UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE LIBRARY, MUSEUMS AND PRESS IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026



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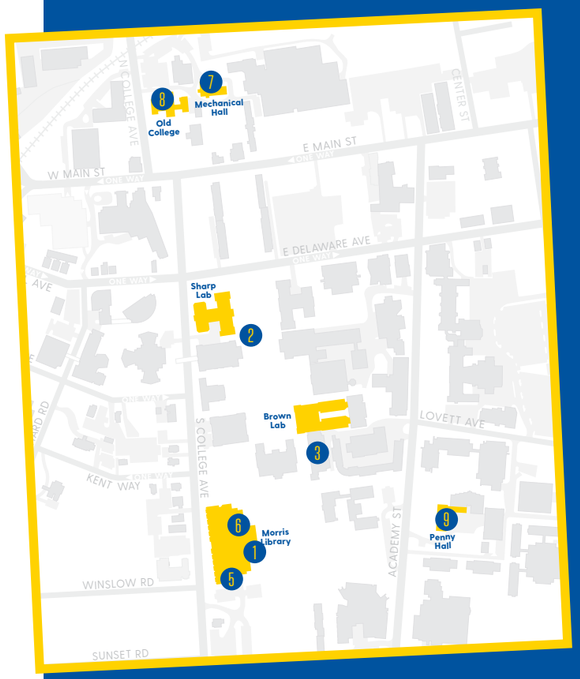
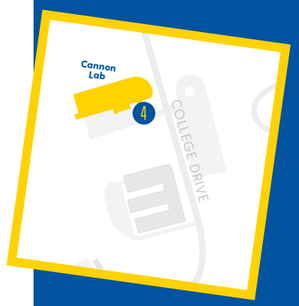


University of Delaware Campus
Newark, Delaware



Hugh R. Sharp Campus
Lewes, Delaware

1 Morris Library
2 Physics Library
3 Chemistry Library
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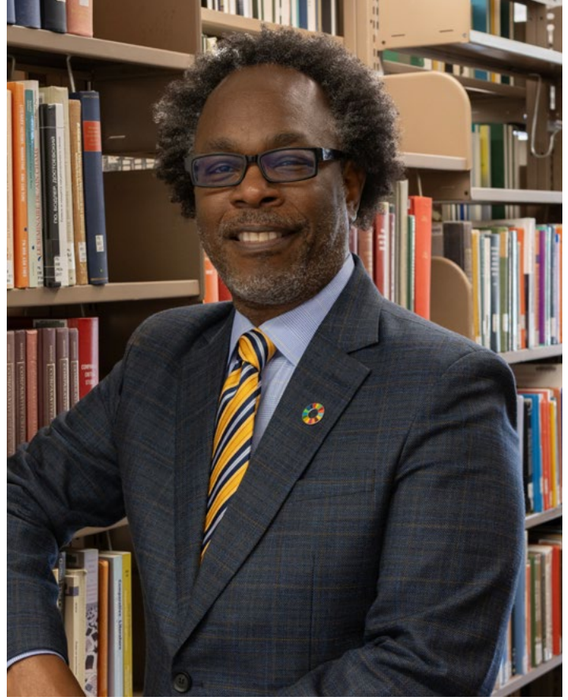
5 University of Delaware Press
6 Special Collections Gallery
7 Mechanical Hall Gallery
8 Old College Gallery
9 Mineralogical Museum

HELP SHAPE HOW WE SHARE OUR STORIES

Your input will help us refine how we continue to tell the stories of the UD Library, Museums and Press.

udel.edu/0015195



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read about some of the incredible work of the Library, Museums and Press over the past academic year in our annual Impact Report. In the pages that follow, you will learn about and see some examples of how our dedicated staff members embody the Library, Museums and Press' key priorities of research support, experiential learning and open scholarship through a variety of projects and initiatives. The staff's expertise and passion are at the heart of our success. I am grateful to my colleagues and thank them for the work they do every day to make the Library, Museums and Press a cornerstone for both the University of Delaware and the broader community.

I'm pleased to share that our work has been recognized by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), which awarded the Library, Museums and Press its Excellence in Academic Libraries Award and named me the 2026 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. You can read more about these and other recognitions, publications and presentations by our staff this year in the pages of this report.

You will also find a story highlighting several new spaces created in Morris Library to better serve students and visitors. Among them is the new home for Special Collections, which opened during the spring semester. The renovated space includes a welcoming entrance leading to a reception area, a comfortable reading room and a dynamic exhibition case to display items from Special Collections. There's also the Family Study Space, designed for parents to study comfortably with their children. It features child-friendly reading materials, seating and a space to play. Together, these spaces exemplify our commitment to serving all visitors and creating welcoming environments for study, research and discovery.

The work we do is made possible by our supporters and donors, and our third story celebrates the legacy of the Friends of the University of Delaware Library, which decided to dissolve this year. For nearly 70 years, the Friends have played a vital role in advancing our mission through their generosity. The Friends have contributed more than $5 million, including recent donations of $1 million toward the new Special Collections space and $1.25 million for future acquisitions and programming. Their generosity has translated into significant improvements to our collections, programs, student opportunities, community events and various initiatives, including our digitization efforts, which expand access to scholars worldwide. In addition to the Friends, we express our gratitude to all our supporters and donors.

This report also spotlights improvements to the user experience, the exhibitions that were on display this year in our gallery spaces, some of the community events we hosted, new publications and acquisitions from the Press, ways we foster academic success and more. This is by no means a comprehensive overview of the work that we do, but I hope it serves as an insightful look at the important role the Library, Museums and Press plays at the University of Delaware.

I'm excited for you to dive into the report and get a snapshot of our accomplishments and how we make a difference. Happy reading!

Cheers,



OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

NEW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE

The Library, Museums and Press has continued expanding the materials available to the UD community in their digital collections on the AM Quartex platform. This powerful search experience allows users to more easily explore, discover and connect with UD's unique digital content. This year more than 15 new collections have been added including log books from the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania; maps, blueprints and notebooks from the Newark, Delaware engineer and surveyor Wilbur T. Wilson and pamphlets from the French Revolutionary era. Together, these additions broadened opportunities for scholarship, teaching and discovery by connecting users with primary sources that document diverse people, places and moments in history.

INAUGURAL OPEN DATA IMPACT AWARD

In partnership with the Data Science Institute and Delaware EPSCoR, the Library, Museums and Press awarded three members of the UD community with the inaugural Open Data Impact Awards. This recognition celebrates UD students, faculty and staff who have openly shared datasets and continue to make meaningful contributions to research, teaching and public engagement. "The awards committee was impressed by the quality of the applications we received, rendering the decisions very difficult to make," said Annie Johnson, associate university librarian for research, teaching and technology. "We commend all of the applicants for their strong commitment to increasing public access to scholarly data." The three winners were recognized in October during an event where each gave a lightning talk about their dataset. Each recipient also received a $1,000 prize.

> *"The awards committee was impressed by the quality of the applications we received, rendering the decisions very difficult to make."*
>
> ANNIE JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



Open Data Impact Award winners Kyle Frankel Davis, Daria Blinova and Alon Hafri pose at the awards ceremony.

2025 OPEN DATA IMPACT AWARD **WINNERS**

THE 2025 OPEN DATA IMPACT AWARD WINNERS ARE:

- **Kyle Frankel Davis,** associate professor in the Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences, and **Endalkachew Abebe Kebede,** doctoral student in the College of Earth, Ocean and Environment.
  "A global open-source dataset of monthly irrigated and rainfed cropped areas (MIRCA-OS) for the 21st century"
- **Daria Blinova,** doctoral student in the College of Arts and Sciences.
  "Individual Attendance Data for UNFCCC COPs and pre-COPs"
- **Alon Hafri,** assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science.
  "The psychophysics of compositionality: Relational scene perception occurs in a canonical order"

OPEN AND AFFORDABLE LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

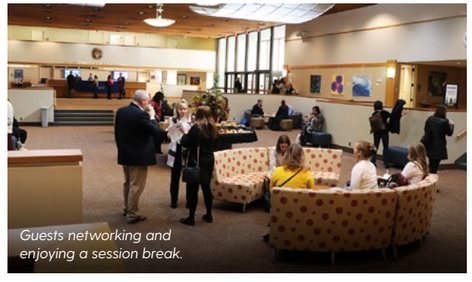


Student assistant Abigail Aniunas (with microphone) shares her perspective as a part of a panel discussing open and affordable learning materials.

In January, the Library, Museums and Press organized Delaware's first-ever Open and Affordable Learning Symposium. The daylong event, made possible by a grant from the Unidel foundation, fostered connection between nearly 100 educators, librarians, instructional designers and advocates from throughout Delaware and surrounding states who are passionate about making learning more accessible, equitable and affordable. Through interactive sessions, engaging discussions and community connections, participants explored the power and potential of open educational resources (OER)—teaching and learning materials that are free to use, adapt and share. Jasmine Roberts-Crews, a leading voice in open education, equity and inclusive teaching, gave the keynote, entitled, "Open Education as a Tool for Radical Hope." Attendees said they thoroughly enjoyed the event and expressed interest for more programming around affordable education in the future.



Jasmine Roberts-Crews delivers the keynote speech.



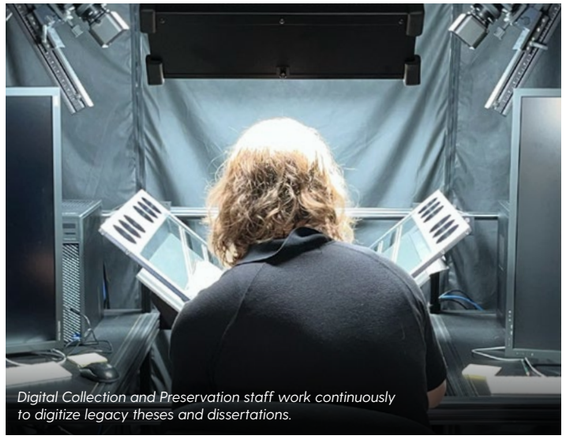
Guests networking and enjoying a session break.



Event organizer Annie Johnson, associate university librarian for Research, Teaching and Technology, talks with guests.

DIGITIZING THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

The Library, Museums and Press has continued digitizing legacy theses and dissertations to provide long-term access and discoverability. Staff from the Cataloging and Metadata, and Digital Collections and Preservation departments have led the effort with a focus on Delaware-related titles and have completed the digitization of approximately 275 items including theses on the history of theatre at UD, the impacts of Delaware's farm labor market on the lives of Black residents and an analysis of charter schools in New Castle County. The process involves scanning items, creating metadata, uploading entries into the Graduate College community in UDSpace and adding a record to UD's online catalog, DELCAT, and the global library organization OCLC's database, WorldCat, to ensure researchers around the world can discover these titles. A link is also created in DELCAT.



Digital Collection and Preservation staff work continuously to digitize legacy theses and dissertations.

LEGACY OF THE FRIENDS

AFTER NEARLY SEVEN DECADES THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MAKES A FINAL GIFT



By Jamie Washington and Carlett Spike

Every day, students, scholars and researchers on campus and around the world can access rare British manuscripts and art, a Shakespeare folio and some 2 million other unique resources in the University of Delaware's Special Collections, in part supported by the annual contributions of Friends of the Library.

For nearly 70 years, the philanthropic group has contributed more than $2.5 million in support of the Library, Museums and Press. Their generosity has helped transform the scope and impact of the University's scholarly assets—from supporting the digitization of more than 25 manuscripts documenting Delaware history to funding renovations for Special Collections' new space.

