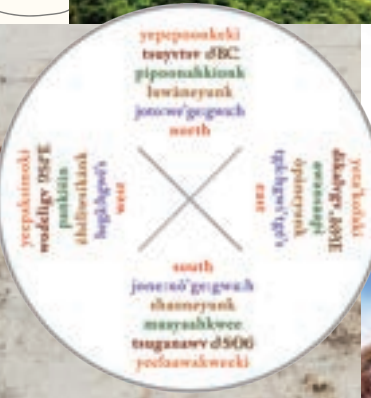


EX LIBRIS

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MAGAZINE | FALL 2022



▶ INDIGENOUS APPALACHIA

INCREASING REGIONAL HISTORICAL AWARENESS AND RECOGNIZING CONTINUING INJUSTICES

A Letter from the Dean



This year we implemented a new Strategic Roadmap developed to align with the University Strategic Transformation Project. In this roadmap, we focus on the overarching goals of making the University an exemplary land-grant institution: leading in creation and dissemination of knowledge; being collaborative, integrative and effective; being a

model of social equity; and promoting sustainability, well-being and an enriched quality of life. I hope you take time to familiarize yourself with how the library contributes to these high ideals in the story about our roadmap.

You will find that so many of the other stories begin to paint the picture of the diverse ways we put this roadmap into action. Our focus on graduate students through new spaces and programs highlights the important role they play in defining not only our land-grant role but also our R1 status as a high research university. Through their colleges they gain great mastery and depth of knowledge, but the Libraries are able to provide spaces and programming that help them connect to those outside of their field. This interaction is so important to the interdisciplinary approach needed to solve so many of our global "wicked" problems.

As society grapples with problems around inequity, being a model of social equity requires finding ways to elevate and center voices and contributions of individuals who have been historically marginalized. This year's Art in the Libraries' major exhibit will focus on Indigenous Appalachia and help us better understand the nuanced perspectives required for an appreciative, more accurate understanding of modern Indigenous people, and how the histories of European and Native American cultures have interacted over the years. We were also very excited to unveil the first of three Inclusive Portraits in our grant-funded project to increase the representation of whose portraits hang in our inspirational reading rooms.

A prototype of the American Congress Digital Archives Project is a first step in revolutionizing access to Congressional papers nationally. This will enhance the ability of many researchers to discover and disseminate new knowledge around how Congress works, including the behind the scenes efforts that result in new legislation to benefit the American public. It will provide an important new tool for all educators involved in civics education.

And we continue to enrich the quality of life through programming, such as this year's West Virginia Day that explored the poetry of our state and region and the opening of the new William A. Neal Museum of the Health Sciences. Numerous exhibits, including one featuring the Buffalo Creek Disaster 50th Anniversary, serve to educate, enlighten and surprise our visitors.

We were happy to celebrate the 42nd anniversary (COVID-19 prevented us from celebrating on the nice round number of 40) of the Evansdale Library — which has become an integral part of that campus. And we are so excited to reopen the Milano Room after a long renovation period that helped us modernize the capabilities of the reading room while maintaining the grandeur and historic nature of this inspirational space.

Karen Diaz
Dean of Libraries

EX LIBRIS

Fall 2022

The West Virginia University Libraries magazine, Ex Libris, is produced and printed once a year through the support of library donors.

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On the cover: Cover image designed by Maryam Marne Zafar, visual strategist, graphic designer and lead designer for the "Indigenous Appalachia" exhibit.



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

- ▶ Without access to modern laboratories, rural physicians like Pocahontas County Dr. Kermit Dilley relied on their personal microscopes to analyze specimens and ensure accurate diagnoses. This well-worn microscope was already 20 years old when Dilley began his practice following World War II.

WVU LIBRARIES UNVEILS ITS 2021-2024 STRATEGIC ROADMAP

After a yearlong process of iterative internal conversations and activities, distillation of hundreds of potential action items and a series of campus stakeholder feedback events, WVU Libraries has launched its 2021-2024 Strategic Roadmap.

Based on the University's Strategic Transformation, which launched in March 2019, and in alignment with the same goals, we have mapped our path toward participation in great achievements at WVU.

"We look forward to partnering across campus to advance our initiatives and meet the goals of our great institution," Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said.

The 2021-2024 WVU Libraries Strategic Roadmap lays out five goals. Equity and Open Education Librarian Jessica Dai worked with a team of librarians and staff members to identify 14 initiatives that will enable the Libraries to meet their goals of this three-year roadmap.

More on the Strategic Plan's goals and initiatives is available at library.wvu.edu/about/strategic-roadmap. 🦋



Photo collage — Students using the libraries.



GOAL

1

Be an exemplary land-grant university library that advances and promotes West Virginia and the Appalachian region

INITIATIVES

Expand access to and breadth of collections, including collections focusing on West Virginia and Appalachia

Participate in University initiatives focusing on West Virginia and Appalachia

GOAL

2

Be a leader in the creation and dissemination of knowledge

INITIATIVES

Be a leader in teaching equity-informed information literacy

Pursue alternative research and publishing models to improve access to materials in anticipation of rising collections costs and budgetary restrictions

GOAL

3

Be a unified university library that is collaborative, integrative and effective

INITIATIVES

Build strategic partnerships across WVU and with community groups

Be proactive in assessing and implementing process-driven work

Engage in inclusive decision-making based on assessment and data

Provide excellent equity and data-informed library services

GOAL

4

Be a model of social equity

INITIATIVES

Be intentional about recruiting, hiring, and retaining Black, Indigenous and people of color

Normalize accessibility and universal design in our physical, digital and instructional spaces

GOAL

5

Be a university library that advances a culture, climate and organizational structure that promotes sustainability, well-being and an enriched quality of life

INITIATIVES

Cultivate an organizational culture that prioritizes well-being and work-life balance

Identify ways to implement sustainable practices

Grow as a learning organization

Explore ways to make the Libraries a safe and affirming space for all, but especially for library users who belong to minoritized social groups



IMMERSION PROGRAM

West Virginia University Libraries is helping graduate students become better researchers.

Before classes began in January, librarians welcomed 19 graduate students to a three-day intensive workshop designed to improve participants' research skills with hands-on activities and demonstrations on a variety of resources, methods, tools and topics.

The Graduate Student Library Immersion Program focuses on addressing participants' research challenges and building community both within and across disciplines.

"It is difficult for any student who is untrained or has had scattershot training on the tools and resources available to them for research and publishing," Assistant University Librarian Matt Steele said.

The program began in fall of 2019 with a cohort evenly divided between humanities and social sciences students. After a hiatus because of COVID-19, the program returned in January 2022 with an expanded

focus that included STEM students.

Admission to the program is competitive, and applications are evaluated based on the alignment of applicants' expressed research interests, needs and challenges with the program's offerings.

In addition to training, participants receive a \$125 stipend and are connected with a subject librarian who will be available for individual consultations about participants' research interests and challenges.

That connection has been crucial for Stephanie House-Niamke, who's working on a Ph.D. in sociology. She's had a positive experience with Alyssa Wright, head of Research Services for the Downtown Library and the social sciences librarian.

"Librarians know everything. They are the University's best resources," House-Niamke said. "If I don't know an answer, I always ask a librarian."

House-Niamke arrived in Morgantown in July 2020, early into the COVID-19 pandemic. She worked

in Washington, D.C., prior to enrolling at WVU. She earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from Radford University and her master's in public administration from Virginia Tech.

"When they told me, 'We're going to teach you how to improve your own research and here are some tools you can use.' I said, 'sign me up,'" House-Niamke said.

She also appreciated conversations with Equity and Open Education Librarian Jessica Dai about the shortage of librarians in high schools. They talked about the need for information literacy and the factors that cause people to adopt ideologies that don't seem to make a lot of sense.

"When you don't have access to information that counters the problematic stuff you just kind of go with it even though it doesn't make a lot of sense," House-Niamke said. "Who's there to teach them about how to determine if a source is legitimate?"

Her thesis explores how images of a white Jesus impacts Black Protestant Christians. She's conducting research, collecting data and talking with people about their perspectives about Jesus.

"It's a very sensitive topic. I do understand this is very sacred to people," she said. "I'm spending hours in the weeds of research and literature; I need to put the information in an accessible way."

The connections House-Niamke built through the workshop have given her confidence as she advances to the publishing stage of her paper.

"I feel more comfortable knowing there are people at the Library who can help me. It's like I have a support group, so to speak, outside of my department," she said.

Mawyah Bashatah, an international student from Saudi Arabia, is pursuing her Ph.D. in public health sciences. She received her bachelor's in community health in 2017 and her master's in public health in 2019, both from George Mason University.

She's currently working as a lecturer with the Saudi Electronic University, a new university offering online courses.

She originally majored in clinical laboratory science, but she changed plans.

"I'm more open to talking to people face to face, promoting a healthy lifestyle," Bashatah said. "I found myself doing a better job than dealing with machines in the laboratory."

One of the most important things she learned during the workshop was how to manage information in Zotero, which is a free, online citation manager that can help you collect, organize, format and share citations.

"Now I'm trying to focus on research so I'm using Zotero a lot," she said.

The program also helped her understand all the ways the Libraries' librarians and staff can assist her.

"When I need an article, I don't hesitate to talk with a librarian," Bashatah said. "They're there for you. One stayed with me until I got the issue resolved."

Casey Stratton is in his second year in WVU's Department of Communication Studies. Previously, he worked in training and development for six years, and at the same time received his master's degree in organizational communication.

He came to Morgantown after researching graduate programs led him to the Instructional Communication emphasis, which was founded in the 1970s.

The Immersion Program sounded like an opportunity to learn about the Libraries and improve his research skills.

"Moving into the academic realm, especially at an R1 institution, meant a significant shift toward research that would require these library skills," Stratton said.

Unfortunately, Stratton explained, outside of specific library training, students aren't taught how to research using library resources; it's just expected that a student has these skills.

"I think that's not a fair assumption. So, I felt at a disadvantage," Stratton said.

The Immersion Program is helping him become a more proficient researcher.

"It was a huge eye-opening experience. First of all, there are so many different resources and databases especially related to my field that I never knew were at my fingertips," Stratton said.

Like Bashatah, he's become a fan of Zotero.

"Zotero has been huge," Stratton said. "Something that I didn't know existed, and now I've implemented it into my daily routine and it just expedites everything."

Stratton feels better prepared as he begins working on his dissertation this fall.

"The Immersion Program brought the library closer to home rather than just a building to go to check out a book," Stratton said. "I know I have a dedicated space I can go and a subject librarian who can assist me with research questions." ♡



▲ Top: Then-Gov. Jay Rockefeller turns the first shovel of dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Evansdale Library. Bottom: The new Evansdale Library takes shape on the growing Evansdale area of Campus. At the groundbreaking ceremony, Gov. Jay Rockefeller called the construction of Evansdale Library "a significant step toward making West Virginia University the finest university in this nation."

EVANSDALE LIBRARY

CELEBRATES 42 YEARS SERVING CAMPUS



One thing we missed during the pandemic was marking the 40th anniversary of Evansdale Library opening its doors. So, it's with some extra exuberance that we celebrate Evansdale Library's 42nd anniversary.

Library **Milestones**

On Nov. 19, 1980, students and faculty on the Evansdale area of campus gained easier access to library collections in their subject areas. The Daily Athenaeum noted that the new library had "... a large microform room, one computer terminal and an audio-visual learning center as well as traditional facilities."

