

The Magazine of the University Library  WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

FOLIOS

Spring 2017



Light it up 

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ON THE COVER:

Students studying in the lower lobby, which will undergo renovation this summer.

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WASHINGTON AND LEE'S OLDEST DOCUMENT

By Tom Camden, Head of Special Collections & Archives

Quite plain, yet exquisite in its simplicity, the tiny clay object lies nestled in its recently crafted, elegant custom-made protective enclosure.

This Sumerian clay tablet is one of Washington and Lee University's most intriguing treasures, and the oldest recorded document in the collection. It dates from 2030 BCE and resides in the vault in Leyburn Library's Special Collections, where it has been housed since it was given in late 1983 by Mrs. Benjamin P. Knight Jr. of Buena Vista. Mrs. Knight's husband was a 1929 graduate of Washington and Lee.

The little clay tablet, which measures 1 ½ inch by 1 ¾ inch, is from the southern Mesopotamian (modern Iraq) city of Ur (Ur of the Chaldees). Written in Sumerian, it is just over 4,000 years old. The form of writing is known as cuneiform (wedge-shaped), and was, at the time, the only type of writing that was known. Cuneiform originates in this area, having an abundance of clay and reeds, the materials used to make the tablet and stylus with which the characters are formed.

The tablet itself is a commercial document and relates to the distribution of wheat to certain individuals. Because it references specific rulers of Ur, we are able to determine its date of origin. From the Sumerian King Lists, it is known who ruled Ur during this last century of the Third Millennium BCE, and two of the five kings of this Ur dynasty are actually mentioned in Washington and Lee's tablet. The kings who had their capital at Ur, which is well known to biblical scholars as the home of Abraham, had a uniform method of keeping the record, as is evidenced by the tablet. Abraham himself would have been familiar with the wedge-shaped cuneiform writing in which all business and official correspondence was then conducted.

While Washington and Lee's tablet records the distribution of wheat, many similar tablets recorded the tax on grain and other products, or provided instructions to priests or temple servants. Others were contracts, lists of sacrifices, or records of the payment of salaries from temple stipends. Still others were inventories of sheep and goats, and some were records of payments made to messengers who traveled from city to city.

Sumerian tablets are molded from clay that contains a great deal of marl or chalk that is relatively free from grit. After the cuneiform characters were marked by a scribe into the damp clay, the tablet was then sun-baked or kiln-dried. These tablets would have to be periodically re-fired, or baked even harder, in order to be preserved.

This lends another intriguing and powerful aspect to W&L's tablet, which was recovered from ancient ruins. About 24 years after the tablet was created, the Sumerian government experienced a rapid collapse, possibly brought on by famine. In 2006 BCE, southern Mesopotamia was invaded by the Elamites from southern Iran, who attacked Ur, took the last king captive and burned the city of Ur to the ground. One side of W&L's tablet shows the very distinctive scorch marks of that burning. The Sumerians disappeared forever. However, the clay tablet that remains is a poignant reminder that the fires that destroyed Ur likely ensured the preservation of Washington and Lee's oldest document.

LIGHT IT UP!

By John Tombarge, University Librarian

Northern Lobby? Light It Up!

Last year, W. Franklin Barron '52 approached the university with an idea. He wanted to make a gift for something that would make a noticeable difference on the W&L campus.

After hearing from then President Ken Ruscio about the need to update the Northern Lobby in Leyburn Library, Mr. Barron offered a \$50,000 challenge gift, which started the ball rolling on a project that will be of great value to the university. In response to his gift, the university allocated a \$25,000 gift remaining from the renovation of Leyburn's main level and approved \$30,000 more in capital funds. While \$105,000 sounds like a lot of money, the project was still short by almost \$20,000 just for construction. At this point, the Friends of the Library adopted the project to make up the difference.

Why Northern Lobby?

Northern Lobby is a key area of the library; a place where visiting prospective students and their parents gather for admissions presentations and tours, and where receptions for events in Northern Auditorium and Special Collections are held. The library's treasures from Special Collections are exhibited in this area, and it's a favorite space among students for quiet study.

In a recent survey, students indicated their concern. "It feels very old and dated

(not in a good way)," said one student. "If there was better lighting and a renewed aesthetic to the area, it would change the overall ambiance of the space." Another summed up the sentiments of many: "I find it kind of dark and depressing."

When the Friends of the Library reach their goal for this campaign — and we know they will, as early results have been promising — construction can begin in June.

The area will have a whole different ambiance with a new ceiling, better lighting, new carpet and brighter walls. Our prized Special Collections unit will become a focal point, with enhanced entry and display areas, including museum-quality protective lighting, to draw attention to exhibitions. Many new electrical outlets and greatly enhanced connectivity will increase the flexibility of the entire space, especially for use as a student study area. This warm and welcoming area will complement the recent renovations of the library's main level and of Northern Auditorium.

The effect will be transformative.

To start construction this summer, the Friends seek to raise an additional \$10,000. More funds will be needed once construction is complete, for new furniture and exhibit cases. Donations in support of this project may be made directly to the Friends of the Library designated for Northern Lobby renovations.



Students Advise: 'Light it Up' Survey Confirms Student Interest, Dissatisfaction with Northern Study Area

Students value the lower lobby area outside Northern Auditorium as a quiet oasis for study, contemplation and the occasional power nap. Many view this area as the closest Leyburn Library offers to a traditional reading room.

In a recent survey of students who regularly use the library, 53 percent indicated that they do use this space, with 88 percent of these using it primarily for quiet study. They identified it as a valued retreat from the more social main level.

Of the 47 percent of students who did not use this space, poor lighting was the No. 1 reason they gave.

Both groups indicated that improved lighting and more comfortable seating with more tables would be a great improvement. One student put it this way: "For such a big space, there does not seem to be very much room to spread out and work."

In spite of less-than-ideal lighting and furnishings, the area is still popular, with some students reporting that they have been unable to use it because it was already fully occupied. These responses suggest that renovating the space to make it more welcoming and functional would increase its daily use by students.



To start construction this summer, the Friends seek to raise an additional \$10,000. More funds will be needed once construction is complete, for new furniture and exhibit cases. Donations in support of this project may be made directly to the Friends of the Library designated for Northern Lobby renovations.



PRELIMINARY SKETCH OF THE NEW LOBBY AREA



KACI RESAU HIRED AS ELECTRONIC RESOURCES LIBRARIAN

By Yolanda Merrill, Assistant to the University Librarian

After we lost Wendy Richards to retirement, and Alston Cobourn to another university, the library was thrilled to hire Kaci Resau to become our new electronic resources librarian in December. Kaci works as part of the Collection Services team, which is headed by Julie Kane, herself a relative newcomer.

Kaci is from Sharpsburg, Maryland, not far from the Antietam Civil War battlefield. When it was time to select a university, she wanted to be in a city with great diversity in order to have a completely new experience. She picked St. John's University in New York City, and lived near the World Trade Center. Her major in government and politics led to an internship with then councilman Bill de Blasio, the current mayor of New York City.

After graduating from St. John's, Kaci was hired by American Military University, a four-year, for-profit, and mostly online school in Charles Town, West Virginia. She worked as an admissions representative. She took advantage of the tuition perks the university offered and finished two master's degrees in this period. First was

an MA in international relations. The university then invited her to teach information literacy to its students in international relations. She loved teaching information and research skills so much that she pursued a second master's in library science through the online program at the University of Alabama, and graduated in 2014. Two master's degrees while working full time!

With her library degree in hand, Kaci accepted a position in 2015 as systems and collection management librarian at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Not entirely satisfied, she went back on the job market, and that's when our library was lucky enough to hire Kaci as our electronic resources librarian. Her professional interests lie in information literacy, freedom of information and digital privacy.

