virginia.’

“Fourth, the new state advocates asked for recognition by the U.S. Congress, which after much debate, passed related legislation.”

They then selected Fairmont attorney Francis H. Pierpont as governor of the Restored Government of Virginia. The two senators elected to represent the reconstituted state were Waitman T. Willey of Morgantown and John S. Carlile of Clarksburg, both lawyers.

On June 20, 1863, West Virginia began operations with Parkersburg lawyer Arthur Boreman as governor and Willey and lawyer Peter G. Van Winkle of Parkersburg as senators.

“To date, 33 different men have served as governor of West Virginia. About two thirds of them have been lawyers,” Hardesty said.
Pioneer Lawyer James Wilson

James Wilson emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1799. After studying law in Alexandria, Va., he moved to Parkersburg, where he was selected as prosecutor and soon got married and became a father.

“For his first two years in the west, he enjoyed happiness and success,” Swick said. “That changed overnight. He found himself caught up in the Aaron Burr conspiracy.”

He was a close friend with Burr supporter Harman Blennerhassett, who had left Wilson in charge of his property. The Wood County Militia arrested Wilson and charged him with treason, but they released him within a few days. Wilson moved to Charleston and never recovered from the incident. Wilson’s surviving personal and work-related papers — preserved in the WVRHC and the Blennerhassett Museum — make up the earliest and largest collection belong to a frontier lawyer in West Virginia.

Wilson’s manuscripts are a treasure trove of information about a lawyer’s career in the frontier era, about everyday life, and contain much information about the Blennerhassett and Burr episode,” Swick said. “He believed no experience was real until it was recorded on paper. He faithfully documented and preserved the letters and documents.”

J.R. Clifford

J.R. Clifford was a Civil War veteran, civil rights activist and the first African-American attorney in West Virginia. In 1898, Clifford successfully argued a “separate but equal” case, Williams vs Board of Education of Tucker County, before the West Virginia Supreme Court. The issue was that the Tucker County Board of Education reduced the term for African-American schools from eight months to five. When African-American teacher Carrie Williams continued to teach the full eight months, the Board refused to pay her for the three months of teaching. The court ruled “discrimination against people because of color alone as to privileges, immunities and equal protection of the law is unconstitutional.” The decision came more than 50 years before Brown vs Board of Education.

Women in Law

“The history of women in practice in West Virginia is closely tied to the history of women at the WVU College of Law. Upon joining the bar, West Virginia women lawyers have made significant contributions to the law in this State particularly in protecting the interests of women and children,” McDiarmid said.

In 1895, Agnes Westbrook Morrison became the first woman to graduate from the WVU College of Law. The following year, she became the first woman to be admitted into the West Virginia Bar.

In 1971, Callie Tsapis was elected to the Common Pleas Court of Hancock County, becoming the state’s first female judge. Two years later, she was appointed as a circuit judge, where she served for 20 years. She graduated from the WVU College of Law in 1948.

In 1983, Elizabeth Virginia Hallahan became the first woman in West Virginia to serve as a federal judge. She was appointed by President Ronald Reagan. She graduated from the WVU College of Law in 1951.

In 1988, Margaret Workman was elected to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, becoming the state’s first woman justice. She is a 1974 graduate of the WVU College of Law.

Col. Louis A. Johnson

This year’s West Virginia Day theme also honors Steptoe & Johnson’s recent donation of the papers from the firm’s co-founder, Louis A. Johnson.

“In addition to being an accomplished attorney, Louis A. Johnson was a leading statesman of the mid-twentieth century,” Cuthbert said. “Johnson served as assistant secretary of war under FDR and as secretary of defense under President Truman, among many other posts.”

Steptoe detailed how Johnson joined the Army and fought in France during World War I. After the Armistice, Johnson was instrumental in the formation of the American Legion. During this time, he met future president Harry S. Truman.
People will say, ‘I didn’t know that you were from West Virginia,’ or ‘I didn’t know you went to West Virginia University.’ And that, of course, is something we want people to understand,” WVU President E. Gordon Gee said in announcing an effort to remedy that lack of knowledge.

“We’ve been celebrating the achievements of the University, and that celebration includes the fact that we have built ourselves on the base of great giants who have made such a difference to this state and this nation, and most importantly, our students,” Gee said in announcing the Distinguished West Virginians Archives, a new initiative to document the lives and legacies of West Virginians who have achieved extraordinary accomplishments and bring them to the attention of West Virginia and the rest of the country.

Gee has charged WVU Libraries and its West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) with gathering and preserving the papers of West Virginia’s who have climbed to the highest levels in their professional arenas. The collections of the Distinguished West Virginians will be secured in the WVRHC and made available to researchers, historians, filmmakers and all who are interested.

“Preserving the stories of individuals who have been national leaders in their respective fields inspires people. Those who give their papers do it as a gift to the next generation,” Gee said.