More than two years earlier, on July 7, 1978, a crowd of more than 200 students, faculty, staff, administrators and state officials gathered on the grassy field between the Engineering Building and the Agricultural Sciences Building to break ground for the new library.

Then-Gov. Jay Rockefeller addressed the audience, extolling the importance of academic libraries.

"There is no act of progress which is more significant than [to] break ground for a new library. Libraries lie at the essential nature of

a university. Let us be clear that a library is the first and foremost priority of this university," Rockefeller said.

His words were especially significant because the University was also in the process of building a new football stadium.

WVU President Gene Budig said WVU "has a very real opportunity to become an exceptional institution of higher learning in the immediate years ahead. It is positioned for a role of state and national leadership."

However, Budig continued, a major hurdle had been in the way.

"(WVU) does require certain improvements if it is to achieve that true potential," Budig said. "One such need is found in the area of library facilities, and today we signal a dramatic public commitment to meet that need.

Without an adequate library system, a university is not deserving of that honored designation." ♡

**“THERE IS NO
ACT ... MORE
SIGNIFICANT
THAN [TO]
BREAK GROUND
FOR A NEW
LIBRARY.”**

— Gov. Jay Rockefeller



▲ Library staff assist a student with his research questions.

WVU Libraries marks West Virginia Day with “WEST VIRGINIA’S POETIC HEART”



“Here we take the maybe with the bad and the certain along with everything else — nothing goes to waste in the heart of Appalachia”

“Dispatch from the Mountain State” by Marc Harshman

In November 2020, The New York Times asked poet laureates from across the nation what the people in their states had to be thankful for in the difficult year. West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman responded with “Dispatch from the Mountain State,” which the Times published the day before Thanksgiving of that year.

On June 21, Harshman read “Dispatch” to the audience gathered in the Downtown Libraries’ Milano Reading Room and those watching online from afar as West Virginia University Libraries and the West Virginia and Regional History Center celebrated West Virginia’s 159th birthday. The theme was “West Virginia’s Poetic Heart.”

Harshman explained to the audience how he quickly went to work crafting the poem on the newspaper’s tight deadline. Despite the rush, he clearly found the words to transport New York Times readers to West Virginia.

In the poem, he introduces readers to a child racing on

► West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman read a selection of poems by Maggie Anderson, past poet laureates Irene McKinney and Louise McNeill, and himself.



the sidewalk to enjoy dinner with his grandmother, someone homeless and trying to sleep on a cold night and a neighbor trudging through snow with soup and a shovel.

The poem concludes with these hopeful lines:

“You see we’re still holding on here just enough despite all we’re doing wrong, holding on enough to give not only this man but ourselves enough for which to be thankful, even this, these little gestures that can re-birth a nation, reconcile not only colors like black and white, like blue and red, but reconcile us one to the other.”

Harshman is a West Virginian by choice. Back in 1969, at the age of 18, he left Indiana to attend Bethany College in the Northern Panhandle and fell in love with the Mountain State.

“Both places are much defined by rural culture,” Harshman said. “People respect hard work, are welcoming and friendly. It’s the kind of place where people know the name of things – plants, the next hollow over, roads, and creeks. And that all suited me.”

Harshman was appointed poet laureate for West Virginia in 2012. He is the author of 14 children’s books including “The Storm,” a Smithsonian Notable Book, and numerous books of poetry. He also holds degrees from Yale University Divinity School and the University of Pittsburgh. In 2018, WVU invited him to be part of the inaugural group of Distinguished West Virginians who contributed their papers to the WVRHC.

“I have a great faith in poetry to refocus in us what it means to be human and with every passing year I feel an ever greater need to be reminded about what it is that we hold in common as men and women who value beauty and the kind of meaning revealed in artistic expression,” Harshman said.

“I am not embarrassed to continue to quote as immensely relevant William

Carlos Williams’ adage that, ‘It is difficult / to get the news from poems / yet men die miserably every day / for lack / of what is found there.’”

In addition to his own works, Harshman read poems by noted Appalachian poet Maggie Anderson and past Poet Laureates Irene McKinney and Louise McNeill.

MAGGIE ANDERSON

Anderson is a poet and author of five books of poems, most recently “Dear All.” She was born in New York City in 1948 to parents from West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Her mother and father both graduated from WVU, and her mother taught in the University’s Department of Political Science in the early 1940s.

Her family returned to West Virginia when she was 13 years old. After earning a bachelor’s degree in English, with high honors, from WVU in 1970, she stayed to complete master’s degrees in creative writing and social work. She taught poetry at Kent State University from 1989 until her retirement in 2009.

Although she’s lived in many places throughout her life – New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon and Ohio – she calls West Virginia home.

“There are the familiar hills, there are my memories of my friends and me growing up there,” Anderson said. “I have vivid memories of Morgantown from when I was in college. I used to walk these hills and walk these streets. In some way, what we think of as home is a place of memories.”

She treasures her memories of her close friend Irene McKinney, poet laureate for West Virginia from 1994 until her death in 2012.

“I used to go to her place outside of Elkins. It was out in the country,” Anderson said. “I loved to be in the green and in the fields, and I think that all goes directly into my writing.”



► Maggie Anderson



I can't seem to write anything without a tree in it." Harshman read four of Anderson's poems: "The Beans" from "Years that Answer," "Country Wisdoms," from Windfall, "Independence Day" from "Cold Comfort" and "Note from My Father" from "Dear All."

IRENE MCKINNEY

McKinney was born in Belington, W.Va., and earned degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College, WVU and the University of Utah. She served as director of creative writing at West Virginia Wesleyan and assisted in developing the low residency Master of Fine Arts Program there. She also co-founded the poetry journal "Trellis."

In 1993, Gov. Gaston Caperton appointed McKinney as poet laureate, succeeding her mentor, Louise McNeill. During her 18-year tenure, McKinney gave readings, workshops, and recorded



▲ Irene McKinney

a series of radio commentaries for West Virginia Public Radio. She published her first book of poems, "The Girl with the Stone in Her Lap," in 1976. Six more books of poetry would follow, including "The Wasps

at the Blue Hexagon," "Quick Fire and Slow Fire," "Six O' Clock Mine Report," "Vivid Companion," "Unthinkable: Selected Poems 1976-2004," and "Have You Had Enough Darkness Yet?" published after her death.

"I was always struck by and slightly in awe of the honest authority with which Irene spoke, as well as wrote," Harshman said. "There is a raw power in her poems rare in any age that, I believe, will continue to stand out as truly remarkable even as the years advance."

He read McKinney's poem "At 24" from "Vivid Companion: Poems."

LOUISE MCNEILL

McNeill was born in Buckeye, Pocahontas County. She earned several degrees including a doctorate in history from West Virginia University and taught history and English at all levels of education for more than 30 years.

Poetry, in McNeill's opinion, deals with the "fundamental and serious things about life and the earth." Her passion for family and the history of her people's mountain land, which she refers to "as a place called solid," echoes throughout her work. She married Roger Pease in 1939, but published her poetry collections under her maiden name. Her first collection, "Mountain White," was published in 1931. Her best-known work, "Gauley Mountain," hit shelves in 1939.

As the world entered into the Atomic Age, McNeill's focus stretched into science, specifically physics with works like "Paradox Hill" and "Fermi Buffalo." McNeill published nine volumes of poetry, two historical books and an autobiography during her lifetime, leaving a wealth of treasure in verse and prose. Anderson edited two of McNeill's late-career books, "Hill Daughter: New and Selected Poems" and "The Milkweed Ladies," her memoir.

In 2006, the WVRHC was named a Literary Landmark by the Friends of the Library Association U.S.A. for preserving McNeill's papers.

"The work of Louise McNeill ages well," Harshman said. "Her love of more formal verse was just that, a 'love,' and I believe that love is transferred into the grace and beauty that marks much of her work. At its best, as in a poem like 'First Flight,' McNeill conjures a sense of delight that remains forever deeply moving."

Harshman read her poem "First Flight" from "Hill Daughter: New and Selected." ♡



▲ Louise McNeill

“WEST VIRGINIA’S POETIC HEART”

Exhibit



◀ A West Virginia Day attendee browses the exhibits on display in the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

Visit the West Virginia and Regional History Center to view the “West Virginia’s Poetic Heart” exhibit, which features 27 West Virginia poets and their books and papers that are held at the Center.

The exhibit begins with the state’s seven official poet laureates and then turns to other poets who are represented in the Center’s collections. The majority of the poets featured are 20th and 21st century writers, but some 19th century poets are also highlighted as well.

West Virginia is home to many wonderfully expressive poets who share their heart and character

through their words. Each poet’s voice is individual but some common themes emerge in the exhibited poems: the natural beauty of West Virginia, food and folk traditions, resilience and resistance to stereotypes and a desire for recognition and social justice.

Experiencing poetry is often a personal experience, and each reader will take away their own meaning and feeling from the works featured here. It is hoped this exhibit will inspire visitors to seek out these poets further and also explore the many gifted West Virginia writers who could not be represented. ♡

LIBRARIES UNVEIL INAUGURAL INCLUSIVE PORTRAIT

Victorine Louistall Monroe made history twice at West Virginia University. She received her master's in education from WVU in 1945, making her the first known Black woman to be awarded a graduate degree from the University. Then, Monroe made history again in 1966 when WVU hired her to teach Library Science, making her the University's first Black faculty member.

In April, WVU Libraries unveiled a portrait of Monroe (1912-2006), professor emerita of Library Science, the first painting to be commissioned as part of the Inclusive Portrait Project, in the Downtown Library's Robinson Reading Room.

"We are excited to celebrate Victorine Louistall Monroe with this portrait," Libraries Dean Karen Diaz said. "A true Mountaineer, Victorine broke several



barriers throughout her life and set a shining example for future generations to emulate.”

Monroe graduated from Kelly Miller High School in Clarksburg and earned her bachelor’s degree from West Virginia State College. She received her master’s in education from WVU in

Association and was appointed to the West Virginia Library Commission by former Governor Jay Rockefeller, serving from 1980-1992.

The West Virginia and Regional History Center holds a collection of Monroe’s papers that document her education, career and personal

life, including correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, awards and other material.

WVU Libraries and the WVRHC received a \$5,000 grant from Women of WVU last year to support the Inclusive Portrait Project. The initiative’s goal is the creation of three portraits — one portrait each year for the next three years — painted by a current BFA or MFA student or recent graduate of the WVU program who identifies as female.

The portraits will be installed in the Libraries’ Milano and Robinson rooms on a semi-permanent basis and added to the WVRHC’s collection.

Anna Allen, the artist who painted Monroe’s portrait, is a 2021 WVU BFA painting graduate and West Virginia native. Allen grew up with an appreciation for the beauty of nature and a love for her family.

As a student, Allen discovered her affinity for oil painting. The prolonged experience of creating a portrait in oil allows her to meditate on the person she paints, capturing the subtleties of their personality in addition to their appearance. ♡



▲ Victorine Louistall Monroe gives a presentation at a public library, circa 1974.

1945, making her the first known Black female to be awarded a graduate degree from the University.

She taught at Kelly Miller High School and worked as a librarian at Roosevelt-Wilson High School. Then, in 1966, Monroe made history again when WVU hired her to teach Library Science and she became the University’s first Black faculty member.

While at WVU, she was inducted in the Order of Vandalia and served as a member of the President’s Advisory Committee for eight years. She retired in 1978.

