

*The Magazine of the University Library*  WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

# FOLIOS

Spring 2015



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## ON THE COVER:

“Partnering with Pooches.”  
Students destressing during  
exam week.

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## WHERE ARE WE GOING FROM HERE?

By John Tombarge, University Librarian

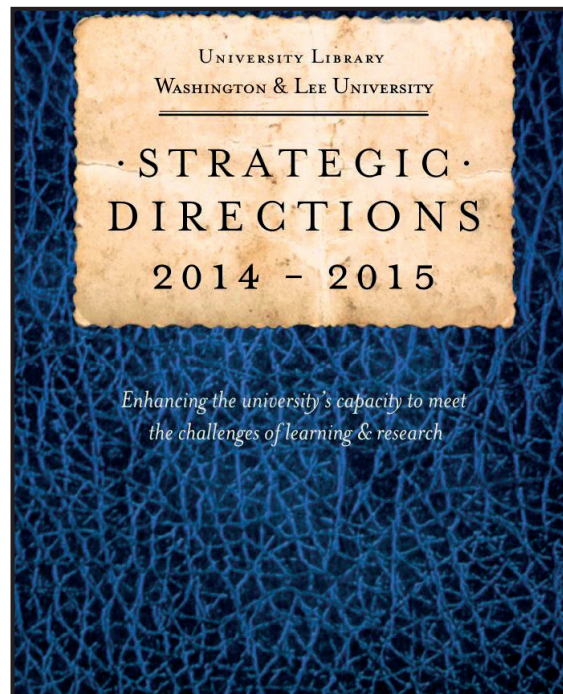
A strong library is essential to the intellectual vitality of the University. The library staff initiated a strategic planning process in early 2014, being aware of the need to plan the deployment of resources carefully in an era of rapidly developing technology and increasing prices. We seek to transform the library into a teaching organization that collaborates with faculty to prepare students for life-long learning. To accomplish this, we identified six strategic goals.

### Strategic Goals

- Expand library integration and participation in the curriculum and in student learning outcomes.
- Partner with faculty and students in creating, designing and maintaining research-oriented Digital Humanities and data-intensive initiatives.
- Develop digital and print collections to support the curriculum and independent learning.
- Enhance library technology for discovery and scholarly communication.
- Strengthen special collections in instruction, outreach, access, and preservation.
- Revitalize the lower levels of Leyburn Library to offer modern learning spaces as well as shelving for the collection.

With the guidance of these goals, the library is implementing new technologies, developing and teaching new classes, and expanding access to library resources. The key to success will be our ability to build upon our current collaborative efforts with faculty and colleagues in Information Technology Services to expand the library's involvement in the curriculum, whether it is through Digital Humanities projects or through increasing student use of the materials in Special Collections. Teaching students to apply information technology effectively to solve real research problems will better prepare our students for graduate school and their careers.

Get the full story by reading “Strategic Directions 2014-15” at [library.wlu.edu/about/strategic-directions/](http://library.wlu.edu/about/strategic-directions/). Let us know what you think. We'll use the feedback we receive in developing the library's five-year strategic plan this summer.





## FRIENDS' FINANCIAL PROGRESS

By John Tombarge, University Librarian

The Friends of the Library provides crucial dollars to support the library's current needs. As the library adapts to changing technology and continued increases in the cost of scholarly journals and other research materials, private support for the library is increasingly important. To meet the research needs of students, faculty and staff, the library needs continued financial support from the Friends. In addition, the University Library offers services to local residents and alumni. Gifts to the Friends have a very broad impact. They improve the quality of life for the entire community. The Friends' Board has set a goal to raise \$20,000 this academic year, which represents a modest increase of 3.5 percent over the amount raised last year. By the end of March, we had reached the three-quarter mark — a true indication of the enthusiasm and generosity of the Friends. Please spread the word. Tell your friends how the Friends of the Library support not only students, faculty and staff, but alumni and the local community as well. Encourage your friends to become our friends, and together we'll build a better library for all.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

*May 1, 2-4 p.m.*

Open House—Treasures in Special Collections, with Tom Camden. Refreshments served. Leyburn Library, Special Collections & Archives. Alumni Weekend.

*May 2, 1 p.m.*

Annual Meeting— Northen Auditorium. Leyburn Library. Alumni Weekend.

*May 2, 1:30 p.m.*

Speaker — Blaine Brownell '65. Northen Auditorium. Leyburn Library. Alumni Weekend.

*Oct. 1, 4 p.m.*

Library Annual Book Sale Starts. Leyburn Library, Main Floor. Parents and Family Weekend.

*Oct. 2, 2-4 p.m.*

Open House—Treasures in Special Collections, with Tom Camden. Refreshments served. Leyburn Library, Special Collections & Archives. Parents and Family Weekend.

*Oct. 24, 10 a.m.*

Storyteller. Leyburn Library, Lower Level 1 Conversation Pit. Young Alumni Weekend.



