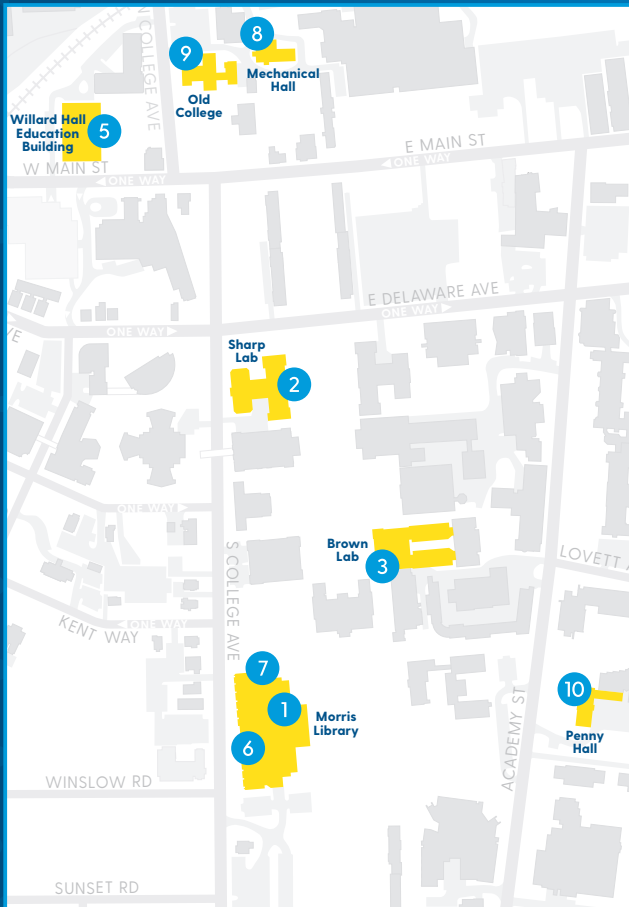




STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE LIBRARY, MUSEUMS AND PRESS
IMPACT REPORT
JULY 2022–JUNE 2023

OUR LOCATIONS



University of
Delaware Campus
Newark, Delaware



Hugh R. Sharp Campus
Lewes, Delaware

- 1 Morris Library
- 2 Physics Library
- 3 Chemistry Library
- 4 Marine Studies Library
- 5 Education Resource Center
- 6 University of Delaware Press
- 7 Special Collections Gallery
- 8 Mechanical Hall Gallery
- 9 Old College Gallery
- 10 Mineralogical Museum



MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PROVOST

Thank you for taking the time to read about the exciting achievements of the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press during the 2022-2023 academic year. In the pages that follow, you will learn about a mere fraction of the ways in which our dedicated staff has contributed to the success of our Blue Hens, faculty, researchers and the broader community.

As you read through the report, we hope you will recognize how we continue to enhance user experience, connect with the community and provide expanded access to resources, emphasizing our unwavering commitment to the principles of equity, accessibility, community engagement and overall student success.

We listened to our graduate students who wanted a study space where those who identify as LGBTQIA+ could feel welcomed and supported and created an “Open Space,” open to all. We were also delighted to collaborate with students to develop monthly book displays that exposed the UD community to collections that represent different voices that are not often heard.

Through a serendipitous encounter, we built a connection with a community in Italy by way of our collections. With intentionality, we also expanded our relationship with West Park Place Elementary School by hosting a book drive to benefit this local Newark school.

To ensure Blue Hens have access to the resources they need to succeed in their studies, we strengthened our Open and Affordable Teaching Materials Initiative, saving our students more than \$500,000 since its inception.

Beyond the classroom, the University of Delaware Press celebrated the publication of its first open access monograph, which is freely available to everyone through the Library’s institutional repository, UDSpace. There, you will also find copies of research papers published by UD authors.

I could continue sharing more about what you will read in the report, but I will let the stories speak for themselves. I know you will be as proud as I am of the team of professionals at the Library, Museums and Press that makes all of this - and much more - happen each day. So, read on!

Cheers,

Trevor A. Dawes, vice provost for libraries and museums and May Morris University Librarian



Students working on the Collections AID service project at Howard High School of Technology.

Photos courtesy of UD's Museum Studies and Public Engagement Program.

SUPPORTING STUDENT LEARNING AND COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS

Picture the boxes in your parents' basement that are filled with photographs and family documents. They are rife with history, but lacking an organizational method to help explain what you can expect to find inside.

That is a similar situation to what 14 graduate students from the University's Museum Studies and Public Engagement Program faced when they entered Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, in January 2023.

The students walked into the historically Black high school with a clear purpose: organize and rehouse 180 cubic feet of historical documents, books and artifacts related to African American history in just two weeks to make the resources more discoverable by the community.

To achieve this lofty goal, the students were led by Ken Cohen, UD's former director of the Museum Studies and Public Engagement Program, and guided by librarian Curtis Small and archivist Shelby Daniels-Young from the Library, Museums and Press.

The work was part of Collections AID (C-AID), an annual service project for graduate students in the Museum

Studies and Public Engagement Program that is designed to help preserve and organize the collections of community organizations.

In this case, C-AID worked with the Howard High School Alumni Association for its "most ambitious project yet," according to Cohen. "From an entire library to thousands of newspaper clipping files, as well as sports memorabilia and photos, the students worked with Howard High alumni to ensure that the collection is searchable and usable, both for current and past Howard students and to set up a digitization effort that will make those materials even more accessible," he explained.

For more than 150 years, Howard High – today a vocational-technology school named Howard High School of Technology – has had a deep and important history within the state. From the late 19th century until the 1920s, it was the only high school for African Americans in the entirety of Delaware. In the 1950s, Howard High was the subject of *Gebhart v. Belton*, one of five desegregation lawsuits that would combine to form *Brown v. Board of Education*, which paved the way for integration with the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling that state laws establishing racial segregation in public schools are unconstitutional.



Students sorting through records and other historical artifacts.

Graduates from Howard High include many notable Delawareans, such as Louis Redding, the first Black lawyer in the state, and civil rights activist Littleton P. Mitchell. Poet and activist Alice Dunbar-Nelson was an English teacher at Howard High, and her niece Pauline A. Young – an activist, educator and historian in her own right – was a student and employee.

As a teacher and librarian at Howard High, Young collected information relating to African American history and Howard High. This included books by Black authors as well as magazine and newspaper clippings. The bulk of materials the students from the C-AID project organized and rehoused were from her collection.

The Howard High Alumni Association had been interested in making this collection more accessible for a while. When the opportunity arose for the C-AID project, Cohen asked Small and Daniels-Young to serve as advisors on the project to plan the best way to organize the materials so they would be easily discoverable.