In addition, Monroe was a member of the Black Caucus of the American Library

◀ Artist Anna Allen poses with her portrait of Victorine Louistall Monroe.



“INDIGENOUS APPALACHIA” EXHIBIT

ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 2023

ARTISTS:

Nadema Agard (painting, Cherokee)
Connor Alexander (game design, Cherokee)
Erin Lee Antonak (sculpture/drawing, Oneida)
Kayln Barnoski (fabric/mixed media, Cherokee)
April Branham (painting/photography, Monacan)
Ethan Brown (gourd design/painting, Pamunkey)
Annette Clapsaddle (writing, Cherokee)
Robert D’Alimonte (woodworking/carving, Tuscarora)
Brent Michael Davids (composing/music, Mohican/Munsee-Lenape)
John Gritts (drawing/painting, Cherokee)
Benjamin Harjo, Jr. (drawing/painting, Absentee Shawnee)
Yonavea Hawkins (bead/fashion, Delaware)
Antoinette (Toni) Scott (cornhusk dolls, Seneca)
Rosy Simas (transdisciplinary art/dance, Seneca)
Amelia Winger-Bearskin (NFT/digital, Seneca-Cayuga)

▲ “Horizon Sky,” part of Amelia Winger-Bearskin’s SkyWorld/CloudWorld series — www.studioamelia.com/work/skyworld

THIS FALL, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY’S DOWNTOWN LIBRARY WILL HOST “INDIGENOUS APPALACHIA,” AN EXHIBIT DESIGNED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIGENOUS APPALACHIANS TO THE REGION’S SHARED HISTORY AND PRESENT WHILE ALSO RECOGNIZING CONTINUING INJUSTICES FACED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY HOSTING “INDIGENOUS APPALACHIA” EXHIBIT

The Downtown Library is hosting “Indigenous Appalachia,” an exhibit designed to increase awareness of the contributions of Indigenous Appalachians to the region’s shared history and present while also recognizing continuing injustices faced by Indigenous people.

“Most Americans do not know about Indigenous

culture, from history to today, but they are a large part of America’s fabric. Invisibility is a modern form of bias,” WVU Libraries (library.wvu.edu) Exhibits Coordinator Sally Brown said. “With this exhibit, we hope to both acknowledge the contradictions in the Indigenous histories of our areas and in our collections, and highlight Indigenous



▲ "Creation Story," Erin Lee Antonak, acrylic and charcoal

stories, perspectives and successes, all curated in collaboration with Indigenous advisement.”

“Indigenous Appalachia” will remain on exhibit through May 2023.

The WVU Humanities Center will hold a launch event on Nov. 14 with presentations by Joe Stahlman, director, Seneca-Iroquois National Museum, assistant research professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University at Buffalo and exhibit adviser; and Maryam Marne Zafar, visual strategist and graphic designer and exhibit lead designer.

The exhibit uses visuals and educational content

to explore themes of people, lands and waters, and will provide significant opportunity for campus and community involvement via coursework and programming, and encourage informed, enhanced perspectives.

As our nation and the University proceed in acknowledging the erasure of much of Indigenous history, it is understood that a reconciliation of this erasure can only be accomplished with Indigenous scholars’ leadership, guidance and participation informing these new perspectives.

WVU Libraries has worked with the WVU Native



▲ "Abstract," Painting, 1968, by John Gritts. Courtesy, John Gritts, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Catalog 26/2045.

American Studies Program to develop course related public programs and resources.

The exhibit will also become a digital exhibit living on the WVU Libraries' website and archived on the Research Repository at WVU.

Following the spring 2023 semester, "Indigenous Appalachia" will travel to the WVU Beckley Campus Library from June-December 2023; Appalachian State University Library from January-July 2024; and Marshall University Library from August-December 2024.

Sponsors include: West Virginia Humanities Council, WVU Humanities Center, WVU Office of the Provost and the Antero Foundation (Platinum Level); Oakland Foundation and Morgantown Printing and Binding (Gold Level); and Marshall University Libraries, Appalachian State University Libraries and West Virginia Library Commission (Silver Level).

For more information or questions, contact Brown at [304-293-0369](tel:304-293-0369) or sally.brown1@mail.wvu.edu. ♡

MILANO READING ROOM

Renovations have brought the Milano Reading Room into the 21st century, twice.



▲ Top: The Milano Reading Room as it appeared in 1933 and was known as the General Reading Room.
Bottom: The newly renovated Milano Reading Room welcomed guests for the Libraries' West Virginia Day Program.



▲ The entrance to the Reference Room, circa 1960.

After the new Downtown Library opened in January 2002, WVU began an extensive renovation project of the Wise Library to accommodate modern usage and to preserve the look and feel of the historical spaces.

At that time, Jim ('40) and Ann Milano ('41) generously contributed \$250,000 to establish the Milano Reading Room Renovation Fund and the Milano Reading Room and Collection Endowment Fund. The endowments generate funds to maintain the room and to support the preservation and enhancement of the Appalachian Collection, which is housed there.

Since then, the Milano Room, the Rockefeller Gallery and the Atrium have become some of the most popular spaces on campus to hold events. At the same time, the Libraries remain committed to providing spaces and resources that students and faculty expect from an R1 research institution.

In response, the Libraries have again renovated the historic reading room. This time, the focus was on technological improvements to accommodate presentations and multimedia events. Topping the list is a retractable screen and an enhanced presentation system. The Libraries also refurbished 13 tables and added new furniture and display cases.

The new Milano Reading Room reopened in May. ♡

NEAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH SCIENCES SHOWCASES WEST VIRGINIA'S MEDICINAL HISTORY

WRITTEN BY KRISTEN MOHAMMADI



▲ The exhibits chronicle West Virginia's groundbreaking innovations in medicine, as well as the history of the WVU School of Medicine.

The highly anticipated WVU William A. Neal Museum of Health Sciences opened to the public this year. 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.

The museum highlights West Virginia’s groundbreaking innovations in medicine, as well as the history of the WVU School of Medicine, which was founded in 1867. The exhibition chronologically

showcases medicinal breakthroughs from the frontier days in West Virginia to WVU Medicine’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 will walk through a vast amount of history, while learning about West Virginia and Appalachia’s contributions to medicine that not only impacted the region but the rest of the world.

“I sincerely hope that it will excite onlookers



▲ Dissatisfied with the crude peg leg he was issued during the Civil War, James Hanger fashioned a better prosthetic leg for himself from barrel staves.

to not only recognize the already progressive and accomplished medical history of West Virginia, but amazing recognition of the state and its ongoing potential,” said Susan Meyers, Neal’s sister.

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 other items provided by faculty, alumni and friends of the University. Some features are available through touch screens, making the exhibition more interactive.

“This history has rarely been researched in the past nor seen in exhibition form, so some of these stories are coming to light, for the first time, to the general public,” said Elizabeth Satterfield, program assistant for the museum. “The Neal Museum of the Health Sciences is the culmination of years of research and efforts at West Virginia University.”

“I am immensely proud and excited about the opening of the museum,” Satterfield said. “It is especially meaningful as a tribute to Dr. Bill Neal, who was a constant supporter of and advocate for this museum.”

The idea for the museum came after Neal wrote “Quiet Advocate: Edward J. Van Liere’s Influence on Medical Education in West Virginia,” a chronology of

the WVU School of Medicine and a tribute to former WVU Dean of Medicine Dr. Van Liere. Neal was the first recipient of the Dr. Van Liere Award when he was a medical student. The museum includes a sculpture of Van Liere, which was sculpted by a former WVU dental student.

Neal made a remarkable impact here in West Virginia,

founding the nation’s largest youth-based heart disease research initiative. He was the first medical director of WVU Medicine’s Children’s Hospital in 1988, according to West Virginia University Health Science News. It was after he retired that he dedicated his time, energy and extensive research to building this museum.

“The museum was his dream and history was something he loved,” said Martha Mullet, Neal’s wife. “I am excited that it turned out the way it did. I am excited that my father’s medical bag, which I’ve had for 50 years, has found a place in it.”

Neal passed away in January 2020 at 81 years old. The museum is named after him to honor his hard work, dedication and passion for sharing with the world the contributions West Virginia has made to medicine.

“Billy knew every nook and cranny of this museum that he envisioned and created, and sadly was unable to see it to completion,” Meyers said. “I believe he rested in the conviction that indeed it would happen and to his specifications.”

The WVU William A. Neal Museum is located in the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, adjacent to the Pylon Atrium. The museum is free and open to the public. ♡

THE BOOK BEAUTIFUL MARGARET ARMSTRONG & HER BINDINGS

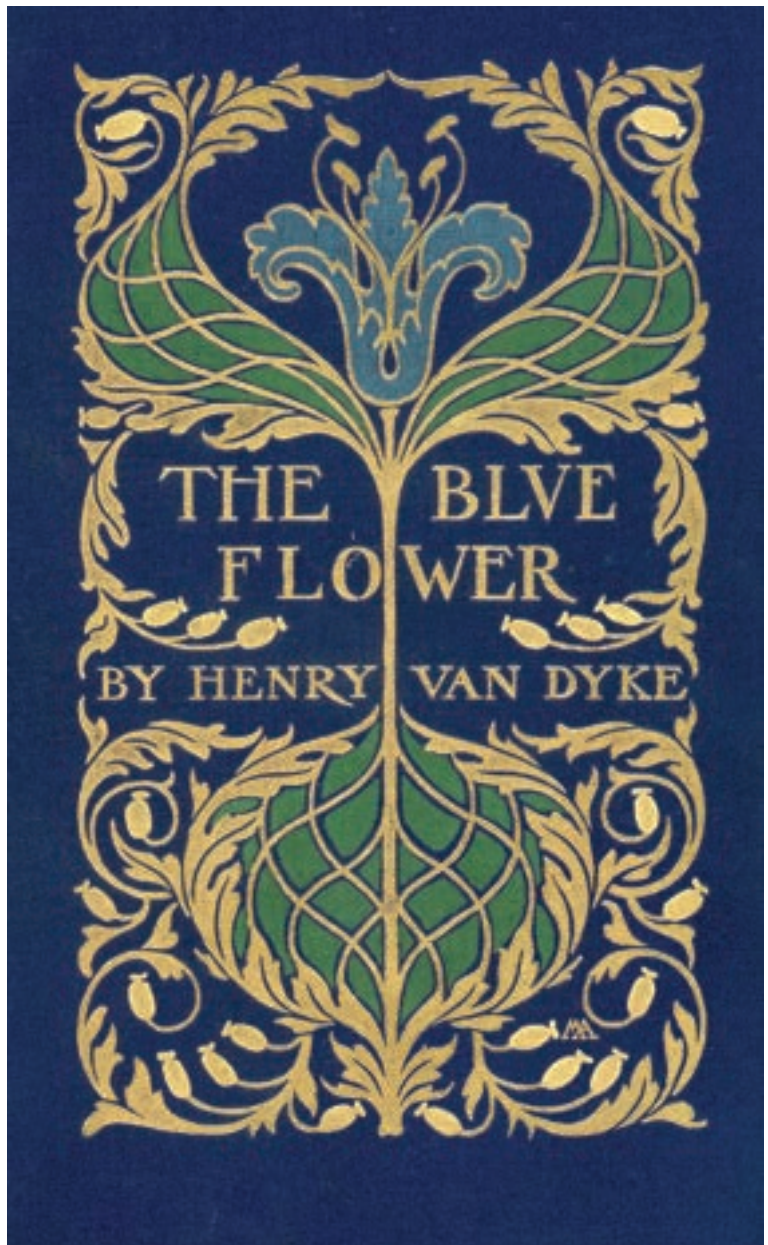


WRITTEN BY STEWART PLEIN
CURATOR, RARE BOOKS AND PRINTED RESOURCES

Margaret Armstrong (1867-1944) made books beautiful. As a young woman, Margaret Armstrong entered the emerging field of book cover art and design in the late 1880s. It wouldn't be long before her beautiful book cover designs would take her to the top of the male-dominated profession and firmly place her as an important figure in the world of the book arts. In this man's world, Margaret Armstrong was a pioneer in the field of decorated cloth binding designs. As one of the first women to enter this new field, she would soon make a name for herself that would be recognized by publishers and the book buying public alike for her beautiful and intricate designs. From 1887 to 1915 Margaret Armstrong was a leading force in shaping the art of book cover designs.