Now, after careful consideration and reflection, the Friends dissolved as an organization at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, said President Jim Dalle Pazze at their farewell dinner in April celebrating the group's generosity over the years. "It's bittersweet," said Dalle Pazze. "But we have done what we set out to do. Friends groups have been dissolving nationally because donors are choosing to give directly to their library of choice."

Friends leadership cited decline in membership, struggles to attract new people to serve on the executive committee and shifts in the culture around fundraising as the primary reasons for the decision. "We just decided that because of this, it would be better to turn our funds over to the Library rather than keep them and make annual gifts," Dalle Pazze said.

As part of its final chapter, the Friends recently gave the Library a $2.25 million gift, continuing their support of the Library's ongoing work and reinforcing their legacy. The gift will be used to support the Special Collections renovation project, along with two additional endowments that will provide ongoing funding for Library programming and Special Collections acquisitions, said Dalle Pazze.

A private Special Collections ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in September as the official opening of the new Special Collections space. Dalle Pazze said the Special Collections renovation ensures that future generations of students will experience the same wonder and discovery that has inspired members of the Friends for nearly 70 years.

HISTORIC RISE

The Friends' legacy began with the formation of the University of Delaware Library Associates in late 1957. Several months later, the group had 234 members and an endowment fund of $50,000. The certificate of incorporation stated that the organization's purpose was to promote and foster the development and expansion of those sections of the University of Delaware Library devoted to the field of liberal arts. This aligned with UD's priorities under then president John A. Perkins, who wanted to grow the Library and establish it as a leading institution.

One of the Friends' first acquisitions was the microfilm edition of *The New York Times* from 1851 until 1912.

By 1960, under Perkins and the Library Associate founding leadership—President Caleb R. Layton III, Secretary Elizabeth H. Grasselli, UD Librarian John Minto Dawson and C.A. Southerland, one of the incorporators—the library's holdings increased 40% to over 210,000 volumes and the book budget increased significantly. "Delaware wasn't really a research library, and so the Friends basically helped Delaware become one," said Tim Murray, retired head of Special Collections and a board member of the Friends. "Today it's one of the major research libraries in the country and the Friends were an instrumental part of that."

As the years went on, the Friends supported the Library in every step of its growth. In 1963 Hugh M. Morris Library opened, replacing the University's Memorial Library. Named for Hugh M. Morris, an 1898 alumni, football player and prominent U.S. district judge from Wilmington, the new Library provided more space to house books and store collections as well as allowed for a more comfortable environment for students to study. This again was another instrumental step toward the world-class powerhouse the Library, Museums and Press is today.

As the Friends continued to grow and thrive, they expanded their impact to include acquiring rare works and valuable publications. They focused on finding specific materials to bolster UD's collections including items related to Delaware history, English and American literature and art and architecture.

This momentum continued for the next several decades as the Library built on its collection and made valuable connections. In 1983, UD joined the Association of Research Libraries—a nonprofit organization of leading libraries that collectively champion research libraries and archives, develop visionary leaders and shape policy for the equitable advancement of knowledge. Less than a decade later, in 1991, the Library reached the milestone of 2 million volumes in its collection thanks to contributions from the Friends.

By the turn of the 21st century, the Friends support further blossomed to include annual dinners, faculty lectures, receptions and programming to support student engagement alongside its original mission of acquiring rare materials. The annual lectures and dinners provided a space for Friends to meet and learn from UD faculty, who highlighted their research and publications during the events. Michael Dirda, Elyse Graham, Margaret MacMillan, Walter Isaacson and Erik Larson are among the best-selling writers they invited to Delaware to speak over the years.

In 2008, the organization celebrated its 50th anniversary, and the group published the book *Building the Future, Remembering the Past: Fifty Years of the University of Delaware Library Associates* to commemorate the occasion. A decade later in 2018, the group officially changed its name to the Friends of the University of Delaware Library.

Despite the change, the mission remained the same.



PHOTOS
Guests mingling and networking at a Friends' Annual Dinner.

> *"Delaware wasn't really a research library, and so the Friends basically helped Delaware become one. Today it's one of the major research libraries in the country and the Friends were an instrumental part of that.*
>
> TIM MURRAY, RETIRED HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND A BOARD MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS

LASTING LEGACY



Nearly seven decades later, the Friends' deep commitment to the Library, the University and the students continues to endure, keeping them at the heart of the organization's lasting legacy.

"The legacy of the Friends will continue," said Trevor A. Dawes, the vice provost for Libraries and Museums and May Morris University Librarian at the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press. "It is easy for everyone to remember the level of financial support that the Friends have given over the years, and we are certainly grateful for it, but the camaraderie of the Friends is just as memorable."

Among many of the notable acquisitions, in 2025, funding from the Friends was used to acquire a rare first edition copy of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

"Published in 1813 in three volumes, first editions of the book continue to be highly prized, as only approximately 1500 copies of the first printing were issued," said Hillary Kativa, head of Special Collections. "Like many readers, Austen's classic tale of the Bennet sisters and their romantic entanglements is one of my favorite books so this acquisition was a particularly special one. Notably, 2025 also marked the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, making this an especially timely acquisition for Special Collections."

Many members of the Friends said they truly enjoyed the annual dinners and will miss the opportunity to mix, mingle and learn.

"The highlight of the many activities that the Friends sponsored over the years has been our annual dinners each spring," said Ted Killheffer, a 20-year member of the Friends who also joined their board of directors and served as a vice president, president and as a member of the executive committee. "Our purpose was to publicize the work of the Friends and the Morris Library, to attract new members and to provide an interesting evening for our members and colleagues at the University. It was especially gratifying to hear Erik Larson talk about his use of materials in our Special Collections in the research for his book on the rise of Nazi Germany."

L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, a retired manuscripts librarian and curator of the Joseph R. Biden, Jr., senatorial papers, became a member of the group shortly after being hired at UD. She, too, spoke highly of the group's unforgettable camaraderie, generosity and connection with the UD community.

She said the Library is world-renowned because of the acquisitions made possible by the Friends.

"It's incredible, the collections that were built over the years," Melvin said. "Early in my career, the Friends celebrated their 2 millionth acquisition; they also supported the acquisition of Shakespeare's second folio."

Others reflected on the joy it brought them to support the Library, Museums and Press and to see the fruits of their labor.

TOP LEFT
Friends' Faculty Lecture in the Morris Library Reading Room.

TOP RIGHT
1983 groundbreaking for Morris Library additions and renovations.



The groundbreaking for the Morris Library was held on Saturday, April 16, 1983. The date in April was selected with the expectation that it would be a lovely spring day with the campus in bloom. It turned out to be one of the coldest spring days on record, as can be seen from the coats. Left to right front row: J. Bruce Bredin, Susan Brynteson, Gordon A. Pfeiffer, Margaretta W. Chadwick, Dr. Elizabeth E. Bohning, and The Honorable G. Burton Pearson, Jr. Left to right second row: Edward W. Cooch, Jr., Charles M. Allmond III, and John David Cist.

"It was always a treat to look at the different rare books, manuscripts and papers in Special Collections," said Elizabeth McGeever, a longtime member of the Friends. "We would get annual tours of Special Collections to see what had been acquired with our financial support."

Marsha Barnett, a former executive member of the Friends, said what she enjoyed the most was working with the staff to advance the mission of the Library, Museums and Press. "Working with the library staff was always such a joy," she said. "They are so knowledgeable and so positive in their approach to everything. It was really wonderful and the people over the years that I worked with on the board were people to be admired. I really certainly appreciated that and was glad for the years I was involved."

The core of most great Special Collections comes from alumni who are also collectors, said Timothy Murray, retired head of special collections at UD and a board member of the Friends. "In the beginning, we didn't have that, so that's why Friends are important to us," he said. "Their funding, which historically included an annual $100,000 gift, has been integral to building the library as a major research library."

Tywanda Cuffy, the Library's director of external relations, communications and development initiatives who has worked closely with the group since 2018, shared gratitude that the Library has for the Friends.

"I want them to know how incredibly grateful we are for the years of dedication, support, wisdom and love they have poured into this institution," Cuffy said. "While the Friends may no longer exist as a formal entity, the spirit of this group and the relationships they built with the Library will absolutely continue; their heart for this place will always remain an integral part of the Library's story."

**Note: This story was repurposed and expanded upon from an article that originally appeared in UDaily.*







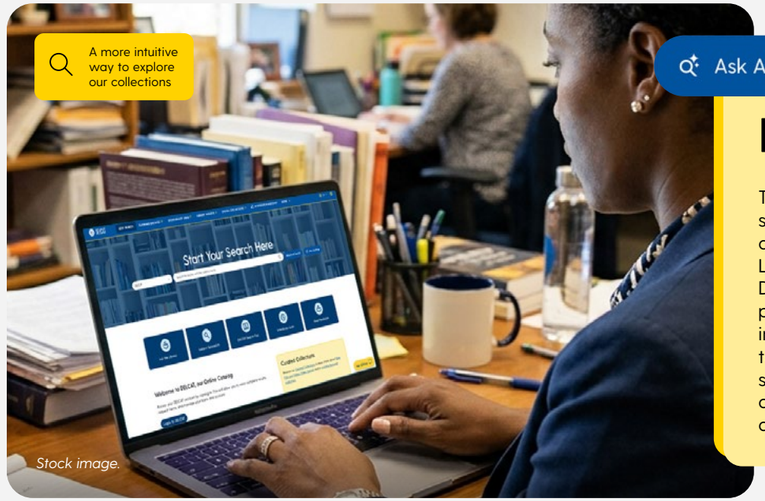
BOTTOM LEFT
Susan Brynteson, journalist and author Walter Isaacson, William H. Sudell, Jr. and former UD President Patrick Harker.

BOTTOM MIDDLE
A speaker delivers the keynote address at a past Friends of the UD Library Annual Dinner.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Recent board members of the Friends' group, including past Vice Provost and May Morris University Librarian Susan Brynteson (top right).

Enhancing User Experiences

All DELCAT Update Museums and Special Collections Launch New Websites Results for **2025-2026**



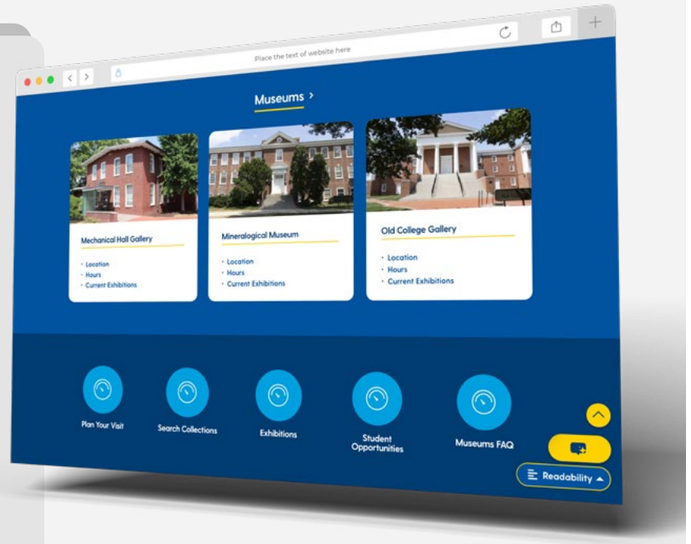
Stock image.

DELCAT Update

To enhance and improve how students, staff, faculty and community members discover and access information, the Library, Museums and Press updated DELCAT, UD's online catalog, in May to provide a better experience. A more intuitive interface, better assistive technology and a new AI-powered search feature called "Ask Anything" are among the key features that launched as part of this update.

