Celebrating the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection: Library Symposium Welcomes Bibliophiles from Around the World

On March 17 and 18, the University of Delaware Library welcomed more than 200 book-lovers from around the globe for a symposium and exhibition celebrating the gift of the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection.

Samuels Lasner, a longtime friend and supporter of the University who is senior research fellow in the University of Delaware Library, donated his vast collection of British literature and art to the Special Collections Department last year. Worth more than $10 million, the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection is the largest and most valuable donation in the library’s history.

The symposium, “Celebrating the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection: Rare Books and Manuscripts, Victorian Literature and Art,” was a two-day event featuring a keynote address by Elaine Showalter, professor emerita of English at Princeton University, and a bevy of distinguished speakers in the worlds of rare books and Victorian studies, including Mark...
Celebrating the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection (Continued)

Dimunation (Library of Congress), Barbara Heritage (Rare Book School, University of Virginia), Ed Maggs (Maggs Bros. Ltd., London), Joseph Bristow (UCLA), Linda K. Hughes (Texas Christian University), Margaretta S. Frederick (Delaware Art Museum), William S. Peterson (Emeritus, University of Maryland), David Taylor (UK historian and author), and Margaret D. Stetz (University of Delaware).

Kicking off the symposium, University President Dennis Assanis praised Samuels Lasner for choosing the University of Delaware as a home for the collection.

“It is often said that a library has many assets—people, books, technology. The crown jewel that really differentiates a library is its special collections. We are so proud for the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection to be here and hope it will motivate others to see UD as a potential home for their collections,” said Assanis.

Each speaker praised the collection and its impact, often highlighting specific books, authors and illustrations. Many noted Samuels Lasner’s significant role in the work of rare books and special collections, and the important relationships he has made with collectors, scholars and institutions.

“We were exposed to diverse points of view from many of the top players in the field. There was much to appeal to both collectors of books and lovers of literature. It was a rare combination of the entertaining and the thought-provoking. And the excellent exhibition brought it all to life. This all reflects Mark’s total understanding of what he has collected and why,” said John Tepe, a member of the University’s Library Associates.

Fellow attendees agreed and noted Samuels Lasner’s tenacious dedication to his collection throughout the years.

“Mark’s achievement is extraordinary and due to his deep love of the subject and tremendous zeal and persistence that only a dedicated book collector can manage. He has done it over many years and kept at it continually, despite severe competition against some towering giants in the collecting field,” said attendee Stephen Massey, an antiquarian bookseller and appraiser who traveled from New York City for the event.
A related exhibition, “Victorian Passions: Stories from the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection,” curated by Margaret D. Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women’s Studies and Professor of Humanities, continued on display in the Special Collections Gallery of Morris Library through June 30. Featuring nearly 100 signed books, autograph letters and manuscripts, original drawings and photographs related to such figures as Charles Dickens, George Eliot, William Morris, Beatrix Potter and Oscar Wilde, it is also available for viewing at exhibits.lib.udel.edu/exhibits/show/victorian-passions.

As the symposium concluded, Samuels Lasner reflected on the event and the collection.

“This was a very special occasion for me and for the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection, but more important, the symposium fulfilled its promise to recognize the centrality of rare books, manuscripts and special collections to the library and to the University as we move forward. I was deeply touched by the presence of so many friends, members of my family, colleagues from across the University and representatives from the library, academic and collecting worlds,” he said.

The gift of the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection to the University of Delaware has been featured on local media, including NBC10 television, WHYY television and the University radio, WVUD. Video and audio can be found on the stations’ websites. More information about the symposium, including recordings of the talks, may be found at www.udel.edu/udaily/2017/april/mark-samuels-lasner-collection-symposium/.
On April 12, 2017, more than 150 attendees enjoyed the 2017 Annual Dinner of the University of Delaware Library Associates (UDLA), which included a hospitality hour; the opportunity to interact with Maureen Corrigan, the night’s featured speaker and author of *So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures*; and music from pianist Michael Arenson, a retired faculty member of the Music Department at the University of Delaware. The dinner was held in Arsht Hall at the University of Delaware in Wilmington.