A recent exhibition, May 18 – June 13, held in the Rockefeller Gallery in the Charles C. Wise Library, featured the book cover designs of Margaret Armstrong from the WVU rare books collection. From her first book cover design created when she was 19 years old and published in 1887, to the designs of her later years in the 1910s that boldly splashed color and form across their covers, the book art of Margaret Armstrong is one of WVU's treasured collections.

The exhibition, "The Book Beautiful: Margaret Armstrong and Her Bindings," first opened at the New York Society Library on January 16, 2020. The Downtown Library



► "The Blue Flower" provides an example of how Margaret Armstrong incorporated her initials into her book cover designs.



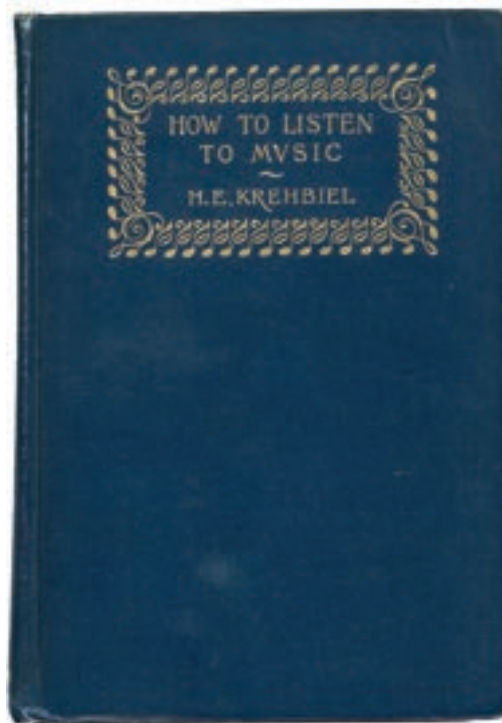
and the West Virginia and Regional History Center worked in collaboration with the NYSL to bring their exhibition of the beautiful binding designs of Margret Armstrong to West Virginia.

Lowell Thing, the foremost authority on the life and art of Margaret Armstrong, was the guest speaker for the exhibition opening held in the Milano Room in the Charles C. Wise Library. His talk, "Cover Treasure: The Adventures of a Margaret Armstrong Collector," recounted 30 years as a collector of books designed by Armstrong. His new book, "Cover Treasure, The Life and Art of Margaret Armstrong," is forthcoming from Black Dome Press.

The book cover designs Armstrong created in the late 19th and early 20th century form an important moment in book history resulting in a revolutionary change in book production. Margaret Armstrong arrived just as the industrial, machine-made book, bound in cloth and decorated with designs in gold, silver and multicolored inks became possible. It was at this moment that publishers began to commission artists to design decorative covers. The prevailing thought was that decorative covers designed by artists could be used as a marketing tool to increase sales and make books more attractive to the reading public. When book cover design was in its infancy and as yet an unproven force in the marketplace, publishers often imposed cost limits that determined the scope of the designs, but within these design limitations fine work could be achieved. Margaret Armstrong designed her first book covers within a prescribed budget and achieved great artistic success. What others might view as constraints, she saw as a framework. Armstrong's early covers, such as "How to Listen to Music" by H.E. Krehbiel, featured delicate designs, like the simple interplay of notes she created to form a frame for the title. These intricate ornaments merely accented the book in contrast to the designs of her later years that would

boldly cover the entire surface of the book's cloth with color and design.

Darker cloth colors that had been the norm began to lighten and brighten under her touch, and decorations became more fluid versus the machine shop orientation of straight lines and right angles used earlier. As these designs became more lucrative for publishers, the cost limitations were lifted and Armstrong was free to spread her art across the entire surface of the book, using more gold, more color.



▲ Early in her career, Margaret Armstrong stayed within a budget and achieved artistic success with "How to Listen to Music."

Margaret Armstrong's designs drew upon the sinuous art forms of Art Nouveau with the delicate interweaving of plants, hand-drawn lettering for titles, and exquisite use of color that drew customers to purchase books bound with her cover designs.

Among the first to "sign" her work, Armstrong devised a monogram using her initials, MA. As she designed it, the M and A overlap to form a concise monogram that could easily be tucked into a corner of a design, recognizable but discrete and unobtrusive.

Decorated book covers are much more than a pretty picture, they also serve as evidence of material and print culture. Armstrong's designs illustrate an important period in the history of the book by providing a window on publishers' daily business operations: the promotion

and marketing of books to the general public. Margaret Armstrong's designs put art in the hands of everyone. This exhibition allowed attendees to see her growth as an artist firsthand, to luxuriate in the colors, designs, styles and decorations created by Margaret Armstrong over 100 years ago.

The books in this exhibition, as well as many others designed by Armstrong, are part of the WVU rare books collection. A web page on the exhibition and the book art of Margaret Armstrong can be found on the WVRHC website: wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/news-events/the-book-beautiful-margaret-armstrong-her-bindings. ♡



“A bridge collapses. An airplane crashes. A coal mine explodes — and a dam fails. And people die. Such are the methods by which tragedy has, in recent years, traced a pattern of human misery and suffering in West Virginia’s history.”

— Governor’s Ad Hoc Commission Report



WVU Libraries, History Department mark **BUFFALO CREEK DISASTER** anniversary with exhibits, outreach

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



In the early morning of Feb. 26, 1972, a coal slurry impoundment on Buffalo Creek collapsed, sending millions of gallons of wastewater rushing into the valley below. Hundreds of people died or were injured, and thousands were left homeless. The cleanup, investigations and lawsuits that followed further strained the community.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Buffalo Creek disaster, WVU Libraries and the Department of History partnered on a project to curate exhibitions and conduct community outreach in Logan County.

The exhibitions are viewable online and in the Downtown Library's Atrium through December 2022. "The Buffalo Creek Disaster: 50 Years from Flooding" exhibits feature photos, letters, newspaper articles and audio dating from the 1970s as the valley absorbed the shock of the disaster and began its attempt to recover. The materials encourage reflection on how tragedy has shaped the community and what it means to support a community that has experienced tremendous loss. They highlight the significance of the coal industry and debates over its regulation within the history of West

Virginia. Materials for the exhibits come primarily from the archives of Governor Arch A. Moore Jr. at the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

In February 2022, the project team joined more than 200 people at a memorial event in Logan County. Graduate student Crystal Coon presented on curating the "Buffalo Creek Disaster" exhibit, and Dr. Jessie Wilkerson and graduate student MaryAnne Steinmiller collected 16 oral history interviews, which will be donated to the West Virginia and Regional History Center. The Center also plans to digitize and preserve newspapers and community newsletters related to the disaster on loan from the Buffalo Creek Memorial Library.

The project team included Public History Graduate Assistants Crystal Coon and MaryAnn Steinmiller, and Research Apprenticeship Program undergraduate student Noah Boylen. Project faculty advisers were Melissa Bingmann, Danielle Emerling (PI), William Hal Gorby and Jessica Wilkerson.

The Buffalo Creek Disaster 50th Anniversary project was made possible by a grant from the WVU Humanities Center. ♡

Above: Photograph of a Buffalo Creek family surveying the damage done by the flood to personal property, 1972. | from the Arch A. Moore Papers
Left: Photograph of property damage done in the Buffalo Creek area by the flood, 1972. | from the Arch A. Moore Papers

WVU Libraries and partners

DEBUT NEH-FUNDED ONLINE PORTAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL ARCHIVES

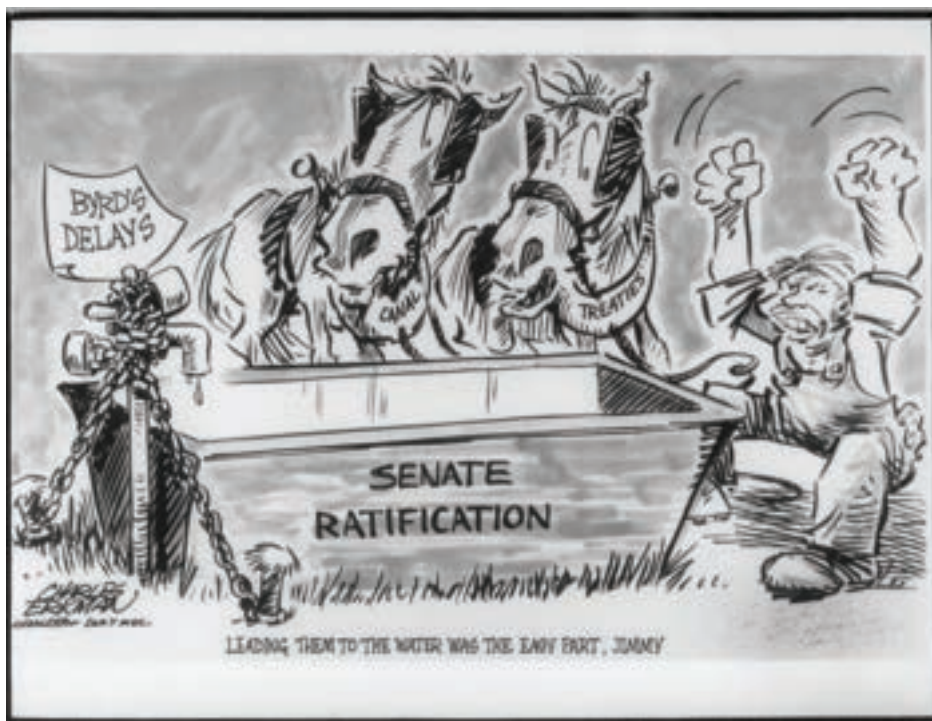
WRITTEN BY DANIELLE EMERLING, ASSOCIATE CURATOR, CONGRESSIONAL AND POLITICAL PAPERS ARCHIVIST

The West Virginia University Libraries has created the first-ever online portal, congressarchives.lib.wvu.edu, bringing together congressional archives from repositories throughout the United States.

“The American Congress Digital Archives Portal Project represents the most significant proposal that I have ever seen in terms of its promise to bring historical, political and policy materials to the fingertips of more

scholars on more questions,” said Douglas Harris, professor of political science at Loyola University Maryland. “It is not a stretch to think that this project could revolutionize the study of Congress across multiple disciplines.”

The prototype portal currently aggregates materials from WVU Libraries, the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas and the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. The one-year foundations project was made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



▲ Charles Erkman, political cartoon referring to the Panama Canal treaties, 1977, Robert C. Byrd congressional papers, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education.