After consulting with their colleagues, including metadata librarian JP Mongeau and conservator Susan Maguire, Small and Daniels-Young recommended a two-pronged approach. Small would advise the students on creating basic bibliographic and subject information for each book, and Daniels-Young would guide the students in creating folder-level descriptions of the archival materials. This information, collected in a spreadsheet, would then allow Howard High staff and alumni to easily search the resources for topics of interest to researchers and community members.

To achieve this in the two-week project timespan, the students split into groups, each responsible for one type of material, be it books, artifacts or archival materials. Small and Daniels-Young guided the students in how best to fill out the metadata fields and how to determine

which topics were most relevant and would be most useful for those interested in using these resources.

In addition, students numbered each book for easy discovery on shelving built for the project. They also placed the archival materials and clippings into acid-free sleeves, folders and boxes for better preservation.

“We simply could not have planned or executed this project without expert assistance from Dr. Curtis Small and Shelby Daniels-Young, whose expertise in African American librarianship and archiving ensure accurate and appropriate strategies, processes and descriptions were standard practice for our team,” Cohen said.

“It’s sort of like a dream, really, to be able to help a project you know that people have wanted to make happen and to make a community tie,” Small explained. “This is not typically a part of my job. It’s not a thing I get the opportunity to do often, so it was a great learning experience for me too.”



Archivist Shelby Daniels-Young guiding students on archival practices for this project.

“It seems like there’s been a rising interest in people to rediscover the figures of Black history in Wilmington and Delaware,” Daniels-Young added. “There has been an old guard who have been constantly trying to remind people of these

important figures, but I think this project has been good for new people, for people at UD, like students, who don’t necessarily know the area, to learn about the community history. I think that’s really important and good to see.”

The C-AID project was a significant step in making these invaluable collections held by Howard High School more discoverable and accessible. The Library, Museums and Press was honored to play a role in this historic community’s efforts to share and amplify their history.

In honor of Pauline A. Young’s contributions to Delaware and the field of librarianship, the Library, Museums and Press offers the Pauline A. Young Residency Program, which accelerates professional growth and career advancement for early career librarians from traditionally underrepresented groups. Daniels-Young is one of the program’s most recent residents.

Students unwind with therapy dogs as part of our Stress Less programming during Finals Week.





FOSTERING SUCCESS

FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS

The Library, Museums and Press champions the personal and professional research interests of the UD community. The stories that follow are snapshots of the innovative and engaging ways our expert staff provide support for students, faculty and researchers in their academic and creative pursuits.



Technology support specialist Jonathan Famiglietti prints a poster in the Student Multimedia Design Center.

EVALUATING INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

During UD's Spring Into Success conference for first-year and transfer students, our librarians worked with Blue Hens to evaluate popular health trends on TikTok. Students learned techniques on how to investigate the trend and created visuals to make their own TikTok videos to present their findings. This allowed Blue Hens to creatively engage with real-world examples they encounter daily and understand firsthand the need to fact-check information shared via social media.

RETHINKING TRADITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

A new collaboration with the Department of Theatre and Dance resulted in two unique and engaging learning opportunities. In fall 2022, students from the Intro to Theater Design class met with Museums staff to conduct research on their project to design a theater prop. Students examined objects in the collection that ranged from a 1,500-year-old painted jar to a carved panel from a church pew and drew inspiration from those materials to apply to their own designs. In spring 2023, Museums staff led students from the Dance in Culture and Society course in an activity based on artworks that show dancing in motion. After a close examination of the photographs and the postures within them, students recreated the movements to understand how those motions reflect emotions and vice versa.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH GRANT NEEDS

As of January 2023, the National Institutes of Health requires all grant applicants to include a data management and sharing plan as part of their applications. In support of these researchers' needs, the Library's Research Data Steering Group developed a new informational website and offered topical workshops and consultations. These efforts, which were highly engaged with and well attended, lessened grant applicants' anxiety surrounding the significant shift in the process and provided them with insights on how to ensure their research is rigorous and reproducible.

GUIDING ARCHIVAL WORK

Museum Studies students processed the Samuel Antupit Papers Related to Printing, an archival collection within Special Collections, as part of a project for Professor Laura Helton's spring 2023 course Archives and Paper Collections: Curatorship and Management. With expert guidance from Special Collections staff, the students gained meaningful, hands-on experience with archival work. This included collaborating with one another to organize, describe and preserve the collection materials so that they can be used by and useful to all researchers.



Students recreate the movements seen in artworks as part of an in-gallery course activity.



Data services librarian Daniel Peart holds a consultation with a student.



A display in Morris Library featuring books selected by students that honor women's heritage.

SHARING UNDERREPRESENTED STORIES

The Library, Museums and Press and UD Student Diversity and Inclusion are passionate about ensuring students from all backgrounds feel welcome and supported at the University. In spring 2023, we partnered to create monthly, student-curated book displays in Morris Library that allowed the UD community to easily access resources from our collections that speak to diversity-related topics of women's heritage, Black history, sexual assault awareness and Asian Pacific Islander Desi American heritage.

LEADING COPYRIGHT TRAINING

Depositing theses and dissertations can be a stressful experience for graduate students, particularly for the majority who have little to no training in navigating copyright concerns. In collaboration with the Graduate College, the Library, Museums and Press hosted copyright training workshops specifically tailored to graduating masters and doctoral students. Held in fall 2022 and spring 2023, the workshops were offered both online and in person with more than 100 students in attendance.

ENGINEERING SPECIALIZED NEEDS

The Library, Museums and Press supports subject-specific student needs in many ways beyond traditional in-class instruction. For example, we loan out specially configured laptops for College of Engineering students to use through the Help Center in Morris Library. We also support the College's Introduction to Engineering students by printing more than 630 square feet of posters each semester through our Student Multimedia Design Center for the design projects assigned in the course.

INTRODUCING THE MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

To foster a love of learning and discovery at a young age, the curator of the Mineralogical Museum welcomed two dozen five- and six-year olds from the UD Lab School into the gallery in spring 2023. The young learners, described as the "most enthusiastic group imaginable," explored the exhibition *Ground Minerals from Pigments to Palette*, moving from one natural mineral specimen to another with tremendous excitement as many experienced their first visit to a museum.

MENTORING RESEARCHERS

The McNair Scholars Program prepares Blue Hens who are low-income, first-generation students or those from historically underrepresented backgrounds to pursue advanced graduate or doctorate degrees. In summer 2023, the 25 students in the McNair Scholars cohort were paired with a librarian mentor with subject expertise in their area of research. The students frequently met with their mentors to discuss their unique research projects and to receive personalized support as they built and honed their research skills.

INSPIRING ASSIGNMENT IDEAS

When Professor Jason Hill visited the fall 2022 exhibition *What's New? Recent Additions to the Art Collections*, he saw the sports-related photographs on view and was inspired to design an object learning-based assignment for his art history course, Photography and Evidence. Museums staff worked closely with Hill to select additional sports-related artworks from the collections for the class assignment and facilitated a class discussion around the photographs to create a richer learning opportunity.