Museums and Special Collections Launch New Websites

In February, the Library, Museums and Press separated the Special Collections and Museums website to launch two newly designed websites for each department. Though these units are complementary to one another, the move helps to make the distinction between them clear and allows each to better serve the community. Designed with students and visitors in mind, the sites feature enhanced wayfinding information, visitor tips and guidelines, opportunities for students and improved access to information about class engagement and collection searches. "There are different approaches and workflows regarding how faculty and students interact with the research material in each department, so having separate subsites allows each unit to highlight and display certain collections or items that are relevant or timely," said Kris Raser, multimedia project manager who was an early consultant on the project.



KEY IMPROVEMENTS

- Clearer distinction between sites
- Enhanced wayfinding information
- Visitor tips and guidelines
- Improved access to class engagement and collection searches

EXHIBITIONS ON DISPLAY

MORE THAN **7,000** VISITORS EXPLORED OUR COLLECTIONS

Each year the Library, Museums and Press organizes exhibitions to showcase our collections, support student research and encourage hands-on exploration. This year, more than 7,000 visitors explored the collections and many students, faculty and researchers had the chance to work directly with our materials. These opportunities enhance the community's understanding of various topics and deepens their experiences through historical artifacts.

LIFTING AS WE CLIMB: CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND THE FORMATION OF DELAWARE'S FREE BLACK COMMUNITIES

Feb. 2 to Aug. 7, 2026
Morris Library Information Room



CURATORS:

Kallie Comardelle, doctoral student in the Department of English

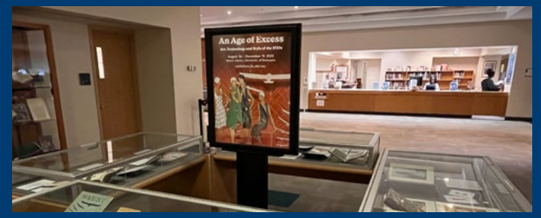
Dhazhea Freeman, third-year graduate student in the Department of Africana Studies

with support from **Hillary Kativa,** associate librarian and head of Special Collections.

In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, *Lifting As We Climb* explored the resilience and resourcefulness of Black communities in Delaware during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Funded by a Delaware 250 grant, the project supported the research of two graduate student interns and four community researchers working with Special Collections. Through photographs, books, pamphlets and event programs from Black churches and schools, visitors discovered how Black Delawareans built community, advanced education and created opportunities in the face of limited rights and resources. More than 30 visitors, primarily from the Newark community, attended a special panel discussion and exhibition tour in February. The project demonstrated the power of experiential learning to connect students and researchers with primary sources while creating meaningful opportunities for the University to share Delaware's history with broader audiences. "We received a lot of positive feedback from faculty and community members who were excited to see Black history highlighted and celebrated as part of Delaware 250," Kativa said.

AN AGE OF EXCESS: ART, TECHNOLOGY AND STYLE OF THE 1920S

Aug. 26 to Dec. 19, 2025
Morris Library Information Room



CURATORS:

Petra Clark, senior assistant librarian and instruction librarian for Special Collections

Hillary Kativa, associate librarian and head of Special Collections

Caroline Liebel, a doctoral candidate in the Department of English

The glitz and glamour of the Jazz Age came to life in *An Age of Excess,* an exhibition organized in recognition of the 100th anniversary of *The Great Gatsby.* Drawing from Special Collections, the exhibition featured books, fashion plates, trade catalogs, illustrations and advertisements that revealed the art, technology and cultural forces that shaped the 1920s and continue to influence popular culture today. The exhibition became a classroom beyond the classroom, welcoming several UD classes as well as 11th-grade students from The Tatnall School for hands-on lessons and activities. "Students gained insights into various practical aspects of exhibition planning, curation and design," Kativa said, demonstrating how collections can move beyond display to become active tools for teaching and professional learning.

THE VIBRANT WORLD OF LEAD MINERALS

Ongoing exhibition
Mineralogical Museum



CURATOR:

Sharon Fitzgerald, curator, Mineralogical Museum

Lead may be best known as a dull gray metal, but *The Vibrant World of Lead Minerals* reveals its unexpected beauty. The exhibition features striking lead minerals from Australia, Namibia, Morocco and other locations around the world, inviting visitors to explore how these minerals form and the remarkable colors and crystal structures they produce. From vibrant mimetite to sparkling galena, the exhibition offers a fresh perspective on a familiar element while providing valuable learning resources for the University and broader community. Faculty have incorporated the exhibition into their courses, giving students an opportunity to connect concepts from the classroom with specimens from the Museum's collections and see the science of mineralogy through direct observation.

QUARTZ

Ongoing exhibition
Mineralogical Museum



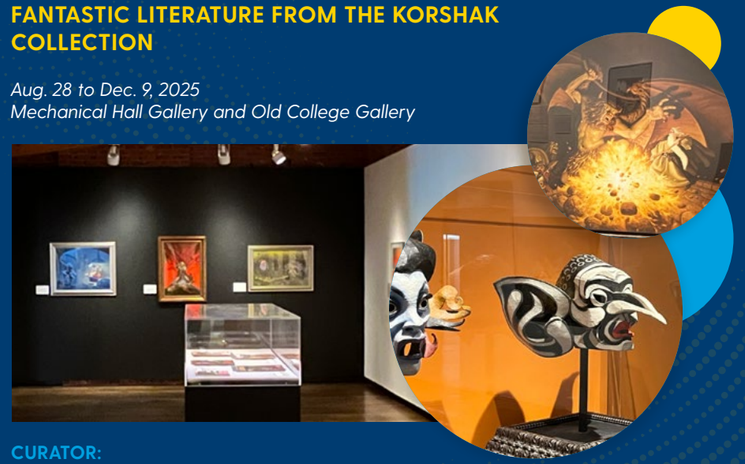
CURATOR:

Sharon Fitzgerald, curator, Mineralogical Museum

A collection of recently acquired quartz specimens, along with a "mystery" crystal donated by chemistry professor Quaesita Drake, inspired this exploration of one of Earth's most abundant minerals. *Quartz* invites visitors to examine the remarkable variety found within a mineral that is the second most common in Earth's crust, while considering the science and stories behind individual specimens. The exhibition has also become a resource for teaching and discovery, providing UD students and faculty with opportunities to engage directly with specimens and deepen their understanding of mineralogy through firsthand exploration. In this way, a collection of newly acquired objects became an opportunity for learning, curiosity and connection across the University community.

ICONS OF THE FANTASTIC: ILLUSTRATIONS OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE FROM THE KORSHAK COLLECTION

Aug. 28 to Dec. 9, 2025
Mechanical Hall Gallery and Old College Gallery



CURATOR:

Amanda T. Zehnder, senior curator, Museums

Across two galleries, *Icons of the Fantastic* brought together 80 original works by 50 celebrated illustrators whose visionary art helped shape the worlds of science fiction, fantasy and adventure. Drawn from the Korshak Collection, assembled over decades by Stephen Korshak, the exhibition explored the evolution and enduring power of illustrated storytelling. It also highlighted the legacy of Shasta Publishers and Erle Korshak, co-founder of the publishing company and father of Stephen Korshak, whose work helped shape the fantasy and science fiction publishing landscape. In partnership with the University of Delaware Press, the exhibition was accompanied by a multi-author catalog that provided additional context for the artworks, books and history of the Korshak Collection, extending the exhibition's reach and creating a lasting scholarly resource.

PHOTO / OBJECT

Feb. 3 to May 15, 2026
Old College West Gallery



CURATOR:

Victoria S. Kenyon, graduate research assistant, Museums, and doctoral student in Art History

Inspired by the depth of photographic materials in the Library, Museums and Press collections, Victoria Kenyon created *Photo / Object* to explore the history of photography and the processes behind the images we encounter every day. Working with Jan Gardner Broske, Ashley Rye-Kopec and Amanda T. Zehnder, Kenyon developed an exhibition that traced photography from its beginnings in the 1830s through the ways photographs are created. The exhibition extended beyond the gallery through a cyanotype workshop led by Kenyon and Professor Jon Cox, giving participants an opportunity to explore the photographic process themselves. For Kenyon, the project offered a firsthand education in the many decisions involved in bringing an exhibition from research to public presentation. "This was my first opportunity being involved with an exhibition from the very start, and it showed me how complex the different parts of the curatorial process are and how many tough decisions you have to make," Kenyon said. "This experience also helped me practice the delicate art of turning research into public-facing material. I am so grateful to have been able to bring this project to life on campus."

> *"This experience also helped me practice the delicate art of turning research into public-facing material. I am so grateful to have been able to bring this project to life on campus."*
>
> VICTORIA S. KENYON, GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, MUSEUMS, AND DOCTORAL STUDENT IN ART HISTORY

BLANK CANVAS: 1920S FASHION

Feb. 3 to May 15, 2026
Mechanical Hall Gallery



UD student curators Duncan Roskovensky and Roselyn Walsh.

CURATORS:

Jan Gardner Broske, collections manager and curator, Museums

Belinda T. Orzada, professor in the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies

Dilia López-Gydosh, assistant professor in the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies and director of the Historic Costume and Textiles Collection

Kelly Cobb, associate professor in the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies

Blank Canvas: 1920s Fashion examined the chemise silhouette, a loose-fitting, tubular garment that transformed women's fashion during a decade of cultural and social change. Drawing inspiration from Art Deco, jazz culture and traditional dress from Egypt, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, the exhibition explored how the chemise gave women new possibilities for movement, expression and individuality. Students played an integral role in bringing the exhibition to life. Saynani Gbason-Krah, a fashion design and product innovation major with a minor in fashion history and culture, contributed garment measurements, 3D recreations and physical reconstructions, while Roselyn Walsh, who studies history and museum studies, assisted with cataloging, planning and installation. Their work demonstrates how collections-based exhibitions can serve as laboratories for professional learning, giving students opportunities to apply classroom knowledge while developing skills they can carry into their careers. "We are not only preserving the past but giving our students a blank canvas to create the future of fashion," said Kelly Cobb, associate professor in the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies.



BOTTOM RIGHT
Jan Gardner Broske, collections manager and curator, Museums.

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY
EVENTS







FRIENDS FAREWELL DINNER

To mark the historic contributions of the Friends of the University of Delaware Library, the group gathered in Arsht Hall in April for a farewell dinner.

During the evening, guests mixed and mingled before keynote speaker Elyse Graham delivered an exciting talk celebrating the enduring impact of libraries and the people who champion them. A fitting conclusion for the Friends, the dinner honored their nearly 70 years of generosity, advocacy and scholarship to the Library, Museums and Press.

TOP RIGHT
Elyse Graham delivers the keynote message at the Friends' final Annual Dinner.

LEFT AND ABOVE
Guests and Library, Museums and Press staff enjoy celebrating this momentous evening.

JANE AUSTEN NOW: A SATURDAY SYMPOSIUM

RIGHT
Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies Professor of Humanities (right), thanks the attendees of the Jane Austen Symposium.