The archives of members of Congress document the democratic process, the evolution of Congress as an institution and narratives related to the country’s social, cultural and political development. At a time in which America is experiencing deep political divisions, challenges to democratic norms and values, and when many Americans believe democracy is in crisis, the project takes on a new urgency. It has perhaps never been more important for scholars, educators and the public to have access to the historical records of the people’s branch.

However, practical barriers to using congressional archives mean researchers, students and the public may struggle to find and use them. Unlike presidential papers, which are centralized in one location with dedicated staff and funding, congressional archives are geographically dispersed among institutions large and small. For researchers, collections may be difficult to use because of limited travel funding and uneven description in and across collections. The pandemic has made these problems worse.

The American Congress Digital Archives Portal project addresses these challenges and provides easier, more equitable access to congressional archives. Work remains in the project phases ahead to make the portal an essential resource for scholarship and education.

We aim to have a sizable, open-access digital portal to reach various audiences for the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. Ultimately, we believe this project will expand availability of documentation about Congress, public policy and representation in America. It will lead to new topics and methods of scholarly research and serve as a resource to advance civic education and knowledge of America's constitutional democracy.

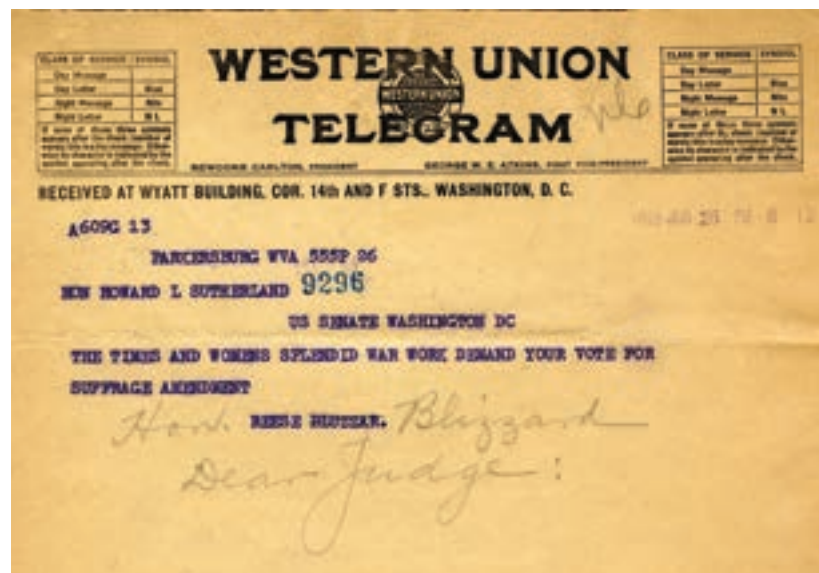
Over time, the portal will make the history of Congress — and its importance in our daily lives today — more discoverable and accessible for everyone.

The WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Center holds the archives of many of West Virginia's congressional delegations from the founding of the state in 1863 to the present. Resources from several collections are included in the portal. ❖

▼ Photograph of wives of Vietnam prisoners of war discuss the situation with Dole staffers, 1970, Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics.



▼ Telegram to Senator Howard Sutherland from Reese Blizzard, 1918, Howard Sutherland papers, West Virginia and Regional History Center.





Digital exhibit

“INTELLIGENCE AND OVERSIGHT AFTER 9/11”

explores Senator Rockefeller’s leadership on Senate committee

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

Senator Jay Rockefeller was appointed to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) in January 2001. His tenure coincided with some of the most critical years for the SSCI and the intelligence community. Only eight months after joining the committee, terrorists carried out the 9/11 attacks, thrusting the intelligence community, and the SSCI, into the limelight in unprecedented ways and changing the nature of the conduct of intelligence oversight.

Using select materials from the archives of Senator Jay Rockefeller, a WVU Libraries digital exhibit explores how the intelligence community and the SSCI responded to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The exhibit text is derived from the Memorandum for the Record regarding a review

◀ Senators Jay Rockefeller and Dianne Feinstein confer during a hearing of the SSCI, January 22, 2009, Senate Photographic Studio.

of Senator John D. Rockefeller's service on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence: 2001-2015.

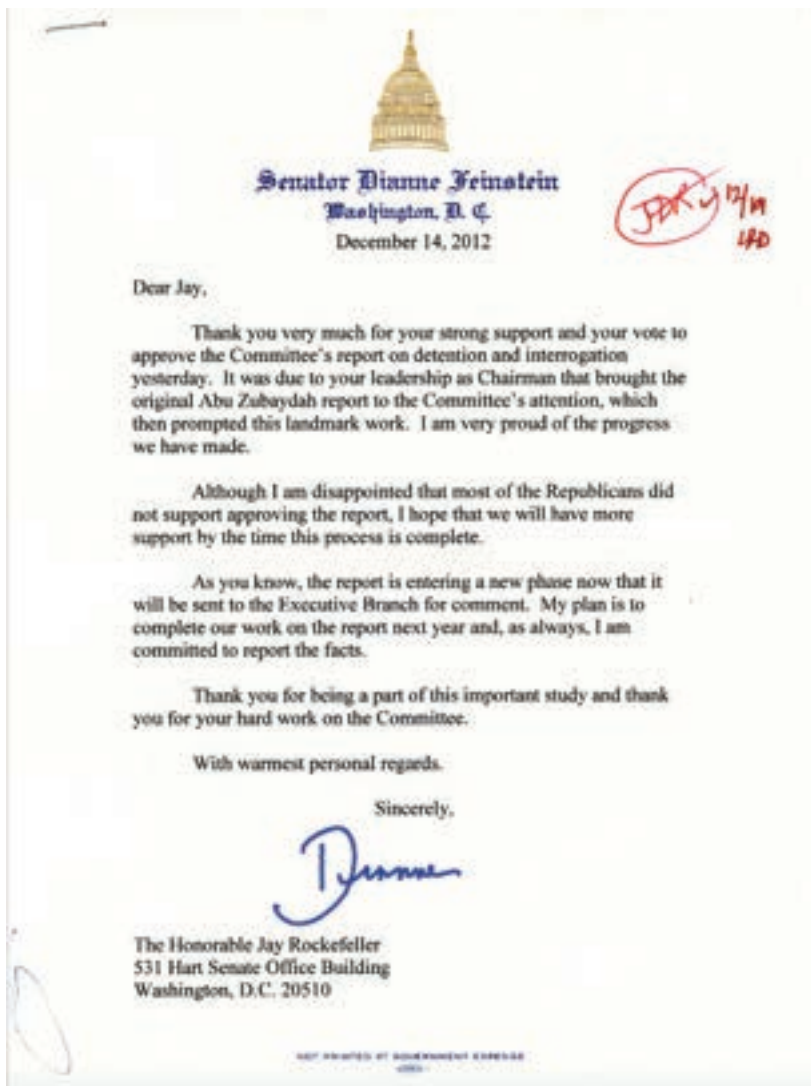
Within a month of the attacks, the United States launched operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and in March 2003, invaded Iraq. These conflicts, and what became known as the "Global War on Terror," dominated American national security policy and defined the agenda of the SSCI during Rockefeller's terms as vice chairman and chairman.

Rockefeller made priorities of both intelligence community reform and congressional oversight of intelligence programs. He was tenacious in pushing the SSCI to investigate the NSA's surveillance program and the CIA's detention and interrogation program. During his chairmanship, the committee began reviewing the CIA interrogation records, resulting in one of the largest reports in Senate history, which would be commonly referred to as "The Torture Report."

The exhibit opened in September 2021 on the 20th anniversary of the attacks, as America exited Afghanistan and ended its combat mission in Iraq. The archives and exhibit offer an opportunity to reflect on some of the events and decisions that have reshaped the world and American democracy.

The exhibit was curated by Emerling with research contributed by Library Associate Ashley Brooker and Graduate Assistants Crystal Coon, Meredith Dreistadt and Hannah McCoy.

Visit the exhibit at arcg.is/i1Wub. ♡



▲ Letter from SSCI Chairman Dianne Feinstein to Senator Jay Rockefeller, December 14, 2012.



STUDENT ART AWARDS



▲ Payton Brown, a first-year MFA candidate in painting, is a Dean of Libraries Award recipient.

The Art in the Libraries Committee and Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz selected **Payton Brown**, a first-year MFA candidate in painting, and **Liuqing Ruth Yang**, a senior BFA candidate in painting who graduated in December 2021, to receive the 2021 Dean of the Libraries' Student Art Award.

Brown received the award for her work, "The Star Theatre," an oil canvas painting. Brown describes the subjects of her paintings as, "vintage, seemingly outdated scenes of urban life in America" with the goal of perpetuating a "sense of nostalgia and longing amongst viewers."

“At first glance, the scenes appear warm and inviting, as many images of iconic American culture do. However, there are no people present, or any evidence of life at all, resulting in feelings of loneliness and isolation,” said Brown. “In making this decision to completely eliminate the figure, my goal is to create a juxtaposition between the warm, comforting feelings of nostalgia and the distressed feelings of desperately reconciling with the past being exactly that, the past.”

Brown’s work captures nostalgia through a “reflective and restorative” lens.

“I am comforted by my past, but I also imagine it idealized, thus trapping myself in a state of trying to return to something that never truly existed. While I am acknowledging time passing and happily recalling places or events, I am also expressing the way that many people, including myself, long for a return to the past but are forced to surrender to the relentless passing of time and inevitable change, resulting in feelings of isolation and grief,” Brown wrote in her artist statement.

Yang received the award for her painting, “Self Portrait with a Traditional Chinese Fan,” an oil painting on linen canvas. Yang is a portrait painter inspired by Renaissance classical paintings, Neoclassical portraits and Baroque paintings.

“I believe that learning traditional painting techniques is vital for contemporary painters and the trajectory of the painting discipline in the future. My artwork is greatly informed by the masters’ painters: Raphael and Caravaggio, particularly their religious works, which are great inspiration personally, as a Christian,” said Yang. “My goal for my paintings is to remind my audience of the beauty of God in all of us, the way that European masters paintings did so long ago.”

Both award recipients received \$300, and their art was exhibited at the Evansdale Library throughout the spring 2022 semester.

A list of former award winners can be found at exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/awards/student-awards. ❖



◀ Liuqing Ruth Yang, a senior BFA candidate in painting who graduated in December 2021, is a Dean of Libraries Award recipient.

WVU LIBRARIES NAMES THREE MUNN SCHOLARS

West Virginia University Libraries' Teaching and Learning Committee has selected Samantha N. Franzese, Jude Platz and Elizabeth Rockwell as 2022 Robert F. Munn Undergraduate Library Scholars.

"We at WVU Libraries are pleased to recognize Samantha, Jude and Elizabeth as Munn Scholars," Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said. "They thoroughly researched their topics and wrote impressive works of scholarship."

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 Honors 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 Library and their theses added to the Research Repository @ WVU. These papers can be read at researchrepository.wvu.edu/munn.

"Humanities and social sciences research help us gain a better understanding of human life, our interactions and problems we face," Honors College Dean Kenneth Blemings said. "The research conducted by Samantha, Jude and Elizabeth expands our knowledge of important areas in social work, political science and musicology. We are thrilled they are now Munn Scholars."

SAMANTHA FRANZESE

Franzese, from Bridgeport, won for her thesis titled "Analyzing Parent Characteristics and Invalid Responses on the Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory."

In her paper, Franzese analyzed an assessment tool used in measuring child abuse potential. With 3.5 million children in the United States referred for suspected maltreatment to Child Protective Services in 2016, she believes it is crucial to assess for child abuse potential using measures that are effective in clinical utility.