As a youth soccer player, Kaci now loves to watch soccer, especially the world championships. Her fitness routine includes boxing (hitting a punching bag, not another human being) and hiking. In her downtime, she is an avid knitter and reader. We are very happy to have Kaci on our staff.

LEAVING THE LIBRARY

At the end of 2016, the library lost two valued members of its staff— one to retirement, and one to another university library.



Carol Hansen Karsch, Data and Statistical Support Specialist, began working in the library in 2003 as the circulation supervisor. In 2007, when the library realigned positions to provide enhanced support to the social sciences departments, Carol, with her background as a data analyst for a D.C. consulting firm, was the ideal candidate for the newly created Data and Statistical Support Specialist position. Carol loved helping students, faculty and staff acquire the data they needed to answer their research questions. She was also a great mentor in various statistical and mapping packages, including Stata, SPSS, R and GIS. For many years, Carol worked primarily with students in the Economics Department. She gradually expanded her support to sociology students and anyone else who came to her office.

Carol says she will miss working with students and helping them with their interesting research questions, but she feels the time has come to start working on her other passions, including backpacking around the world. We wish her great adventures!



Alston Cobourn came to the library in November 2012 after completing her library degree at UNC Chapel Hill. As Leyburn's first Digital Scholarship Librarian, she was in charge of developing educational programs and materials for faculty, staff and students on scholarly communications issues such as copyright, intellectual property rights and open access. She was instrumental in establishing parameters and policies for the Digital Archive, and in overseeing our web-archiving initiative with Archive-It. Her knowledge of digital copyright law made her the go-to person at the university when it came to using digital images in publications. She gave many workshops on the topic, and was often invited into the classroom by professors.

Alston was also instrumental in implementing ArchivesSpace, an archival management system. She had always hoped to be in an archivist position, so when a job as Processing and Digital Assets Archivist at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi was advertised, she jumped on it and was hired. We wish Alston many happy years in her new position and locale!

UPCOMING EVENTS & EXHIBITS IN THE LIBRARY

March 21, 4:30 p.m.

Author Talk: Journalism professor Alecia Swasy. Leyburn Library, Book Nook, Main Floor. Swasy will discuss her new book, "How Journalists Use Twitter: The Changing Landscape of U.S. Newsrooms." The presentation is part of the Anne and Edgar Basse Jr. Author Talk Series. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments provided.

March 28 - end of August

Exhibit: World War I Commemorative Exhibition, phase one. Curated by Special Collections & Archives. Leyburn Library, Level One Lobby.

April 3, 2 - 6 p.m.

3rd Annual Edible Book Contest. Leyburn Library, Main Floor. Participation is open to the public. All money from voting with dollars goes to W&L Campus Kitchen. See article in this issue. Sign up at <http://tiny.cc/wluediblebooks2017>.

April 3 - May 14

Exhibit: The Ward Briggs Collection of James Dickey. Leyburn Library, Exhibit Nook, Main Floor. Ward Briggs '67 donated his editorial collection for his book, "The Complete Poems of James Dickey," to the library. Besides literary material, it includes original documents on the film production of "Deliverance," Dickey's famous novel, as well as a life mask of Dickey.

April 5, 5 p.m.

Author Talk: George Bent, W&L professor of art history, will discuss his new book, "Public Painting and Visual Culture in Early Republican Florence," published by Cambridge University Press. Leyburn Library, Book Nook, Main Floor. The presentation is part of the Anne and Edgar Basse Jr. Author Talk Series. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments provided.

May 12, 2-4 p.m.

Open House: Treasures in Special Collections, with Tom Camden. Leyburn Library, Special Collections & Archives, Level One.

May 13, 1 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Friends of the Library, Leyburn Library, Northen Auditorium, Level One.

May 13, 1:30 p.m.

Speaker Event: Dr. Ward Briggs '67. Leyburn Library, Northen Auditorium, Level One. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. See article in this issue.

May 15 - June 30

Exhibit: Museum Studies Seminar Exhibition. Curated by students enrolled in this Spring term seminar. Leyburn Library, Exhibit Nook, Main Floor.

Sept. 1 - Oct. 30

Exhibit: World War I Commemorative Exhibition, phase two. Curated by Special Collections & Archives. Leyburn Library, Exhibit Nook, Main Floor.

Sept. 6, 4 p.m. (runs through the weekend)

Library Book Sale. Leyburn Library, Main Floor. Young Alumni Weekend.

Sept. 7, 2 - 4 p.m.

Open House: Treasures in Special Collections, with Tom Camden. Leyburn Library, Special Collections & Archives, Level One. Young Alumni Weekend.

Sept. 7, 4 p.m.

Frank Barren '52 Challenge Lobby Renovation Review. Leyburn Library, Level One Lobby. Young Alumni Weekend. Come see the renovated lobby!

Oct. 5, 4 p.m. (runs through the weekend)

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

Oct. 6, 2 - 4 p.m.

Open House: Treasures in Special Collections, with Tom Camden. Leyburn Library, Special Collections & Archives, Level One. Parents and Family Weekend.

Oct. 15 - 21

National Friends of Libraries Week



Research Help



A-Z Databases List



Library Services



Subject & Course Guides



A-Z Journals List



W&L Scholarly Works

DONORS AND SUPPORT PAGE IMPROVED

The library's website, <http://library.wlu.edu>, has seen many improvements lately. It is an esthetically pleasing site, leading to research resources, services, exhibits, course research guides, the Special Collections & Archives department, a list of scholarly publications by faculty and much more.

The Donors and Support page, listed on the sky blue bar on the homepage, is the latest section that has been overhauled to clarify the many ways in which donors can support the library. University Librarian John Tombarge wrote these words to introduce the page:

"A strong library is essential both to the intellectual vitality of the University and to the quality of the education it provides. Our library cannot remain strong without the continued support from people like you, who share our goal to prepare students for life-

long learning. The needs of the library are many — building and preserving the collection, adapting new technologies, providing the library staff with adequate professional development and training, enhancing scholarship and research opportunities for our students and faculty, and most importantly, building our educational programs. A gift to the library supports all academic disciplines and programs. We are grateful for your contribution."

The new Donors and Support page introduces you to the following ways of becoming a donor: The Friends of the Library; Endowments and Major Gifts; Gifts-in-Kind; and Adopt a Piece of History.

If you have questions about the new page, we would like to hear them! The direct link to the page is <http://library.wlu.edu/support/>

BECOME A FRIEND BY JOINING THE FRIENDS

To join the Friends of the Library, or to make a donation, go to Library.wlu.edu/friends.

Please indicate if your contribution is for a membership and/or a donation.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual: \$50

Family (2 or more): \$75

For more information, contact Montrose Grandberry at grandberrym@wlu.edu or (540) 458-8642.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

ANNE AND EDGAR BASSE AUTHOR TALK SERIES

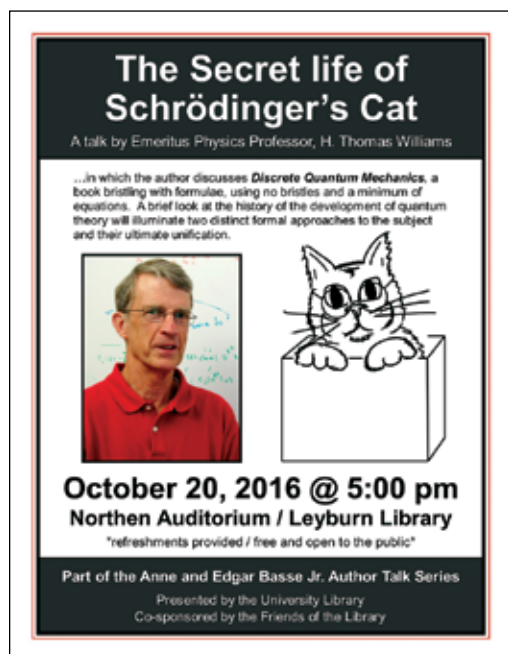
Emily Cook, Research and Outreach Librarian

The traditional separation between author and reader disappears in each installment of the Anne and Edgar Basse Author Talk Series. During each author talk, often held in Leyburn Library's Main Floor "Book Nook," a W&L faculty member speaks about his or her recently published book to an audience of peers, students and community members. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions and can even mingle with the author during a pre-talk reception.