### ALUMNI WEEKEND SPEAKER: BLAINE BROWNELL '65

**T**he Friends of the Library is excited to sponsor alumnus Blaine Brownell at his 50th reunion as its guest speaker. Brownell received his B.A. from W&L and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His fields of interest are U.S. urban history, Southern history and intellectual history.

After many years in academic administration, Brownell has been spending countless hours in Special Collections and Archives, working on the history of Washington and Lee University from 1930 to 2000. Since 2010 he has been working, under contract, to write the definitive sequel to Ollinger Crenshaw's *General Lee's College: The Rise and Growth of Washington and Lee University* (Random House, 1969). As Brownell's book is still a work in progress, he will give an informal overview of the project, some of the key events since 1930 and the personalities involved.

*Please join us for his talk on May 2 at 1:30 p.m.  
in Northen Auditorium at Leyburn Library.*



## BYRON FAIDLEY EXPOSES COVINGTON

By Yolanda Merrill, Humanities Librarian



I never knew how interesting the history of Covington was until I sat down with my colleague Byron Faidley, who published a book on his native city, located 40 miles due west of Lexington.

Byron filled a part-time position in Special Collections in 2014 and is a key player in preserving and organizing its rich collections. Prior to working at W&L, Byron worked in his hometown at the Allegheny Historical Society (AHS). He is a self-proclaimed history buff and in 2007 graduated from VMI with a B.A. in history. During this time,

Byron spent time at the New Market Battlefield as an intern. Since then he describes himself as a Civil War geek, and has had his hands in many historical collections. For example, he volunteered, together with his friend and colleague Seth McCormick, in the curation of the Civil War exhibit in the Brownsburg museum this past year. You may also see Byron in the streets of Lexington, and further afield, dressed up as a soldier in the Virginia Regiment. He loves re-enacting and sees this hobby as an educational outreach to the community.

In 2010, the Allegheny Historical Society needed a fundraising project in order to pay for Byron's part-time position, so when Arcadia Publishing was interested in a book on Covington for its "Historical Images of America" series, Byron was game. Horton Beirne, editor-in-chief of the Covington newspaper, the *Virginian Review*, and Byron decided to co-author the book.

AHS bought a fancy scanner, and Byron started the gigantic task of scanning 1800 negatives of Covington, from which he then selected the best 200 or so for the book. The photographs were borrowed from the archives of the *Virginian Review*, the Allegheny County Genealogical Society, and the local photography studios, Miller Studios and Burr's Studio. The enlightening introduction and captions were written by Horton Beirne.

So, what are some of the things I learned about Covington? The town boomed in the 1890s. It had three times the inhabitants it has now. Its money was made from several industries: iron, the railroad and paper. Iron mining and smelting was big — who knew that New York lampposts were made in Covington? The C&O Railway built a line through Covington, connecting the Virginia Atlantic coast with the Ohio River Valley. It transported the iron, and also coal and well-off summer vacationers on their way to the Homestead and Greenbrier resorts, both located within 20 miles of Covington. And, of course, the Westvaco paper mill on the Jackson River — still in existence today. I also learned that the people of Covington are proud of their city and its history.

This is a wonderful book. The images and captions are clear and informative, and they capture the imagination of the reader. Copies of "Covington" are for sale at AHS, from Amazon, in regional Books a Million stores, and at various local venues.

## A FINAL TRIBUTE: FRED FARRAR, 1918-2014

*By Tom Camden, Head of Special Collections and Archives*



For more than a decade, Fred Farrar, Washington and Lee Class of 1941, generously supported his beloved alma mater by donating his stellar collection of rare books and newspapers to Leyburn Library's Special Collections. The last installment of Fred's extraordinary collection was transported to Washington and Lee in late June 2014. A little more than a month later, after a brief illness, Fred passed away on July 28, 2014, in Clearwater, Florida, where he had retired some years before. I had the pleasure of spending nearly a week with Fred in late June 2014, carefully packing the last of his rare books and historic newspapers and documents, while listening to his riveting stories regarding the provenance of nearly every piece. Because we shared the same passion regarding history and the printed word, we became close friends. We also shared the same love for our alma mater.

Fred's collecting interests were diverse; therefore the subject matter of his rare books, newspapers and documents ranges from a 1497 Venetian incunable related to St. Jerome to a two-volume, sumptuously illustrated folio edition of World War I cartoons by renowned Dutch illustrator Louis Raemaeker (1917). In addition to the more than 1,500 historic newspapers already given over the past decade, Fred's final gift included an extraordinary collection of original 18th-century American newspapers reporting

the major events of the American Revolution. Among the events reported for the first time in print were the 1759 Boston Massacre, the 1773 Boston Tea Party, the 1781 decisive British defeat at Cowpens, South Carolina, Shay's Rebellion of 1787 and Washington's Farewell Address of 1796. Ephemeral pieces also added to the Farrar Collection include a sensational land indenture dated August 31, 1801, to John Dunlap (printer of the original Declaration of Independence) and his wife from Philadelphia silversmith Richard Thomas, conveying land in the city of Philadelphia in thanks for "printing the Declaration and other Revolutionary Government Works." A half-dozen mid-18th-century maps round out this rich and diverse collection of historically significant material.