However, she identified a problem with the Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory, a self-report questionnaire that assesses for child abuse potential and utilizes a lie scale that detects patterns of socially desirable responding.

If a parent is "faking good" on the lie scale — basically, answering "no" to questions they should respond to with "yes" — their profile is labeled as "invalid" and removed from research.

"An interesting thing I found is parents with invalid profiles reported greater levels of stress, they reported greater difficulty with regulating their emotions, and they were at greater risk for child abuse," Franzese said.



▲ Samantha N. Franzese

Franzese graduated as an Honors Foundations Scholar and with a bachelor of arts in psychology. In the fall, she will begin the Doctor of Clinical Psychology Program at Marshall University.

JUDE PLATZ

Platz, from Toledo, Ohio, won for his thesis titled "Decadal Disparities in the Election of Women to State Legislatures."

Platz began his paper by stating that in 1894 Colorado voters made history by electing three women — Clara Cressingham (R), Carrie C. Holly (R) and Frances Klock (R) — to their House of Representatives, making them the first women to be elected to any state legislature positions.

The milestone occurred 26 years before the 19th Amendment was ratified giving women the right to vote. However, 127 years later, women comprise a meager 30.6 percent of all state legislators nationwide, Platz wrote.

"This lack of representation is especially troubling because of the unique skill sets that women



▲ Jude Platz

bring to political office. Research indicates that women have greater success working across party lines, particularly when those women are in the minority party,” Platz wrote.

Most of these legislators prioritize issues like healthcare and quality of life.

“We found that in areas where we elect more women, infant mortality rates go down and life expectancy is going up,” Platz said.

Platz graduated as an Honors Foundations Scholar and with a bachelor of science in environmental and natural resource economics and a minor in mathematics. In the fall, he will begin a Ph.D. program in environmental economics at Ohio State University.

ELIZABETH ROCKWELL

Rockwell, from Uniontown, Pa., won for her thesis titled “Ethnomusicology, Ethnocentrism, and the Other.”

Ethnomusicology is the study of music in its social and cultural contexts. Rockwell is interested in music and its intersection of social identification. She’s inspired by the

theme of activism and how she can tie it into her music studies.

“I was thinking about how musicology can be activism,” Rockwell said.

Her research led her digging into the West Virginia and Regional History Center’s archives and learning about Phil Faini, the retired dean of the WVU College of Creative Arts.

Rockwell found that while Faini established WVU’s World Music Center in 1992, he led the introduction of music indigenous to Africa in the School of Music two decades earlier. The percussion ensemble was performing the music of both West and East Africa and South America as early as 1973.

“Faini had been doing research in Africa in the sixties and seventies and he brought the music of these cultures to West Virginia, presumably as a way of showcasing the diversity of percussion across the world,” Rockwell wrote. “The work Faini was doing caught the attention of national organizations, leading to television appearances on NBC, CBS and PBS as well as permission from the U.S. State Department for the ensemble to perform as the first percussion group from the U.S. in Latin America.”

“Faini spent years preserving African music during his travels to the continent in an effort to better understand the roots of American percussion and worked diligently to celebrate and promote international

music ... Faini frequently hosted guest lecturers and musicians to work with the percussion ensembles as they prepared for performances. The stature of WVU’s Percussion Ensemble drew attention to the School of Music, which lent a hand in being selected to host international performances.”

“It was really cool,” Rockwell said. “I didn’t think I would be as interested in the archival material as I was. And I was fascinated by WVU’s presence in music activism without the intention of being activism.”

Rockwell graduated as an Honors Laureate and with bachelor of arts degrees in music and women’s and gender studies, with a minor in world music. In the fall, she will begin pursuing a Ph.D. in musicology at Ohio State. ♡



▲ Elizabeth Rockwell

LIBRARY FACULTY ASSEMBLY NAMES HOSTUTTLE OUTSTANDING LIBRARIAN

The Awards Committee of the West Virginia University Library Faculty Assembly selected Lori Hostuttler, interim director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center, as the Outstanding Librarian for 2022.

The award, presented triennially, recognizes a faculty librarian who has made exceptional contributions toward the delivery, development or expansion of library services or special programs for the constituencies of WVU.

In her nomination, Hostuttler was recognized by members of the College of Creative Arts, College of Arts and Sciences and West Virginia Humanities Council for her accomplishments in the areas of innovative instruction, accessibility and social equity.

Recounting Hostuttler's integral role in establishing the West Virginia Folklife collection, former West Virginia state folklorist Emily Hilliard credits Hostuttler with being an "exemplary colleague ... listening to our needs, teaching the content management system, troubleshooting any issues and presenting a beautiful, accessible product with diligence, expertise and positivity."

Hostuttler also received praise for the spirit of collaboration with which she worked to acquire and represent several collections of oral histories and ethnographic materials, including a major collection of interviews with West Virginian songwriters.

Beyond her achievements in acquiring and preserving these materials, Hostuttler surpasses expectations to make them accessible, to enhance their visibility through reparative description and to bring them to life through instruction. She participates in the creation of insights and regionally significant scholarship by offering her expertise about the



WVRHC's holdings, utilizing her "gift for understanding which collections might be most helpful for a particular project."

One researcher describes how Hostuttler provided virtual access to materials for both faculty and students during the closure for the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Campus Read of "Hidden Figures," Hostuttler conducted classes in which students discovered other hidden figures in West Virginia history in the center's collections.

A member of the Department of English, who conducts archival research and oral history interviews with some of the first Black students on WVU's campus, credits Hostuttler with introducing her to Jimmy Lewis, who was the first Black basketball player to sign with WVU in 1964. This contact allowed the professor to identify an entire network of sources and interviewees to expand her inquiry.

In these examples and more, Hostuttler transcends the dichotomy of preservation and access by enriching research and engaging students with local sources, qualifying her as a leader in the dissemination of knowledge and exemplifying the mission of a land-grant university library. Her talent for identifying and acquiring resources and her depth of knowledge of materials acquired are second only to the enthusiasm she imparts to students and faculty for the intellectual output of the University, state and region, amplifying the voices of the underrepresented. ♡



◀ Lori Hostuttler, Outstanding Librarian for 2022, and David Roth, Distinguished Service Award winner, pose with their trophies.

LIBRARY FACULTY ASSEMBLY PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ROTH

The Awards Committee of the WVU Library Faculty Assembly presented the Distinguished Service Award to David Roth, who retired December 31, 2021, as a digital education specialist in the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support with 28 years of service.

Roth was nominated by his supervisor, Kelly Diamond, head of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support, for the “quality of his work, thoughtful and insightful feedback on projects and for modeling collegiality in the workplace.”

Roth’s accomplishments included expanding and implementing quality control for instruction, scheduling workflows, and creating and maintaining instructional guides for ULIB 101, which earned frequent praise from the librarians who have used them to teach. He tested digital learning objects against instructional design principles, ever mindful of reducing inequities in access and representation.

Roth’s most outstanding qualification was his dedication. Applying internal improvements proactively, he has been generous with his time;

for example, overcoming the challenges of remotely onboarding a new educational specialist during the pandemic.

Roth has also engaged externally to promote the Libraries within the community; when he took the lead in the EBSCOSolar program to install solar panels on the Libraries, he was instrumental in every aspect of the initiative, from the grant application to taking measurements of the Evansdale Library roof. The care Roth has taken in all that he has done improves the Libraries’ sustainability, contributes to the well-being of librarians and their students, and equally exemplifies each point of the Libraries’ Strategic Goal to be collaborative, innovative and effective. ♡

NEW LIBRARIANS

ELIZABETH JAMES joined the WVRHC as the new digital archivist on September 20, 2021. During her first year, she created the foundation of the WVRHC's first digital preservation program through writing and implementing policies and procedures to make born-digital materials more accessible and usable over time; planned and began the implementation of the state's first self-serve digitization lab designed to support systematic and centralized digitization efforts; and assessed available repository options and is in the process of working with Systems Development to implement a digital repository for the WVRHC that meets employee and user needs.

BEAU SMITH joined WVU Libraries as KARM's Institutional Repository Librarian in November 2021. Smith came to us most recently from Allegheny College, where he served as digital resources librarian. He earned his BA in Philosophy from Slippery Rock University and his MLIS from the University of Arizona. In his first several months, Smith was involved in collaborating with other library faculty members to promote OERs at WVU and involved in creating several new collections for the Research Repository. Smith will focus on expanding the Herbarium Collection in the Research Repository, redesigning the WVU Libraries ETD website and integrating persistent digital identifiers and linked data into the Research Repository.

GRACE MUSGRAVE joined the WVRHC as accessioning archivist on May 2. She earned her MLIS from Kent State University and formerly held the position of archives processing assistant in the center. Musgrave is moving into a faculty role where she will participate in accessioning, arrangement, description and preservation of archival materials at the WVRHC, among other duties. We look forward to working with Musgrave to improve our accessioning processes and make more material available to our users.

JONAH MCALLISTER-ERICKSON joined WVU Libraries as scholarly communication librarian in June. He previously worked in the Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing at the University of Pittsburgh. His work there involved three areas of practice, open access publishing, copyright education and consultation and the Institutional Repository, including providing support and training for Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs). Prior to joining OSCP, he worked in a variety of roles, including as a weekend reference librarian at Robert Morris University, and as a building supervisor for the University of Pittsburgh Libraries. For the last several years, he has also been an expert reviewer for the HathiTrust copyright review program, where he co-administers the Crown Copyright (Australia, Canada, UK government documents) Review Project.

PUBLICATIONS

✓ **NICK GARDNER** co-authored an article titled "Movement of the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) in the upper Mississippi River Basin, North America" in *Marine and Fishery Sciences* and an article titled "Flight and echolocation evolved once in Chiroptera: comments on 'The evolution of flight in bats: a novel hypothesis'" in *Mammal Review*.

✓ **MEGAN HEADY** authored an article titled "Migrating to hosted EZproxy: our library's experience" in *Serials Review*.

✓ **JENNIFER MONNIN** co-authored a chapter titled "Meeting the Needs of Online Students through Creative Reimagining and Collaboration with Instructors," which is included in "Virtual Services in the Health Sciences Library: A Handbook."

✓ **CAROLINE OSBORNE** authored an article titled "Copyright, Pandemics, and Emergencies: When Desperate Times Dictate Contextual Responses" in *SMU Science & Technology Law Review*.

✓ **LYNNE STAHL** authored an article titled "Same Page, Different Books: Undisciplining Information Literacy and Common Reads" in the *Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Journal*.

✓ **FAYTHE THURMAN** co-authored a chapter titled "Animal Care and Use in Veterinary Teaching and Clinical Research" for a book titled "Finding Your Seat at the Table."

✓ **BETH TOREN** contributed a work titled "Tygrrrrs" to "Women Speak, Volume 7," a spoken word anthology.

Library **Retirements**

Debra Borrelli, Librarian Emerita and the former Institutional Repository manager, retired Dec. 31, 2021, with 25 years of service to WVU Libraries. Borrelli worked in public and technical services, and throughout, she was dedicated to open and accessible scholarship.

Borrelli made outstanding contributions to the campus, community and to her profession as a member of the West Virginia Library Association and the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Chapter of ACRL, as the Libraries United Way coordinator, by chairing the Evansdale Library Technology Advisory Committee and as the inaugural Veterans Outreach Committee chair.