The 2016-17 author talk lineup illustrates the true breadth and inter-disciplinarity of scholarship produced by W&L's faculty. In September, Ellen Mayock, the Ernest Williams II Professor of Spanish, presented on "Gender Shrapnel in the Academic Workplace" to a packed audience. In October, H. Thomas

Williams, Emeritus Professor of Physics, made an often abstruse topic relatable with his talk on "Discrete Quantum Mechanics." In February, Michelle D. Brock, assistant professor of history, brought history to life with her presentation on "Satan and the Scots: The Devil in Post-Reformation Scotland, c. 1560-1700." On April 5, at 5 p.m., George Bent, the Sidney Gause Childress Professor in the Arts, will discuss his new book, "Public Painting and Visual Culture in Early Republican Florence," published in 2016 by Cambridge University Press.

Future author talks are still being scheduled. To ensure you are aware of newly scheduled talks, check out library.wlu.edu/events/author-talks. All author talks are free, open to the public, and do not require tickets.



MAYOCK TALKS ABOUT GENDER IN THE WORKPLACE

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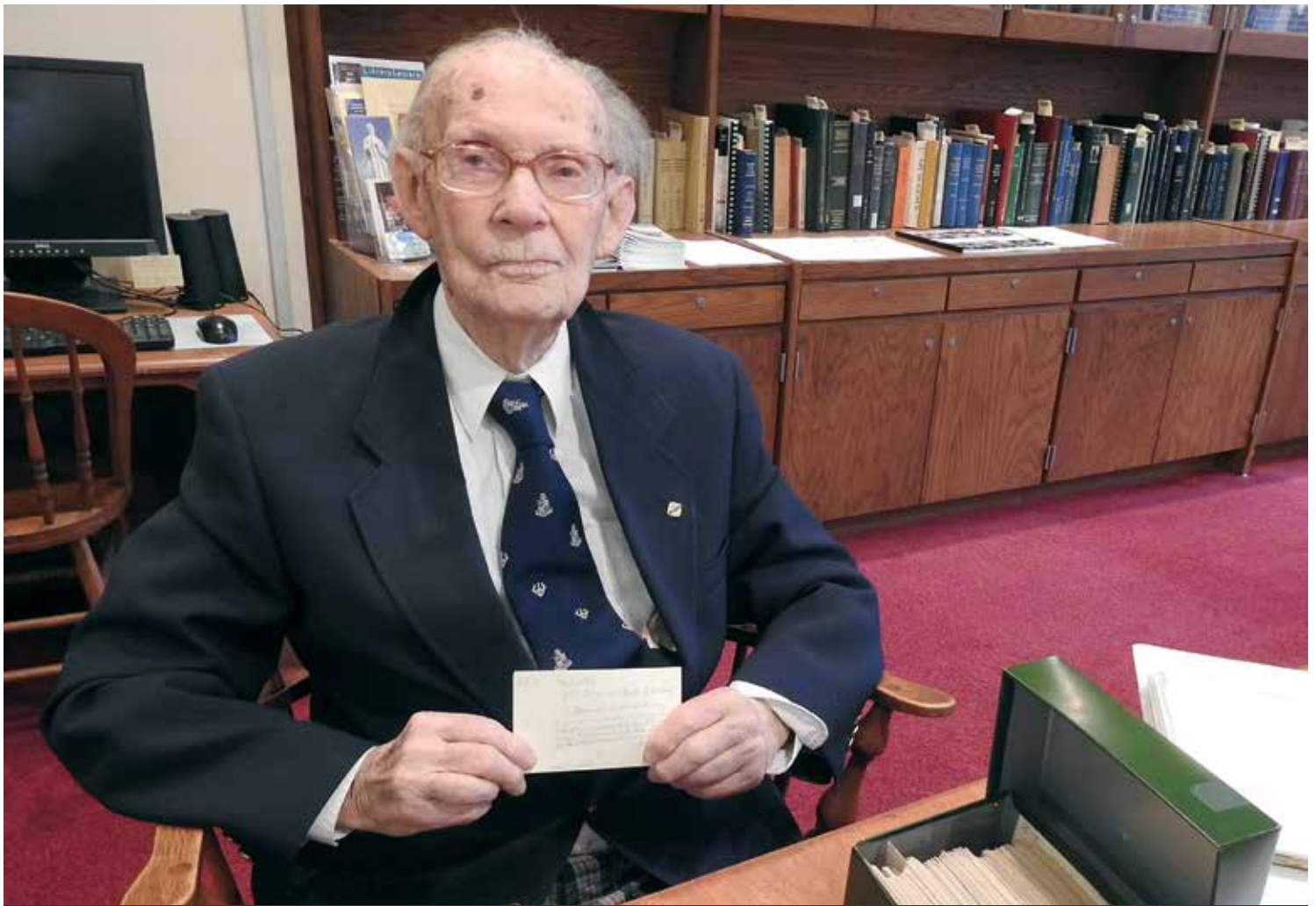
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A STUDENT WORKER FROM 78 YEARS AGO

By Yolanda Merrill, Assistant to the University Librarian

This winter I had the pleasure of interviewing one of the oldest living W&L alumni about his job at the library, indexing the William Fleming Collection.

At 95 years old, James Parsons '33 has the best memory of any nonagenarian (person in his nineties – yes, I had to look that up) I have ever met. We spent a lovely hour together in Special Collections, where the William Fleming Papers are housed. Parsons told me more than I could possibly put to paper.

James S. Parsons was born in Roanoke in 1922, and moved as a young boy to Rapps Mill in southern Rockbridge County. His grandfather, James Buchanan Rapp, worked as the postmaster in the old post office that still stands on Parsons' property. His mother, Sarah Beulah Rapp, was the granddaughter of the man who put the town on the map. After Mathias Rapp arrived in 1836, he built the mill on Buffalo Creek, built his house, donated land for the church, cemetery and school, and patented and improved a turbine wheel for hydropower. The mill produced everything from grain and lumber to carved marble stalactites from nearby

caverns, used as tombstones. (see Senseofplace.academic.wlu.edu/rapps-mill/)

In 1939, Parsons started his studies at Washington and Lee. It turned out that he loved — and was good at — chemistry, which led to him being awarded the Mary Louise Reid White Scholarship in Chemistry. While in college, he worked for the Chemistry Department as the trusted young man with the key, responsible for the alcohol room, where potent lab spirits were kept, and for the storage room, which was full of lab equipment.

His other job was at McCormick Library, which is now Huntley Hall. Blanche McCrum, the head librarian, assigned him the task of indexing and describing the items in the William Fleming Collection, which had been donated to Washington and Lee in the early 1930s. To this day, his handwritten index cards are the key to this collection.

The collection consists of more than 400 items, including

diaries, correspondence with many prominent individuals, land transactions, a medical journal, and accounts of his trips to Kentucky, where he was the chairman of the Kentucky Convention. From 1776-1782, Fleming was a trustee of Liberty Hall Academy, located on the grounds where Washington and Lee now stands.