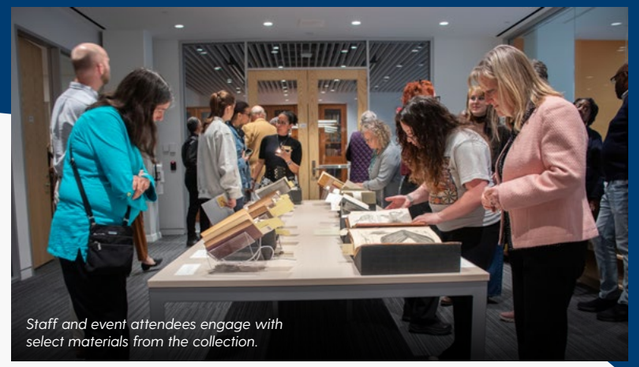
In December, the Library celebrated English novelist Jane Austen during a one-day event in the Class of 1941 Lecture Room. More than 60 scholars and readers from UD and beyond gathered to explore Austen's work—including Pride and Prejudice, which the Library, Museums and Press acquired a 1st edition of this year thanks to funding from the Friends of the UD Library. "Like many readers, Austen's classic tale of the Bennet sisters and their romantic entanglements is one of my favorite books so this acquisition was a particularly special one," said Hillary Kativa, associate librarian and head of Special Collections. Events like these allow the community to connect and get a taste of the world-class offerings in the Library, Museums and Press' collections.

MEET AND GREET: TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND MUSEUMS



University of Delaware students take part in the "Meet and Greet" scavenger hunt.

Special Collections and Museums hosted this event to explore new possibilities for teaching, learning and research at UD. Through this teaching and learning-themed meet and greet in April, more than 40 faculty members, graduate students and staff connected with Library, Museums and Press staff in the new Special Collections space to discover ways the collections could enhance their courses and research. "We really wanted to highlight the work Special Collections and Museums do around teaching and learning at UD," said Hillary Kativa, associate librarian and head of Special Collections. For many of the faculty members that attended, it was their first time interacting with Special Collections and Museums, Kativa added. "Incorporating artworks or minerals from the Museums collections, or rare materials from Special Collections, can feel intimidating," explained Ashley Rye-Kopec, assistant director of Museums. "But we want our campus community to know that we're here to partner with them on their teaching and research." Following the success of the event, Kativa and Rye-Kopec hope to host another meet and greet in the future to continue building connections across the University community.



Staff and event attendees engage with select materials from the collection.

WINTER SHOWCASE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORKS

For this year's Winter Showcase of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Works, 128 students got the chance to show off and share their research with other members of the UD community. The Undergraduate Research Program collaborated with the Library, Museums and Press to plan the event which took place in the Morris Library Reading Room. Amanda McCollom, associate librarian and creative media teaching librarian, also taught a poster design workshop to support students as they prepared for the event. Students presented on a range of topics from sustainable solutions to minimizing yarn waste to research predicting student stress. Attendees enjoyed the daylong celebration of these young scholars and their work. "It's really impressive to see the level of work that the students are doing and how engaged they are," said Bob Tolliver, foundational sciences librarian for the Research and Engagement Department of the Library, Museums and Press who helped organize the event. "It's also a great opportunity for them to get experience presenting and explaining the research that they're doing."



Students share their research with faculty and Winter Showcase of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Works attendees.



Science Liaison Librarian Sabine Lanteri listens to student research on climate change.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK



Staff members Kayla Abner, Jessica Dai and Jessica Berkana assist students with Banned Books Week activities.

"Censorship Is So 1984: Read for Your Rights," was the theme of this year's Banned Books Week which drew in more than 350 members of the community to engage and explore the importance of intellectual freedom.

Through readings, workshops, table events and other programs, the Library, Museums and Press invited participants to consider how access to books shapes the ways people understand themselves and the world. The events, held Oct. 5-11, were supported by the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Foundation, which awarded the UD Library, Museums and Press a $1,000 Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund Grant. At the 13th annual Banned Books Read-Out, community members read from 1984 by George Orwell, which focuses on themes of censorship and control. "Reading is a fundamental part of our constitution, so I think it's important to make people aware of limitations put on our right to read," said Bob Tolliver, foundational sciences librarian for the Research and Engagement Department of the Library, Museums and Press. He added students are always surprised to discover a book they read as a child is on the banned list. For Dylan DeMoe, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry, he found attending the event was an impactful way to explore different points of view. "Reading has helped me learn about different perspectives, but maybe that's why banned books make people uncomfortable—they encourage us to resist the paradigms that quietly shape our lives," DeMoe said.

> *"Reading has helped me learn about different perspectives, but maybe that's why banned books make people uncomfortable—they encourage us to resist the paradigms that quietly shape our lives."*
>
> DYLAN DEMOE, SOPHOMORE MAJORING IN BIOCHEMISTRY

MORE THAN 350 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED



ACTIVISM THROUGH CRAFTING

In March, the Library, Museums and Press hosted the University's first craftivism workshop to raise awareness of gender-based violence. "Craftivism"—the convergence of craft and activism—is a form of expression that has been used for centuries. This hands-on event covered the necessity and history of this practice and included an open invitation for attendees to create a collective craftivism piece that focuses on advocacy and support for survivors. The event was organized in collaboration with the Department of Women and Gender Studies and the Center for Material Culture Studies. "Some people are introverts who feel strongly about things, and may not be at all of the protests, but do want to engage in other ways with topics and issues that matter to them," said Alison Wessel, social sciences librarian in the Teaching and Research Partnerships department and one of the workshop organizers. "Our goal for this workshop was to create a space for people to use their hands and lend their voice to the topic of gender-based violence, or any issues that are impacting them right now."

RIGHT
Senior Assistant Librarian and Instruction Librarian Petra Clark (center) presents as workshop attendees express their activism through crafting.



EMERGING SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

The Library, Museums and Press collaborated with a cohort of graduate students who organized the Center for Material Culture Studies' (CMCS) annual Emerging Scholars Symposium in April—which provides a space for interdisciplinary conversations on material culture. Ashley Rye-Kopec, assistant director of Museums, and Hillary Kativa, associate librarian and head of Special Collections, worked together with the CMCS Symposium co-chairs to host an interactive welcome session for this year's presenters, which included scholars from colleges and universities around the United States. Inspired by the Symposium's theme, "Dynamic Objects: Material Connections Across the Globe," the 14 speakers were able to view and interact with materials from Special Collections and Museums that connected with the subjects of their talks. The intent behind the session was to give the speakers a chance to casually connect with one another at the start of the Symposium and spend some time engaging with physical collection objects, which is a key part of material culture studies. Partnerships like this one allow researchers at UD and beyond to learn more about Special Collections and Museums, engage with the staff and explore ways the collections could be used for research.

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14 SPEAKERS ENGAGED WITH MATERIALS FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND MUESEUMS



A WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL

EXPLORE THE LIBRARY SPACES DESIGNED TO EMPOWER, INSPIRE AND SUPPORT STUDENTS

By Carlett Spike

For many students, faculty and researchers at the University of Delaware, Morris Library is a central place to study, gather and learn. That's why Library staff continually work to shape the space to meet the community's needs, said Trevor A. Dawes, vice provost for libraries and museums and May Morris University Librarian.

"The UD Library, Museums and Press is dedicated to fostering an academic environment that is accessible, flexible and inclusive in nature," Dawes said. "We are an equity-focused organization, and as such, we need to determine how best to understand our students."

To meet those needs, the Library has continually enhanced its student and public spaces, creating a variety of environments that meet scholars where they are and provide them with the tools they need to succeed. Since 2019, approximately 100 additional seats have been added throughout the Library, and current renovations to the Class of 1941 Lecture Room will add another 48 seats for study. The long-term goal is to provide a total of 3,200 seats, a target informed by benchmarking against comparable institutions and the University's student population. Library staff have also created several new spaces in recent years to support different approaches to studying, collaboration and engagement.

"The library is one of the very few places on campus where a student can feel like they belong and have community outside of their academic departments," said Shelly McCoy, associate university librarian for public services and space planning. "We want everyone to come in and feel welcomed, to know that we are committed to having a space that feels comfortable for them at all times and to empower them to come to us with their needs because we will do our best to meet them."

That welcoming environment begins right outside the building where an ally banner proudly displays the Library, Museums and Press' commitment to diversity and to providing a safe space for everyone.

Visitors can find details about navigating the Library based on their needs, as well as an overview of all the inclusive spaces on the Library, Museums and Press website.

Following is an overview of some of the Library's newer spaces.

> *"The library is one of the very few places on campus where a student can feel like they belong and have community outside of their academic departments."*
>
> SHELLY MCCOY, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND SPACE PLANNING

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
OPENED MARCH 2026

After several years of planning and one year of construction, the newly renovated Special Collections space opened in March. Thanks to a generous $1 million gift toward the project from the Friends of the UD Library, the new space includes a welcoming entrance leading to a reception area and a dynamic exhibition case to display items from Special Collections. Ronald Finch, Class of 1956 alumni and longtime donor to the Library, also gave a gift that contributed toward the construction of a new comfortable reading room that is named in honor of his mother, Elizabeth Dorothy Carlisle Finch, who inspired his passion for history and archaeology. Plus, the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection of British literature and art—which used to be housed in a different area of the Library—is now integrated into the new Special Collections space. "Our previous spaces placed limitations on how we could teach, conduct research, exhibit materials and welcome visitors," said Hillary Kativa, associate librarian and head of Special Collections. "This new home gives us greater opportunities to do all of those things. It's also an invitation for growth, as we take in new collections, new researchers find us and students discover interests within our collections that they didn't know they had."

FAMILY STUDY SPACE
OPENED APRIL 2026

A colorful reading rug and shelves packed with children's books line the walls of the Family Study Space. Opened in April and located in room 118 of Morris Library, the space gives student-parents a place to study while their young children play and explore.

McCoy created this space in response to the needs she heard from parents who wanted to be able to study alongside their children in the library without distracting others. Nearly 15% of UD graduate students are parents, caring for almost 480 children ages 5 and under. Many cite affordable, reliable childcare as a major barrier to continuing their education."We hope that this designated student-parent space creates an open invitation for them and their children to instantly feel welcomed," she said.



In addition to the rug and books, the room also features a parent-child carrel, child-sized chairs and tables, playful posters and artwork on the walls, as well as wall-mounted activities for children to learn and play.

Maisha Carey, a doctoral student in the School of Education and a member of the Morris Library's leadership team, said as a parent, she is thankful for the addition of this space.

"I spend a lot of time trying to juggle the attention and energy that I need to give my schoolwork with the attention and energy that I also need to give my child," Carey said. "It is hard to find a study space that she's welcomed in, so I feel guilty when I'm studying in spaces without her. Having this space is important to me because I know my daughter is welcomed here, and I know that she will enjoy it."

NEARLY **15%** OF UD GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE PARENTS

REFLECTION ROOM
OPENED DECEMBER 2016

When Dawes began working at Morris Library, he noticed some students would stop by a certain window that faced the sun to pray. This opened the doors to conversations with the Muslim Student Association and eventually led to the creation of the Reflection Room—a quiet space for reflection and prayer.

> *"Access means more than open doors; it means making sure everyone can see themselves in the spaces we create."*
>
> TREVOR A. DAWES, VICE PROVOST

"Access means more than open doors; it means making sure everyone can see themselves in the spaces we create," said Dawes. "The Reflection Room came directly from our students, and it's a space we're proud to offer to our entire community."



The space, which is open to all, includes a chair, a bookshelf which can be used to store prayer rugs, a shoe rack for those who would like to remove their shoes and a rug. Located in room 233, more than one person can use the space at a time to relax, pray, meditate or take a short break free from electronic devices, which cannot be used inside the room.

LACTATION ROOM
OPENED AUGUST 2018

For lactating persons, having a safe and private space to pump and feed their babies is absolutely necessary to set them up for success. Studies show access to lactation spaces reduces stress and absenteeism while increasing productivity.