Borrelli shepherded WVU students through their initial encounters with open scholarship, first as a coordinator for Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) submissions, then as manager of the Research Repository, which she helped to launch in 2018.

Her immeasurable contribution to the impact of WVU's scholars reaches back to 1996 and culminated with her work in the Repository, which now boasts over one million downloads per year.

Most importantly, Borrelli was an insightful, supportive colleague who uplifted the work of others, and whose grace and generosity will be remembered fondly across the Libraries for years to come.

**DEBRA
BORRELLI**

Patty Lee, library technical assistant II, retired Dec. 31, 2021, with 21 years of service to West Virginia University. Lee started with WVU Libraries in the Cataloging Department on the Morgantown area of campus, where she loved working with all the great people there. When her parents had health issues, she took a job with the Center for Excellence in Disabilities to move home to Keyser. Then she moved to WVU Potomac State Marketing and Communications, and finally returned to the Library. Lee's new job will be playing with her border collie, Molly.

**PATTY
LEE**

Michael Ridderbusch, associate librarian emeritus and former curator of manuscripts at the West Virginia and Regional History Center, retired Oct. 23, 2021, with 26 years of service to the WVRHC. During his tenure, Ridderbusch was responsible for managing the center's archival collections and supervised their arrangement, description and preservation. Ridderbusch handled 1,300 acquisitions over the years. He served on a variety of WVU Libraries committees and was a frequent contributor to the center's blog. Ridderbusch also completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts during his time at WVU Libraries, gaining significant knowledge and expertise to the benefit of the center's music and other collections. His efforts have contributed to the strength and longevity of the center's collections and aided in the documentation of West Virginia's rich history.

**MICHAEL
RIDDERBUSCH**

DAVID ROTH

David Roth, former digital education specialist in the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support, retired Dec. 31, 2021, with 28 years of service. Many of the teaching librarians have expressed their appreciation of Roth's attention to detail, his care and his thoughtfulness, which made their job much easier. Roth was also a great advocate for students; he centered students in all of his work and made sure that our classes were accessible for everyone. Extremely generous with his time, Roth was happy to help anyone: students, faculty, and community members.

"David was perhaps the kindest and most thoughtful person that I have ever worked with. We will miss him greatly but wish him a well-deserved relaxed retirement," said Kelly Diamond, head of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support.

Previously, Roth worked in the Access Services Department with Martha Yancey, Evansdale Library director.

"David was consistently praised for his work with the students and faculty while providing service at the public services desk and was attentive to each patron he served. He constantly demonstrated exemplary assistance to our library user onsite," Yancey said.

ANNA SCHEIN

Librarian Emerita Anna Schein retired from the WVU Libraries on Feb. 25 with more than 47 years of service to this institution. Schein began her career in 1974 as a cataloging librarian and was quickly promoted to various positions within the cataloging department. As part of her work, she helped guide the Libraries through two important advances in librarianship.

First, she played a leading role in the Libraries' implementation of OCLC, the largest cooperative bibliographic utility used in libraries worldwide to create and share electronic library records central to our online catalogs. Later, Schein served on the Library Automation Task Force that brought the first online catalog to WVU Libraries in 1992.

Schein later became head of the newly formed Serials Department, which not only managed the demanding upkeep of thousands of print journals, newspapers and magazines, but also had a public-facing role in assisting our community with the discovery of scholarly research journal articles, a central component of WVU's research mission. Schein led WVU Libraries' serials automation efforts and also worked with the architects to design new facilities for the Serials Department as the Downtown Library addition was built in 2000.

As the publication of most serials literature migrated to electronic format, Schein's automation expertise was transitioned into her role as associate curator in the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC). Here she helped as technology shaped the descriptive work of archives and manuscripts towards internet accessible records.

As the printed ephemera curator, she designed an online finding aid for the Libraries' Printed Ephemera Collection, the largest collection of



▲ Anna Schein

“I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARIANSHIP ...”

— Anna Schein

scholarly West Virginia ephemera in existence. The finding aid has helped to ensure that these priceless, yet hard to find items are electronically discoverable by researchers. In addition to

her technical work, Schein focused her research, exhibits and outreach programs on subject areas that promoted the resources of the WVRHC and which also centered on areas of historical and subject interest to various West Virginia museums and cultural heritage sites. She presented her work at state conferences, organizations, fairs and festivals.

Beyond these automation transitions in the Libraries, Schein also contributed in important ways to the campus and the library profession. She chaired or served on numerous library committees within the Libraries, and at the University, state, regional, national and international levels. On campus, Schein was deeply involved in Mountaineer Week, winning the Mountaineer Week Appreciation Award in 2010. She also served as a faculty fellow of the WVU Stalnaker/Dadisman Residential Faculty Leader’s (RFL) Program, providing opportunities for students to engage not only with WVRHC collections but also with other cultural history institutions throughout the state.

Schein was also a collection development bibliographer and liaison to the World Languages Department and the Native American Studies Program. Her edited book, “White Pine Spirit of Peace: The WVU Peace Tree,” was one example of Schein’s documentary work to create and publish indigenous primary source materials that were archived in West Virginia libraries, the Library of Congress, National Museum of the American Indian and others. Her co-edited book with G. Peter Jemison, Seneca Nation, “Treaty of Canandaigua 1794: 200 Years of Treaty Relations between the Iroquois Confederacy and the United States,” received a positive review in the New York Times Book Review, and has been archived by prominent

U.S. general academic and law libraries, as well as international libraries, including the U.S. Department of Justice Library, United Nations Library in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Peace Palace Library, The Hague, Netherlands.

From 2002-2012 Schein participated in an international collaborative multiyear service activity through the Mali International Economic and Development Institute to work as a member of the Mali Library Project Committee to help Mali plan for the development of digital library services. This work began with a technical report that Schein presented during travel to Mali in 2005 and 2006. Subsequent work included robust networking with Mali and U.S. representatives that culminated in the inauguration of Mali’s first digital library, and the creation of a model automation hub in Mali to manage a network of electronic university libraries across eight West African countries.

“My dedication to West Virginia University and the University Libraries has been unending,” Schein writes. “Throughout my entire professional career, I have always been committed to sustained excellence in librarianship, professional development/research, and service. I am honored to have maintained a life-long relationship with West Virginia University and to be one of our West Virginia University family.”

While one might expect a significant list of contributions for a librarian with over 45 years of service to our institution, Schein clearly meets — and in fact — exceeds that mark not only in the number of contributions but also in the breadth of contributions both to the Libraries and to the University.

“Anna not only contributed to watershed moments of library automation at WVU, but she also contributed significantly to the profession in both regional and international accomplishment and connection,” Libraries Dean Karen Diaz said. “Anna essentially had one full career as a cataloging and serials librarian, and then a second career working in the WVRHC as curator for the Printed Ephemera Collection. Throughout both, Anna contributed significantly to the intellectual life of the campus through her work with Native American Studies as well as World Languages and has reached out to thousands of citizens of the state with numerous exhibits and presentations regarding the history of this state through the holdings of the WVRHC.” ❖

SUSAN ARNOLD



▲ Susan Arnold

Susan Arnold, University librarian emerita and the former director of the WVU Health Sciences Library, retired from West Virginia University on December 31, 2021. She began her career at WVU Libraries in 2001, dedicating over 20 years of service to the institution. Throughout her tenure, she oversaw big changes at the Health Sciences Library, helping to facilitate the innovative experience students have now.

The Morgantown native graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a degree in Dietetics in 1979, before pursuing a master's degree in Human Nutrition and Foods from Virginia Tech. She worked as a dietitian for 18 years, practicing in Virginia and West Virginia.

During her time as a dietitian, she realized that she had a passion for research. In 1998, Arnold went on to pursue a Master's of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina.

"I became fascinated with electronic searching, which was just coming into its own at that time," Arnold said. "So, I decided to go back and get a library degree."

Arnold worked as a dietetic internship director for Ruby Memorial Hospital for over a decade. When she was finished with her degree in Library Sciences, the WVU Health Sciences Library had open

positions. In 2001, Arnold began working at WVU Libraries as a research services librarian.

Arnold's interest in librarianship stemmed from the enjoyment she felt in searching and finding information, being in an academic environment and helping people.

After being named interim director of the Health Sciences Library in 2004, she oversaw the library's move into its new location and its first real upgrade in 40 years, which included the selection and coordination of new furniture and updated technology.

One big change that was happening almost simultaneously was the shift from print to online journals. Arnold, and others at the WVU Health Sciences Center, prioritized getting the resources that researchers needed most, while successfully contending with budget constraints.

In 2008, Arnold was named director of WVU Health Sciences Library. That year, she was also the Co-Chair for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's Annual Meeting, which was held in Morgantown. She was named their Librarian of the Year in 2011.

Later in her career, she focused on open access resources and identification of predatory journals. She became the chair of the Libraries' Open Access Author Fund, which dovetailed with this interest.

"I kind of became the point person for faculty and students asking about open access journals, and whether they were legitimate or not," Arnold said. "It was a great opportunity for education across the campus about that issue."

Arnold has been a Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals since 2011. She was the Libraries' representative on the WVU Curriculum Committee for 15 years and has been the HSL representative on numerous library committees, most notably the Collections Advisory, New Faculty Orientation and Research Services committees.

One of the things Arnold will miss the most about working for WVU Libraries' is that every day was different.

"It was always a new challenge," Arnold said.

In her retirement, Arnold looks forward to traveling and spending more time volunteering. She also hopes to have more time for genealogy research, and therefore plans to spend a lot of time at the West Virginia and Regional History Center. ♡

JOHN CUTHBERT

John Cuthbert, former director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center, spent his career telling anyone who would listen, or read, about the Mountain State's rich artistic heritage. He literally wrote the book about it. In "Early Art and Artists in West Virginia," Cuthbert documents nearly 1,000 artists active in the state during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The groundbreaking study earned its author a Claude Worthington Benedum Award, WVU's highest academic honor, among other accolades. And that's just one line on an extensive resume belonging to Cuthbert, who retired December 31, 2021, with more than 40 years of service to West Virginia University.

"West Virginia is unique in many ways and certainly has one of the most interesting histories of any state in the Union," Cuthbert said. "My mission throughout my career was to shed light on subjects and people who defy stereotypes about West Virginia."

The New Hampshire native arrived in Morgantown in the fall of 1975 to pursue his Ph.D. in musicology.

"I remember telling my friends that this was a temporary situation. I had to be in residency for a couple of years and that would be it," he said.

However, only a few months into his studies, he heard the Library call. The WVRHC was hiring music students capable of listening to folk music and writing it down in musical notation.

He interviewed with WVRHC Director George Parkinson in February 1976, and Parkinson hired him on the spot. He worked for two years to complete the project, which resulted in transcriptions to more than 2,000 folk songs and fiddle tunes.

Parkinson then suggested they apply for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to support cataloging the new collection. They won the grant and spent the next two years developing a groundbreaking automated finding aid at a time when computer cataloging was in its infancy.

In the meantime, Cuthbert enrolled in a WVU painting class taught by Urban Couch and soon after began pursuing a master's in art.

"Meeting Urban Couch had an enduring effect on my life and career. I liked him and his philosophy," Cuthbert said. "He was a great teacher, and in the years that followed, he became a great friend and mentor."

Back at the center, Parkinson hired Cuthbert as an assistant curator in 1981 and promoted him to associate curator in 1985. In the latter position, he began the WVRHC's newsletter.