The Dictionary of American Biography tells us that after studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Fleming entered the British Navy as a surgeon's mate, and was captured by the Spaniards, who put him in prison. After being freed, he decided in 1755 to try his fortunes in Virginia, where he obtained an ensign's commission during the French and Indian War in the regiment commanded by Col. George Washington. He fought in border warfare until the peace of 1763.

On October 10, 1774, Fleming served as colonel of the Botetourt Regiment against the Indians at the Battle of Point Pleasant, located on Indian Reserve land, now in West Virginia. In this battle, a thousand Virginia riflemen defeated the federated Indian tribes led by Shawnee Chief Cornstalk (the same chief who fought a battle at Kerr's Creek, just west of Lexington). Known as the "first battle of the Revolution," Point Pleasant was the most important battle between Indians and whites. Fleming was twice struck, but continued on the battlefield until compelled to withdraw because of a more serious wound from a musket ball shot into his chest. An excerpt from an article in the Rockbridge County News of November 9, 1933, embellishes this incident. "Taken from the field and given up to die, with the aid of his servant who had helped him in many a surgical operation upon others, he operated on himself, replacing his protruding lungs and dressing his wounds. He was carried home across the mountains on a crude stretcher and lay for months in his log house hovering between life and death. Though his wounds healed, the ball remained in his lungs to cause him suffering and finally to bring

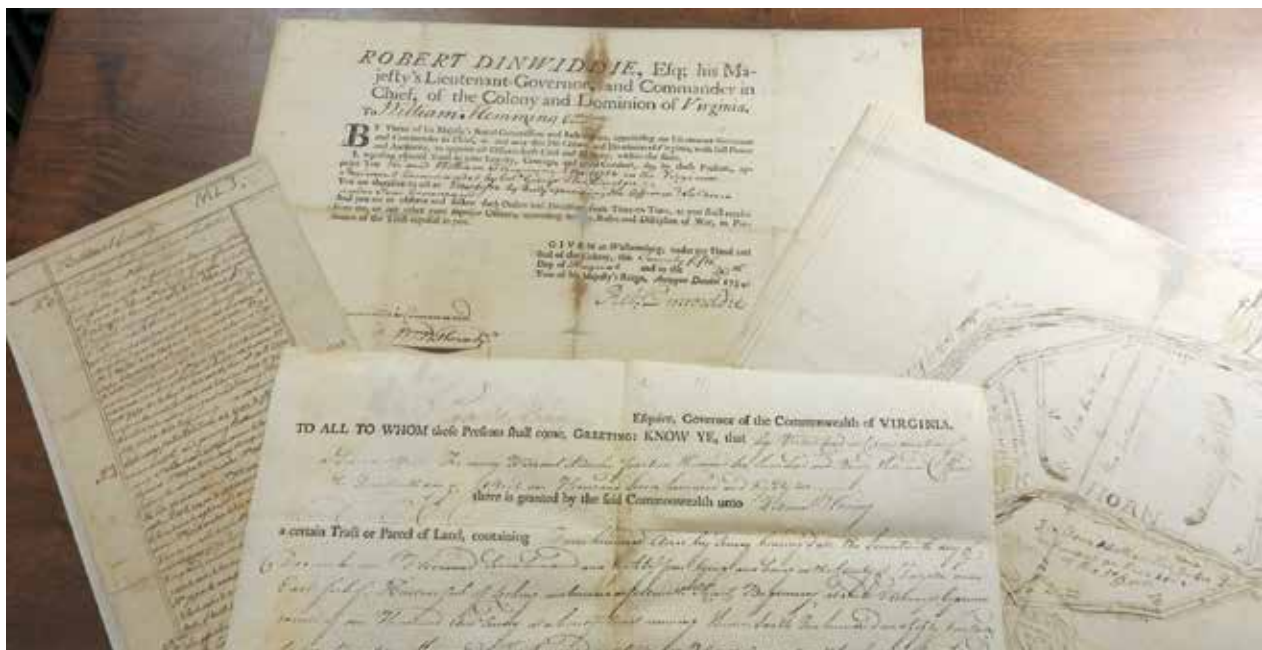
about death. He lived for 20 years, a disabled but active veteran, carrying that ball around in his chest."

During the last decades of his life, Fleming became immersed in politics, purchasing land and being a planter. He represented the district of Botetourt, Montgomery and Kentucky in the Virginia Senate, and was active in the process of making Kentucky a separate state. From June 4-12, 1781, Fleming served as 3rd Governor of Virginia, an interim position, preceded by Thomas Jefferson and succeeded by Thomas Nelson Jr. Fleming's large investments in land, increasing in value, made him wealthy. An educated man, Fleming believed in popular education, and possessed one of the finest libraries in western Virginia. He died in Roanoke, then part of Botetourt County, in 1795.

While in college, he worked for the Chemistry Department as the trusted young man with the key, responsible for the alcohol room, where potent lab spirits were kept, and for the storage room, which was full of lab equipment.

Now back to Parsons and his career. During the war years, Parsons worked as a chemist and then decided to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Virginia, where he graduated in 1950. He lived the next 32 years in New Jersey, working for the American Cyanamid Corporation. He met his wife there and started a family. After retiring in 1982, Parsons moved back to Rockbridge County and lived on the family farm in Rapps Mill, which he calls "Rapp Home," which he had inherited. He worked on the farm and became an active volunteer. As a member of the Ruritans, Parsons was instrumental in getting safety signs and guard rails installed around the county. As the historian for the local Palmer Community Center, he was the main driver behind getting the building renovated. In 2003, then W&L President Tom Burish gave the dedication address.

Now, at 95, Parsons does a lot of reminiscing. He and his daughter, Ruth, are working on a publication about the community of Rapps Mill. His memory is still sharp, his eyes still twinkle, and sentences still roll off his tongue. A lovely man to spend an hour with.