Farrar's last donations have already generated a considerable amount of interest and excitement among our Washington and Lee students and faculty, and, in fact, I have used many items from his collection in my classroom lectures as well as presentations to Alumni College and other groups. I think he would be very pleased to know that his materials are getting used on a daily basis. Working with Fred Farrar for the 16 months that I knew him has been one of the highlights of my career, and I am deeply grateful for the brief time we got to spend together with his beloved books and papers.



# GODWINKS AND COINKYDINKS

By Seth McCormick-Goodhart, Senior Special Collections Assistant

The old prosthetic leg on display in the University Library's Special Collections Department has attracted much attention. Since its mounting in July 2014 for an Alumni College event, we've heard it all from the curious many whom it has drawn into our Boatwright Reading Room: "Yikes, whose leg?", "Is that a prosthetic leg?", "My lands, honey, it looks like a leg, poor soul...", "Cool appendage!", "Is it wood or ceramic?", "You guys are weird!" All those who've inquired about it have been rewarded with quite a story — a true story, with a few coincidental twists and more than one W&L association. And yes, it does relate to an archival collection that we hold. OK, OK, I'll stop waxing and tell the tale.



In the fall of 1913, a young man named ... actually, wait a minute. I can't tell this story without letting you in on two little department secrets. First, there is no shortage of stories, not including the bound ones, here in Special Collections. In fact, we practically have a new one to share about some exciting discovery or acquisition every day. Our staff has that storytelling knack, the one that can't be taught, only inherited — and we love telling them, for better or for worse. Moreover, or second, it's important for you, the reader, to understand that the Special Collections Department is a uniquely special place. Sure, we can spin a yarn; yes, we have rich holdings; and yes, our staff is fully engaged. But what sets us apart are the visitors we attract. They ensure we remain on our toes, and they continue to prove, by their persistence, the holiness of this place as a historical research center. Infuse our space and our service model with our significant holdings, and you have the recipe for a very productive and rewarding research experience. The user population loves it and they keep coming back.

I'll define our users as students, professors, genealogists, historians, etc., but those aren't the visitors I'm talking about. Two of our most consistent, spontaneous

and thoroughly intriguing visitors are serendipity and coincidence. I'll call them our "special guests" — our other little secret. Whether one, the other, or the pair, they frequent us, in fact, we've come to expect them. We've all experienced them — little miracles or inexplicable fortuitous happenings playing out at the most unexpected times. They have different names like "godwinks" (if you're a believer) and "coinkydinks" (if you are not). When these little miracles happen here in the archives, they generally relate to discovery, connection and surprise. Often the discovery or connection will have very positive implications for the researcher, donor or staffer involved. Now you know our secrets — if you noticed, they have a symbiotic relationship! OK, now back to the leg.

The story of the leg really begins with the discovery of the old tattered prosthetic hanging in a Rockbridge County barn, and it evolves into a compelling tale involving multiple donors, a W&L Special Collections staff member, a W&L alumnus and a first-time researcher in a series of visits creating the miraculous synthesis of people and their heirlooms that had been lost to one another for decades. As you can guess, our special guests frequently visited as this story developed.

Rats! I've eclipsed my word count. I guess you'll just have to visit us in person for this one. In the meantime, notice the accompanying photos. And here are a few keywords to catalyze your curiosity: James Hanger '61, East Lexington, Washington and Lee Ambulance Unit S.S.U. 534, "Bridge to Terabithia," Raymond Womeldorf '17, Croix de Guerre, and China. See you soon on Leyburn Level One. The leg awaits.

(Medical bag and medals courtesy of University Collections)



## THE LIBRARY ACQUIRES PERSONAL AND POIGNANT ROBERT E. LEE LETTER

By Tom Camden, Head of Special Collections and Archives

On November 21, 2014, the University Library's Special Collections was the high bidder in a live online auction for a letter by Robert E. Lee asking his old friend and former quartermaster, Major John A. Harman, about Lee's beloved horse, Lucy Long.