It comes as a surprise to some that West Virginia and its flagship university have both produced a cavalcade of distinguished leaders in business, science, government, the arts and the military, just to name a few areas.

The inaugural group of contributors include:

- Elizabeth “Betty” Chilton, former publisher of the Charleston Gazette and the Charleston Daily Mail
- Glen H. Hiner Jr., former chairman, Owens Corning
- Rush Holt Jr., a former congressman and current chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and son of the late West Virginia Senator Rush Holt
- Ray Lane, former president and chief operating officer of Oracle
- Admiral Thomas Joseph Lopez, retired U.S. Navy four-star admiral and NATO commander
- J. David McAlister, former head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration
- Former WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr.
- West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman
- Former WVU head football coach Don Nehlen, the winningest coach in WVU football history

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A GROWING COLLECTION

The Distinguished West Virginians Archives will complement the more than 5,000 archival collections already preserved by the WVRHC. As the state’s leading historical research library, the WVRHC is the caretaker of materials documenting people and events from before the birth of the United States through today.

One can study the lives and accomplishments of our state’s founding fathers Sen. Waitman T. Willey and Gov. Francis H. Pierpont and modern leaders such as Gov. Arch Moore, Sen. John “Jay” Rockefeller IV and Congressman Nick Rahall.

A glimpse of state natives’ contribution to literature is recorded in the manuscripts of Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck and state poet laureates Louise McNell and Irene McKinney.

The papers of industrialist and U.S. senator Henry Gassaway Davis and journalist/artist David Hunter Strother, who reported on the trial of abolitionist John Brown, provide a deeper understanding of nineteenth-century America. Illustrating parts of the 20th and 21st centuries are basketball legend Jerry West and “Star Trek Deep Space Nine” composer Jay Chattaway.

Curtis “Hank” Barnette, chairman emeritus of Bethlehem Steel, bought into the concept when encouraged by Gee and WVRHC Director John Cuthbert to donate his papers and has helped lead the charge for recruiting other distinguished West Virginians to participate in the initiative.

“Over the years, I’ve been very fortunate to have responsibilities in the public and private sectors,” Barnette said.

During that time, he created and received a large number of documents and letters, gave speeches and interviews, and testified before Congress. He likes the idea that his views about corporate governance, international trade and leadership could assist students, faculty, researchers and decision-makers. And he encourages others to follow his example.

“There are so many West Virginians who have done so much more than I have and have more extraordinary reputations, so it seemed important to get a program started.” Barnette said.

Moving forward, an advisory board will recommend prospective candidates for Gee’s selection. Barnette adds that Gee will also have an active role in the process.

“President Gee has promised to be our cheerleader,” Barnette said.

“One can study the lives and accomplishments of our state’s founding fathers Sen. Waitman T. Willey and Gov. Francis H. Pierpont and modern leaders such as Gov. Arch Moore, Sen. John “Jay” Rockefeller IV and Congressman Nick Rahall.

WVU President E. Gordon Gee talks with alum Glen Hiner, Jr., former chairman, Owens Corning; Hiner’s wife, Ann; and Laurie Erickson, President Gee’s fiancé.
Brianna Dixon spends a lot of time in the WVU Beckley Campus Library.

"I'm in the library two to three times a day," said the West Virginia University Institute of Technology nursing junior.

She's usually there studying with a group of classmates. They have a whiteboard stationed at the end of the table for someone to lead the session and go over what they learned in class.

Sometimes, she needs to focus individually.

"The layout of the library is good because there are tables between the bookshelves so you can find a place where you can be alone and study," Dixon said. "I think it's perfect."

Mary Strife, lead administrator, appreciates the compliment but is quick to say the space is a work in progress.

"Last year was our first year with the entire student body, so it was a time of learning for us," she said.

"We've been focusing on multiple issues and logistics to transform this space and acquire the needed resources so that we can best serve our students and faculty."

WVU purchased the former Mountain State University campus in 2015 and made the decision to relocate WVU Tech.

For the library, it meant combining both schools' book collections. Some materials went to the Libraries' Depository in Morgantown where they are housed with other older, seldom used books. Faculty or students can request that items be retrieved and delivered to WVU Tech.

Also, Rare Books Curator Stewart Plein surveyed the collections and selected several items to be preserved in the Libraries' Rare Book Collection.

As part of the move, the WVU Beckley Library became home to the Student Success Center over the summer of 2016 and the bookstore in summer 2017. The Student Success Center provides academic advising for first-year students and free peer tutoring and skill building workshops for all WVU Tech students.

"That's a boon for everybody," Strife said. "People come in to go to the bookstore and they realize they can come up there to study or use computers."

And the Center means there are tutors in the library during evening. "We've benefited greatly," Strife said. "I think it's wonderful."