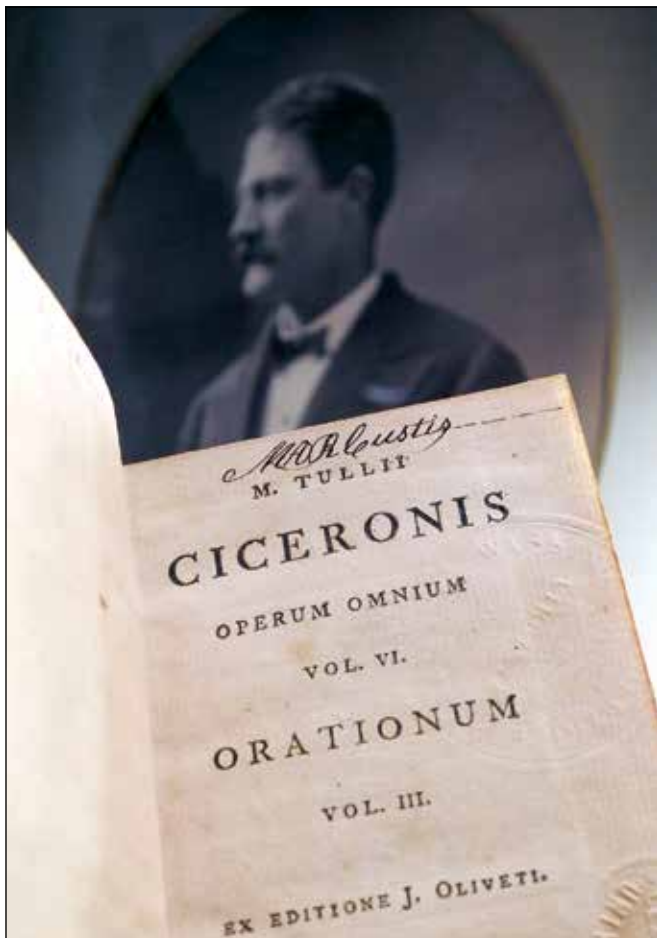
NEWLY DISCOVERED WASHINGTON FAMILY VOLUMES SLATED FOR RESTORATION

By Tom Camden, Head of Special Collections & Archives

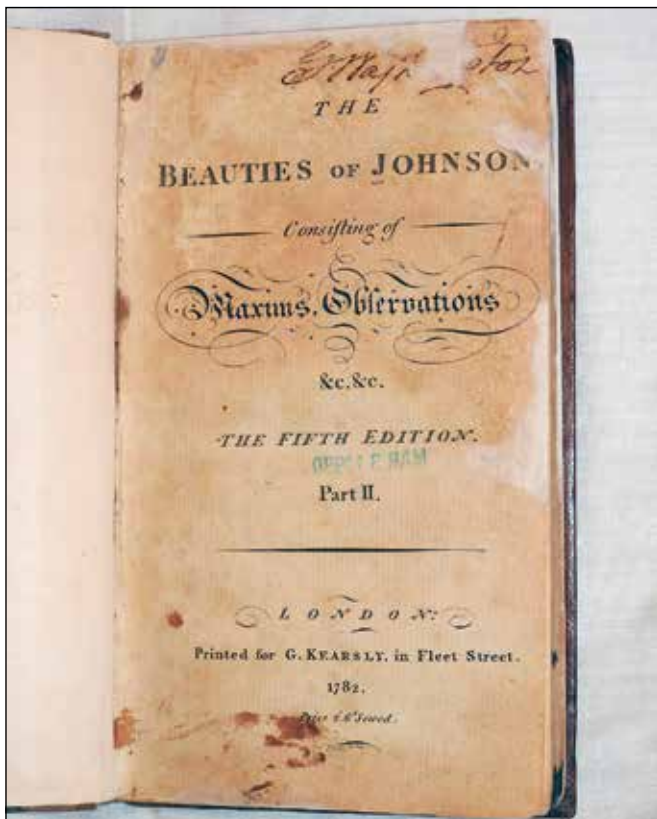
In preparing for a Latin class presentation on Cicero in the fall of 2016, Special Collections Head Tom Camden and Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics Adrienne Hagen made a startling discovery. While reviewing the rich collection of early classics housed in the vault, they found that two volumes of a multi-volume set of “Ciceronis Opera” (1749) bear the beautiful and distinctive bookplate of John Park(e) Custis, the stepson of George Washington. Adding even more excitement and intrigue to the discovery is the distinctive signature of Mary Anna Randolph Custis, the granddaughter of John Parke Custis and the wife of General Robert E. Lee.

The two small volumes became part of the library collection when G.W.C. Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee, left the President’s office in 1897. The provenance of the pieces is startlingly clear from the ownership stamps and signatures present on both volumes.

Although the pieces are intact and in fair condition, considering their age, some restoration work will be undertaken in the spring of 2017. That work has been underwritten through the generosity of Mrs. P. William (Lisa H.) Moore of Staunton, Virginia. Mrs. Moore, former Vice-Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, last year graciously funded the restoration of George Washington’s copy of “The Beauties of Johnson” (1782). This work bears the signature of George Washington on the title page, and also bears Mary Anna Randolph Custis’ signature, once again, showing the clear provenance from the Washington family to the Lee family. The Washington-owned volume required extensive restoration, as it was among the Washington family treasures that were stored underground in Brownsburg during Hunter’s Raid of 1864 and suffered extensive water damage. The beautifully restored book is now housed in a custom-made linen box, all of which was graciously paid for by Mrs. Moore.



CICERONIS OPERA, SIGNED BY J.P. CUSTIS, HELD AGAINST A CUSTIS PORTRAIT IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



BEAUTIES OF JOHNSON WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON’S SIGNATURE



BOOKPLATE OF JOHN PARK CUSTIS

WARD W. BRIGGS JR. TO PRESENT ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TALK AT SPRING REUNION 2017



Ward W. Briggs Jr., Emeritus Professor of Classics at the University of South Carolina, will present the annual Friends of the Library talk on Saturday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m. in Leyburn Library's Northen Auditorium. Following a tradition set by Roger Mudd in 2006, the annual lecture has in recent years featured a speaker from the 50th anniversary class. The May event will be Briggs' 50th anniversary reunion.

Dr. Briggs graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics and English. He continued his studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he wrote his master's thesis on Horace and his Ph.D. thesis, under the supervision of Brooks Otis, on Virgil. From 1973

to 2005, Briggs taught Classics at the University of South Carolina, where he served as the Carolina Distinguished Professor of Classics and the Louise Fry Scudder Professor of Humanities.

A prolific scholar, Briggs authored and edited 10 books, and numerous articles and reviews in his field. His research interests focused on Virgil and the history of American Classical scholarship. Briggs edited the journal "Vergilius" and published "Soldier and Scholar: Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve and the Civil War," in 1998. The latter garnered the Museum of the Confederacy's biennial Founders Award for outstanding editing of primary sources. Briggs was co-compiler for the American Philological Association of "Biographical Dictionary of North American Classicists," a text of 600 entries, and "Classical Scholarship: A Biographical Encyclopedia," containing 50 biographies. His latest book is "The Complete Poems of James Dickey." Briggs has generously contributed comprehensive collections of James Dickey and Virgil to Washington and Lee University, giving our students rich resources for research.



"OVER THERE" AND RIGHT HERE: W&L SPECIAL COLLECTIONS EXPLORES THE GREAT WAR

Beginning on March 28, 2017, Special Collections will exhibit selected materials from its rich and varied holdings related to World War I (1914–1918). The first of two exhibitions will be installed in the Special Collections foyer display area located on Leyburn Library's Level One and will

include original examples of WWI diaries, memoirs, photographs, maps, propaganda and selected artifacts. A second exhibit, focusing on the story of W&L's volunteer ambulance unit (SSU-534), will be installed in the early fall of 2017 in the University Library's Main Floor exhibition area. The W&L Ambulance Unit, comprised of 36 student and alumni volunteers, served meritoriously along the Western Front in 1918 as ambulance drivers and crew. These special exhibits commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into the first World War on April 6, 1917. Both are open to the public.



FRENCH SOUVENIR POSTCARD, 1918
G. RAYMOND WOMELDORF COLLECTION (WLU '17), WLU



AMBULANCE WAGON, SSU-534, 1917-18
JOHN L. KINNEAR SCRAPBOOK (WLU '20),
ROCKBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION, WLU



TRANSCRIBING A LOCAL CIVIL WAR DIARY

By Elizabeth Wolf '18

[Elizabeth Wolf is a student worker in Special Collections, and is a double major in Economics and English.]

I am currently working in Special Collections to transcribe a diary written between 1855 and 1874 by Jane Isabella White, wife of Reverend William S. White, the preacher at Lexington Presbyterian Church from 1848 to 1867. The diary is a fascinating conglomeration of outpourings of Christian faith, contemplations of salvation and fulfillment, finding human purpose, race relations, and a quotidian perspective on 19th century Lexington life, complete with miracles and tragedies. The most poignant parts of the diary are Jane Isabella's lamentation of the death of her son, Hugh, in the Civil War. While she often writes about the loss of newborn children and others close to her, the stark contrasts in language and handwriting are the mark of a devastated woman who begins to question her faith, which appeared so concrete throughout earlier entries.