Theodore F. Killheffer, president of UDLA, moderated the program. Domenico Grasso, provost of the University of Delaware, and Trevor A. Dawes, vice provost for libraries and museums and May Morris university librarian, also made remarks.

On behalf of the UDLA membership, President Killheffer presented a gift check in the amount of $66,000 to Provost Grasso and Vice Provost Dawes for the University of Delaware Library to acquire manuscripts, rare books and other special items.
Author Maureen Corrigan (Continued)

that will be accessible via Special Collections. Combined with a gift of $40,000, presented in November 2016 at the UDLA board meeting, the total fiscal year gift for 2016/2017 is $106,000—a record gift for UDLA. This recording-setting gift resulted from fundraising efforts, including the membership renewal appeal, the year-end appeal and other monetary gifts made throughout the year by members of UDLA, as well as funds from the endowment of UDLA.

Corrigan, the featured speaker, explained her enduring love for *The Great Gatsby*, a 1925 novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. While Corrigan explained she couldn’t comprehend the book’s deeper meaning the first time she read it, it now takes on greater meaning for her with each reading—and she’s read the book now close to 100 times. After providing details on Fitzgerald’s life and symbolisms found within the story, she encouraged the audience to read the book again.

At the completion of the program, Corrigan signed books for and socialized with dinner attendees. She and members of the audience laughed, talked and enjoyed interacting with one another.
Thank You to the 2017 Annual Dinner Sponsors

The University of Delaware Library Associates acknowledges, with sincere appreciation, the following sponsors of the 2017 Annual Dinner whose generosity helped to make the event a success.

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Stay Connected

The University of Delaware Library invites members of the University of Delaware Library Associates and others to stay connected with the Library to get updates on events, collections, services and more.

Stay connected via: UDLibrary @UDLibrary
UDLA Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The University of Delaware Library Associates (UDLA) will celebrate its 60th anniversary during fiscal year 2017/2018. Over the years, UDLA has been instrumental in the Library’s continued success. The cash gifts supplied by UDLA to date to the UD Library have accumulated to a very substantial sum of $1,998,000, which includes the most recent 2016/2017 annual gift of $106,000. UDLA and its members may take great pride in this philanthropic effort, which has enabled the enhancement and acquisition of the materials in Special Collections, including rare books, manuscripts and other interesting materials that are available on the second floor of Morris Library for use by the public, as well as UD students, faculty and staff.

UDLA past presidents have provided strong leadership to date, including, in alphabetical order:

Mrs. Frances O. Allmond, 1992-1995
Mr. Alfred E. Bissell, 1971
Mrs. Joseph O. Bradford, 1977-1978
Mr. Wilson J. C. Braun Jr., 2001-2016
Mr. J. Bruce Bredin, 1967-1969
Mr. Lammot du Pont Copeland Jr., 1970
Mr. Henry B. du Pont, 1962-1964
Mrs. Edmond du Pont, 1973-1974
Mrs. Madalin W. James, 1975-1976
Mr. Theodore F. Killheffer, 2017-
The Honorable Caleb R. Layton III, 1958 and 1972
Mr. Gordon A. Pfeiffer, 1982-1985
Dr. Charles van Ravenswaay, 1979-1981
Mr. Frederick G. Singer, 1959-1961
Mr. John B. Tepe Jr., 1996-2000
The Honorable Daniel F. Wolcott, 1965-1966
Mr. Daniel F. Wolcott Jr., 1986-1991

At its July 2017 meeting, the UDLA Executive Committee selected the following image from an assortment of anniversary designs.

The image was designed by Sean Diffendall, communication specialist at the Library, and will be added to letterhead, envelopes and more for the anniversary.

The Certificate of Incorporation of the University of Delaware Library Associates was filed on October 27, 1957, and signed by C.A. Southerland, Elizabeth H. Grasselli and Caleb R. Layton III. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on November 18, 1957. Nonprofit status was awarded to UDLA by the U.S. Treasury Department on April 22, 1958.

Watch for future opportunities to help celebrate the 60th anniversary, including the Spring 2018 exhibition “Sixty at Sixty” in the Special Collections Gallery! The exhibition, on view February 11 through June 15, 2018, will showcase 60 items acquired with the support of UDLA between 2008 and 2018.