Over the next 35 years, he wrote dozens of articles about every aspect of West Virginia history. Each required hours of reading, deep dives into the archives and long conversations with donors.

Former Dean of Libraries Ruth Jackson named Cuthbert interim curator of the WVRHC in 1990. Then, upon Couch's retirement in 1993, Cuthbert became director of the WVU Art Collection and

associate curator for the arts. He then succeeded Nathan Bender as WVRHC director in 1998.

The new role brought weightier responsibilities and focus on building the archives. Cuthbert rose to the challenge, winning the admiration of John E. Stealey, III, Ph.D., distinguished professor emeritus of history at Shepherd University, and chairman of the WVU Libraries visiting committee since 1984.

"For approximately 40 years, I have known Dr. Cuthbert and his diligent work as he progressed through the professional ranks. All curators of the WVRHC have been capable and contributory professionals, but none had Cuthbert's breadth of knowledge of the state and its people, his diverse intellectual competence in various academic fields



▲ John Cuthbert

Library **Retirements**

and his energy in achieving results that have benefited the Mountain State,” Stealey said. “Under his leadership, the WVRHC has become the preeminent depository for West Virginia and Appalachian materials, equaled by no other institution.”

Cuthbert has overseen the transformation of the WVRHC to the digital age that makes collections available to state residents. One example is West Virginia History OnView, wvhistoryonview.org, which catalogs more than 50,000 digital images from the center’s archives.

Also, Cuthbert and his staff secured competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the West Virginia Commission of the Arts to make important state newspapers, exhibits and other items available to the public. The WVRHC increased endowed funding from less than \$100,000 to \$7.9 million.

Stealey praised Cuthbert’s deep knowledge of manuscript and photographic archive and book values that has made possible bargain purchases from individuals and auction markets. For example, Stealey noted, the center purchased the lost transcript of the Matewan Massacre trial on auction for \$150.

“John has had a major impact in preserving West Virginia and Appalachia history. I don’t know anyone who’s done more,” Stealey said. “John and staff would scour everything that’s available.”

Cuthbert played an instrumental role in the Center’s numerous acquisitions including the political papers of Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, Congressman

“JOHN HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT IN PRESERVING WEST VIRGINIA AND APPALACHIA HISTORY.”

— John E. Stealey, III, Ph.D.

Nick J. Rahall, and Gov. Arch C. Moore; literary manuscripts by Nobel Prize laureate Pearl S. Buck; records of steel executive Hank Barnette; legendary athletes Jerry West and Rod Thorn; “Star Trek” score composer Jay Chattaway; and literally hundreds of others.

Barnette recalls conversations about donating his papers to the University beginning more than 15 years ago when David Hardesty, Jr. was University president and he was chairman of the Board of Governors.

Discussions continued with President Jim Clements and President E. Gordon Gee, but it was after Barnette met Cuthbert that he made his decision.

“We had many one-on-one discussions. I learned about his work, his leadership and the other collections of papers already held at the WVRHC,” Barnette said. “How they would deal with the collection caused me to be more interested in placing at least the majority of my papers at WVU.”

Barnette respected Cuthbert, but he was about to see the curator in a new light.

“On one of John’s first trips to Bethlehem, I didn’t know him well, just knew him as Dr. John Cuthbert, a distinguished member of WVU Libraries faculty. But when he came to Bethlehem to acquire the first installment, he was driving a big truck. He had all sorts of tools and equipment, but he didn’t have any assistance. He was the man,” Barnette said.

“That was the beginning of what has become a very fine friendship,” Barnette said. “Since then, as I observe John, his interests and activities, and professionalism, I consider him a man of all seasons.”

Barnette soon began collaborating with Cuthbert and President Gee on the Distinguished West Virginian 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 the state and the nation.

“It’s very complimentary to be asked to donate your papers to your alma mater, but there were many other West Virginians far more successful than I am. What are we doing to acquire their papers? That gave rise to the Distinguished West Virginian Archives,” Barnette said.

Barnette and Cuthbert work with the Distinguished West Virginians Advisory Board, a group appointed by Gee, to identify prospective candidates to approach, and Gee extends the official request. Their collections are then secured in the WVRHC and made available to researchers, historians, filmmakers and all who are interested in the materials.

“I believe to understand the

present and forecast the future we must understand the past. To do that, we must have accurate, reliable resources to learn about the past,” Barnette said. “How was this issue dealt with in the past? What did this person think or say?”

Gee lauded Cuthbert for his decades of dedication to the state.

“As a land-grant university, WVU has a special responsibility to preserve and promote our state’s history and culture,” Gee said. “For more than 20 years, John Cuthbert personified that mission as director of the West Virginia and Regional History Center at the WVU Libraries. From Pearl Buck to Jerry West, from the Civil War to the PRT, from early artists to the health sciences, if it was significant to the history of this university and this state, John collected, cared for, and curated it with elegance and expertise. With John’s retirement, the torch has been passed but he will forever be the keeper of the flame of West Virginia’s memories.”

It probably comes as no surprise that Cuthbert labored greatly over his decision to retire.

“I feel like I actually contributed to the betterment of people beyond myself. I think I’ve helped preserve the heritage of our state and bring positive things to light,” Cuthbert said. “That’s my legacy. I’ve accomplished some things that will outlive me.” ♡

\$1.4 MILLION ESTATE GIFT TO BENEFIT THE WEST VIRGINIA AND REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Historians statewide will benefit from a \$1.4 million estate gift from a late West Virginia University professor.

Professor Emerita Betty Lou Ramsey, of Belington, W.Va., passed away July 19, 2014. Her recently completed trust gift supports a namesake fund she and her late sister, Effie Lucille Ramsey, established prior to their deaths to support WVU Libraries. The fund helps to collect, preserve and provide public access to library materials that honor the history and culture of West Virginia and the central Appalachian region.

“Betty Lou was passionate about the arts and history and extremely proud of her West Virginia heritage. She was keenly interested in the WVRHC and its mission and served on the WVU Libraries’ Visiting Committee both as a leading advocate for the center and contributor,” Dean of Libraries Karen Diaz said.

Ramsey earned her bachelor’s degree from WVU in 1951 and returned to her alma mater as an instructor in 1956, after gaining valuable experience in education and the craft industry. In the 1960s, she founded WVU’s Interior Design Program and eventually rose to the rank of full professor before retiring early in 1985. She received numerous honors during her 34-year career, including several Outstanding Teacher awards.

Ramsey became a student of history later in life, tracing her Scottish ancestry to the early beginnings of Monongalia County in 1769. She was also a member of the James Barbour Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Clan Ramsey Association of North America.

Ramsey’s trust gift was made through the WVU Foundation, the nonprofit organization that receives and administers private donations on behalf of the University. She belonged to the Foundation’s Irvin Stewart Society, an honorary for WVU supporters who make a planned gift to the University. ♡

LIBRARY GIFTS OPEN DOORS, UNLOCK STUDENT POTENTIAL

WVU Libraries receives support during the year from donors and the community through cash and endowment gifts as well as gifts-in-kind in the form of artifacts and archives for the West Virginia and Regional History Center, and books, rare and not, that make it into our catalogue, and onto our shelves. Private funding opens the door for resource purchases, live programming and hands-on research opportunities that set our students apart as they embark on their careers.

Fully 38 percent of invested dollars (152 endowments) grow our collections in both old and new formats, ensuring our ability to deliver the right information to the right user at the right time and in the process, to elevate our research libraries to the level of excellence needed by a leading R1 university.

The transition to more online teaching formats has only increased faculty and student requests and subsequent cost of accessing necessary materials and databases.

For every major, each dollar directly correlates to a response to a classroom or research need.

Graduate research commons opens

This year the Graduate Research Commons opened its doors on the ground floor of the Downtown Library. It is a space for graduate students to connect outside of their department. Here they can consult with librarians and other experts, access the most sophisticated databases and software, reserve time for group study and work on interdisciplinary projects.

The foresight of donors through the Charles E. Hendrixson Jr. Charitable Trust and the Eberly Family Library Endowment decades ago have paved the way for current graduate research.

Library awards provide new experiences

WVU Libraries is able to lift up our students, courtesy of private donation and estate giving. The Library Student Intern Fund provides library

experience for undergraduates with financial need who do not receive Work-Study. Alumna Claudia Cola and her spouse, Tom Frassrand, understood that WVU Libraries employs many students throughout the year but can do so much more with this type of cash support.

Thomas J. Knight remembered fondly his career as Dean of Arts and Sciences during President Gee's first term in the early 1980s. He connected with us in 2021 to donate his extensive library (a gift-in-kind that arrived this summer) and recognized he could help with an existing program to reward great undergraduate research utilizing library resources. By endowing the Robert F. Munn Library Scholars Award, more research students will be supported and the program can grow in perpetuity.

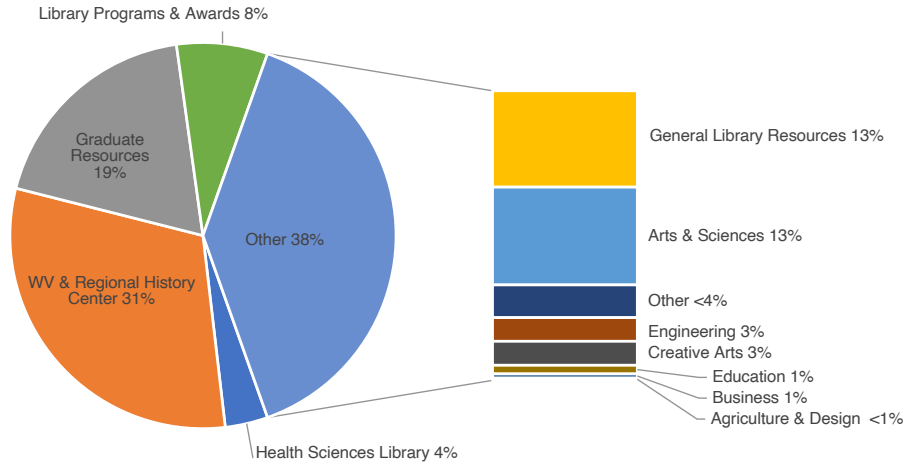
Telling our story for future generations

Many West Virginians and WVU alumni have embraced the work of the West Virginia and Regional History Center, providing substantial support for operations, acquisitions and preservation. The WVRHC is the premier special collections for our region of Appalachia. The James V. & Ann Pozega Milano Reading Room Collection Endowment ensures we maintain the best collection of research and reading with the Appalachian Collection (housed downtown in the reading rooms and the WVRHC).

Other areas of endowment and cash support provide for acquisition and preservation of rare books, modern congressional archives, area collections (Wheeling, Harrison County, Preston County) and subject collections (Military History, History of Technology, University Archives) and most recently, the West Virginia Feminist Activist Collection. The need for access and the race to preserve history stored on outdated technology lends extra urgency to digitization efforts. With a new digital archivist to manage multiple projects, funding in these areas goes immediately to the work. ♡

**WVU LIBRARIES
ENDOWMENT
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\$511,772



Any subject area or collection can accept individual donations, recurring gifts and corporate matches. Gifts-in-kind and gifts through a will or a retirement account are also great methods of providing enrichment to WVU libraries.

WVU Libraries is an exemplary land-grant university library that advances and promotes West Virginia and the Appalachian region. We welcome your feedback and support.

Contact Development Director Paula Martinelli at **304-293-0303** or paula.martinell@mail.wvu.edu, or visit library.wvu.edu/give.

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