A priority for this school year is figuring out how to provide students with more study space. This past summer, they removed a few rows of shelves to make room for new tables. "We're looking at options for study rooms," Strife said.

Dixon was among the 315 freshmen who inaugurated the WVU Beckley Campus in fall 2016.

Having a place to go to between classes is important for Dixon because she now commutes each day from Renick, after living on campus for her freshman and sophomore years.

Her classmate Jennifer Adkins lives just 10 minutes away in Oak Hill. The library helps her resist the temptation of driving back and forth between classes.

"I have a husband and a child so it’s easier for me to go to the library and do homework," Adkins said. "If
I can get my homework done during the day, then in the evening I have time for them. It helps me balance my life.”

Even though there is a designated commuter room on the first floor, the library decided to open at 7:30 so that students being dropped off could study. “We have to focus on commuters,” Strife said.

Distance isn’t a factor for Kara Hayes. The criminal justice junior is a student-employee at the library after working a year as a volunteer. So she spends a lot of time there.

“It’s easier to stay at the Library,” Hayes said. “It gives me more time to study because I’m already there.”

Josh Smith, a chemical engineering senior, is at the start of his second year in Beckley.

When in need of peace and quiet, he just puts in his earphones and plays music. Rather than stopping in between classes, he prefers wrapping up the school day there.

“I usually go to the Library after my last afternoon class and stay for a couple of hours trying to get all my homework done,” Smith said.

Originally from Texas, Smith came to West Virginia because of a love for the Appalachian Mountains — his family has a cabin in North Carolina — and WVU Tech offered him a soccer scholarship.

Although an injury forced him to leave the team, he plays on the club team and still considers himself part of the team. Despite the mishap, he’s still happy to have found a home at WVU Tech.

“It was the best decision I’ve ever made,” Smith said.

“LAST YEAR WAS OUR FIRST YEAR WITH THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY, SO IT WAS A TIME OF LEARNING FOR US.”

— Mary Strife
Long before Pearl S. Buck wrote the Noble Prize winning "The Good Earth," her father, Absalom Sydenstricker, traveled throughout China spreading the news of the Christian Gospel. He carried with him a colloquial Mandarin translation of the Bible of his own creation, created during his decades of service as a Presbyterian missionary during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While earlier translations existed, including one endorsed by the Presbyterian Missionary Committee, Sydenstricker found that existing versions were too formal to be understood by the masses. Thus, he undertook the task of creating his own version, one that could be more easily comprehended by his constituents.

A fragile tome believed to be Reverend Sydenstricker's personal copy of the New Testament survives today in the Booth Library at Davis & Elkins College. The West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) has recently digitized the volume and made it available online at pearsbuck.lib.wvu.edu. "This Bible is an extraordinary relic stemming from the Christian missionary movement in China a century ago," WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. "The digitized version of the Bible with Sydenstricker's handwritten notes will be a great resource for many scholars, from those studying the history of religion to anyone researching China or international relations."

In his memoir, Sydenstricker wrote about his efforts to translate the Bible into Chinese and the creation of a work he could edit. In producing his own copy, he enlisted a book binder to disassemble the book and inset blank sheets of ruled paper after each page of printed text so he could add notes to the passages. Scholars with Pearl S. Buck International believe the handwriting to be that of Sydenstricker. The digital version allows users to closely inspect every page, read the Chinese translation and Sydenstricker’s commentary, while the original artifact is securely preserved in the Booth Library’s archives. The website also includes a brief introduction in both English and Chinese, translated by WVU Librarian Jing Qiu. "The New Testament came to Davis & Elkins in 1986 when the library acquired a voluminous collection from Jim Comstock (1911-1996), publisher of the weekly newspaper, West Virginia Hillbilly and author of the "West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia." The materials filled a tractor trailer.

Comstock had developed a friendship with Buck, who gave him manuscripts and other items when he was helping her to raise funds to preserve her family’s homestead in Pocahontas County. The New Testament was among the collection, but the story behind the book remained unknown until Mary Jo DeJoice, assistant director of D&E’s Booth Library, arrived in 2013. After expressing interest in focusing on projects in special collections, one of the items she was shown was an unassuming book that was missing its cover. DeJoice’s curiosity took her on a research trail that led from articles on Buck to stories on Buck’s father. She read with great interest about how the scholar and linguist successfully translated the Bible into Chinese.

"SYDENSTRICKER’S GOAL WAS TO PROVIDE THE CHINESE WITH A NEW TESTAMENT THAT COULD BE MORE EASILY READ AND UNDERSTOOD."