2017 Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The 2017 annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the University of Delaware Library Associates (UDLA) will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. in the Reading Room in the Morris Library. The meeting will be open to the UDLA membership, including spouses, partners and guests.

A reception for the UDLA Board of Directors and others in attendance will be held after the meeting. The reception will be sponsored by the Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums and May Morris University Librarian Trevor A. Dawes as a thank you to the Board for their service.
Digitized Delaware Histories: Oral Histories from Delaware Citizens Now Available Online

The voices of a wide variety of Delawareans from the late 1960s and 1970s are now available online to researchers around the world, the University of Delaware Library has announced.

The newly digitized Robert H. Richards Jr. Delaware Oral History Collection includes reminiscences from well-known Delawareans, such as attorney Louis Redding and journalist William Frank, as well as ordinary citizens.

One of the most frequently used sources for Delaware history and genealogical research in Special Collections at Morris Library, the collection was created in the late 1960s as a documentary project funded by Richards, who was an alumnus of the University, a Wilmington lawyer and a good friend of John Munroe, longtime chair of UD’s history department.

He originally proposed an oral history of Delaware politicians, but Munroe—in the spirit of the new social history of the period intended to document the lives of “ordinary” people—expanded the project’s range of interviewees to include immigrants, educators and agricultural workers. Richards’ annual
Digitized Delaware Histories (Continued)

contribution paid for interviewers and transcribers of the oral histories. In addition to Munroe, his successor Willard Fletcher and University President John A. Perkins supported the program.

Munroe hired teachers who had completed master’s degrees at the University of Delaware to conduct the interviews and, when possible, matched the interviewers to subjects with similar ethnic, religious or vocational backgrounds. Some of the most frequent interviewers were Myron Lazarus (Jewish community), Francis J. Fierro (Italian immigrants), George Vapaa (agriculture), Steve Schoenherr (German immigrants) and Rebecca Button (University and other topics).

Interviewees included Delawareans who spoke about life during the Great Depression, African Americans, UD faculty, Wilmington journalists and former participants of the Junior Year Abroad program. Among the latter group was Mrs. Robert Richards Jr. (Harriet Kellond), who met her husband in 1927 when both were students in UD’s pioneering foreign study program.

Nearly 300 interviews were conducted between 1966 and 1978 as part of the project. The oral histories have been invaluable for UD students, particularly those researching the urban growth of Wilmington through diverse immigrant communities. Irish and German immigrants were prominent manufacturing and construction laborers in the 19th century in Wilmington, and census records show new immigrant groups in the early 20th century were Italian, Polish, Greek and Russian Jews. Descendants of many of the interviewees have been delighted to find their ancestors sharing family stories about relocating to live and work in Wilmington.

A small sample of interviewees include the following:

- Nora Thompson Dean, interviewed by Delaware folklorist C.A. Weslager in 1970. Dean, who was living in Oklahoma at the time, was one of five living speakers of Lenape, the Native American language of Delaware. The interview includes Dean speaking Lenape.

- Helen Baylis, alumna of the Women’s College of Delaware, Class of 1918, and Delaware educator, who reminisced about Dean Winifred Robinson and Emalea Pusey Warner, as well as her career in teaching.

- Peter Laskaris, a Greek immigrant born in 1887, who came to America at age 13 and worked in his brother’s store in Wilmington, interviewed in 1968 by Irene Long.

- George Laskaris, son of Peter Laskaris, and owner of the Luncheonette in Newark, talking about his Main Street business and life during the Great Depression, interviewed in 1972.

- Joseph, Matilda and Joe Jr. Jackewicz, a family of potato farmers who relocated to Rising Sun in Kent County, Delaware, in the 1950s when suburban development displaced farmers from Long Island, New York. The Jackewicz family and other Kent County farmers were interviewed by George Vapaa, a state agricultural agent.

- George Wilson, the first African American elected to Newark’s city council, describing his work as a contractor and how he built the first affordable housing for blacks in the city.

- Dorothy Markert, longtime mathematics teacher at Newark High School and outstanding alumna of the University of Delaware, who
talked about growing up in rural Harrington, attending college and serving in the Women’s Army Corps in the European Theater during WWII.