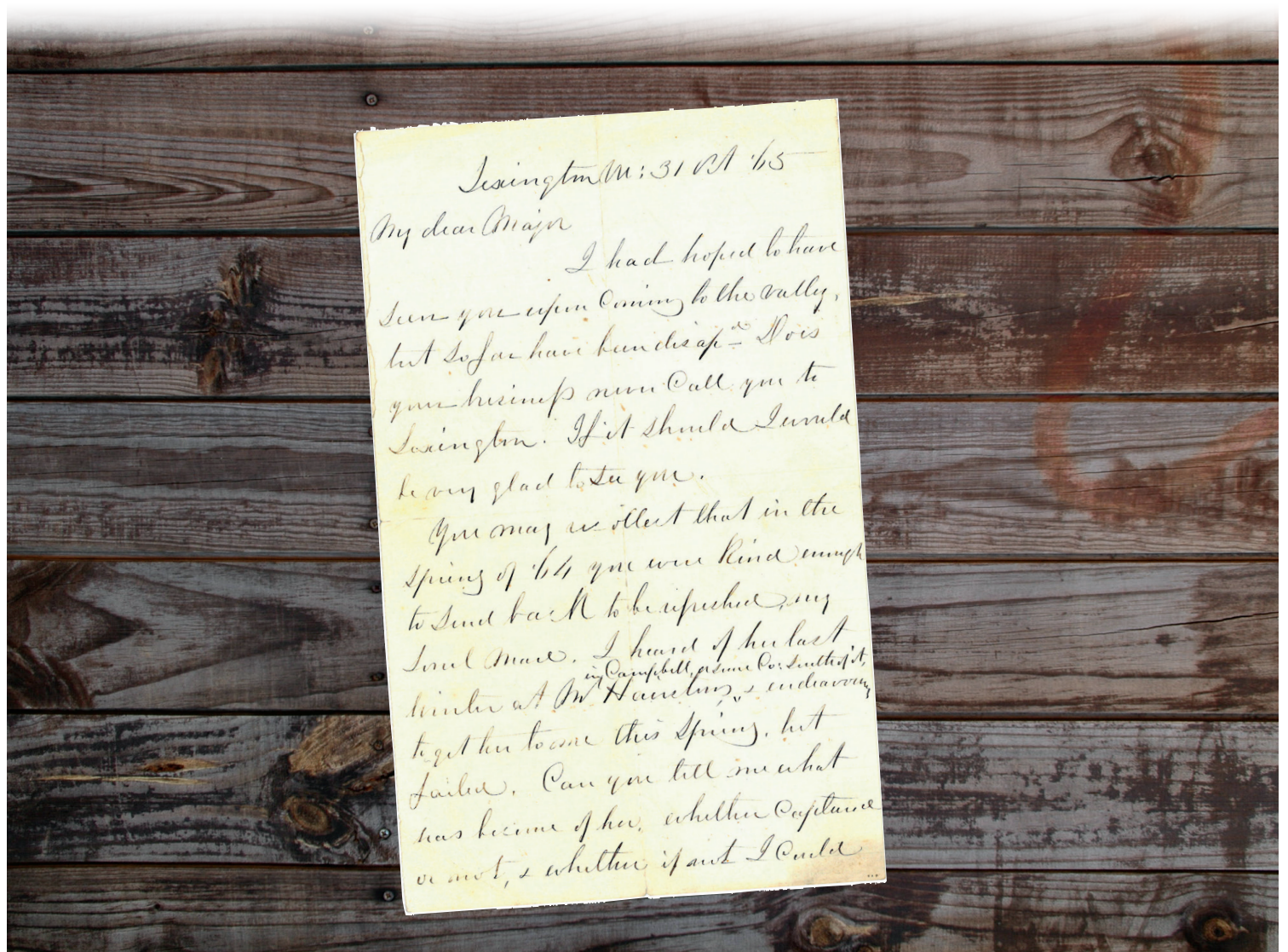
The Civil War was fought with men and horses. One of the most iconic images of the war is an aged General Lee sitting astride his famous gray horse Traveller. What many do not know is that Lee actually owned and rode five horses alternately into battle during the war, among them the sorrel mare Lucy Long. General Lee had received Lucy as a gift from J.E.B. Stuart in 1862. Lee rode Lucy for two full years during the war until, in 1864, when, according to Douglas Southall Freeman, in his work "R.E. Lee":

Broken down then by hard riding and scanty food, the mare had been sent out to Henry County, Virginia, to recuperate. Lee recalled her before the opening of the Appomattox campaign, but never received her. She got into a stable of government horses and was sent off to Danville, where she was either stolen or else was carried off by some soldier when the Confederacy collapsed.

Upon his return home from Appomattox, General Lee put his attention once again to his missing sorrel mare. In this October 31, 1865, letter he inquires to his good friend and comrade Harman about Lucy Long. In this heart-warming letter, Lee writes, in part:

*You may recollect that in the spring of '64 you were kind enough to send back to be refreshed my sorrel mare. I heard of her last winter at A.M. Hairston's (in Campbell or some County south of it) endeavoring to get her to me this spring, but failed. Can you tell me what has become of her, whether captured or not, and whether if not I could get her to me.*

Lucy Long was finally returned to the Lee homestead on December 21, 1866, where she lived out the remainder of her life on a farm in Collierstown. She died there in the spring of 1891 at age 34 and is buried at Kygers Hill near Collierstown.