Located in room 207E of the Morris Library, the private lactation room has a rocking chair, a table and access to a nearby restroom. The University has four other lactation rooms across campus in the Perkins Student Center, McDowell Hall, Hullihen Hall and the Tower at STAR. Stop at the Help Center on the way into the Library for the key.

"Having been a nursing mother myself in the Library, I know that there's not a lot of convenient private rooms on campus," McCoy said. "We created this comfortable space to pump and/or feed your child and hope that it makes lactating persons feel more welcome."

THE OPEN SPACE
OPENED MARCH 2023

Created in partnership with the Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union (QTGSU) and UD's Graduate Diversity Program, the Open Space was designed to support and celebrate the University's queer community.

McCoy worked closely with the student groups to bring this space to life. Located in room 201B, the all-glass room is brightly colored and has flags representing different genders and sexualities. Additionally, the space has a bookshelf with titles on queer history and theory, queer-themed stickers and a sign that reads "Everyone is welcome here."

"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, who was co-chair of QTGSU and a doctoral student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in 2023 when the space was created. "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."

The room is open to all and can be reserved through UD's online room reservation system. QTGSU also encourages community members to contribute to the collection of books on queer history and theory.

"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," said Dawes. "The Library, a boundary-spanning organization, belongs to the entire Blue Hen Community and its spaces should reflect the true diversity of our community."



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



The Class of 1941 Lecture Room is undergoing renovations and will be open as a study space when the Library is closed, allowing extended hours for study in addition to Morris Library Commons/ The Nest.



The Graduate Student Study Area located on the third floor includes tables, lounge seats, short-term digital lockers and graduate student-only study rooms that must be reserved and accessed via card swipe.

All-gender restrooms are available in Morris Library Commons and on the lower level to provide a welcoming, inclusive and private experience for all visitors.

Sculptures and art from the Museums are showcased for community members to interact with the Library, Museums and Press collections.

Accessibility measures in and around the Library include a wheelchair ramp and pushbutton access to enter Morris Library, as well as two elevators inside to access each floor.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN GRADUATE STUDENT DIGITIZES MATERIALS

Thanks to the Friends of the University of Delaware Library's gift to support the digitization of collections, the Library, Museums and Press partnered for the second year with the Department of Art and Design to hire one of its graduate students to help digitize rare, fragile and oversized materials in Special Collections. John Kozacheson was selected to work with Digital Collections and Preservation during the academic year to scan multiple collections. The collaboration helped Digital Collections and Preservation quickly expand access to the Library's digital collections while providing Kozacheson with valuable hands-on experience and opportunities to develop technical skills. "To be a part of a digitization project like this means that so many more people will have the opportunity to see and experience these works," Kozacheson said. "I learned so much about the deep care and tremendous amounts of knowledge that goes into preservation and the digitization and cataloging of materials. This care has crossed over into my own work and process."

HELP CENTER ASSISTANTS GAIN REAL-WORLD SKILLS



Student assistants Tyshine Sutton, Heath Manrakhan, Milan Williams and Farahnaz Kabir with their supervisor Annie Schulte, librarian assistant II (second from left).

In the spring, the Library, Museums and Press launched the Help Center's Experiential Learning Program (ELP) to offer students real-world experiences working in a library setting. ELP builds students' skills in teamwork, decision-making, collaboration and improving the library experience for visitors. This year's Help Center student assistants (HCSA) handled circulation of materials, answered questions and referred patrons to other departments or resources when needed. They also supported and collaborated on projects with the Access Services Department. These opportunities equip UD students with essential skills for future careers, while enhancing library services. "Our HCSAs have made and continue to make a real and positive difference in contributing to the daily operations in the Help Center, and in helping all our patrons," said Library Assistant Annie Schulte.

RESEARCH DATA AND DESIGN COMMONS REDESIGNS STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Student assistants Priyanka Chaudhuri and Nawid Fahim with Research Support Coordinator Eve Ellis (center).

Last fall, the Research Data and Design Commons (RDDC) revamped its experiential learning program to offer students new opportunities to grow. Designed and supervised by Eve Ellis, research support coordinator, the new three-tiered approach allows students to develop their library operational skills, serve in leadership positions and lead projects of their own. This structure has not only benefited the students who have gained real-word experience and preparation for their future careers, but also the RDDC which saw great improvement in its capacity to provide services and support. In exit interviews with students who complete the program, they reported feeling more confident and prepared for their post-graduation journeys.

EVERYDAY JEWISH WORLDS STUDENT EXHIBIT

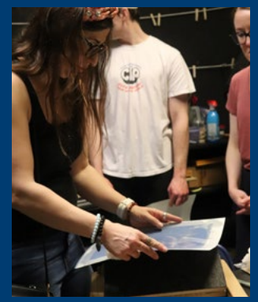
Staff from the Library, Museums and Press worked with Christin Zühlke, inaugural Chaiken postdoctoral researcher for Jewish studies, to help her class create an exhibit on the Jewish experience. Zühlke tasked her students with finding objects related to Jewish culture, people, traditions and more from the Special Collections and Museums, to research and provide historical context for the project. Staff worked closely with students to identify objects and provided instruction and poster design information sessions. Kaitlyn Tanis, history and social sciences librarian for Teaching and Research Partnerships, led the coordination of this project with help from Creative Media Teaching Librarian Amanda McCollom, Political and Public Policy Papers Archivist John Caldwell and Ashley Rye-Kopec, assistant director of Museums. The final exhibition was displayed in Morris Library during the spring semester.



Professor Jon Cox illustrates the cyanotype process to attendees of the workshop.

CYANOTYPE WORKSHOP

In April, Victoria S. Kenyon, curator of the *Photo / Object* exhibition and doctoral candidate in the Department of Art History and Jon Cox, associate professor of art and design partnered with Museums to lead a hands-on workshop on cyanotype, a process to produce photographs without a camera. The workshop began in the Old College Gallery, where Kenyon and Cox gave a brief talk on the history and process to create cyanotypes. Attendees also visited Old College West Gallery to view Kenyon's *Photo / Object* exhibition and had the opportunity to create their own photo. In addition to showcasing a Museums exhibition, the event provided attendees with an opportunity to engage with and create art using one of the photographic processes featured in the exhibition.









Maria Barefoot, online learning librarian (right), listens as students share their research on artificial intelligence.

AI LITERACY DAY

In December, the Library, Museums and Press hosted an AI Literacy Day event at Morris Library to explore the ways this new technology is shaping the world. The daylong event featured an AI activities table for hands-on demonstrations of various AI tools, a showcase where students from the English class Synthetic Rhetoric shared their AI experiments with attendees and a keynote by Jennifer Rhee, associate professor from Virginia Commonwealth University, who discussed AI ethics and creativity. Throughout the day, more than 100 people attended this free event to engage with AI.

INTENSIVE DATA ETHICS, MANAGEMENT AND VISUALIZATION WORKSHOP

The Library, Museums and Press' Research Data and Design Commons collaborated with the Business Analytics and Information Management Graduate Student Association to host an intensive workshop on data ethics, management and visualization. The workshop provided students with essential training and showcased the capabilities of the Data Analysis and Visualization Lab. As part of the session, students also had the opportunity to earn a Research Data Management Digital Badge as proof of the research skills acquired. Many students went on to complete requirements afterward and received the digital badge.



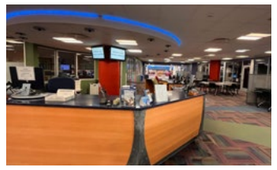
ADVANCING RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

LAUNCH OF THE RESEARCH DATA AND DESIGN COMMONS (RDDC)



Staff member Kayla Abner assists a student with a research question in the newly fashioned research data consultation space.





As part of the Library, Museums and Press' mission to foster discovery, creativity and scholarly success, the lower level of Morris Library was transformed into the Research Data and Design Commons (RDDC). The RDDC, which opened during the spring semester, enhances the University's ability to support students and researchers through three key areas of scholarship: a research data and visualization lab with advanced computers for data-driven research; a refreshed studio for users to create videos, podcasts and more; and streamlined services to answer questions and provide needed resources. "The Commons will equip students, faculty and researchers with the tools, expertise and environment they need to explore, experiment and succeed, combining our longstanding strengths in multimedia support with new, advanced data services." Daniel Peart, head of the RDDC, added that the initial response from UD researchers has been overwhelmingly positive. "Our comprehensive approach to technology-based research support is something that student researchers have needed for a long time," he said. "Our expertise, training and resources are designed to support the entire research journey, from project design through research dissemination."

ACCESS TO LIBKEY AND ARTICLE GALAXY SCHOLAR

In January, the Library, Museums and Press made the difficult decision to cancel its subscription to the Wiley journal portfolio due to institutional financial constraints. As part of its commitment to ensure scholars continue to have access to newly published articles, the Library launched two new services, LibKey and Article Galaxy Scholar (AGS), to streamline access. LibKey helps researchers find PDFs of articles available from journals to which the Library subscribes, as well as through open access sources. LibKey also facilitates requests for articles through Interlibrary Loan or Article Galaxy Scholar. AGS provides scholars on-demand access to articles from Wiley journals that the Library does not subscribe to, and the Library, Museums and Press absorbs the cost for these documents. Additionally, staff created instructional videos to educate the community and the Communications Team designed and mailed postcards with the video link to all faculty to inform them about the change. "Our priority is ensuring faculty can continue accessing the scholarship they need as efficiently as possible," said Erin Daix, associate university librarian for acquisitions and collections services. "These videos provide practical, step-by-step guidance for using AGS, LibKey Nomad and other research tools that can help save time, streamline workflows and reduce barriers to discovery and access."

AI FOCUSED TEACHING

In February, March and May, Online Learning Librarian Maria Barefoot led four AI workshops with various groups—from Delaware K-12 teachers to other library professionals—both on and off campus. These workshops, attended by more than 170 people, covered how to use AI for research, how to read responses critically to spot for hallucinations, how to use this technology ethically and more. "The more people understand AI, the more they can be critical users of AI," Barefoot said. "I think people just need the opportunity to engage with it, and these workshops offer a space for them to do that." This is one example of the critical role the Library, Museums and Press staff play in sharing their expertise to help the community build understanding of an emerging technology.



Online Learning Librarian, Maria Barefoot, presents her AI workshop.

LIBRARY SUPPORTS FUTURE ENGINEERS

The Library, Museums and Press helped engineering students build a strong foundation for academic success at the start of their university careers. Through the Resources to Inspire Successful Engineers (RISE) program's five-week Summer Academy, Library staff supported 32 students from underrepresented backgrounds through specialized workshops and assignments that strengthened their literature-searching strategies and research skills. Students also connected with William Simpson, associate librarian for engineering and mathematical sciences, who served as a resource for their research and study needs. Through this early engagement, Simpson and colleagues in the Teaching and Research Partnerships department helped students develop the skills, confidence and connections to support their continued success at the University of Delaware.

STUDENTS FROM FOOD AND CULTURE COURSE

As part of her history course on Food and Culture, Associate Professor Cindy Ott reached out to Special Collections for a project on cookbooks. "In this digital day and age where you can get really great recipes online, I really wanted my students to sit down with cookbooks and read them as cultural documents," Ott said. Jaime Margalotti, associate librarian and archival metadata librarian, curated a selection of 50 cookbooks for the class of 55 students. She visited the class to give a presentation on the cookbooks and worked with Ott and her teaching assistant, Sydney Love, to organize five drop-in sessions for students to explore the selection and work on their projects. "I really enjoyed Food and Culture, and I especially appreciated how the course connected what we learned in class to my experiences," said Ott's student Caitlyn Yu. For many of Ott's students it was their first time working with Special Collections. "The lengths that they went to in order to have the students use the collection, and also Jaime's expertise in selecting a very diverse range of books was just incredibly impressive," Ott said. "It really was a terrific experience for the students."