- Pauline Young, the African American librarian, Peace Corps volunteer, NAACP leader and namesake of Morris Library’s resident librarian program, talking about segregated education, growing up in Wilmington and writing about the history of the Negro in Delaware.

- Louis Redding, the first African American admitted to the Delaware Bar and distinguished civil rights advocate, interviewed by Myron Blackman in 1971 about practicing law in Wilmington and living in Delaware in the Great Depression.

- William (Bill) Frank, interviewed on multiple occasions between 1972 and 1974 by Myron Blackman, about Delaware in the Depression, African American history and theatre in Arden and Wilmington.

- Valentino DiSabatino, a native of Sant’Omero born in 1898, who came to America in 1921 after his release from the Italian army. DiSabatino, a tailor, was the only member of his family not involved in construction. Francis J. Fierro interviewed three members of the DiSabatino family in 1967 and 1968 about their experiences growing up in Italy and immigrating to America in the 1920s.

A full description of the collection is available at library.udel.edu/static/purl.php?mss0179 with links to the digitized audio recordings and searchable PDF files of the interview transcripts, all of which are housed in UDSpace, the University’s digital repository.

Library units involved with this project include Special Collections, the Center for Digital Collections, and the Library and Data Server Management Department. More information is available from Special Collections at AskSpecRef.

The library digital initiative was generously supported by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Richards III. Thanks to them, the Robert H. Richards Jr. Delaware Oral History Collection, which is the Library’s largest oral history collection, now joins seven other digital collections of oral histories with worldwide access through Morris Library’s UDSpace.

The transcription and digitization of the Robert H. Richards Jr. Delaware Oral History Collection was also made possible through the generous support of Lydia R. Boyer, the Hon. Jane Roth and the law firm of Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.

Digitized Delaware Histories (Continued)

Edward B. du Pont Sr.
1934-2017
Son of founding University of Delaware Library Associates (UDLA) member Henry B. du Pont

UDLA Member 1969-2006
Board of Directors 1970-1975
Treasurer 1971-1972
Executive Committee 1970
Finance Committee 1970

W. Oliver Kincannon Jr.
1927-2017

UDLA Member 2000-2017
Board of Directors 2004-2017
Ronald M. Finch Receives CAS Alumni Achievement Award

Throughout his life, Finch has been involved in numerous organizations focused on history.

Finch earned his bachelor’s degree in history at UD in 1956, and then received a master’s degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in administration from Columbia University.

In 2015, Finch pledged to make a generous gift of his unique Delmarva Collection and a substantial endowment to the University of Delaware Library. His world-class Delmarva Collection consists of more than 6,000 items related to the state of Delaware and the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia. It includes books, manuscripts, documents, archival material, historic maps, broadsides and a significant collection of early newspapers, many of which were printed in Delaware.

Additionally, Finch pledged to establish two endowment funds at UD. One creates the Elizabeth Dorothy Carlisle Finch Chair in the Department of History, which provides for a faculty position dedicated to the study of Delmarva economic, cultural, social and geographic history. The second fund, the Dr. Ronald Milton Finch Endowment for the Delmarva Special Collection, will support undergraduate and graduate students working with the collection, and will provide the means to acquire and preserve Delmarva historical materials and conduct research.

Finch’s primary objective with these generous endowments is to perpetuate the history, culture and heritage of the Delmarva Peninsula, with emphasis upon the legacy and heritage of the common man.

Finch, a lifelong resident of Delaware, lives in Montchanin with his wife, Beverly.

The Finches have been members of UDLA since 1998, and Ron Finch continues to serve on the UDLA Board of Directors since 2005.
2017 Annual Faculty Lecture with Erica Armstrong Dunbar

More than 200 people, including many students, attended the 2017 Annual Faculty Lecture, sponsored by the University of Delaware Library Associates. During the lecture, featured speaker Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Blue and Gold Distinguished professor of Black American Studies and History at the University of Delaware, spoke about her recently published book, *Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*.

When writing this book, Dunbar set out to do two things: tell Ona Judge’s story; and tell what it meant to be a slave, an indentured person or a free person in this new nation of ours.