# LIBRARY INSTRUCTION IN 2015

By Mary Abdoney, Science Librarian & Instruction Coordinator

As the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) proposes a brand-new Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education, W&L library faculty have been busy envisioning how our instruction practices might change. The new framework focuses on critical thinking and the concept of student as scholar. In fact, the new framework supports many of W&L's values on how to prepare students to become information literate during, and beyond their years in college. The University Library's Strategic Directions incorporate

many of these concepts in its section on student learning outcomes.

Elizabeth Teaff and Emily Cook will be running a pilot project focusing on visual literacy as part of an introductory physics class. They plan to teach students basic concepts related to visual literacy, such as copyright, visual quality and other technical skills. Students will then create interactive posters in lieu of static printed posters to present at the end of the term. Elizabeth and Emily will be presenting the results of

this case study at The Innovative Library Classroom Conference at Radford University in May.

Finally, several library faculty are teaching courses during winter term 2015. Mackenzie Brooks and Jeff Barry are co-teaching a Digital Humanities studio course, and Jason Mickel is teaching a database management course in the Computer Science Department. Watch for more library faculty teaching courses in the future!



## A VISUAL LITERACY EXPERIMENT

By Elizabeth Teaff, Head of Access Services

Emily Cook, instructional design specialist, and Elizabeth Anne Teaff, head of access services, will present “A Collaborative Vision: Partnering with STEM Faculty to Teach Visual Literacy Through Multimedia Research Presentations” at The Innovative Library Classroom (TILC) conference at Radford University, Virginia, on May 12, 2015. “A Collaborative Vision” discusses the library’s partnership with two Washington and Lee University physics professors during Winter Term, and attempts to evaluate undergraduates’ visual literacy skills. In the study, a control group of students receive the library’s traditional visual literacy training

(an in-class, one-shot, assignment-based session approximately 20 minutes long). This group will create printed posters as part of their final class project and present them in a traditional poster session at the University Library. This training incorporates ACRL’s Visual Literacy Competency Standards. The experimental group will receive additional training in visual literacy (two 45-minute, in-class sessions with hands-on instruction). This group will create interactive virtual posters and present them in W&L’s 3D Visualization Lab, which includes touch-sensitive white boards. The extended visual literacy training will also include ACRL’s Visual

Literacy Competency Standards and introduce students to all six threshold concepts outlined in the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy. Cook and Teaff will measure how extended instruction on ACRL’s Visual Literacy Competency Standards and ACRL’s new Framework for Information Literacy influences student work and students’ overall understanding of visual resources. By conducting pre-instruction and post-instruction surveys, they will evaluate students’ cognitive and affective experiences with visual information—specifically with regard to poster creation and data visualization.





## EMILY COOK WILL ATTEND ACRL IMMERSION PROGRAM ON INFORMATION LITERACY

Emily Cook, our instructional design specialist, was selected by the Association of College & Research Libraries to attend its 2015 Immersion Teacher Track Program. This six-day program, which runs from August 2-7, focuses on individual development for those interested in enhancing, refreshing or extending their individual instruction skills. This workshop covers classroom techniques, learning theory, leadership and assessment framed in the context of information literacy.

The Immersion Program will provide Emily with the intellectual tools and practical techniques to enhance our institution's instruction program. It will prepare Emily to embark on a path of teacher development and pedagogical inquiry devoted to collaborative learning, individual renewal and instructional effectiveness. And how lovely that the program takes place in Seattle, Washington!

## COLLABORATING DIGITALLY

By Mackenzie Brooks, Metadata Librarian



In November 2014, Stephanie Stillo, Mackenzie Brooks and Alston Cobourn attended the Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference (pictured l. to r. with a Bucknell Bison). Stephanie, the Mellon Junior Faculty Fellow in Digital History, accompanied Mackenzie and Alston, both librarians and members of the Digital Humanities Action Team, for a weekend in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where they networked with other faculty, librarians, staff and students interested in digital scholarship. The theme of the conference was "Collaborating Digitally: Engaging Students in Faculty Research" and many presentations featured a professor, a librarian and a student discussing their role in a digital project. The attendees incorporated much of what they learned about pedagogy and collaboration into their current teaching and support of Digital Humanities initiatives on campus.

## YOUNG ALUMNI WEEKEND: CREATING FUTURE ALUMNI?

Last Fall, for the third year in a row, storyteller extraordinaire Barbara Lawson captivated the Young Alumni audience with her "Stories with a Twist." She read from some familiar and some new children's books from all over the world, adding her own entertaining, interactive, stories and songs that were full of wild and wonderful things. Perhaps we'll see these kids in 15 years enrolled in Washington and Lee!

This event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.







## DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND THE LIBRARY

By Jeff Barry, Associate University Librarian

The University Library is playing a central role in the Digital Humanities (DH) initiatives on campus. DH refers to the set of methodologies based on the massive amounts of data and text that have been digitized over the last 25 years by libraries around the world. Three teaching faculty receiving DH Incentive grants this academic year are implementing their projects through close collaboration with library faculty and staff. The incentive grants are awarded annually by the College of Arts and Sciences to foster the use of DH in humanities and social science courses.