WELCOMING NEW BLUE HENS

During Decision Day events, admitted students and their families explore campus and discover the resources available to the UD community. This year, the Library, Museums and Press connected with the incoming Blue Hens in more of our locations than ever before. Students were invited to explore our four gallery spaces across the Newark campus and to discover the specialized resources available to those interested in a career in teaching through the Education Resource Center.

ENHANCING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Launched in fall 2022, the new UD Connect mobile app was developed to provide students, faculty and staff with access to information and resources in a single, convenient location. To ensure students could easily find information about the Library, Museums and Press on the app, the Library Information Technology Department and the External Relations, Communications and Development Initiatives Team worked to create a robust, mobile-friendly user-interface for students to engage with commonly sought after information.



BY THE NUMBERS

WE ANSWERED

13,999

QUESTIONS IN PERSON
AND ONLINE

WE RECEIVED NEARLY

30,000

STUDY ROOM RESERVATIONS, TOTALING
63,489 HOURS OF STUDY TIME

WE REACHED

20,627

LEARNERS THROUGH
562 TEACHING SESSIONS

WE WELCOMED

37%

MORE PEOPLE INTO
MORRIS LIBRARY

AND

59%

MORE PEOPLE INTO THE
GALLERY SPACES

THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR



Students collaborating in the “Open Space” study room in Morris Library.

CELEBRATING THE UD QUEER COMMUNITY

When walking into any of the Library, Museums and Press locations across campus, we want our visitors to feel welcome, seen and supported.

In addition to spaces like the Reflection Room and the Lactation Room that acknowledge too-often marginalized groups in academia, we are proud to support the University of Delaware’s queer community with the “Open Space” study room located on the second floor of Morris Library.

Created in partnership with the Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union (QTGSU) and UD’s Graduate Diversity Program, the Open Space is a reservable study room that has been carefully, intentionally and brightly decorated to honor and celebrate the many types of queerness.

The QTGSU outfitted the space with materials from a local queer and feminist thrift shop and bookstore. Inside the study room, you’ll find flags highlighting different genders and sexualities, including the bisexuality flag, non-binary flag, trans flag and more. The bookshelf is stocked with a growing collection of titles on queer history and theory, and you’ll also find queer-themed stickers and a sign that reads, “Everyone is welcome here.”

The room and its glass walls ensure that even those who may not have occasion to use the room can see what it celebrates and recognize the space of positivity.

“If you’ve walked by the space or seen it, it’s clear that it’s a space intended for the queer community,” said Jose Falla, co-chair of QTGSU and a doctoral student in the

Department of Physics and Astronomy. “Visibility is one of the things that has catapulted all sorts of rights throughout history, so I think it’s important to have this space in the library, where a lot of people go and where it ties into the academic element on campus.”

Anthony Sigman-Lowery, co-chair of QTGSU and a doctoral candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, agrees on the value of the library space. “A lot of times queer students in graduate school are invisible,” he explained. “We’re not thought of necessarily in academia and class spaces. There are assumptions of the heteronormativity, and so I think having a space specifically for grad students that says, ‘Yes, queer academics are here. We exist,’ is really important.”

“The UD Library, Museums and Press is dedicated to fostering an academic environment that is accessible, flexible and inclusive in nature,” said Trevor A. Dawes, vice provost for libraries and museums and May Morris University Librarian.

“We were thrilled when members of the Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union reached out to us in search of a space on campus and within Morris Library to connect and study,” Dawes continued. “The Library, a boundary-spanning organization, belongs to the entire Blue Hen community and its spaces should reflect the true diversity of our community.”

The Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union was founded in 2021 as a space for queer and questioning graduate students to come together to discuss gender and sexuality as well their lives and experiences as graduate students.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO LEARNING WITH OPEN ACCESS

When research is published in a scholarly journal, it is often held behind a paywall or withheld until an institution or individual pays subscription or pay-per-view fees. These barriers to access hinder the reach and impact of the research by limiting the ability for others to engage with it.

At the Library, Museums and Press, we are committed to enhancing access to materials for and from our community. As such, we are working to advance efforts around open access publishing, which is when articles, books and other original research is made freely and digitally available to all.

437 

OPEN ACCESS ARTICLES
ADDED TO UDSpace—
A **51% INCREASE**
OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR

FACULTY SENATE OPEN ACCESS RESOLUTION

In 2015, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution allowing the Library, Museums and Press to make UD faculty research publications publicly available through the University's institutional repository, UDSpace. This past year, we significantly enhanced our efforts to provide open access to research produced by the UD community through the work of our digital publishing specialist, who proactively connects with faculty, students and staff to track, catalog and clean their research for deposit into UDSpace. As a result, 437 open access articles were added to UDSpace during the 2022-2023 academic year—a 51% increase over the previous year.

\$153 

AVERAGE SAVED PER STUDENT.
UPWARDS OF **\$195,000**
TOTAL SAVED THIS YEAR

OPEN AND AFFORDABLE TEACHING MATERIALS (OATM) INITIATIVE

Through the OATM Initiative, we help faculty locate free and low-cost materials and incorporate them into courses. This year, we raised awareness of these open educational resources (OER) through workshops and other faculty development opportunities. We also funded 11 grants for faculty interested in transitioning their courses to OER, more than double the amount we've previously funded in a single year. Through this ongoing support, 783 students saved an average of \$153 each during the 2022-2023 academic year, with an estimated total savings that is upwards of \$195,000. To date, this initiative has resulted in as much as \$598,000 in savings.

FIRST 

OPEN ACCESS BOOK PUBLISHED
UNDER THE UD PRESS

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PRESS

In spring 2023, the UD Press continued its innovative approach to publishing by launching its first open access title, *The Biden School and the Engaged University of Delaware, 1961-2021*, by Daniel Rich, with plans for additional titles in the works. The UD Press also made some of its backlist titles available open access via the University's institutional repository.



Students from Newark's West Park Place Elementary School browsing through books collected by the UD community.

NURTURING CHILDREN'S LOVE FOR READING

Members of the greater UD community donated 219 books to the children's book drive hosted by the Library, Museums and Press in April 2023.

These books were donated to West Park Place Elementary School in Newark, a public school in the Christina School District, to enhance its library collections and benefit students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

"Thank you so much for the books ... so kindly donated to the West Park Place library," said Barbara D'Amico, the librarian at West Park Place Elementary School. "They are a wonderful addition to our collection and will be greatly enjoyed by the students ... Please know how much we appreciate you thinking of us and taking the time and effort to be a part of such a generous and thoughtful gesture."



A student stands alongside the donation bin.