Transporting the audience into the slave era through excerpts from her book, Dunbar provided the history behind the story. In order to serve as the new president of our nation in Philadelphia, the temporary seat of the nation’s capital, President George Washington had to leave his home in Mount Vernon. So did Ona Judge, who was only 16 years old at the time and had to be separated from her family to travel as Martha Washington’s personal assistant.

Dunbar explained that Washington could not accept the law in Pennsylvania, which required enslaved people to be set free after six months of residency in the state. Instead, she revealed, Washington circumvented the law by sending his slaves back to Virginia every six months—rotating them out with a new group of slaves.

In her early twenties, Judge was gifted to Elizabeth Parke Custis Law, Martha Washington’s granddaughter, as a wedding gift. While Law’s temper terrified Judge, so did the treatment of slaves in Virginia, where Judge would be returning. Having glimpsed the idea of freedom in Philadelphia, Judge knew she had to escape. Although she was never caught, a massive manhunt—led by Washington—ensued for the remainder of her life.

Dunbar signed many copies of her book for and interacted with attendees during the reception that followed the program.

For further information, please find a brief story, written by Artika Casini of the College of Arts and Sciences, about the event at www.udel.edu/udaily/2017/may/ud-library-associates-faculty-lecture-never-caught.
Welcome to New Members

The following list reflects the new members of the University of Delaware Library Associates (UDLA), who have joined the UDLA membership since the publication of the *Newsletter of the University of Delaware Library Associates*, Number 72. All UDLA members are appreciated and bring increased strength and vitality to the organization. Thank you to the new members for your recent contributions to the University of Delaware Library and/or to UDLA.

Ms. Marissa Adibi
Ms. Samantha M. Agostino
Dr. Maciek R. Antoniewicz
Mrs. Betsy Cranston Baxter
Dr. Wendy A. Bellion
Mr. Lukas R. Berry
Ms. Caroline Beston
Ms. Lori Bittker
Ms. Meghan E. Buckley
Ms. Denise G. Burgher
Mr. Evan J. Butler
Mr. John D. M. Caldwell
Ms. Rachel M. Caldwell
Ms. Jaimin D. Carter
Ms. Maureen Cathell
Mr. T.J. Cournoyer
Mrs. Patricia Curlett
Ms. Erin C. Daix
Ms. Brittany G. Delle Donne
Ms. Nancy L. DeLucia
Mr. and Mrs. Bert R. Denker
Ms. Tess E. DiFiorio
Professor Abigail S. Donovan
and Mr. Thomas Hughes
Dr. Valerie A. Earnshaw
Ms. Sandra Elm
Dr. Jesse Ryan Erickson
Ms. Mackenzie A. Evans
Mr. Gregory F. Fleming
Mr. Richard J. Florschutz
Ms. Cynthia J. Freeman
Mrs. Deanna Seltzer Friedman
Dr. Ann Eden Gibson
The Honorable Mark Gitenstein

Ms. Kate B. Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. Jay J. Green
Ms. Julia E. Grossman
Ms. Daphney A. Guillaume
Mrs. Joan Donohue Hobbs
Mr. Andrew R. Homsey
Mrs. Ann Houseman
Ms. Anna Huang
Dr. Zhuochuan Huang
and Mrs. Lianfang Xiao
Ms. Erin N. Huston
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Jefferson
Mrs. Ann L. Jones
Dr. James M. Jones
Ms. Samantha N. Keller
Mr. Jeffrey A. Kramer
Ms. Ching Sui Lai
Mr. Frank J. Larry Jr.
and Ms. Karen F. Clark
Mrs. Wendy G. Leary
Ms. Kate Lemay
Ms. Margot Lewis and
Mr. John F. Hochschwender
Mr. James M. Mellor Jr.
Ms. Rachel C. Metzgar
Ms. Kathryn Mingoia
Ms. Matanda Mondoa
Ms. Lisabeth A. Moore
Ms. Pernilla L.T. Mpasi
Mrs. Noreen Murphy
Mrs. Milo M. Naevé
Ms. Laura L. Nagle
Ms. Kristen D. Neal
Ms. Eileen Ni