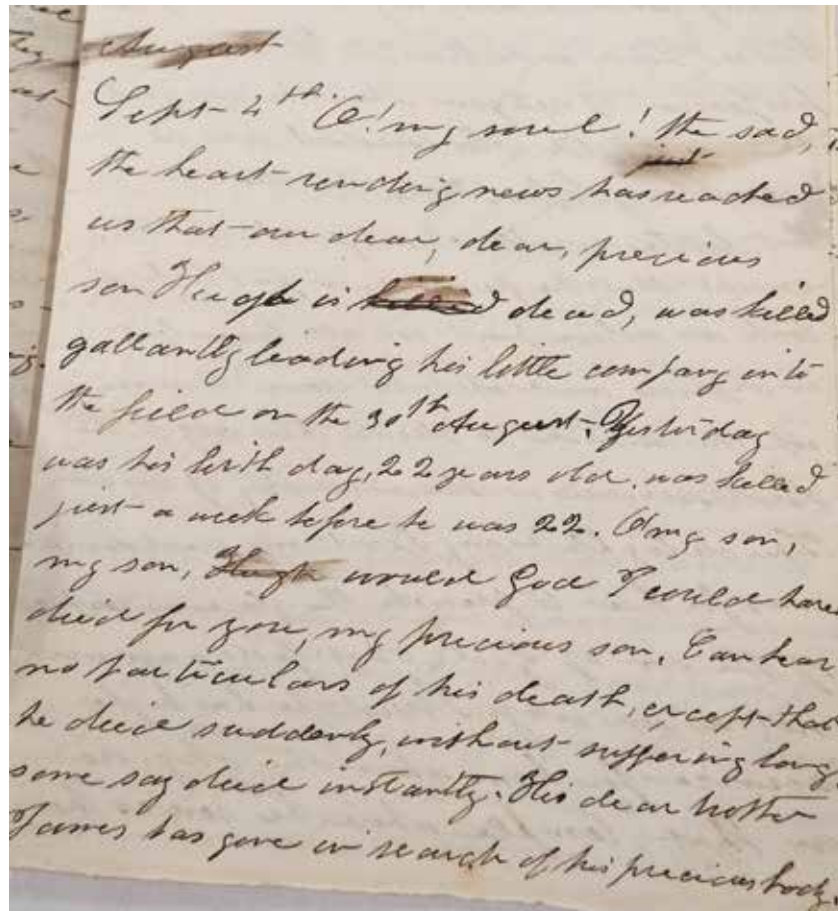
While she often writes about the evils of the war, and the grief and pain of loss and unnecessary bloodshed, Jane Isabella turns to God often,

especially after the death of her son. She writes, with her handwriting becoming increasingly frantic over the course of the entry, "O! this war! This cruel, savage, unjust war; how can the Yankees persist in it? Strange they cannot see they are fighting against the Almighty and strange they should persist in it when they have been so

signally whipped and defeated time after time. Good Lord be pleased to continue to help us, thy oppressed people, and reward our oppressors according to their wicked doings. Blindness seems to be resting upon all the Yankees, total blindness. They seem to be given up to the devil. The Lord open their eyes to see their great wickedness, and bring them to repentance for their enormous sins. How strange that ministers of the gospel should be urging on this iniquitous hellish war. Blood thirsty monsters! O! that God would open their eyes to see their great guilt in the sight of a holy God."

Jane Isabella's questions of faith, and her heartbroken outcries for God to rectify the balance of the "fratricidal dreadful war" that

*...a quotidian perspective on
19th century Lexington life,
complete with miracles and tragedies.*



A PAGE FROM THE DIARY, RECORDING HER SON'S DEATH

touches every part of her life, leave an impact on the reader even 160 years later. And yet her faith in the goodness of the Lord and his plan remain steadfast over the course of the journal. Her recovery, though never complete, is biblically based, and much of her peace comes from Hugh's baptism and her belief that he has ascended into heaven. Her trust in God remains strong, even in the wake of seemingly insurmountable grief.

An interesting complication is Jane Isabella's admission that she is keeping this diary with the hope that it inspires future readers to pursue God steadily and with conviction:

**Following is a particularly moving entry in her diary:
[Conversation with John Daniel on his death bed]**

Well John, how are you this morning? Pretty well mam. Well you must make haste and get well and go out into the garden and see my pretty flowers. They are blooming beautifully now, so many new ones have come out since you were taken sick. He looked at me and I smiled and I handed him a bunch of lilacks [sic]. I then said to him, John what do you think about when you are here by yourself? What do you do? He said I am praying. Well said I that's right I couldn't do a better thing. What do you pray for John? I pray to God to bless me. That's right said I, he will be sure to bless you if you ask him. John do you remember who was cast into the Lion's den? Daniel. What for? For praying to God three times a day. Did the lions hurt him? No Mam. Why not? Because God shut their mouths. Well you must do as Daniel did, and God will bless you also.

*I then said to him, John who came into the world to save sinners? Jesus Christ. What did he do for sinners? He died for them. Where is Jesus Christ now? In Heaven begging God to have mercy upon poor sinners. Well said, heaven is a sweet and happy place. The blessed Saviour is there and multitudes of good people are there, and hundreds and thousands and millions of little children are there. To this he replied with evident pleasure, a smile on his countenance, saying, "and little **Stillman is there too". **Our infant grandson, who died at our house a year before.*

"May this little journal be made the instrument in the hands of God of doing great good to the souls of men. Then will the most ardent desires of my sainted son be gratified, and above all, God will be glorified."

This, of course, raises questions of the validity of her account of her own feelings and inspirations, as well as the authenticity of the conversations she recounts. This transcription is still a work in progress, and I look forward to peering further into Jane Isabella White's struggles with her own faith, her questions of God's salvation for the South, and her perspective on life, love, and loss.

I said yes, little Stillman is there too. Don't you remember keeping the flies off of him when he was sick. He said yes mam, and smiled. Well I said, John which would you rather do, die and go to heaven or stay here and grow up to be a man? He said emphatically, I would rather die and go to heaven and be with Jesus. Do you think you would go to heaven if you were to die? He said yes mam. Well Said I, I hope you will for Christ died for little children as well as for grown people. What did the Savior do with the little children when he was on earth? He took them up in his arms and blessed them, and said, suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not – for such is the kingdom of Heaven. Well said I continue to pray to the blessed Savior and he will certainly bless you and take you to Heaven when you die. He was frequently heard by his nurse, praying the Lord's prayer and more I lay me down to sleep and simple petitions on his own. While he could talk I had frequent conversations with him on the subject of religion and he seemed to have a clear perception of the plans of salvation through Christ, and seemed to rest on him alone for salvation. This was most gratifying for me, as I had taught him all he knew.

The poor fellow lingered weeks after this conversation. Much of the time insensible from fever and violent pain in his head, partial paralasis [sic] and at length entire paralasis [sic] of the system. Three physicians attended him and pronounced his care most uncommon. Poor John was just eleven years old. He was a negro slave born in my family.



WASHINGTON HALL BELL IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY

For 140 years, the Washington Hall bell rang to announce the beginning and end of class meetings and to signal important university events. It was a central feature of the campus experience from 1871 to 2011, when the bell was removed from the cupola during the building’s renovation. The original bell had cracked in 1890 and was returned to Meneely and Company in West Troy, New York, where it was re-melted and made into a new bell. The foundry was one of the foremost bell makers in the United States, noted for the rich tonal beauty of its products.

The Washington Hall bell is made of a resonant bronze alloy called bell metal, composed of pure copper and tin. The bell was rung by hand using a rope until 1936, when an automated bell-ringing system was installed. The bell now proudly sits on Stemmons Plaza, framed by new trees, in front of Leyburn Library. An informational plaque has been mounted with the bell.

Ringling a bell for class times and events is no longer a tradition at Washington and Lee. The only bell still in use is the one in Lee Chapel’s bell tower.