From picture books to chapter books, the donated titles will ensure the elementary school students have access to a wider selection of books in their Library Media Center to inspire their love for reading. Duplicate copies of books were distributed to students to grow their personal libraries.

"When we pulled up to West Park Place Elementary School to drop off the books, we were greeted by kindergarteners and

members of the school administration awaiting our arrival," said Tywanda Cuffy, director of external relations, communications and development initiatives at the Library, Museums and Press. "The students were excited to receive the books and wasted no time going through all of them to pick out their favorite. It felt good to step outside of our library and do something for another library within our community."

The book drive was held in connection with National Library Week, an annual celebration that highlights the role and value of libraries in our lives and in our communities.

"Everything we do at the Library, Museums and Press is motivated by our mission to enhance our community's access to diverse and inclusive information resources," said Trevor A. Dawes, vice provost for libraries and museums and May Morris University Librarian.

"I am so thrilled that the Library, along with so many of our University community members, could support a local public school library in expanding its collections and broadening its students' access to literature," Dawes continued. "At a time when books are being censored and removed from schools and libraries across the country, it is more important than ever to encourage and support our younger readers."



BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIONS

The Lasting Impact of Italian Immigrants' Oral Histories

In 1966, University of Delaware alumnus Francis J. Fierro interviewed members of Wilmington's Italian immigrant community as part of a larger project led by Professor John Munroe and the Department of History.

Born in Wilmington's Little Italy, Fierro was the son of Joseph and Angela Fierro, both immigrants from the town of Castel Morrone, Italy. Aware of Fierro's background, Professor Munroe asked his former student to participate in the project. Fierro used his community ties and his father's personal connections to conduct 50 interviews with Italian immigrants in Delaware.

"I was flattered and excited [to be the interviewer]," Fierro explained in the preface to the book *Echo: The Sound of Memory*. "And at the same time, I felt a huge sense of responsibility to get it right for all those who made my life and opportunities possible, most importantly, my parents."

These interviews are part of the Robert H. Richards Jr. Delaware Oral History Collection in our Special Collections. One of the Library's most heavily used Delaware history collections, it consists of oral histories from state educators, journalists, politicians and others, with most of the stories documenting Wilmington's rich immigrant heritage.





Francis and Carolyn Fierro meet with the RCM Live team over Zoom in Morris Library.

“Decades later, [the Italian immigrants’] legacies carry on in the lives of their American descendents, such as myself – an ‘echo’ of these Italian immigrants who dared to and had the courage to dream.”
-Francis J. Fierro

When Fierro returned his audio recordings to Professor Munroe along with the interview transcripts that his wife, Carolyn Fierro, had transcribed, he didn’t realize how important these resources would become for researchers and genealogists. “In all honesty, I expected that the interviews would end up collecting dust in some lonely attic over many decades,” Fierro continued.

Fifty-five years ago, the idea of digitizing historical records to provide global access to research materials wasn’t a possibility. Today, it’s a reality. Through the Library, Museums and Press, the audio files and transcripts of the incredible and important stories preserved within this collection are freely and publicly available to everyone around the world.

In summer 2022, the Italian cultural association RCM Live discovered these digitized resources, beginning a project that would bring a light to a town’s past and, ultimately, unite international communities.

“[Our] research project arose from a simple internet search, but perhaps it would be better to describe it as a case of serendipity,” said the RCM Live team, which consists of president Mariano Villano, secretary and project manager Orsola Riello, and partner and board member Davide Bernardo. “Consulting Google Scholar and searching for the word ‘Castel Morrone,’ we found an audio file, from long ago, in which we heard the voice of a person who had emigrated from Castel Morrone to Wilmington.”

Located north of Naples, the town of Castel Morrone in the province of Caserta, Italy, has a population of roughly 4,000. Home to RCM Live, Castel Morrone is also the ancestral home of many of the Italian immigrants Fierro interviewed, including his father as well as Frank Marra, Joseph Marra, Assunta Carucci, Joseph Sparco, Rose Bernardo, Nellie Mercante,

Anthony Bernardo, John Marra, Ralph Parisi, Fannie Ricchiuti, John Sparco and Pietro Papa.

In the early 1900s, these individuals came to Wilmington, a desirable destination for the Morronesi migrants because it was full of factories looking for cheap labor. While they initially did not know the language, customs or work, the Morronesi relied on food, faith, solidarity and hard work to improve their conditions and build a community in Delaware. They contributed to the betterment of the state, and many of the businesses these families started – Casapulla’s Subs and Steaks, Papa’s Food Market and Fusco’s Water Ice, to name a few – still exist today. The lasting legacy of their faith also remains as Mater Misericordia, the patron saint of Castel Morrone, is included in the annual procession of saints during St. Anthony’s Italian Festival in Wilmington.

Upon discovering the Delaware Oral History Collection, the RCM Live team reached out to UD librarian L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin to learn more. “It is always gratifying to connect descendants with family archives, but I was especially excited to assist with this transatlantic research,” Johnson Melvin said.

As RCM Live conducted further research with newspapers, religious archives and more with the support and guidance of Johnson Melvin, she in turn researched current individuals from the Italian community in Wilmington who might be able to shed further light on Castel Morrone.

In an instance of serendipity, Johnson Melvin was able to find then-91-year-old Fierro and his family, who lived in Newark, and connect them with RCM Live. Johnson Melvin hosted Zoom meetings at Morris Library to connect the Fierros with RCM Live, and Fierro shared invaluable knowledge and insights to support their research.



Delaware residents attend the book launch in Italy remotely.

With direct connections to the families of these Italian immigrants, the pieces of a puzzle seemed to fall in place. “The project, which was initially intended to be just a podcast recounting the lives of Castel Morrone emigrants in Wilmington, turned into something much bigger,” the RCM Live team shared.

From this wealth of resources, RCM Live authored the book *Echo: The Sound of Memory* and hosted a live launch for their community members, which several Delaware residents attended remotely. They also shared their research with the mayor of Castel Morrone, Cristoforo Villano, who expressed his interest in making Castel Morrone a sister city to Wilmington.

Echo uses the oral histories alongside newspaper articles, ancestry records and other historical documents to tell the history of people from Castel Morrone who immigrated to Wilmington in the early 20th century. The book has been championed in the Morronesi community, with an English translation coming soon.

“All the information within the book regarding Wilmington, its history, Little Italy, and the people described is all the result of Rebecca’s countless research there on the ground,” the RCM Live team spoke to Johnson Melvin’s essential contributions and guidance. The Fierro family shared similar sentiments about her role in coordinating conversations that spanned time zones and moving the project forward.