Mr. Jaspal Singh Nijjar
Mr. Doojoon Park
Ms. Pratigya Paudel
Mr. Jonathan Rabinowitz
Dr. David P. Redlawsk
Mr. Nicholas A. Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Russell
Mr. Christopher J. Sanchez
Mr. Ethan E. Savage
Mr. William J. Schwarz
Mr. Eddie Scott
Ms. Dhruvi P. Shah
Ms. Jessica S. Sherry
Mr. Gregory Sieber
Ms. Brenna D. Smith
Ms. Louise B. Smith
Ms. Mary P. Staley
Ms. Christine E. Stevens
Mr. Andrew W. Styer
Mr. Jay S. Subramoney
Dr. Millicent O. Sullivan
Ms. Faith N. Tarring
Dr. David W. Teague
and Dr. Marisa de los Santos
Ms. Lindsay E. Thrasher
Ms. Caroline A. Udell
Dr. Jeanne Murray Walker
and Mr. E. Daniel Larkin
Ms. Alexis N. Webb
Ms. Jennifer M. White
Mrs. Calista C. Wiley
Mr. and Mrs. Roger J. Zipfel
Ms. Brenna M. Zonick-Wootten
Exhibitions on View Fall 2017

Documents for Delawareans: 120 Years of Public Access to Federal Information
First Floor, Morris Library

This four-case exhibition, curated by John Stevenson, associate librarian and interim head of Multimedia Collections and Services, celebrates the 120th anniversary of the University of Delaware’s designation as a repository of federal documents. The University of Delaware Library is the state’s longest-serving depository and provides access to the largest collection of federal documents in Delaware. The exhibition showcases United States federal government publications, which have been collected through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) or acquired elsewhere to provide Delaware residents access to federal government information. Materials in the exhibition are drawn from Special Collections and the circulating collection, including the U.S. Documents Collection. To view the digital version of the exhibition, please visit exhibits.lib.udel.edu/exhibits/show/documents-for-delawareans.

John Dickinson: Penman of the Revolution
Lincoln Exhibit Case, Morris Library

To celebrate the life and career of John Dickinson (1732-1808), a Founding Father of the United States, examples of his published work, original documents, and material about his life and career will be on display. An attorney and politician who was active in Pennsylvania and Delaware, Dickinson became known as the “Penman of the Revolution” for his writings on behalf of the American revolutionary cause, most notably Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania, published from 1767-1768.

Issues and Debates in African American Literature
Special Collections Gallery, Morris Library

Highlighting the literary and print culture of African Americans from the early 20th century to present day through the display of rare books and manuscripts from Special Collections, this exhibition will pinpoint important social and cultural debates related to African American life. Rare first editions and print artifacts produced by Alice Dunbar Nelson, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston and Bayard Rustin will be joined by the work of many other important figures.

Front cover of The Autobiography of Malcolm X (1964), with author Alex Haley’s inscription to poet and activist Amiri Baraka. Special Collections, University of Delaware Library.
Exhibitions on View (Continued)

Faces in Black and White: Photography and Identity
Mechanical Hall Gallery

Bringing together photographs from the University of Delaware’s African American Art Collection, Museums Art Collection and Special Collections in the Library, this exhibition will focus on the face as a site of history, struggle, drama and creative inspiration. With subjects ranging from faces of freed slaves to those of modern-day artists and celebrities, these images represent the intersection of one medium of expression—photography—with another—the human countenance.

Fashion on All Fronts: Stories from the Wardrobe
Old College Gallery

For an in-depth look at the war effort at home and abroad, collections of World War I era garments and military uniforms in the Historic Costume and Textile Collection of UD and from other generous private lenders will be on display. The exhibition also will feature vintage posters from the holdings of Special Collections in the Morris Library.

Contemporary Chinese Carvings: Classic Concepts
Mineralogical Museum, Penny Hall

While the Chinese tradition of carving jade and other stone materials stretches back thousands of years, the modern development of high-speed diamond drill bits has made the carving of harder materials like quartz and its varieties possible. From the collection of Francis Hueber, this exhibition will display 20th century Chinese carvings of agate, the agate most likely from Brazil, with fine detail and traditionally Chinese forms and motifs.

Special Collections and Museums at the University of Delaware Library

Special Collections and Museums has a wide-ranging and interdisciplinary collection, encompassing books, manuscripts, art, archival materials, minerals and much more.