— Stewart Plein

She then reached out to WVU Libraries. In 2014, WVU became caretaker of Buck’s archives after entering a partnership with West Virginia Wesleyan College and the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation to protect and promote Buck’s legacy. Under the agreement, the WVRHC assumed responsibility for the Buck Collection, which was previously housed by Wesleyan. WVRHC Associate Curator Stewart Plein helped DeJoice uncover more information about the book and its significance. "Researching the significance of this book has been an exciting project to undertake and I have greatly enjoyed working with Mary Jo and Marie Toner, curator at the Pearl Buck House International," Plein said. "Sydenstricker’s goal
The text of the Sydenstricker Bible has been inset with blank sheets of ruled paper after each page of printed text. Many of the added sheets have handwritten notes. Scholars have determined that the handwriting in the annotations matches that of Sydenstricker.

Born in Hillsboro, Buck was the first American woman to win both the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize in Literature. While she is probably best known for her novel “The Good Earth,” her parents’ biographies — “The Exile” and “The Fighting Angel” — helped earn her the 1938 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Her legacy, though, extends far beyond her accomplishments as a novelist. Buck regularly addressed issues surrounding race relations, the oppression of women and minorities, children’s welfare and other humanitarian issues of the time. She devoted much of her life’s work to children’s issues, penning many novels and short stories for and about them.

She was particularly interested in the plight of mixed-race children who were fathered by Western servicemen serving in Asia during the mid-20th century and then abandoned when the men returned home. In addition to being an advocate for these children, Buck founded an organization that arranged for the adoption of more than 5,000 interracial children.

was to provide the Chinese with a New Testament that could be more easily read and understood. He was successful, as his version was well received by the Chinese people he served.”

The confirmation was a eureka moment for DeJoice.

“I thought, ‘Holy Toledo, we really do have something here,’” DeJoice said.

First, she explained, the Bible is important because of the critical role Buck’s parents played in her life. Her father especially influenced her dedication to humanitarian work.

Also, it’s a significant primary source that marks a momentous period during which China was evolving and grappling with multiple issues. At the same time, the Presbyterian Church was beginning to take steps to unify the work of its missionaries in China and become more approachable to the Chinese people.

“Mission churches were all over China in every province, but they were dealing with some dangerous situations,” DeJoice said. “It was a very complicated, turbulent time. Sydenstricker, in particular, was very zealous in his belief. He was in hiding for a period of time and had to flee.”

DeJoice wants to reach out to scholars to get their thinking on this artifact and where the church was at the time to see what they can lend to the story.

“If I can be amazed with the small amount of research I have done, I can only imagine what a scholar, someone who is trained in history, political science, religion, can open up,” DeJoice said. “It’s spectacular.”

The WVRCIC has launched the digital version of the Sydenstricker Bible as renewed interest in Buck is developing in the United States and China. Last year, Cuthbert spent two weeks abroad networking with Chinese scholars and archivists and observing the growing enthusiasm for Pearl S. Buck studies in China.

“‘There is a true renaissance of interest in Pearl Buck in China regarding both her role as a pioneer novelist and as a humanitarian. A major Pearl Buck museum complex opened in Zhenjiang last September, and China’s leading universities have recently introduced courses devoted to the life and work of Pearl Buck,’” Cuthbert said. ¥
West Virginia University Libraries’ West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) has launched a digital collection that chronicles more than six decades of work by acclaimed outdoorsman, author and illustrator George Bird Evans.

In 1939, missing the wildlife and wilderness he loved since childhood, Evans and his wife, Kay, relocated to a Revolutionary War-era hewn-log farmhouse in Preston County. At that homestead, which he called Old Hemlock, Evans authored more than two dozen books and hundreds of magazine articles about bird hunting, shooting and bird dogs in the ensuing years. His book “The Upland Shooting Life” became an instant classic and gained him a loyal following that continues to this day.

In addition to hunting literature, Evans and his wife together wrote a series of mystery novels. They also collaborated in breeding a line of “Old Hemlock” English setters whose descendants are treasured today by bird dog enthusiasts across the nation and beyond.

In the late 1920s, Evans began working as an illustrator in New York City and quickly earned a reputation as a gifted artist. His eloquence and philosophical bent earned him an avid following among hunting literature authorities on upland bird shooting and fine bird dogs. “His book “The Upland Shooting Life” became an instant classic and gained him a loyal following that continues to this day. The students worked collaboratively throughout most of June to design and construct “Cytochrome C” and then install the sculpture on the second floor of Evansdale Library. Hoover said the underlying theme is community and connection, and the changing capabilities of the sculpture play with the important concept of Cytochrome C’s role in the biological electron transport chain. The installation is also part of WVU Libraries’ Art in the Libraries initiative and will remain on display through June 2019.

The George Bird Evans Collection – gbe.lib.wvu.edu – contains 65 years of detailed handwritten hunting journals in which Evans meticulously recorded the results of hunting excursions, primarily in West Virginia’s Allegheny Mountains.