Jaime Margalotti with some of the cookbook selections shared with Professor Ott's students.

STUDENT ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP

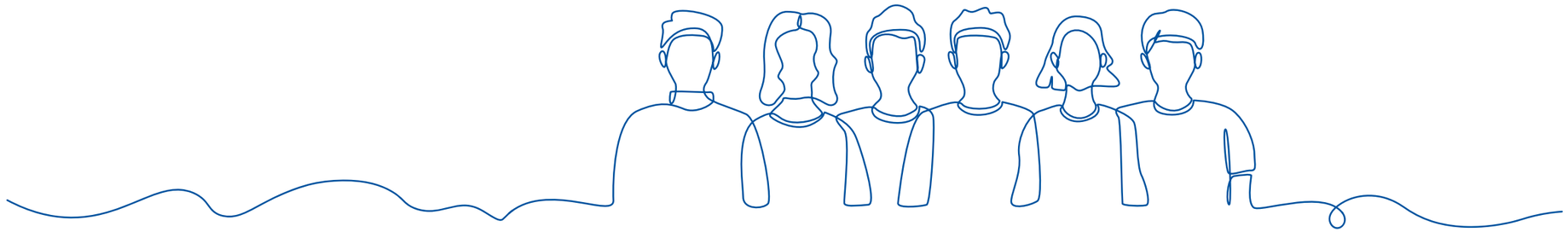
Zara Strauss, a 2025 graduate of history with a concentration in European history, was the winner of this year's Student Assistant Scholarship. Awarded annually, this $1,000 scholarship honors current and former student assistants who have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership potential and significant contributions to the Library, Museums and Press. Strauss says her time as a student assistant in the Morris Library cemented her decision to pursue her master's in Library and Information Science at the University of Alabama Graduate School to one day become a librarian. "Through my various jobs as a student, I was allowed to learn everything from book repairs, archival processing and research to the ins and outs of digital collections," Strauss said. "The work I got to do allowed me to always discover new things and help shine a light on interesting collections."



STUDENT ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP **WINNER**

> *"Through my various jobs as a student, I was allowed to learn everything from book repairs, archival processing and research to the ins and outs of digital collections. The work I got to do allowed me to always discover new things and help shine a light on interesting collections."*
>
> ZARA STRAUSS, 2025 GRADUATE OF HISTORY WITH A CONCENTRATION IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HOSTS APPOQUINIMINK HIGH SCHOOL

Special Collections hosted about 40 students from UD alumna Charlene Taylor's AP English classes to give them an interactive and hands-on introduction to using primary sources. This is the second year Taylor has worked with staff as part of her dystopian literature unit. Librarians led the students by showing examples of primary sources and best practices for incorporating these materials into their research. They also curated a related 30 item pop-up to align with the dystopian theme and the book they were reading, "*The Handmaid's Tale*." Taylor said her students really enjoyed this visit and emphasized it had a transformative impact. She also shared an example of one student who said the field trip "resonated with her so much that she has declared an English minor to her pre-med major. She uses this fact as a talking point in her college interviews, too!"

READ AT YOUR OWN RISK

Staff members Kaitlyn Tanis and Jessica Dai collaborated with Bear Public Library Librarian Elizabeth Mayer to create a banned books program for local teens at the Milford Public Library. The trio designed an interactive workshop at the Milford Public Library allowing teens to dive into deep thought and discussion about the history of banned books and ways they can advocate for intellectual freedom. As part of the workshop, the teens wrote postcards to frequently banned authors and their local representatives. The workshop has really stuck with them, said Amanda Robertson, teen services librarian at the Milford Public Library who organized the event. "Months after the event, these teens tell me that they continue emailing their reps, and some of them even registered to vote as soon as they turned 18." She praised Tanis, Dai and Mayer for sharing their expertise in a way that was truly engaging. "It was a true privilege working with them, and I would eagerly do so again in the future," she said. This workshop was part of a four-part series, attended by about 30 students, about the history of banned books. It was funded by a grant from the Brooklyn Public Library.



Senator Chris Coons addresses attendees at the inaugural policy conference of the Carper Collaborative on Climate and Jobs. Senator Carper is seated, second from left.

CREDIT: *WDEL News*

CARPER COLLABORATIVE POP UP

About 200 experts from government, academia, industry and the community gathered in April for the launch of the Carper Collaborative on Climate and Jobs, a new initiative housed at the Delaware Environmental Institute (DENIN) at UD and led by former U.S. Sen. Tom Carper. As part of the daylong conference, Special Collections staff members brought the University's collections into the conversation through a display which showcased 10 items including the newly acquired materials from Carper's senatorial papers alongside other sources documenting environmental policy and politics and answered questions from attendees. The exhibition offered attendees an opportunity to engage firsthand with original materials illuminating Delaware history.

BRINGING THE 1920S TO LIFE FOR TATNALL STUDENTS

Special Collections staff members Hillary Kativa and Petra Clark welcomed a group of 11th-grade students from The Tatnall School in December 2025 for a visit to the exhibition An Age of Excess: Art, Technology and Style of the 1920s. Working with Tatnall English and Art instructors Yael Haislip and Jo Walsh, staff helped facilitate an interactive learning experience that invited students to explore the era's fashion, design and technological innovations. Activities included sketching original 1920s fashion designs, reimagining modern objects in the Art Deco style, completing a Great Gatsby-themed scavenger hunt and comparing technologies of the 1920s with those of today. The visit offered students an opportunity to engage with historical materials, exercise their creativity and make connections between the cultural innovations of the 1920s and the world around them today.

"AI AND OUR LIBRARIES" PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Library professionals from Drexel, Temple and UD met in June for a half-day event to discuss, learn and brainstorm on the topic of AI. During the event, which took place at Temple University and via Zoom, staff from the Library, Museums and Press shared briefings on their AI-focused projects to inspire collaboration and gain valuable feedback. Online Learning Librarian Maria Barefoot and Creative Media Teaching Librarian Amanda McCollom presented on the challenges they faced while developing student-focused AI tutorials and the strategies they used to make the lessons a more accessible learning experience for students. Theresa Hessey, head of the Digital Collections and Preservation Department (DCP), also presented on two projects where AI has helped make DCP collections more accessible. "It's helpful to connect with library staff at other institutions to think about how we are navigating similar issues," said Jessica Dai, organization development and learning librarian. "A lot of academic libraries are thinking about AI so it's valuable to teach and learn across institutions."



TOP RIGHT
Theresa Hessey, head of the Digital Collections and Preservation Department, presents at the "AI and our Libraries" event held at Temple University.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Jessica Dai, organizational development and learning librarian, and Charissa Powell, head, Teaching and Research Partnerships, engage at the "AI and Our Libraries" Professional Development Event.



> *"A lot of academic libraries are thinking about AI so it's valuable to teach and learn across institutions."*
>
> JESSICA DAI, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING LIBRARIAN

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Each year the University of Delaware Press ensures the University community has access to high-quality scholarship and provides opportunities for authors to bring their scholarly writing to life. This year the Press accomplished that through new publications and acquisitions as it continues to foster collaboration across the academic publishing community.

PUBLICATION OF ICONS OF THE FANTASTIC

The Press' curated publication *Icons of the Fantastic: Illustrations of Imaginative Literature from the Korshak Collection* won a PIA MidAmerica Graph Ex Award and was also named a finalist for the 2026 Locus Awards. The culmination of six years of work, this book features the artwork of American and European illustrators whose art appeared in works of science fiction and fantasy. Oscar-winning Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist Michael Dirda and award-winning Painter and Illustrator David Brinley are among the book's 13 contributors whose experiences, insights and inspirations brought this book to life. The catalog accompanied an exhibition of the same title held in the Museums and provided expanded, in-depth context for the art and books on view. This team effort was led by Press Director Julia Oestreich; book co-editors and contributors Amanda T. Zehnder, senior curator of Museums, and David M. Brinley, professor of Art & Design; and UD contributors Ashley Rye-Kopec, assistant director of Museums, and Margaret D. Stetz, the Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies and professor of humanities.



Stephen Korshak, collector of fantasy and science fiction illustration along with Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and moderator of the event, Michael Dirda, take questions from the audience.

PRESS BECOMES HOME TO SERIES FROM BUCKNELL

When Bucknell University Press announced its closure, UD Press Director Julia Oestreich reached out. She worked closely with Bucknell's director, Suzanne Guiod, to transfer two series to UD Press to ensure they can continue to publish new books. After months of diligent work, the Press officially acquired the series *Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850* and *Scènes francophones: Studies in French and Francophone Theater* in the Spring, and the series officially transferred to UD Press as of July 1. "I am pleased and grateful that these two premier series will find a home with UD Press, whose complementary editorial strengths will create strong synergy and ensure their development into the future," Guiod said. "I'm confident that the excellent UD Press team and series editors will continue BUP's tradition of showcasing rigorous scholarship from emerging and established voices in these fields."



> *"I am pleased and grateful that these two premier series will find a home with UD Press, whose complementary editorial strengths will create strong synergy and ensure their development into the future."*
>
> SUZANNE GUIOD, BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS' DIRECTOR

NEW PRINT AND OPEN ACCESS EDITIONS OF REGENERATIONS SERIES

Last year, the Press acquired and expanded access to the *Regenerations: African American Literature and Culture series*, preserving vital records of Black history and ensuring these voices remain accessible for generations to come. The series encourages exploring African American literary and cultural history through the stories of Black authors, activists, and community leaders. Their writings offer a window into their experiences and the scholarly editors of the Regenerations editions enrich our understanding of these historical moments. Books in the series include *A Nickel and a Prayer* by Jane Edna Hunter (edited by Rhondda Robinson Thomas), and *Hearts of Gold* by J. McHenry Jones (edited by John Ernest and Eric Gardner). Most of the series is available through Open Access.