Assistant Professor of Religion Joel Blecher received the grant for his Fall Term course, History of Islamic Civilization I: Origins to 1500, which had the students collecting data about the oral transmission of early Islamic law from the time of Muhammad. After the 13 students in the class entered the data in a web form created by ITS, Associate University Librarian Jeff Barry advised Blecher and students on ways of cleaning the data so that it could be used for further analysis. Barry also identified two freely available tools (Palladio and Raw) for visualizing the data. The DH project counted for 35 percent of the grade.

Students learned the tools quickly, but the more important outcome is that the students gained experience in performing real historical research using modern methodologies.

Jonathan Eastwood, associate professor of sociology, received an incentive grant for the Winter Term course Neighborhoods, Culture, and Poverty. The course is divided into a seminar and a lab component each week. The library's data and statistical services specialist, Carol Karsch, teaches the lab, which requires students to develop skills in manipulating data (e.g., census, crime, health) about neighborhoods using GIS software. The result is that students are gaining significant insights into the complexities of neighborhoods and are learning about leading research methods into neighborhood effects on poverty.

A third incentive grant involves playing a game in an English class. But it's the most unusual game these students ever played. The class is a Winter Term 300-level seminar on Milton taught by Associate Professor Genelle Gertz, who envisioned taking a game-oriented approach to reading "Paradise Lost." Librarian Jeff Barry advised Gertz that a manageable way to start would be to

utilize the Ivanhoe game software developed at the University of Virginia. Ivanhoe is a simple web-based approach that allows students to enter the roles of characters that are reading "Paradise Lost." Each week students are writing short articles on the web that describes their perceptions of the epic poem. Some students are characters within the story, such as Lucifer, while other students chose characters from real life, such as Elvis and Robert E. Lee. In this mode, the game is like a role-playing book club. The students have just embarked on the second phase of the game, which is to imagine alternative pathways within "Paradise Lost" for different characters. Group projects will analyze the overall gameplay at the end of the term.

DH provides innovative ways for engaging students with scholarships. These projects are not one-off endeavors but will continue to be refined and expanded as the courses are taught in the future. The librarian's role in collaborating with faculty on these DH assignments is simply an evolution of the librarian's role in teaching students about resources for research.

# SCHOLARLY TEXT ENCODING

By Jeff Barry, Associate University Librarian



A French-language course on Arthurian legends of medieval France might be the last place you would expect to find students learning about digital scholarship. This class, taught by Assistant Professor Stephen McCormick, has an unusual co-requisite. Students are required to also take DH 190, which is a new, one-credit Digital Humanities Studio class. The focus of this studio is scholarly text encoding, taught by Associate University Librarian Jeff Barry and Metadata Librarian Mackenzie Brooks.

In this studio class, the students learn to mark up historical material with semantic and structural meaning with the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) standard, an XML format designed for scholarly texts. The availability of scholarly documents in XML-TEI enables new research methods in the humanities. These new methodologies based on machine-readable texts are called the digital humanities.

In wide use for many years, TEI describes attributes such as marginalia, annotations, textual variants and other features, as well as structure such as chapters, acts and scenes. The course also situates

TEI within the context of the humanities by examining digital editions from a variety of disciplines. The 10 students in the class are providing their own encoded texts that will be published on the web at the end of the term. The students are learning not only a leading scholarly practice but also gaining real-world practical experience with XML, a pervasive part of the Web that is used in disciplines ranging from accounting to zoology.

Two students in the class will be applying their new knowledge of XML-TEI this summer to Professor McCormick's project to create a digital edition of an early modern Franco-Italian epic titled "Huon d'Auvergne." The library serves as technical advisor to that project, which is funded by the NEH. Librarian Mackenzie Brooks has been working with McCormick since his arrival at W&L last summer on creating an XML-TEI schema for the edition. Librarian Jeff Barry will be creating the website and coding that enables the digital edition. This exciting project demonstrates the integration of research and teaching with DH for creating learning opportunities for students.





## MEET ALSTON COBOURN

By Yolanda Merrill, Humanities Librarian

Our digital scholarship librarian, Alston Cobourn, thought she was on a path to becoming a journalist until she became a student worker at the UNC-Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library. There she was exposed to many aspects of library work, including circulation, reference, and preservation. It was preservation that she loved most. She learned how to make protective boxes, repair damaged books, and other skills to keep the books in good condition. Alston also enjoyed creating inventories of the health sciences' manuscript collections. Increasingly, her dream to become a journalist faded, and her dream to become a librarian grew. After she graduated in 2007, she took a full-time job at NC State in Raleigh as an assistant in electronic resources management. She became motivated to pursue a masters in library science from UNC-CH, which she completed in 2012. Her concentration was in archives and records management, focusing on digital preservation.