“George Bird Evans was one of the world’s foremost authorities on upland bird shooting and fine bird dogs,” WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. “His book “The Upland Shooting Life” became an instant classic and gained him a loyal following that continues to this day. The students worked collaboratively throughout most of June to design and construct “Cytochrome C” and then install the sculpture on the second floor of Evansdale Library. Hoover said the underlying theme is community and connection, and the changing capabilities of the sculpture play with the important concept of Cytochrome C’s role in the biological electron transport chain. The students were also intrigued by the conservation of Cytochrome C across the kingdoms of life and included reference to this trait in the four panels containing ceramic reliefs of organisms from each of four kingdoms,” Hoover said.

Hoover started CESTA with Todd Hamrick, teaching associate professor of sculpture in the College of Creative Arts. The program is funded by Hoover’s National Science Foundation CAREER award. 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 installation is also part of WVU Libraries’ Art in the Libraries initiative and will remain on display through June 2019.

“We’re very happy to welcome the CESTA sculpture to the Evansdale Library for a second year,” Creative Arts Librarian Beth Royall said. “The student teams have been wonderful to work with. Last year’s ‘Object D4h’ was very popular, and I suspect ‘Cytochrome C’ will be, too.”

The CESTA 2018 team includes WVU students Nysha Hongpaisan, engineering; Kyleen Kelly, art education; Erin McCarty, MFA; Pamela Saidoni, engineering; and Sarah Starcovic, Fairmont State University, chemistry and biology; and Samuel Dickson, Youngstown State University, chemistry.

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GEORGE BIRD EVANS DIGITAL COLLECTION

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For more information, visit the CESTA website: cestaprogram.com.
Did you know that because of the work of Dr. James Reeves of Wheeling a U.S. Supreme Court ruling (Dent v. West Virginia) transformed medical practice from an unregulated occupation to a legally recognized profession in the 19th century?

“West Virginia has played a highly significant, but little-known role in the development of the medical profession in the United States,” said Dr. William Neal, emeritus professor pediatrics, WVU School of Medicine. “As individuals desire to understand their ancestry, it is equally important for our educational institutions to have a sense of their heritage.”

To realize that lofty goal, Neal is leading efforts to construct the WVU Museum of Health Sciences adjacent to the Pylon sculptures and the Okey Patteson Auditorium in the Health Sciences Center. The museum will trace the history of the WVU School of Medicine, the first formally organized health school, and the schools of Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Public Health that were added over the 150 years of WVU’s history.

“That story is a rich tapestry of achievement, crisis, growth and triumph. We stand on tall shoulders,” Neal said.

The museum’s mission will be to preserve and communicate the history of healthcare in West Virginia and Appalachia, and to document the impact that WVU has had on the health professions in the region, across the U.S. and around the world.

“To ensure the health of West Virginia, we must educate health professionals whose clinical skills are strengthened by their understanding of the whole person. You cannot do that without having a grounding in the histories of our professions and our state. The creation of this museum fills a gap, and moves us closer to meeting that need,” said Clay B. Marsh, MD, vice president and executive dean for health sciences.

The 800-square-foot area will provide ample space to display health-related artifacts, rare manuscripts and other holdings from the WVU Libraries’ West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) and other items provided by faculty, alumni and friends of the University. Also incorporated is an area for showing multimedia presentations.

Neal’s interest in this project springs from his own research in writing “Quiet Advocate: Edward J. Van Liere’s Influence on Medical Education in West Virginia.” He spent a year poring through Van Liere’s extensive archives in the WVRHC. Van Liere was dean of the School of Medicine from 1917 to 1960.

“That experience not only opened my eyes to the tremendous importance of this man, it also connected me more tightly emotionally as a medical alumnus of this great University,” Neal said.

The medical school moved into the new Health Sciences Building in 1957.

This building on Beechurst Avenue housed all classes for the University’s two-year medical school program.

The first phase, expected to be complete in summer 2019, involves the creation of a multimedia station and display areas stretching along the hallway outside of the Patteson Auditorium. Phase two will extend the museum into the HSC main hallway with the addition of a plexiglass space for larger exhibits designed by Health Sciences schools; it is expected to be done by summer 2020.

Neal envisions display content to rotate periodically to engage the audience.

“The Museum of the Health Sciences will be open to the public at all times,” Neal said. “It will complement and enrich the iconic Pylons atrium, the site of numerous receptions and gatherings of students, faculty and staff, and the public.”

The museum is funded by private contributions through the WVU Foundation. The museum demand fund (2W1211) supports design, construction and display of artifacts and multimedia storytelling. The Historical Collection and Preservation Fund (4V762) is an endowment to maintain the museum in perpetuity, including staffing, development of new exhibits and programming, and future acquisitions.

The museum fund currently has $500,000 with a goal of reaching $1 million by 2020. The Historic Collection and Preservation Fund’s goal is $1.5 million. If you would like more information on contributing to either of these funds or making an in-kind donation of memorabilia, artifacts or papers, contact the WVU Libraries Development Office at 304-293-0303 or email us at librarydeanoffice@mail.wvu.edu.
In May, West Virginia University Libraries selected Elizabeth Satterfield and Rachel A. Wattick as 2018 Robert F. Munns Undergraduate Library scholars.