MIGRATING TO A NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM: EX LIBRIS ALMA/PRIMO

By Julie Kane, Head of Collection Services

The university libraries have been operating on the Millennium catalog system since the early 1990s, and while it was the premier library system at the time of implementation, the system we have now is something like the furnace that needs to be replaced. It has lived a robust and well-loved life, but it is on its last legs. It’s nearly impossible to find parts we will need when things go wrong, and other systems have far surpassed its capabilities. It’s time for us to migrate.

After researching the library systems landscape over the past year, three library systems vendors were brought to campus for demonstrations of products that could potentially suit the needs of the university and law libraries, and they made their best attempts to answer a variety of questions. Following campus protocols, a small group

from libraries and ITS gathered to put together a Request For Proposals (RFP) in order to ensure that all of our highest priorities would be met in a new system, and that competition would garner the best possible pricing in the end.

We ultimately chose a system that is unified, providing one place to search and manage print and electronic resources. The Alma/Primo system is entirely cloud-based, which means that we will see seamless updates and savings in maintenance of equipment and IT support. The advances in workflow and software architecture mean that we will be better able to collaborate both in-house and with other libraries already using these systems; the system will provide us with better and faster data analysis in a number of ways that are incredibly exciting. Washington and Lee is the eighth institution in Virginia to select Alma/Primo.

Although a migration is never a fun time, and a new system will take time to learn, we anticipate that one of the long-term benefits of this choice will be staff time freed up to devote to students and faculty, which has always been the mission of the library.



A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: BEN SCHAEFFER '18

In preparation for the development of our strategic directions, the University Library conducted video interviews with W&L faculty and students to learn how they view the library and how they envision its future. Here is a transcribed excerpt from an interview with undergraduate Benjamin Schaeffer, a German and global politics major.



Did you have any preconceived notions about the library before you came to college?

I always thought libraries would be brick-and-mortar with tons and tons of books everywhere. And then, when I came here to W&L, and you see there are all the stacks; but, there's so much more to it with all of the new technology we've incorporated.

What is your favorite part about the library?

My favorite part of the library is the third floor art history portfolios.... whenever I get tired of looking at my paper, I just go over and open up a book and look at the images.

What is the future of the library?

I think the library of the future stays with its roots of bricks and books; but it

also incorporates all the new technologies into a seamless place of learning and education.

What does your dream library look like?

Lots of atlases and maps all over the walls! There would be books on every subject in the world with all sorts of different foreign languages.

Can you talk about a particularly memorable interaction with a library staff member?

One time I was working with a [student] research assistant and we just kind of diverted from our actual topic and started talking about our overall experiences at W&L and also how those experiences related to the library. It was just an awesome insight into an individual I had never really met before, and we bonded over our experiences at the library.

What is your favorite event hosted by the library?

I think one of my favorite activities that the library puts on is the Edible Book Contest. I think it is just utterly fascinating. The students, and faculty, and all the participants really put in a lot of effort. The creativity is just awesome.

Is there anything else you would like to add about the library?

I wish I spent more time here, honestly. There are five floors here in Leyburn and there are several others in Telford Science Library...I've explored most of the stacks. I've explored most of the classrooms. But I can't help but feel that there is something else that I'm missing. I have two years left at W&L. maybe, by the end of it, I'll be an expert on all the places to go to and all the places to study.



BUCKNELL DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE

By Mackenzie Brooks, Digital Humanities Librarian

For the third year in a row, W&L sent a team to the Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference at Bucknell University. Accompanying me were Brandon Walsh (Mellon digital humanities fellow) and French major Abdurrafey Khan '17. In addition to taking in the poster sessions and learning more about digital scholarship work at other liberal arts colleges, the team presented on "Student Writing as Digital Humanities Method." Participants shared the ways in which the fundamental tool of writing affects the way they teach, learn and work in digital environments. For Brandon, writing a public course book on text analysis was a way to share knowledge with students and colleagues. In my courses, I require that students complete significant writing assignments alongside their digital projects. Abdur found that technical writing is just as important for his honors thesis as scholarly writing. We look forward to seeing what the conference has to offer next year!



UNDERGRADUATE NETWORK FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE HOSTED BY W&L

By Hayley Soutter '17, Mellon Digital Humanities Undergraduate Fellow

This year's UNRH (Undergraduate Network for Research in the Humanities) Conference was hosted at W&L. For those who are not familiar with UNRH, it is a group of undergraduate students interested in learning about and experimenting with innovative research methods in the humanities. Two W&L students, Lenny Enkbold ('17) and Lizzy Stanton ('17), were part of the founding group that started the conference in 2015.

"Having worked on this project for over two years, it was very rewarding to have received so much support and being able to actually experience the results. I know Lizzy feels the same way as well," Lenny said. "We listened to the feedback from last year and tried to make the adjustments on any category that the participants from last year thought we could improve on."

The various sessions for this year's conference were hosted in the new Center for Global Learning. Over the weekend of January 20-22, 2017, students from different colleges and universities across the country gathered to discuss their projects and to attend DH workshops.

Formal presentations began Saturday morning. During the morning session, four different groups presented the cool projects they have been working on.

In the first presentation, titled "Digitizing a Church," two students from Lake Forest College told us about their four-week endeavor to create a virtual reality of a church near their campus. The most interesting aspect of their project was its interactive nature; you could simply click on the stained glass windows of the church and a pop-up window would detail their importance. The students demonstrated their belief that virtual realities can help change the education industry by allowing students to really engage with the material in a digital representation, and could

even replace field trips in the future.

Students from the University of South Carolina presented their app called "Ward One," which they created in a classroom setting. The students wanted to heighten awareness about Ward One, a historically African-American community that has been destroyed by development. The app allows people to explore the community as it was and highlights historical monuments in the area. The students have received immense positive feedback from the city. During the presentation, a taped interview showed a woman who had lived in the neighborhood stating that the app made her feel like "finally someone cares."

One group, who detailed their experience creating an online game called "Chronicle of Swashbuckling Rubbish," were asked why they created the project. In response, they replied, "We wanted to create something and so we did." Although the two presenters are English and music education majors at Cornell College, they found a way to manifest their different skills into a digital project.

The afternoon consisted of round robin sessions and a keynote by Brandon Walsh (Mellon Digital Humanities Fellow), which I was unable to attend. But Lenny, a host contact for this year's conference, said that the afternoon was a great way to wrap up the day. "It was nice to change up the presentation style and keep everyone fresh rather than having two more hours of sit-down formal presentations," he said.

Lenny, Lizzy and the rest of the leadership team seemed really excited about their progress and are already seeking volunteers for next year's conference. I thought the conference was a really awesome event that allowed students to present their work to a wider audience of their peers from different schools, majors and backgrounds.

[Originally posted on the DH blog]

THINKING WITH DATA

By Jeff Barry, Associate University Librarian

Data is an element in the research process that provides substance to scholarship. Likewise, in any organization, data is an analytical element that can inform decision-making about policy and practice. The library's data and statistical services educate students in how to find and use data. The library's data specialist, Carol Karsch, retired in December 2016. Carol did an outstanding job in working with students and faculty on data-oriented courses in the social sciences. Through her expertise in statistical software, she assisted many students in one-on-one sessions and workshops on understanding the nuances of data. Her retirement leaves a knowledge gap at W&L that the library is eager to fill.

That gap also coincides with the library's strategic planning activities. As part of the planning process, librarians Emily Cook and Elizabeth Teaff interviewed students and faculty about the future of the library. An insightful response about data came from Daniela Leon, '18, a double major in sociology/anthropology and politics:

"What do I think the future of the library would look like? I think it would be a lot more technology-based...I see a lot of resources expanding in that direction, a lot of staff and support systems that are geared towards our new use of data. And studying, especially, in the social sciences, not just qualitative book research but also using information to help us. I see that's where it's going to take us in the future."