At Washington and Lee, Alston describes her responsibilities in three areas. She supports faculty and students with projects in the Digital Humanities; she promotes education on scholarly communications issues such as intellectual property, copyright and Open Access publishing; and she works with Special Collections to archive digital materials and promote their use.

When she's not in the library, Alston loves sewing, creative writing and taking her dogs on long walks with her husband.

## RING-TUM PHI NOW ONLINE IN THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

By Alston Cobourn, Digital Scholarship Librarian

Most of us know what the Ring-tum Phi is, but have you heard of the Digital Archive? The University's Digital Archive preserves and provides access to selected materials, owned or created by Washington and Lee University and its students, faculty and staff. This includes manuscript collections, official university records, publications from student organizations, student scholarship including honors theses and capstone projects, and faculty and staff scholarship. One of the most recent additions to the Digital Archive is fully searchable PDFs of the Ring-tum Phi student newspaper, beginning with the first edition in 1897 through

2013. Publication of the Ring-tum Phi was suspended from June 1943 to August 1946 because of World War II. However, The Columns was published during this time and is also available through the Digital Archive.

Visit [myw.lu/studentorgsarchive](http://myw.lu/studentorgsarchive) to access both of these collections, or go to [repository.wlu.edu](http://repository.wlu.edu) to visit the whole archive. Please contact Digital Scholarship Librarian Alston Cobourn ([cobourna@wlu.edu](mailto:cobourna@wlu.edu)) with questions or comments.



Ring-tum Phi, February 3, 1939 (newspaper)

Unknown author (The Ring-tum Phi, 1939-02-03)



## DEBRA PRAGER KICKS OFF THE LIBRARY'S AUTHOR TALK SERIES

By Elizabeth Teaff, Head of Access Services



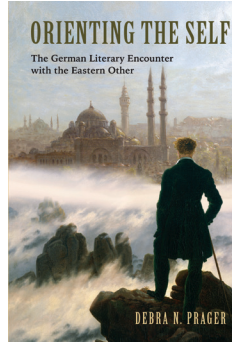
Debra Prager

The University Library's Author Talks are an outgrowth of our W&L Publications Wall and our online W&L Publications database. These venues seek to highlight the scholarship of W&L faculty and staff.

In December 2014, the University Library launched its first Author Talk. Debra Prager, associate professor of German at Washington and Lee, presented her new book: "Orienting the Self: The German Literary Encounter with the Eastern Other

(Camden House, 2014). The book examines novels that follow their protagonists' education or enlightenment predicated on an encounter with the East.

Prager discusses five works that contain a powerful perception of the East as the scene of desire, fantasy and personal fulfillment: "Parzival" (1205), "Fortunatus" (1509), "Effi Briest" (1896), "Heinrich von Ofterdingen" (1802) and "The Magic Mountain" (1924). "These novels give a much more open-minded view of the East, with each of these authors offering an encounter with the East as a solution, a way to get back to a more kind humanity and a more tolerant world view," Prager said.



Many other European and German works reinforced negative clichés about the East that prevail today. "How we look at cultures that are not our own, especially ones that we deem exotic, are as much a construction of our fantasy as they are a reality," Prager continued. "These stereotypes are old, but they continue to reflect our own fears and cultural issues—history, politics and social reality." [adapted from an interview with the author. To read the full interview, visit: [news.blogs.wlu.edu/2014/11/14/new-book-by-wls-prager-examines-myths-and-realities-of-the-east-in-german-lit/](http://news.blogs.wlu.edu/2014/11/14/new-book-by-wls-prager-examines-myths-and-realities-of-the-east-in-german-lit/)]

Dean of the College Suzanne Keen and Head of the German and Russian Department Paul Youngman introduced Professor Prager to a large audience in the library's Book Nook. The event included a festive reception.

Our March Author Talk featured Jeff Barnett, professor of Spanish and program head for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, with Cuban novelist Uva de Aragón. They presented a bilingual reading of selections of De Aragón's historical novel, "Memory of Silence," which Barnett translated into English (Cubanabooks, 2014).

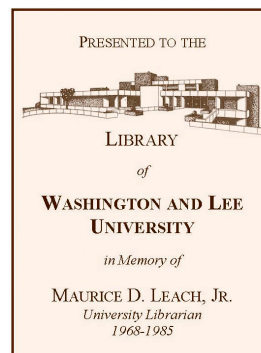
## IN MEMORIAM: MAURICE D. LEACH



Maurice D. Leach Jr., the Washington and Lee University librarian from 1968 to 1985, passed away on March 21, 2015. Among Leach's achievements as University librarian was the construction of Leyburn Library, which opened in 1979. That year, the University issued a resolution of appreciation to Leach and the library staff for what was dubbed "The Great Move." It occurred in one day, with students, staff and faculty carrying 150,000 books from McCormick Library (now Huntley Hall) to their new home in

Leyburn Library. Leach also advocated keeping the library open 24 hours a day, seven days a week — setting a high standard of service only recently adopted by the general academic library community.