"All of us at WVU Libraries are pleased to recognize Elizabeth Satterfield and Rachel Wattick for their tremendous achievements in researching their topics and presenting their findings," Interim Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said. "Our selection committee noted that they clearly dedicated a great deal of thought and time to gathering the necessary information and then writing their impressive works of scholarship."

"They would advertise 'flat, good land'; but when settlers arrived here, they were add wilderness that was a hillside that was rocky and not good for farming. So that was one of the swindles that occurred after the Civil War," Satterfield said. "Satterfield completed her thesis early and will graduate in May 2019 with a bachelor's degree in history and plans to pursue a master's in historic preservation or public history."

"We are thrilled to celebrate Elizabeth and Rachel for their dedication and hard work in researching their topics and producing excellent examples of scholarship," said Damien Clement, assistant dean of the Honors College. "The Honors College sets a high standard for students so it is always a proud moment when students exceed expectations."

Satterfield, a junior from Independence, W.Va., won for her thesis, "Swiss Settlement in Randolph County, West Virginia: A Study of Land Deals, Policies, and Immigration," which details the settlement of Helvetia, W.Va. While the Helveta community has been covered from a cultural perspective, Satterfield's extensive research at the West Virginia and Regional History Center illuminates a different dimension of the town by focusing on the sometimes shady land deals in the county.

Helvetian captured Satterfield's attention when she first visited the small town a few years ago, but her interest grew when she came across Joseph H. Dias Dehar while exploring potential research topics. Dias Dehar designed West Virginia's state seal and was involved in immigration and Swiss settlement.

"That's where it became more interesting," Satterfield said. "At the time, newspapers were run by Democrats or Republicans and what they printed had to do more with their political stance than the truth. So they might say really good things about an unassuming character that was involved with immigration when in reality he was involved in all these underhanded deals." Groups targeted immigrants through thousands of advertisements across the United States and in Switzerland, Germany and France.

"There are efforts to increase access to healthier foods. I think it has changed in the four years I've been here," Wattick said. "There's definitely an increase in people's consciousness of their health; it's just a matter of being able to pay for it and convenience as well."

Wattick graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition and Food, and plans to stay at WVU to earn a PhD in social and behavior sciences from the School of Public Health. "To make real changes, I need a better understanding of behavior and why humans behave like they do, as well as how society impacts our behaviors," Wattick said. "That will enable me to actually encourage change."

Beth Toren, interdisciplinary and film studies librarian, is one of seven 2018-19 Honors College Faculty Fellows. Toren teaches "Storytelling with Archives," an Arts and Creativity course that emphasizes primary resource literacy. Students remix historical archives with contemporary sources they create and practice world-building in a fictional West Virginia county. The course concludes with the launch of an interactive online storytelling experience: "The Vandalia County Storytelling Festival," where visitors select communities on a map to read, hear and view stories.

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When Harold M. Forbes retired in 2013 from West Virginia University as curator of rare books, bookseller Jim Presgraves wanted to pay a proper tribute to his colleague's long career.

Rather than sending a card, Presgraves, approaching retirement himself, donated a large portion of his inventory at Bookworm and Silverfish Books in Rural Retreat, Va., to WVU Libraries in honor of the former rare books curator. Library staff calculate the gift at more than $500,000.

“WVU has been a very good customer over the years, and that was my reward,” said Presgraves, who secured books on archives, maps and other materials with a value above $500,000. “The WVU Foundation calculates the gift at more than 10,000 books, pamphlets, catalogs that regularly arrived in the mail. The bookseller quickly developed a sense of the types of materials and the subject matters that Forbes wanted to add to the WVRC's collections.

“Mr. Presgraves' donation means so much,” Plein said. “It will enrich our collections in so many areas – the West Virginia Collection, the Appalachia Collection, the Rare Books Collection and our archival collection. We will also add items at WVU Potomac State and WVU Tech.”

This donation was made as part of A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia University. The fundraising effort by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the University concluded in December 2017, with donors contributing more than $1.2 billion.

Most of his donated materials are on the shelves at WVU, but Plein and her team – Melissa Brooks, head of Metadata and Data Services for the Libraries; Autumn Summers, a library associate in Data Services Project Management; and work-study student Jamie Rood – are still working to process and catalog all of the books.

“Mr. Presgraves’ donation means so much,” Plein said. “I feel truly honored.”

Presgraves has been buying, selling and appraising books for over 50 years. His customers include national libraries in both hemispheres as well as state libraries across the U.S. and esteemed national collections such as the Smithsonian Institution and the Winterthur Museum.