“I can’t describe the honor I feel about assisting with this project and the great personal joy I had in working with the Fierro family and RCM Live,” Johnson Melvin said. “It’s the best of everything we do with libraries and archives: connect people with the information they seek. We truly provided global access to an archive because we had digitized the oral histories, which Dr. Munroe had the vision to create in order to document the diversity of our local history. The internet, emails and Zoom connected us with these ancestral ‘echoes,’ so beautifully named by RCM Live.”

The public program, held in Italy in January 2023 and hosted by Mayor Villano, provided an opportunity to further celebrate the lives and stories of the Italian immigrants – sharing snippets from their oral histories and bringing featured guests like Fierro into the conversation remotely. RCM Live collaborators Antonio and Vito Altieri were crucial in providing audiovisual support and conducting video calls with Johnson Melvin and Fierro.

“The most rewarding part of the project was meeting Francis Fierro, an exceptional person who was immediately helpful, seeing the enthusiasm that animated him and his entire family when he learned that we were working on writing this book and that he was our key character and main thread throughout the story,” the RCM Live team reflected.

Sadly, Fierro passed away on March 17, 2023, but his legacy lives on in the hearts of people around the world, in the interviews with Italian immigrants and on the pages of *Echo*.

“These immigrants [highlighted in the oral histories], including my parents, fearlessly ventured into the unknown under very vulnerable and poor conditions with a singular focus



*Members of the RCM Live team pose with the book *Echo: The Sound of Memory*.*

to achieve a better life for themselves and their families,” Fierro wrote in the preface of *Echo*. “And decades later, their legacies carry on in the lives of their American descendants, such as myself – an ‘echo’ of these Italian immigrants who dared to and had the courage to dream.”

Just as Fierro’s parents had helped build a community among Italian immigrants in Wilmington, Fierro was able to play an instrumental role in uniting the communities of Castel Morrone and Wilmington more than a century later.

The Robert H. Richards Jr. Delaware Oral History Collection is named in honor of the Wilmington attorney and UD alumnus whose financial contributions to the project sustained its work.

PROVIDING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Graduate student Julia Hamer-Light stands near the entrance of the exhibition she co-curated.

CURATING EXHIBITIONS

As part of a longstanding collaboration with the Department of Art History, two graduate students guest-curated large, semester-long exhibitions in Mechanical Hall Gallery with the support and guidance of expert curators and staff from the Museums.

In fall 2022, Rachael Vause curated *Sacred Convergence in African American Art*, which explored where contemporary African American art intersects with sacred objects from West Africa and images and objects from the Christian tradition. In spring 2023, Julia Hamer-Light curated *Seeing Textiles in Painting, Printing and Papermaking, 1960-Today*, which examined how modern and contemporary artists take inspiration from textiles.

In addition to raising awareness in the UD community about the breadth and depth of the Museums' collections, these opportunities provided Vause and Hamer-Light with invaluable professional experience for future curatorial, museum and art-related careers. During the planning and organizational phases of their work, the students researched materials, wrote labels and helped plan the overall exhibition. When the exhibitions were on view, the students gained experience in public speaking and event planning for related programming. They also learned how to lead classes and teach with physical collections in gallery spaces.

ENHANCING RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

Many collections within the Library, Museums and Press have been digitized, making it easier for researchers worldwide to discover them. By preparing these digital resources for use with computational analysis methodologies like network analysis, individuals have more options on how to use the materials in their research, such as identifying patterns and trends through tools like data visualizations and text analysis.

Working closely with digital scholarship librarian Kayla Abner, graduate assistant Brit Henry used her historical interpretation skills to ready the Library's extensive collection of Alice Dunbar-Nelson's correspondence for such analysis. Doing so provided Henry with valuable, firsthand professional experience with the data curation processes necessary in most digital humanities work and best practices for handling and reading primary source materials.

Henry's work in providing a brief description of each letter as well as identifying the overall topic discussed and the relationship between Dunbar-Nelson and her contacts allows for researchers to better understand the social network of the poet and activist along with the work of 20th-century African American activism more broadly.



Graduate assistant Brit Henry (left) looks at data insights with digital scholarship librarian Kayla Abner (right).



Students do yoga outside of Morris Library to take a break during Finals Week as part of our Stress Less programming.





Artist's Talk with James Phillips



Performance from African drumming ensemble



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

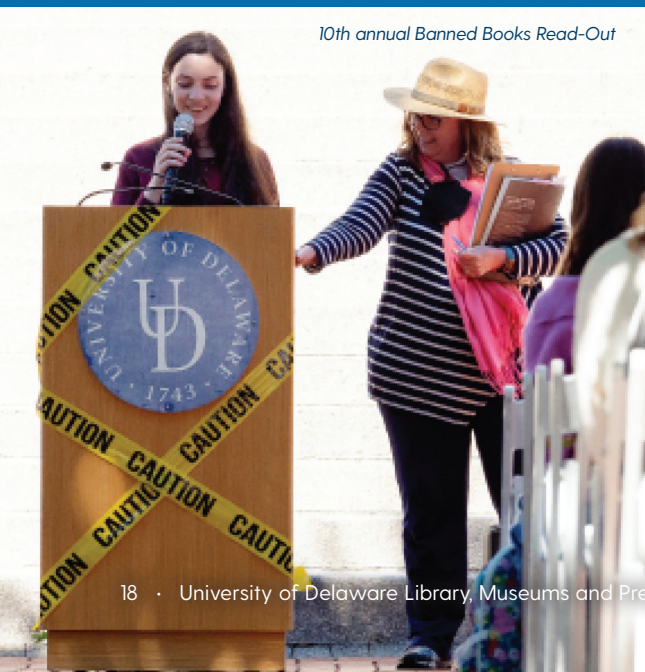
Our locations across campus serve as community spaces for learning and discovery. Throughout the year, we welcome students, faculty, staff and the greater University and Newark communities into our spaces for dozens of events that promote the following:

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

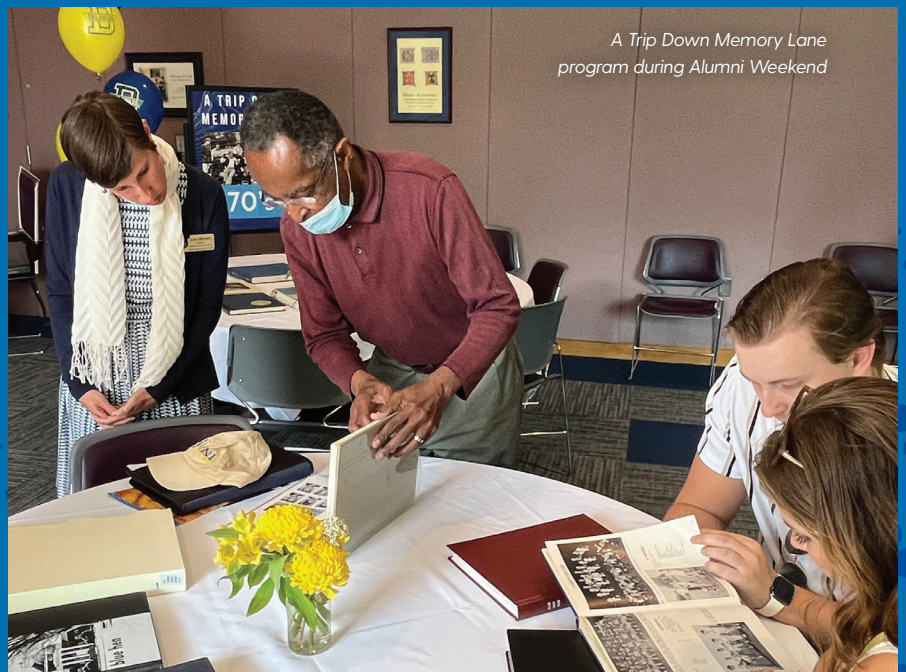
In conjunction with our exhibitions, we hosted events that encouraged deeper engagement with the artifacts on view in our gallery spaces and their cultural impact. These experiences included gallery talks led by exhibition curators, a talk with artist James Phillips about his painting and printmaking, and a performance from a local African drumming ensemble.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Between fall 2022 and spring 2023, we led more than 50 workshops that fostered interactive learning opportunities on subjects ranging from data management to photography. To connect with individuals in their preferred learning environment, workshops were offered in person, virtually and in hybrid settings.



10th annual Banned Books Read-Out



A Trip Down Memory Lane program during Alumni Weekend

SCHOLARSHIP

In our monthly Scholar in the Library series, we invite University faculty and graduate students to share their original research with their peers. This past year, we hosted scholars in the fields of accounting, women and gender studies, art and design, history, and art conservation.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

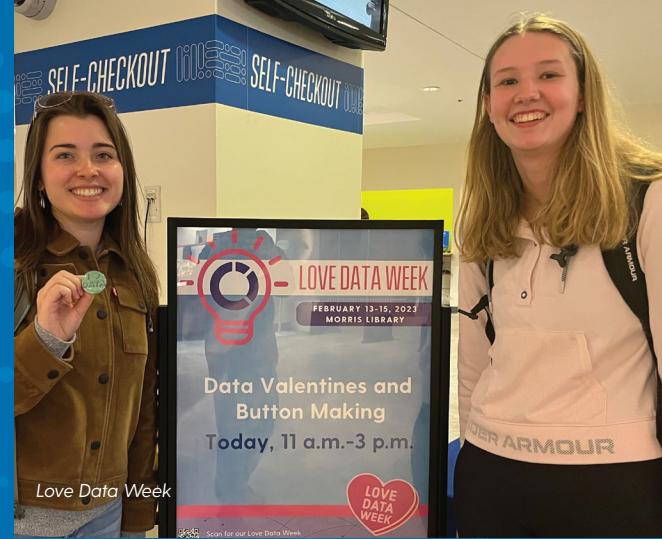
Our drop-in events allow the greater University community to actively engage with special topics through hands-on activities. For instance, students created a data visualization using candy to feel more comfortable working with data during Love Data Week, and community members read aloud to speak out against censorship during our annual Banned Books Read-Out.

WELLBEING

As one of the most popular study locations on campus during Finals Week, we are committed to providing our Blue Hens with resources and activities that encourage them to take a break and prioritize their wellbeing. This past year, we supported more than 1,300 students with our Stress Less programming, which included yoga, coloring, visits from therapy dogs, and free pizza and hot chocolate.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Through our events, we directly support the interests of specific communities. We host lectures with faculty and guest speakers to engage with the Friends of the UD Library and participate in larger initiatives, like the University's Alumni Weekend, to keep forever Blue Hens connected to campus resources.





BRANDAN HENRY

INSPIRING CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENT ART

Left: "Beneath the Surface" by Abby Denion
Right: "The Cradle" by Brandon Henry

What inspires you? For graduate student Bryan DeProspero, it's poetry, street art, urban landscapes and the crumbling facades of buildings. Graduate student Sahar Tarighi is moved by the layered experiences of personal and cultural identity. Alumnus Brandon Henry finds his inspiration in folklore, iconography and reclamation of the Black image.

These artists turned their inspirations into thought-provoking art that was on view in Morris Library during the 2023 spring semester.

The art was displayed as part of the Artists at Morris program, which is designed to enhance the student experience in communal spaces in Morris Library. The program is coordinated by the Morris Library Art Task Force, which consists of Library, Museums and Press staff, faculty from the Department of Art and Design, and graduate students, including DeProspero and Tarighi.

Henry's art was on display on the first floor as part of the alumni artist exhibition "fic-tions." He describes his poignant and powerful art as "drawings using the form of pose, especially gestural and iconic, that describes imaginary events and people." DeProspero and Tarighi's art was part of

the student art installation on the second floor, which also included paintings, ceramics and mixed media from other undergraduate and graduate students across campus.

These displays put student inspiration at the forefront of the conversation and opened the door for others to be moved to pursue an idea, a conversation or a project of their own.

"I create art for myself ... but art is a two-way connection," explained Tarighi. "After the creation of art, the work belongs to the audience, and with the audience's perception and understanding of the work, another world is formed."

Henry shared a similar sentiment. "The work literally comes alive every time a fresh set of eyes engages with it," he said. "It's an excellent opportunity for new interpretations to unfold. College campuses are interesting considering student bodies are in constant flux. You never know who will be confronted by the work."

In Morris Library, people browse nearly endless shelves of books, explore thought-provoking exhibitions of historical materials, and experiment with multimedia studio to discover their next great idea.



Top: "Shadowboxer" by Bryan DeProspero
Bottom: "Bacchus" by Brandon Henry

"I create art for myself ... but art is a two-way connection. After the creation of art, the work belongs to the audience, and with the audience's perception and understanding of the work, another world is formed."

—Graduate student Sahar Tarighi



With these displays, they can also look to the art on the walls. "The more we look at art, the more we can appreciate it," DeProspero said. "That's what it's meant to do. It's meant to be seen and acknowledged, not just for the artist's sake, but because if I can make something that then inspires another person, it becomes this perpetual sort of thing. So to have it [in Morris Library], where people are researching and being introspective, is a perfect opportunity to set the mood for everybody."

Creating more engaging, dynamic and inviting spaces for the community is at the heart of the new Artists at Morris program.

"Artists at Morris is the result of going beyond the academic, research and social environment that thrives in Morris Library," said Shelly McCoy, a member of the Morris Library Art Task Force and associate university librarian for public services and space planning. "Student art celebrates what makes our environment a community. It creates a deeper, more enriching community through colors, mediums and thought-provoking connections."



Students using the upgraded Mac computers in the Student Multimedia Design Center.