One of Leach's interests at W&L was developing the library collection in topics relating to the Middle East. His passion for the subject



area reflected his years of experience in Egypt and Lebanon. To honor his dedicated service to W&L and his role in the planning and construction of Leyburn Library, the Friends of the Library have established an acquisitions fund for the purchase of materials to support the developing curriculum and research in Middle East studies at W&L. We are confident that Maurice Leach, who served as director of Friends of the Library from 1985 until his retirement in 1988, would be pleased with support for the

growth of this program.

To contribute to that fund, please contact Montrose Grandberry (e-mail: [grandberrym@wlu.edu](mailto:grandberrym@wlu.edu) / telephone: (540) 458-8642)

## PARTNERING WITH POOCHES!

By Emily Cook, Instructional Design Specialist

Since December 2013, the University Library has hosted pre-finals “Doggie De-Stress” events in Leyburn Library’s Writing Center. These events not only help students pet away the anxiety associated with exams, they fill the void many students feel after leaving their beloved pets at home. The need for these paw-sitive events is best expressed by senior, Danielle Hurley:

*“Finals week becomes a little less stressful when Duncan visits! He is unarguably the most handsome Golden around and is more than happy to soak up all the attention we dog-deprived, over-studied students are so eager to give.”*



The “Duncan” that Danielle makes reference to is a very fetching golden retriever/Labrador retriever mix who serves as the star of each “Doggie De-Stress” event. Duncan and his human handler, Mary Wingfield, represent Therapets of the Roanoke Valley—a nonprofit group comprised of registered therapy dog/handler teams. Each “Doggie De-Stress” event lasts 2 hours. During this time, students pet, snuggle, or simply watch Duncan. Because of the overwhelmingly positive response to Duncan’s pre-finals visits, the University Library will now welcome dog/handler teams from Therapets for pre-midterm visits as well. We look forward to our continued partnership with Therapets of the Roanoke Valley—a partnership that will allow us to bring smiles, and sloppy doggy kisses, to stressed out students for years to come. To learn more about Therapets of the Roanoke Valley, see: [therapetsoftheroanokevalley.com](http://therapetsoftheroanokevalley.com)

## LIBRARY OFFSPRING

Emmett Alexander Norland was born at 3:29 a.m. on Jan. 26, 2015. He weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and had a full head of hair. Emmett’s parents are Mary Abdoney, science librarian and instruction coordinator, and Ned Norland in IT Client Services at W&L. Baby, mom and dad are doing well.



*Ned Norland and Mary Abdoney*



*Emmett*



## INTRODUCING WAN WEI '17: FACEBOOK EDITOR

By Wan Wei



Last semester, I became the University Library's student Facebook editor. So far, I have learned a lot about social media and the University Library, all while having fun! As student Facebook editor, I keep track of all the events in the library, take pictures, make graphics and pay attention to the public's reaction to our Facebook content. Performing these tasks has helped me learn a lot about social media and digital communication, which has encouraged me to major in mass communications. Specifically, this experience helped me realize that timing is a key when trying to reach people and garner "likes" on social media. I have posted on Facebook at different times and found, from statistics, that our content reaches more "friends" during lunch time. Additionally, I learned that creativity and humor play important roles in attracting "friends." Lame words will never catch anyone's attention, but funny phrases and catchy headlines spark interest! Comical pictures starring students or library faculty/staff, such as our Halloween pictures featuring costumed librarians, also engage the online community.

Before working as the student Facebook editor, I was not fully aware of all the events and resources in the library. We have many historical books and documents in Special Collections and Archives, lectures sponsored by various departments, information sessions hosted by Career Development, student presentations on summer research, and much more! The library is not just a place to study or borrow books anymore. For me, it has become a diverse, multi-functional space for communication and learning. I look forward to sharing my newfound understanding of the library with all of our Facebook followers. To stay up to date on all the happenings in the Library, "like" us at [www.facebook.com/WLULibrary!](http://www.facebook.com/WLULibrary!)



Library Trekkies at Halloween

## ROOM UPGRADES IN LEYBURN LIBRARY

This past summer, the University Library was awarded capital money to purchase new tables and chairs for several spaces in Leyburn Library. Prior to the furniture upgrade, each space had heavy wooden chairs and tables that could not be easily moved. Room 102 is used as a small seminar room. Rooms 220, 324 and 425 are study spaces that students may reserve for individual or group study.

Now, the rooms are outfitted with rolling tables and bright teal Herman Miller chairs. This wheeled furniture can be moved into various configurations, giving the rooms a multipurpose dimension that can accommodate various pedagogical styles or study needs.

The large wooden tables that have been removed from these spaces are going to good use. We plan to repurpose them to create additional study spaces on Lower Level 1.





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