He has been an elected member of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America since 1978. He helped found the southeast chapter and served as president, as well as of the Virginia Antique Booksellers Association. He is retired from membership in the National Association of Dealers in Antiques and associate membership in the Society of American Archivists.

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A CONNECTION BACK HOME

After living and working in Houston and other locales for 40 years, Michael Dooley has found his connection to home on the sixth floor of the library where he studied as a social work major at WVU in the 1970s.

“An individual can give a modest amount of money to WVU and make a real difference,” Dooley said. “Would I make contributions without the match? Yes, but it probably wouldn't be as large,” Dooley said. Also, Dooley hopes his gift will inspire others to give. "If people could see everything that the West Virginia Collection can do with the $2,000 my endowment generates a year, we could inspire someone who wants to establish a million-dollar endowment," Dooley said.

Dooley's gift will provide funds to support essential work in the WVRC. One example is student workers to scan and catalog historical documents so they are preserved and available online. “An individual can give a modest amount of money to WVU and make a real difference,” Dooley said. He's quick to add a personal benefit for giving to your alma mater. “What's your connection to West Virginia? You must have a reason to come back. Supporting the University becomes a vehicle to bring you back home,” Dooley said. •
For Bob Hughes, reading and collecting books was a lifelong joy, as was his beloved West Virginia University. Bob reminisced often about his long relationship with WVU, including the time he met a young President E. Gordon Gee during his "first term" as president in the 1980s. As a dedicated Mountaineer, Bob often liked to repeat, "The Old Gold and Blue were always true to me!"

He had long planned to leave his books with WVU Libraries' Rare Book Room at the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC). Several years ago he even approached then-rare books curator, Harold Forbes, about donating his collection. However, Bob was not ready to stop collecting yet. Today, through his estate, the WVU Rare Book Room at the WVRHC is the beneficiary of his considerable donation – over 1,600 books.

His extensive collection of many signed and rare books includes renowned works and personal favorites, such as those of the Belgian mystery writer Georges Simenon, whose novels of detective Jules Maigret were made into films, plays and a television series. While Bob collected books on cooking, gardening and art, his passion was for signed works by classic literary authors such as poets Robert Frost, Dylan Thomas, William Butler Yeats and Sylvia Plath. His extensive collection of many signed and rare books includes renowned works and personal favorites, such as those of the Belgian mystery writer Georges Simenon, whose novels of detective Jules Maigret were made into films, plays and a television series.

Among the many unique items in Hughes' collection are these two books by acclaimed author/illustrator Edward Gorey (1925-2000). Correspondence, letters and art were another aspect of Bob's collecting interests. Notable letters among his collection include the correspondence of Samuel L. Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, D.H. Lawrence and Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury under President Thomas Jefferson. He also amassed a large collection of correspondence and documents concerning slavery.

Bob dedicated his life and work to teaching others to become successful readers. His passion for reading led him to pursue advanced degrees to help others learn to read. Following his high school graduation, he enrolled in the California University of Pennsylvania. Although his education at Cal U was interrupted by military service, he returned to complete his degree, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Education. He firmly believed "You can do anything if you have the intellect and the drive."

He proved this motto over and over in his life in his pursuit of learning. As a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, Bob served in the Medical Corps in Germany. According to his brother, Bill, during his service Bob refused to take military leave, choosing to remain in the barracks, reading the entire time and lugging home a footlocker filled with his books.

Bob continued his education in Morgantown, earning a Master of Arts in Learning Sciences from WVU in 1976, and at Johns Hopkins University as a Kerry Taylor Scholar, where he received a degree in Communication Disorders. Returning to the place where it all started, the California University of Pennsylvania, Bob received a Master of Science degree in School Psychology. He also took classes at Columbia University in New York City in Advanced Studies for Learning Sciences, and he was inducted into the Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Fraternity for Educators.

Throughout his teaching and academic pursuits, Bob ensured he could continue his collecting habit, even taking a second job, working for Borders Books for 15 years, just so he could buy books and travel. Combining his passion for books and for WVU, he determined to benefit the Libraries through a bequest of his entire estate. Shortly before his passing on May 19, 2018, he confirmed his decision by establishing an endowment exclusively for the Rare Book Room in order to provide permanent funding for acquisitions and conservation of fragile materials.

This significant gift will assist the Rare Book Room with its ongoing objective to support the educational mission of West Virginia University, his beloved alma mater.  

REMEMBERING ROBERT D. HUGHES — RARE BOOK COLLECTOR, DONOR

WRITTEN BY STEWART PLEIN
Kevin Fredette retired on August 28, 2017, with 22 years of service to WVU Libraries. Fredette began his career in librarianship in 1984, serving in faculty positions at the Indiana University School of Law and the University of California, Irvine.

He came to WVU in 1995 to head the Government Documents and Microforms Department in the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library. He later moved on to the WVU Law Library, where he served as head of public services.