Refurbished furniture in Morris Library's Information Room.

ENHANCING THE USER EXPERIENCE

INCREASED ACCESS AND DISCOVERABILITY

The Library, Museums and Press has upgraded two major research and discovery platforms to improve access to our collections and resources for researchers.

The Library's catalog, DELCAT, moved to a new cloud-based services platform to provide simplified searching, a more intuitive user-interface and virtual browsing. It also enables staff to make evidence-based decisions.

UDSpace – the University's institutional repository, which houses dissertations and other original research from members of the UD community and makes them freely accessible to researchers worldwide – was upgraded to better support the needs of faculty and graduate student researchers and their publications. The update also increased storage capacity and furthers Library efforts to make UD research openly available.

IMPROVED SEATING

To ensure students have comfortable spaces to work and create, furniture outside and inside Morris Library was refreshed. The damaged, decades-old tables and chairs on the outdoor patio were replaced and, thanks to the financial support of donors, tattered furniture in the popular Information Room study area was refurbished. Large-scale renovations to enhance and increase student seating are planned to begin in the 2023-24 academic year.

EXPANDED TECH OPTIONS

The Library, Museums and Press has integrated new and updated technologies. Students have more mobile computing options as they can now check out iPads from the Help Center. They can also create and edit multimedia projects more quickly and easily with upgraded Mac computers in the Student Multimedia Design Center, and borrow books at their convenience from the Education Resource Center via the contactless option of the UD Library Self-Checkout mobile app.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

In 2022–2023, the University of Delaware Press celebrated a century of publishing high-quality scholarship that carries the name of the University around the world.

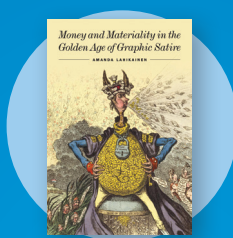
In those 100 years, the UD Press has developed its reputation as a leading publisher in literary studies, art history, early modern studies, material culture studies, and the history and culture of the Delmarva region. The UD Press also advances equity and inclusion, particularly through series that engage with gender, race and sexuality, and scholarship that provides new insights into how the early modern period speaks to the present day.

Since its first publication, a translation of Pierre duPont's *National Education in America*, in the spring of 1923, each UD Press title has brought new perspectives and ideas into the scholarly discourse. Here are the innovative, interdisciplinary titles the UD Press published in its 100th year, including its first open access title:



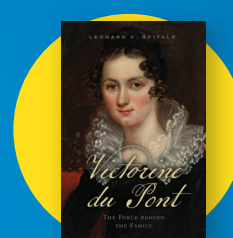
MAKING STARS: BIOGRAPHY AND CELEBRITY IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN

Edited by Nora Nachumi and
Kristina Straub
Series: Performing Celebrity



MONEY AND MATERIALITY IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF GRAPHIC SATIRE

By Amanda Lahikainen
Series: Studies in Seventeenth–
and Eighteenth-Century
Art and Culture



VICTORINE DU PONT: THE FORCE BEHIND THE FAMILY

By Leonard C. Spitale
Series: Cultural Studies of Delaware
and the Eastern Shore

THE CELEBRITY MONARCH: EMPRESS ELISABETH AND THE MODERN FEMALE PORTRAIT

By Olivia Gruber Florek
Series: Performing Celebrity

BLACK POWDER, WHITE LACE: THE DU PONT IRISH AND CULTURAL IDENTITY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA, 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

By Margaret M. Mulrooney
Series: Cultural Studies of Delaware and the Eastern Shore

THE BIDEN SCHOOL AND THE ENGAGED UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, 1961–2021

By Daniel Rich
Available open access on UDSpace 

THE WAXING OF THE MIDDLE AGES: REVISITING LATE MEDIEVAL FRANCE

Edited by Charles-Louis Morand-Métivier and Tracy Adams
Series: The Early Modern Exchange

GENDERING THE RENAISSANCE: TEXT AND CONTEXT IN EARLY MODERN ITALY

Edited by Meredith K. Ray and Lynn Lara Westwater
Series: The Early Modern Exchange

ORDERING CUSTOMS: ETHNOGRAPHIC THOUGHT IN EARLY MODERN VENICE

By Kathryn Taylor
Series: The Early Modern Exchange



Students enjoy Morris Library's new patio furniture while studying outside on a sunny day.



OUR STAFF



NEW HIRES

Charissa Powell, head of the Student Success and Curriculum Partnerships Department, July 1, 2022.

Lori Birrell, director of Special Collections and Museums, August 1, 2022.

Beth Twomey, head of the Research and Engagement Department, August 1, 2022.

Tyler Walls, library assistant II, August 1, 2022.

Jessica Bishop, library assistant II, August 22, 2022.

Jonathan Famiglietti, technology support specialist I, September 1, 2022.

Arline Wilson, senior assistant librarian and digital humanities and Africana scholar, September 1, 2022.

Nicole Hernandez, external relations coordinator, October 1, 2022.

Eric Scotolati, library assistant III, November 1, 2022.

Lauren Battista, library assistant III, January 1, 2023.

Emma Jaud, web developer I, February 23, 2023.

Jessica Dai, organizational development and learning librarian, March 1, 2023.

Josephine Chaet, publishing coordinator, June 1, 2023.

Jeannette Schollaert, project manager for Poetry as Activism, June 1, 2023

RETIREMENTS

Julie Brewer, associate university librarian for human resources and organizational development, July 1, 2022.

Joan Parker, library assistant III, August 1, 2022.

Janet Siar, associate librarian and head of the Acquisitions Department, September 1, 2022.

Deborah Ryszka, librarian and head of the Cataloging and Metadata Department, October 1, 2022.

Robert Kraver, library assistant I, May 1, 2023.

SUPPORTING FREE KNOWLEDGE WORLDWIDE

Our staff know how important it is to rely on trustworthy, credible information. In addition to supporting students in critically and thoughtfully engaging with information resources, staff also participated in the biannual #LiblRef campaign in May 2023. Hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, the campaign encourages librarians to add missing references to articles on Wikipedia to improve the quality of freely available content.

This year, our staff updated 27 Wikipedia articles, focusing on the tenets of equity, diversity and inclusion by adding references written by people who identify as women as well as articles that celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



WELCOMING THE NEW DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND MUSEUMS

Hired in August 2022, Lori Birrell is the new director of Special Collections and Museums. Within the division, staff steward collections and integrate them into the University's curriculum through instruction sessions, student-curated exhibitions and digital projects. In her new role, Birrell's vision is to create meaningful opportunities that will allow all faculty and students to engage with Special Collections and Museums in support of their research and learning throughout their academic careers at UD.



TRANSITIONS

Maren Cornett was promoted to the rank of senior assistant librarian, July 1, 2022.