REGENERATIONS SERIES

The Colonel's Dream

By Charles Waddell Chesnutt
Edited by R. J. Ellis (available Open Access)

Memoirs of the Life, Religious Experience, Ministerial Travels, and Labours of Mrs. Elaw

By Zilpha Elaw
Edited by Kimberly D. Blockett (available Open Access)

Appointed: An American Novel

By William H. Anderson and Walter H. Stowers
Edited by Eric Gardner and Bryan Sinche (available Open Access)

Sketches of Slave Life and From Slave Cabin to Pulpit

By Peter Randolph
Edited by Katherine Clay Bassard (available Open Access)

Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge

By Frances Harriet Whipple Green McDougall and Elleanor Eldridge
Edited by Joycelyn K. Moody (available Open Access)

A Nickel and a Prayer

By Jane Edna Hunter
Edited by Rhondda Robinson Thomas (available Open Access)

Hearts of Gold

By J. McHenry Jones
Edited by John Ernest and Eric Gardner (available Open Access)

Imperium in Imperio

By Sutton E. Griggs
Edited by Tess Chakkalakal and Kenneth W. Warren (available Open Access)

The Hindered Hand

By Sutton E. Griggs
Edited by John Cullen Gruesser and Hanna Wallinger (available Open Access)

Freedom's Witness: The Civil War Correspondence of Henry McNeal Turner

By Henry McNeal Turner
Edited by Jean Lee Cole (available Open Access)

Abigail Field Mott's The Life and Adventures of Olaudah Equiano: A Scholarly Edition

Edited by Eric D. Lamore

THE UNIVERSTIY OF DELAWARE PRESS' PUBLISHED TITLES



Icons of the Fantastic: Illustrations of Imaginative Literature from the Korshak Collection

(October 2025)
Edited by Amanda T. Zehnder and David M. Brinley

Hagiography in Marguerite de Navarre's Heptaméron: Saints and Debates in Renaissance France

(November 2025)
By Leanna Bridge Rezvani

Quixotic Authority: The Female Quixote and the Woman Writer, Lennox to Austen

(January 2026)
By Jodi L. Wyett



Inglorious Artists: Art World Satire and the Emergence of a Capitalist Art Market in Paris, 1750-1850

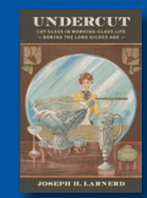
(November 2025)
By Kathryn Desplanque (available Open Access)

The Ambassador and the Courtesan: Political Bodies in Renaissance Italy

(February 2026)
By Paola De Santo

The Fenwick Letters: A Transnational Feminist Life Reconstructed, Volume I: 1797-1821

(February 2026)
Edited by Lissa Paul



Undercut: Cut Glass in Working-Class Life During the Long Gilded Age

(June 2026)
By Joseph Larnerd

The Complete Writings and Selected Correspondence of John Dickinson: Volume 4, 1767-1769

(February 2026)
Edited by Jane E. Calvert

CELEBRATING THE AWARD-WINNING STAFF OF THE LIBRARY, MUSEUM AND PRESS



Trevor A. Dawes, vice provost for libraries and museums and the May Morris University Librarian, shares gratitude at the staff award celebration.



Library, Museums and Press staff pose in front of the Special Collections Reading Room.

By Carlett Spike

Since becoming a librarian more than two decades ago, Trevor A. Dawes has focused on advancing academic scholarship while instilling principles of inclusion and collaboration in the work that he does. As the University of Delaware's vice provost for libraries and museums and the May Morris University Librarian, Dawes has led the Library, Museums and Press through the changing needs of both the University and broader community.

That leadership has translated to Dawes being recognized as the 2026 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), and the Library, Museums and Press receiving the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. The Academic/Research Librarian of the Year award recognizes an outstanding library professional who has made significant national or international contributions to academic or research librarianship and library development.

"As a welcoming hub of scholarship and intellectual freedom, UD's Library, Museums and Press brings our mission to life every day," said UD President Laura Carlson. "The team infuses creativity, collaboration and deep expertise into everything they do—from showcasing our exceptional primary sources and special collections to expanding digital resources, open educational materials and more. I'm delighted that their work is being recognized with such prestigious—and deserved—awards."

Dawes said he is appreciative and honored to have won this award. "I am deeply humbled by this recognition and grateful to those who took the time to nominate me and support my candidacy," Dawes said. "Your confidence in my work means more than I can express. This honor belongs equally to my extraordinary colleagues at the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press, whose creativity, resilience, dedication and commitment to our communities make meaningful work possible every day. While I have never pursued my work in the field for recognition, it is affirming to be seen and valued by peers and colleagues across our profession as a reminder of why the connections we build with one another matter so much."

As part of UD's mission to cultivate learning, develop knowledge and foster the free exchange of ideas, under Dawes' decade of leadership the Library, Museums and Press has prioritized enhancing research support, expanding experiential learning and advancing open scholarship through its many projects and initiatives. These include evolving to meet the changing demands of today's UD scholars, offering diverse and rich programming, collaborating with academic units to enhance their teaching and resources for classroom instruction, working with student groups to design spaces in the Library that meet their needs and so much more.

The staff has also led the charge and offered their expertise through many shifts in higher education. In recent years for example, the Library, Museums and Press has been at the forefront of the arrival of AI and continues to help the University navigate this rapidly changing landscape.

Interim Provost Bill Farquhar praised the Library, Museums and Press for its teaching and guidance on AI. "Their leadership in AI literacy addressed its pedagogical and ethical dimensions, ensuring that faculty and students engage with it critically and effectively," Farquhar said. "Thanks to their work, our graduates are better prepared for leadership in an increasingly complex world."

> *"This award is a testament to the resilience and dedication of my colleagues who, despite the pressures we face, continue to advance teaching, learning and research, deepening our commitments to open scholarship, experiential learning and research support, while showing up for our campus and broader community in ways that are genuinely meaningful."*
>
> TREVOR A. DAWES, VICE PROVOST

Dawes has also helped the institution weather major disruptions, from the COVID-19 pandemic to cuts to federal funding—a challenge all institutions of higher education are facing across the country. In response to these financial pressures, the Library, Museums and Press has had to discontinue several journal subscriptions and make adjustments to its strategic priorities.

What will remain the same is the Library, Museums and Press' core mission to serve as a place for study, inspiration and connection.

"This award is a testament to the resilience and dedication of my colleagues who, despite the pressures we face, continue to advance teaching, learning and research, deepening our commitments to open scholarship, experiential learning and research support, while showing up for our campus and broader community in ways that are genuinely meaningful," Dawes said. "I couldn't be more proud of what we've built together."

BOTTOM RIGHT
Staff and guests listen to remarks at the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award celebration.



The ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award recognizes academic librarians and staff who work together as a team to develop academic libraries that are outstanding in furthering the educational missions of their institutions.

OTHER RECOGNITIONS



Amanda McCollom Transitions ACTAL to a Professional Association

Amanda McCollom has been an integral member of the Association of Creative Technologies in Academic Libraries since its founding in 2022. The creative media teaching librarian helped establish the organization's first Board of Directors and served as president. As interest in the group has grown, McCollom successfully led the effort to transition ACTAL from a volunteer-led initiative to a formal nonprofit to ensure continued growth and stability. In November 2025 the organization welcomed its first dues-paying members, adopted bylaws and established a sustainable framework. McCollom also presented at ACTAL's annual conference in a session titled "Assignment Design 101: Tools and Strategies for Developing Creative Technology Projects."



Megan Gaffney Joins Editorial Board of New Open Access Journal

Megan Gaffney, librarian and head of collections, acquisitions and resource sharing, is serving on the inaugural editorial board for a new open access journal, RRSI Bulletin, created by the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative. The board hopes this journal will encourage collaboration, foster creativity and inspire best practices for facilitating and implementing library resources and services.

Stephen "Leif" Erickson Suggests Kanopy Enhancement

Users of the library video streaming platform Kanopy found it challenging to maintain thumbnails locally for newly added content, which required libraries to manually update regularly. Stephen "Leif" Erickson, a senior electronic resources specialist for the Library, suggested creating a way for this to be done automatically. Through this feedback and collaboration with Ex Libris, a new Community Zone template was created to automate thumbnail display.



PRESENTATIONS

Tywanda Cuffy, director of external relations, communications and development initiatives

- "Strategic Communications in Academic Research Libraries: Building Trust, Visibility and Impact Across Audiences" at the ALADN Conference in April 2026
- Co-facilitated "Harmony Between Humanity and Technology: Libraries Using AI in Advancement" with Mary Lowery, CNP from Rice University, at the ALADN Conference in April 2026

Megan Gaffney, librarian and head of collections, acquisitions and resource sharing

- "Five's Company: Rethinking Copyright in Resource Sharing," presented at the Greater Western Library Alliance's annual meeting in May 2026

PUBLICATIONS

Curtis Small, manager for research services

- "The Poetry of Perseverance" in Black Studies on 135th Street: The Founding and Future of the Schomburg Collection edited by Barrye Brown, Vanessa K. Valdes and UD Professor Laura Helton. (April 2026)
- Penned two essays for the book *What is a Book?* By Beldan Sezen (2025)



Sarah Katz, librarian, health science and evidence synthesis librarian



- Co-authored "Effects of Timing and Types of Complementary Foods on the Gastrointestinal Microbiota in Infants up to 12 Months of Age: A Systematic Review," in *Nutrition Reviews* (February 2026)
- Co-authored "Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation for Patellar and Achilles Tendon Loading: A Scoping Review with Practical Recommendations," in the Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy (July 2025)
- Co-authored "Mitigating Food Insecurity-Related Stigma: A Review of Intervention Strategies," in the Delaware Journal of Public Health (November 2025)
- Co-authored "Food Insecurity-Related Stigma Among Adults in the United States: A Scoping Review" in the American Journal of Health Promotion (September 2025)

Annie Johnson, associate university librarian for research, teaching and technology



- Co-authored "Scholarly Communication Work: On the Ground Perspectives" in College & Research Libraries (November 2025)



Dianna McKellar, librarian and UDLib/SEARCH coordinator

- UDLib/SEARCH LGBTQ+ History (House Concurrent Resolution 90) Guide (February 2026)

John Caldwell, political and public policy papers archivist

Kaitlyn Tanis, history and social sciences librarian

- Co-authored "Intentional Co-Instruction: Bringing the Framework and Guidelines into Conversation for Undergraduate History Information Literacy Instruction," in College & Research Libraries News (February 2026)



Tywanda Cuffy, director of external relations, communications and development initiatives

- "Leveraging AI for Communications and Development Work in Academic Libraries" in Computers in Libraries (July 2026)

New Hires

Theresa Cramer
Curator of Education and Engagement, Museums
June 1, 2026.

Julia Saint-Amour
Research Services Assistant, Special Collections Department
May 1, 2026.

Abigail Whitford
Assistant Librarian and Special Collections Cataloger, Cataloging and Metadata Department
March 1, 2026.

Anna Jones
Visitor Experience Coordinator, Museums
March 1, 2026.

Loren Mindell
Senior Assistant Librarian and Access Services Librarian, Access Services Department
March 1, 2026.

Sarah Baird
Library Assistant II, Help Center, Access Services Department
February 23, 2026.

Kate Folkenroth
Affiliate Assistant Librarian and Electronic Records Archivist, Special Collections Department
October 13, 2025.

Carezza Wolff
Computing Support Specialist II, Library Information Technology Department
October 1, 2025.

Julie McGee
Associate University Librarian for Special Collections and Director of Museums
August 11, 2025.

HONORING OUR SUPPORTERS

GENEROSITY BUILDS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEW HOME

We are deeply grateful to everyone whose generosity helped advance the Special Collections renovation, contributing nearly $2 million toward this transformative project.

Through Giving Tuesday, the Vice Provost's fall solicitation, support from the Friends of the UD Library and gifts from other generous donors, this collective investment has helped create a welcoming space for research, teaching, collaboration and engagement with the University's distinctive collections. Every gift, regardless of size, played a part in bringing this vision to life. While active fundraising for the renovation has concluded, naming opportunities remain available throughout the renovated space and Morris Library for those interested in making a lasting impact.



Tywanda Cuffy, UD Interim Provost William Farquhar, Hillary Kativa, Vice Provost Trevor Dawes and UD President Laura Carlson and Shelly McCoy cut the ribbon to officially open the new Special Collections.



MAKING ROOM FOR BLUE HEN FAMILIES

Thanks to the generosity of donors during I Heart UD Giving Day, nearly $4,000 was raised to furnish and enhance Morris Library's new Family Study Space. These gifts are helping provide child-sized seating, educational materials and welcoming touches that create a more inviting environment for student parents and their young children. With these improvements, parents can focus on their studies while their children read, play and learn nearby. We are grateful to everyone who helped make Morris Library a more inclusive and supportive space for Blue Hens and their families.