Fredette joined the staff of the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) in 2007 as coordinator of public services. During his tenure, Fredette managed reference and research services and participated in outreach and instruction. He also served as the bibliographer for the History Department.

Many researchers have noted his expertise and helpful assistance in finding answers to research questions. Fredette was always humble and very friendly, and possessed a great sense of humor.

“Kevin always provided excellent service as a reference librarian. He was patient and methodical in dealing with researchers, and his knowledge of the WVRHC and its holdings were beyond compare,” WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said.

We congratulate him for his 33-year career and wish him all the best in retirement.

Marianne Courtney retired April 30 with 44 years of service. She began her career with WVU Libraries in 1974 in the typing pool and held a multitude of roles throughout the years – showing a great deal of diligence in each one. She worked under the leadership of six deans and witnessed many changes at the University and Libraries. She is a dedicated worker. She created the Union List of Serials, which is a comprehensive computer-based listing of major serials for more than 40 libraries in West Virginia as well as WVU Libraries. Most recently, Courtney performed ordering for the Libraries and processed all government documents.

She has a keen eye and a savvy, investigative approach. She particularly enjoyed the more difficult searches for hard to find or out-of-print titles.

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We congratulate Courtney on her 44-year career and wish her well in retirement.

AWARDS

• Linda Blake, librarian emeritus, received the Dora Bath Parks Award at the 2017 WYLA Conference. WVLA’s highest honor, this award recognizes a librarian with long and outstanding record of service to libraries and librarianship.

• The College Art Association, the preeminent international leadership organization in the visual arts, appointed Sally Deskins, exhibit and programs coordinator, to the National Committee on Women in the Arts.

• Deskins won the 2017 Nebraska Book Award for illustration and design for her 2016 collaborative book “Leaves of Absence” with poet Laura Madeline Wiseman.

• In March, the WV State Journal named Sally Deskins to their “40 under 40” list.


• In April, the WVU Game Developers Club presented its Club Influencer Award to Beth Toren, interdisciplinary and film studies librarian.

PUBLICATIONS


• WVRHC Director John Cuthbert published an article on “Virginia B. Evans’ Gloucester Garden” in “Central to Their Lives: Southern Women Artists in the Johnson Collection,” University of South Carolina Press, 2014; and wrote the foreword to The Art of Patronage, The Daywood Collection, Huntington Museum of Art, 2017.

• Sally Deskins published an article examining two exhibits around Judy Chicago’s The Dinner Party in ArtSlant, and an article, “Beyond the Walls and Pages: Collaborations between artists and poets” in ArtPulp.

• Kelly Diamond, head of Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support, co-authored two chapters, “Patch and PACT Writing: Engaging Students with the ACRL Framework, Research as Inquiry” and “Hashtags & Filter Bubbles: Guiding Students on Their Research Quest” in Framing Information Literacy: Teaching Grounded in Theory, Pedagogy, and Practice, ACRL Press. Both chapters written with Dr. Laura Brady

• Danielle Emerling, congressional & political papers archivist, published an article, “Civics in the Archives: Engaging Undergraduate and Graduate Students with Congressional Papers” in The American Archivist, Volume 81, Number 2.


• Beth Toren contributed a chapter, “Featuring Atrocity & Hififul Heritage: Tzarantno’s Revision of Civil War Mythology,” to the book The American Civil War on Film and TV: Blue and Gray in Black and White and Color.


Retirements

KEVIN FREDETTE

MARIANNE COURTNEY

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Football is in the air, and that means WVU Libraries and the West Virginia University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics are teaming up once again for the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge, our annual fundraising campaign to benefit the Libraries.

The initiative, in its eighth year, has provided for many needs of our students. This year alone we have updated all of our professional testing and career preparation books, purchased new DSLR cameras and graphing calculators for Access Services to lend and are updating monitors and technology in the Health Sciences Center Library study rooms to allow for wireless syncing from any device.

Several months ago, challenge money also provided for a new poster printer at Health Sciences. Hundreds of posters were printed for research symposiums like Van Liere Research Day. Graduate and undergraduate students both reap the benefits.

As a participant in the challenge your pledge of any dollar amount is multiplied per touchdown the Mountaineers score during the 2018 season and subsequent bowl game. The proceeds will support new projects with direct student impact within the Libraries.

“Here, in Athletics, we are pleased to support the Mountaineer Touchdown Challenge as a powerful way to impact the academic experience for all of our 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 all of WVU.”

Head 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 be throwing a lot of passes and scoring 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.”

The Libraries will continue to consult with our students to determine where best to direct funds raised during this year’s Touchdown Challenge.

“We are grateful for WVU Libraries to be 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.”

It’s not too late to accept the Challenge. Visit give.wvu.edu/touchdown-challenge or use the enclosed envelope to make your pledge today. For more information, contact Paula Martinelli, development director for WVU Libraries, at paula.martinelli@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-0303.