Meg Grotti was promoted to the rank of librarian, July 1, 2022.

Thomas Pulhamus was promoted to the rank of senior assistant librarian, July 1, 2022.

Michael Stewart was promoted to the rank of senior assistant librarian, July 1, 2022.

Lauren Wallis was promoted to the rank of associate librarian, July 1, 2022.

Alison Wessel was promoted to the rank of associate librarian, July 1, 2022.

Megan Gaffney was appointed the head of the Collections, Acquisitions and Resource Sharing Department, September 1, 2022.

Cynthia Bailey was promoted to library services coordinator I, November 1, 2022.

Kate Coulter was promoted to data visualization and assessment analyst, November 1, 2022.

Allison Ebner was promoted to communications specialist II, November 1, 2022.

Eve Ellis was promoted to library services coordinator II, November 1, 2022.

Peggy Tatnall was promoted to library services coordinator I, November 1, 2022.

Ameerah Stafford was appointed to the rank of associate librarian, December 1, 2022.

Shelby Daniels-Young was appointed collections enhancement and engagement archivist, January 1, 2023.

Timothy Murray was appointed librarian for Delaware and 19th- and 20th-century print collections, January 1, 2023.

Jennifer MacDonald was appointed head of the Cataloging and Metadata Department, March 1, 2023.

Maren Cornett was appointed coordinator of the Special Collections Cataloging Unit, March 20, 2023.

Dwayne Pragg was promoted to IT systems support consultant III, April 1, 2023.

Sharon Fitzgerald was appointed to the rank of curator, May 1, 2023.

Dustin Frohlich was appointed to the rank of senior assistant librarian, May 1, 2023.

Ashley Rye-Kopec was appointed to the rank of senior assistant curator, May 1, 2023.

Amanda Zehnder was appointed to the rank of curator, May 1, 2023.

COLLECTING DELMARVA HISTORY FOR SIX DECADES AND COUNTING

Longtime donor Ronald Finch is a UD alumnus, former library student assistant, board member of the Friends of the UD Library, and former director of the State of Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

For six decades, Finch has been collecting materials related to the Delmarva region, including books, manuscripts, documents, archival material, historic maps and early Delaware newspapers. Seven years ago, he announced plans to gift his world-class Delmarva Collection, which consisted of more than 6,000 items at the time, to the Library, Museums and Press.

In 2021, Finch officially gifted the entirety of the Dr. Ronald M. Finch Delmarva Collection to our Special Collections. Since then, he has continued to actively collect and gift additional materials for the collection to the Library.

This past year, Finch gifted the Library the Delaware Foundation Archive, which includes original documents, letters, maps, broadsides and pamphlets that document the historical, geological and financial history of early Delaware. Valued at nearly \$450,000, the materials provide powerful insight into the lives of famous early colonial leaders like William Penn, Gunning Bedford and Caesar Rodney.

Finch also plans to establish the Dr. Ronald Milton Finch Endowment for the Delmarva Special Collection, which will provide support for undergraduate and graduate students working with the collection and enable the Library to continue acquiring, preserving and conducting research on Delmarva historical materials.

"It has been an immense pleasure to work with Ron Finch and his remarkable Delmarva Collection," said librarian Tim Murray. "As a result of Ronald Finch's generosity, the University of Delaware Library now holds the premiere collection on Delmarva history, which will be a tremendous scholarly and educational resource for generations to come, particularly for the faculty and students of the University of Delaware."



Manuscript survey map by Thomas Piersons and Isaac Taylor, dated October 10, 1701. Delineates boundary between New Castle, DE, and Chester, PA. Part of the Dr Ronald M. Finch Delmarva Collection.



Members of the Friends of the UD Library see the equipment used for digitizing materials.

MAKING LOCAL HISTORY GLOBALLY ACCESSIBLE

In early 2023, the Friends of the University of Delaware Library made a \$277,000 commitment over the next five years to support the digitization of archival collections from our Special Collections focused on Delaware history and culture.

"This project will provide students and researchers in the UD community, across the country and around the world with increased access to these valuable materials while at the same time protecting [these resources] from damage and deterioration," said Jim Dalle Pазze, president of the Friends of the UD Library.

The gift also enabled the Digital Initiatives and Preservation Department to purchase a second high-quality scanner camera and scanning cradle, and will allow the team to hire a graduate assistant to support the project.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Library, Museums and Press is grateful to our generous supporters from the 2022-2023 academic year who helped expand our world-class collections and make them globally accessible; expose Blue Hens to hands-on learning opportunities; and create and improve study and learning spaces within our facilities and so much more!

The initiatives below showcase just some of the ways you have contributed to the success of our students, faculty and staff this year.

SETH TROTTER BOOK COLLECTING CONTEST

In 2022, the Friends of the UD Library celebrated the importance of collecting printed and rare materials by awarding a total of \$2,000 to students Nora Ellen Carleson, Anne Laurilliard van Zelst and Kelsey Bianca for their winning book collections on decorative arts and design, French heroine Joan of Arc, and debunking misconceptions about psychology, respectively.

CROWDFUNDING FOR OPEN ACCESS

On Giving Tuesday, 59 donors raised \$2,712 to openly publish *Unsettling Sexuality: Queer Horizons in the Long Eighteenth Century*, edited by Jeremy Chow and Shelby Johnson and published by the UD Press, making it freely and digitally accessible worldwide.

IMPROVED STUDY SPACES FOR BLUE HENS

As part of I Heart UD Giving Day, 148 donors raised \$12,117 to refurbish the well-loved yet tattered furniture in the Information Room in Morris Library, providing Blue Hens with a comfortable space to study, explore and create.

SETH TROTTER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH AWARD

Inaugural student recipients Margaret W. Hughes, Anisha Gupta and Claudia Marion Stemberger received a combined \$2,000 from the Friends of the UD Library for their use of rare materials from our Special Collections for their original research on slavery and race at Delaware College, New London Road's free Black community, and Celtic gospel manuscripts, respectively.

RECOGNIZING OUR LEADERSHIP SUPPORTERS

We are proud to recognize Delaware Diamond Society donors who made a gift of \$1,000 or more to the Library.

Robert W. Jr. '66 '69M and Margaret S. Abbott
Janet Ferber Brown '74
Nancy Newton Burri '53
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Philip K. Cohen
James B. Cummins III
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Joan Weiss Digby '65M
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Ashley M. Evans '13
Marianne Felder
Ronald M. Finch '56
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and Ernest A. Knobelspiesse '67
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Jean Jaquette Luce '60
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Nadine Millstine
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Nicole C. Vicinanza '89 and David P. Arnott '89
Richard D. Weigel '68M '73PhD
and Leslie Davis Weigel '70 '76M
Fred Weinstein '58*
Allan R. Williams '66

Deceased individuals are noted with an asterisk (*)



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