GRATEFUL FOR OUR GRANT PARTNERS

Grant funding continued to advance scholarship, collections, research and learning. The organization received new grant awards while continuing to draw on previously awarded multi-year funding to support ongoing projects and initiatives. During the fiscal year, $822,731.64 in grant funds was expended to advance this work.

GRANT FUNDING SUPPORTING 2025-2026 INITIATIVES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
The John Dickinson Writing Project
$449,998

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
UDLib/SEARCH (Online Periodicals)
$516,800

STATE OF DELAWARE
DE250 Project
$7,500

MELLON FOUNDATION
Poetry Project
$250,000

U. S. SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE
Senator Thomas R. Carper's Papers Project
$1,051,894

We are grateful to these partners for investing in our work and the opportunities their support makes possible.

A LIFETIME OF GRATITUDE:
LOUIS E. ROEMER'S ENDURING COMMITMENT TO UD

At 92 years young, Louis E. Roemer has spent much of his life connected to the University of Delaware. A three-time graduate, longtime supporter and familiar presence in the Library, he has also spent enough time there to joke that he has "worn out" plenty of furniture.



LEFT *Louis E. Roemer's 1955 undergraduate photo from the University of Delaware.*
RIGHT *Louis E. Roemer hiking in China in 2024.*

His generosity to the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press began in 2018 with a $30 gift to Special Collections. Since then, his annual contributions have grown to five figures, supporting Special Collections, the Library renovation project, experiential learning and the Open Educational Resources Fund. He has also helped provide furnishings for Library spaces and support for student employment, recognizing that a welcoming, well-resourced library depends on both its physical environment and the people who bring it to life.

Roemer's generosity extends beyond the Library, Museums and Press. He also supports University-wide priorities, including the Blue Hen Strong Fund, Student Crisis Fund and Student Pantry for Basic Needs Fund. Food insecurity is particularly close to his heart. "It's painful to think of people being hungry," he said.

When deciding where to direct his philanthropy, Roemer places considerable trust in University leadership. He believes those entrusted with guiding the institution are best positioned to determine where resources are needed most. For him, giving is less about directing every dollar toward a particular outcome and more about helping the University meet its responsibilities to students and the broader community.

That perspective reflects a relationship with UD that began more than seven decades ago. Roemer earned his bachelor's degree in physics in 1955, followed by a master's degree in electrical engineering in 1963 and a doctorate in electrical engineering in 1967. He credits faculty members, including Bruce Luce, Paul Bolgiano and John Fenton Daugherty, with offering encouragement and support that helped shape his academic journey.

His path to Newark was not always easy. On one occasion, Roemer arrived before the residence halls had opened. With bus service no longer running, he walked approximately 16 miles from Wilmington and spent the night on the floor of a photographic laboratory in the basement of the Physics Department. It is an experience that speaks to the determination that carried him through his studies and into a distinguished career in higher education, including serving as head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Louisiana Tech University.

But when Roemer reflects on what UD has meant to him, his academic accomplishments are only part of the story. The University also became part of his personal life: it was where he met his first wife. The many connections and experiences that began in Newark helped make UD an enduring part of his life's journey. Asked what his life might have been like without the University, he said, "I cannot imagine it."

That sense of indebtedness is central to how he thinks about philanthropy. Roemer sees giving as a way to repay, in some measure, what the University made possible for him. He hopes his support can ease challenges that might otherwise stand in the way of a student's education or growth. As he put it, he wants his gifts to "take off sharp edges that otherwise would hurt."

To explain his philosophy of giving, Roemer also recalled a line from Dolly Levi in Hello, Dolly!: "Money, pardon the expression, is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around, encouraging young things to grow." The sentiment captures his belief that resources have their greatest value when they are put to work helping others flourish.

More than seven decades after beginning his journey as a Blue Hen, Roemer continues to invest in the University's future. His story offers a meaningful reminder to fellow alumni: Think about the people who encouraged you, the experiences that shaped you and the opportunities your education made possible. Then consider how you might help create those same possibilities for someone else. Whether through support for Special Collections, student learning, research or the many resources that serve the UD community, every gift can help the next generation of Blue Hens find its own path forward.

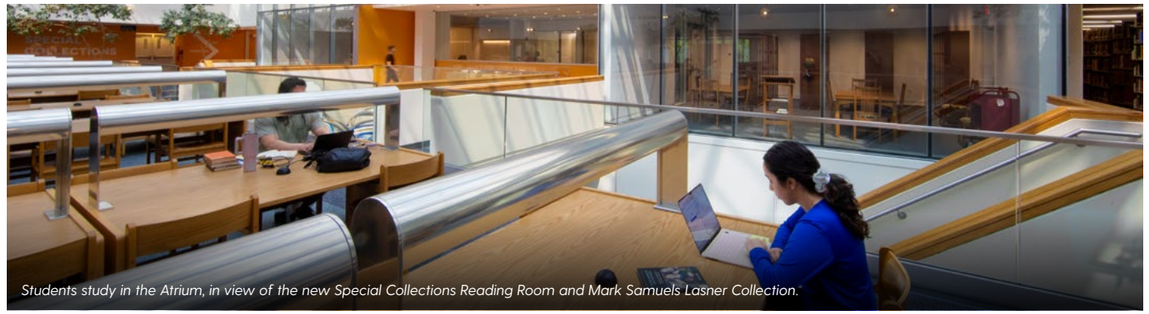
YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A LASTING IMPACT

During the past fiscal year, the Library, Museums and Press received more than $1.5 million in donor support to strengthen collections, advance scholarship and create opportunities for the Blue Hen community. Thank you to the donors whose generosity enhances our work and enriches the Blue Hen community.

TRUE BLUE HENS

We are grateful to these loyal donors for supporting the Library, Museums and Press for three or more consecutive fiscal years with a gift of any amount. Students and current parents are recognized with their first gift.

Robert W. Jr. '66 '69M and Margaret S. Abbott
Kayla Abner
Christopher M. '75M '80PhD and Elizabeth L. Agnew
Carol Collins
Alcorn '79 and John S. Alcorn
American Online Giving Foundation
Alexander L. Ames '14M '17M '18PhD
Angelena Andino
Deborah C. and William D. Andrews
Beverly Stengel Andringa '75 and Henry J. Andringa
Thomas S. Angell
Sumera Aqeel
J. Clayton Athey '95 and Shannon Finch Athey '95
Janet Shapiro Bailey '68 and John F. Bailey
Barnett Family Foundation TR
Pamela Frank Barrows '82 and Clayton W. Barrows
David J. Barsky '81
Lauren Battista
Barbara A. Baxter '79
Thomas F. IV '79M and Mona B. Bayard
Susan K. Beidler '72
Lawrence N. '63 and Silvia Y. Bell
Betsy Berger
Nancy Kalemba Berkheimer '67 '78M
John A. Bernstein
Mark Bertozzi '75M
Nora G. Bonsall
Amanda M. Boone '06
Mary C. Boudart '73
Virginia T. Boyce
Nancy Brightwell Breme '69
Nancy A. Breslin '00M
Kathleen Carlisle Brightman '83 and J. Jeffry Brightman
D. Heyward and Patricia L. Brock
Margaretta Bredin Brokaw '71
Estate of Susan Brynteson*
James L. Budd '68 and Antonia Funk Budd '69
Daniel N. Buffington '84
Patricia Norris Burdick '65 and Lalor Burdick '65
Donnamarie Parks Burns '84 and Dennis P. Burns
Nancy Newton Burri '53
Sharon Sullivan Camden '74 and Matthew D. Camden
J. S. and Margaret A. Campbell
Juliana Cardullo
Harmon R. '77M and Claire L. Carey
Maisha D. and Roderick L. Carey
Artika '05 '26M and Duwayne S. Casini '14
Shirley L. Chamberlain '73
Yan Chen '05M '09PhD
Ying Chen '09
Craig A. Cherrin '02
Tara M. Cioffi '96 and Daniel A. Dean '97
Willkie K. Cirker '67
Pamela Falle Clay '90
Ann Marie Shaw Cochrane '01
William J. Cohen '64 '76M
Elizabeth Stanford Coleman '69
Jennifer K. '99 and Frederick W. Coleman Jr.
Carole Ann Gilbert Concors '65
Richard R. and Barbara M. Cooch
Sarah E. Cooper
Kevin L. Cousins '80
Robert M. Coven '90M
Cinda J. Crane '73
Tywanda L. Cuffy '04 and Andrew Cuffy
Jessica Dai
Erin C. Daix
James P. and Janice A. Dalle Pazze
Richard L. Daugherty '69M '71PhD
Trevor A. Dawes and Misha Grigoriev
J. Gary Dean '70M and Lee Ann Glancey Dean '75
Delaware Community Foundation
Sebastian Derry
Mary Tylecki Dickson '72 and Charles H. Dickson
Joseph A. D'Ippolito '90
Jill E. Dixon '86
Nancy D. Dodd '72
Derek A. Dolby
Marie M. Donaghay '65
Alice W. Donaghy
Mary P. and Lance K. Donaldson-Evans
Bryan L. Draper '88
Mary F. Dugan '95
Katharine P. Dunlevy '83
Patricia M. Dyer '73M '82PhD
Robert S. Ehrlich '95M and Marion Stern Ehrlich '78M
Ellason Downs Perpetual Charitable Foundation
Eve M. Ellis '22M
Kristen Wilczynski English '10 and Timothy R. English '11
Ashley M. Evans '13
James E. '73 '83 and Pamela S. Fahs



Students study in the Atrium, in view of the new Special Collections Reading Room and Mark Samuels Lasner Collection.

Alan S. Fanning '86 and Roberta H. Weinberg
Sharon A. Feucht '75 and Gary E. Miller
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Ronald M. Finch '56
Katherine Fluker
Anthony G. '73 and Catherine C. Flynn
Vaughn W. Fortier-Shultz '16
Jane Jarrett Fox '76
Nancy G. Frederick
Perri B. Freeman '93
Friends of the University of Delaware Library
Dustin M. Frohlich '05
Theresa L. Fuller '88 '95M
Megan R. Gaffney '17M
Julia H. Gaisser
Barbara Timm Gates '61M
Frederick B. Getze
Steven P. Giannino '74M and Linda Cox Giannino '74
August W. '77PhD and Barbara H. Giebelhaus
Billy P. Glass
John M. Gliatto '77
Stanley F. Glowiak '70 and Annamarie C. Medeiros
Robert C. '78 '83M and Mary L. Golike
Neil E. Gordon '92
Kelly A. Graf and Richard P. Huffer
Roy W. Gripp '71
Margaret Gaffey Grotti '15M and John J. Grotti
Francis G. Guinan '78 and Kathleen Byrd Guinan '78
Xinqing Guo '11M '17PhD
Joanne Rash Hadley '69 and Donald H. Hadley II '72
Jay L. Halio*
David L. and Ann B. Hamilton
Julia Malinowski Hamm '95 and Dennis K. Hamm
Douglas L. Haneline '72M
Linda D. Hardy '68 '70M '77M
Estate of Tamara K. Hareven*
Paul C. Harrison '73
Marlene A. Hartman
Charles H. Henderson '00
Morgan L. Hendry III
Jerome O. and Mary Ann Herlihy
Thomas Herlihy III
Theresa L. Hessey '96
Douglas and Virginia Hill
Richard W. Hill '64
Stephen R. Hodose '08
Raymond W. Hofmann Jr. '71
Eleanore O. Hofstetter '67M
Anita M. Holloway '82
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