"Being a social science student, the use of data is actually increasing in my work load. Coming in you only expect to read journals, you expect to read articles and books, and theory

about the world around you. But now more and more we see that we're using projects analyzing data, quantifying a lot of our observations and putting them to the real test ... So I think it's going to be a huge and amazing explosion of knowledge that's going to hit the student body because it's really going to train us to actually put our questions to task like a real hard science student does on a day-to-day basis in the lab. So I think the use of data is only going to increase and get more and more important in these studies and eventually a whole curriculum."

Working with data sets of any significant size requires a computational approach that integrates an understanding of data resources and statistical methods in the context of a specific subject area. This integrated process of thinking with data is data science.

Data is used in all disciplines, even in the humanities where data is often textual rather than numeric. Digital Humanities Librarian Mackenzie Brooks teaches a course every Fall Term on Data in the Humanities. The library has offered one-credit courses on scholarly text encoding that examined the structure of text-based data, and a short course in digital history that focused on the geospatial aspects of historical data. Currently, the library is collaborating with Professor Sarah Horowitz to develop and co-teach courses on text mining of historical sources. Director of Library Technology Jason Mickel teaches a web programming course every year that provides students with the skills to visualize data. The library is also collaborating with the Journalism Department on exploring options for a course on storytelling with data.

A strategic priority for the library is to educate students about thinking with data by offering courses, resources and services grounded in the analytical and technological skills that students need to solve problems based on data.

LIBRARY PHOTO CONTEST A SUCCESS

By Elizabeth Teaff, Head of Access Services

As our students know well, many study areas on the lower levels of Leyburn Library have no view of the outdoors. Aware of this situation, University Librarian John Tombarge was looking for new ways to liven up these areas. He proposed sponsoring a student photo contest and letting the winning entries beautify the walls. Together with Meg Griffiths, Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Art History, we made the contest happen in January.

I worked with the university's General Counsel to ensure that participating students retain copyright to their artistic work. Students were asked to license their work for the use and benefit of the University Library, enabling the library to print, frame and hang their photographs on the lower floors of Leyburn Library. In addition, the library can use the images for non-commercial, indefinite use in promoting the university's educational mission. With announcements on social media and the University Library's website, current W&L students were encouraged to submit photos they had taken of the outdoors. The library was pleased to receive more than 60 entries by the deadline in late January. Every submission was printed in thumbnail format and displayed in the library for a week, during which time the W&L community was asked to vote for their five favorite images.

The three prize winners received gift certificates of \$200, \$150 and \$100, respectively, to the B&H Photo/Video store. Twelve honorable mentions were identified as well.

Each of the winning and honorable mention photographs has been professionally printed and framed, and will decorate the walls of Leyburn Library. But before they make their way down to the stacks, the photographs will be on display on the main floor in March. A reception, open to the public, will be held on March 16.



THE WINNING PHOTOGRAPH, "FAMILY", BY BOGDAN BORS '17

TECHNOTES

By Jason T. Mickel, Director of Library Technology

Another academic year is now more than halfway complete, and 2017 will see some big changes coming to technology in the library. It all starts with the central system that we rely on to run the library and that all of our patrons rely on to search through our resources.

Our old, faithful catalog, Annie, has had a long career here at Washington and Lee, and it's time for her to retire to somewhere warm and sunny. With her exodus, over the spring and early summer, the Collection Services staff, Access Services staff and I will be cleaning up years of data with all of the (virtual) dust it has collected as well as all the nicks and scrapes it has taken. Then, in late summer and fall, we begin the journey into partnering with a new system vendor, Ex Libris, and transitioning to their two key products, Alma (the system we use internally for day-to-day business) and Primo (the system you'll see and use when you search the catalog). By the 2017 holiday break in December (fingers crossed!), we will flip the switch and be ready to go. For more details on the migration, read Julie Kane's article on Ex Libris in this issue (page 12).

The aforementioned Primo system will not only replace Annie, but it will also replace the Summon discovery service that has been the primary search interface for students and other patrons for the last three years. The advantage to discovery is that not only do you

find physical items like books and DVDs, but you can also search through the millions of journal and newspaper articles to which we subscribe. Primo promises to give us greater flexibility and accuracy in providing you the best search results and the ability to improve our students' research skills. It also will be the centerpiece of a redesigned website coming up over the next 18 months.

I've otherwise been kept busy by teaching technology-centered courses that keep the library on the forefront. Last winter term, I debuted a course called "Web Programming for Non-Programmers," which aims to teach students without a computer

science background the core skills needed to create websites with the purpose of visualizing data through maps and charts. This course is part of the digital humanities initiative and keeps our core liberal arts principles

Our old, faithful catalog, Annie, has had a long career here at Washington and Lee, and it's time for her to retire to somewhere warm and sunny.

at its heart. I am in the middle of teaching it for the second time this winter. I have also been teaching management information systems for the Williams School this past fall and current winter. A key course assignment requires students to meet with John Tombarge. Besides serving as our intrepid leader, Tombarge also is the liaison for all business-related disciplines. My goal is to ensure students of all backgrounds see the importance of a library and well-honed research skills to their academic and future careers.

With all this going on, bear with us as we put in a lot of time and effort. In the end, we believe it will be all worth it to improve the library experience for everyone we serve.



COME VISIT THE DH WORKSPACE!

This past year, the library has developed and unveiled the new Digital Humanities Workspace. Located on the second floor of Leyburn, the space offers a flexible working environment for meeting and collaborating. It is also the new home for the offices of Mackenzie Brooks, digital humanities librarian, and Brandon Walsh, Mellon digital humanities fellow. Come on down and say hello – there is plenty of natural light!

The DH group has taken advantage of the new space already.

This winter, they began holding biweekly open office hours where anyone at the university can come learn, hack and play together on their latest projects. They have also held a series of workshops on a variety of digital technologies this term, taught by the undergraduate digital humanities fellows themselves. It has been great to see past students pass on their acquired knowledge to newcomers to the program.

The additional space gives the digital humanities team a lot of freedom to grow in the new year. We have lots planned, so stay tuned for further developments!

LIBRARY'S 3RD ANNUAL EDIBLE BOOK EVENT: Celebrating the "consumption" of literature while helping a worthwhile cause.

"Edible Book" events occur all over the world on or around April 1st and are loosely organized as the International Edible Book Festival. This event creatively celebrates the "consumption" of the book in its many forms.

The library held its first Edible Book Event on April 1, 2015 and its second on April 1st, 2016. The third will be on April 3rd, 2017!



CLIFFORD – 2016 WINNER



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
– 2015 WINNER

EVENT RULES:

- Entries must be submitted by members of the W&L community (current or retired faculty/staff, students, departments, student organizations). Families/friends of university employees or students can also be involved in the creation of an entry as long as there was employee/student involvement.
- All entries must be "bookish" through the integration of text, literary inspiration, or form.
- Entries can be created out of anything edible (cake, grapes, pickles, whatever!).
- The University Library does not supply ingredients for entries.

EVENT PRIZES:

Entries compete to win the "Popular Vote" prize and/or the "Best in Show" prize (bestowed by invited judges).

Anyone can "vote" for an entry by putting money in an associated jar. The entry that earns the most money wins the "Popular Vote" prize. Collected money will be donated to W&L Campus Kitchen, a service-based initiative that aims to combat local hunger.

The announcement of winners and "Eating of the Entries" occurs on April 3rd at 6p.m. All are welcome to attend!

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