Special Collections’ subject strengths include history and Delawareana, science and technology, and art and literature; political papers, family papers and ships’ logs are among the primary source
material. The Mark Samuels Lasner Collection greatly enhances the collection’s strengths in British literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Among the strengths of the Museums’ collection are American art of the 20th century (especially prints, photographs and work by African American artists), European prints, Inuit art and Pre-Columbian art as well as minerals.

The staff in Special Collections and Museums collaborates with students, faculty members and other scholars to make these collections accessible for viewing, study and research. During the academic year, exhibitions can be viewed in four campus venues: Special Collections Gallery in Morris Library, Old College Gallery, Mechanical Hall Gallery and the Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall. All exhibitions and accompanying programs are offered to the UD community and general public without charge.

For more information on current and past exhibitions, please visit library.udel.edu/spec/exhibitions/. To browse finding aids, visit www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/index.htm for unpublished materials. For dates of current exhibitions, turn to the calendar on page 27.

**Bearing Witness to the Holocaust and Campus Collaboration**

In celebration of the exhibition, “Remembrance and Visions: Selections from the Alan Kaufman papers,” poet Alan Kaufman visited campus to speak with students and visitors during HIST/JWST 254 Jewish Holocaust: 1933-1945, a class taught by Professor Polly Zavadivker, director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Delaware.

The exhibition, which was on view in Morris Library through May 2017, featured a selection of art, sketch books, published works and family papers from Special Collections.

Known for his work as editor of the Outlaw Bible series of anthologies for American poetry, literature, essays and art, Kaufman is a teacher, writer, poet, editor, performer, artist and impresario whose Jewish heritage is central to his identity and creative work. The “Remembrance and Visions” exhibition theme is said to be present throughout all aspects of Kaufman’s extensive body of art and literature. Born in New York City in 1952 to a French Holocaust survivor, Kaufman holds American, French and Israeli citizenship.

In 2007, the University of Delaware Library began to acquire Kaufman’s literary manuscripts and papers, and in 2013, Kaufman donated letters and photographs from his mother, Maria Jucht Kaufman. During his guest lecture on May 8, 2017, Kaufman
told his mother’s survival story and how it impacted his life and work to a group of nearly 100 students and visitors.

Questions and goals central to the Jewish Holocaust: 1933-1945 course include: How did the Germans manage to kill 5.7 million Jews in Europe? Who carried out these acts, and how did they do it? And, why did a minority of Jews in Europe survive while so many were killed?

“We can only begin to answer these questions once we see that the mass murder of European Jews was the work of men and women, people like ourselves,” Zavadivker explained. “We must place the Holocaust within history and just as importantly, within the realm of human experience.” By viewing the archives and inviting the powerful storyteller and artist Kaufman, Zavadivker hoped her students would “form a personal connection to the horrors of the past century, and above all, that they [would] be moved to do everything in their power to prevent such colossal acts of inhumanity from occurring in the future.”

Students commented on the lecture and Library exhibition as part of an assignment. “I wasn’t sure what type of emotions I would feel when I went to the library and saw this display case of Kaufman’s art, books and letters from his mother,” one student wrote. “I was able to read part of his mother’s letter, and it reminded me of just how important it is that we have survivors who document what they went through. Although I don’t know Kaufman’s mother, it was almost like the letter was there, meant for each and every spectator to read as if it was their own personal letter ... Reading this letter made me feel a personal connection to the Holocaust that I have never felt before.”

“It was clear as he spoke that he was heavily impacted by his mother’s stories, which then translated to me, to some extent,” another student noted. “Alan Kaufman is a witness of the Holocaust, and by him telling the stories of his mother, I know that I am now a witness of the Holocaust too.”

The Maria Jucht Kaufman papers, descriptions of the collection and the digital version of the Library exhibition, curated by L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, librarian and curator of the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Senatorial Papers, are available online at exhibits.lib.udel.edu/exhibits/show/visions.

Kaufman’s visit to campus was sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Center for Global and Area Studies, the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, and the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press.
Best Electronic Resource
Colored Conventions Project, UD Library Receive National Recognition

The Colored Conventions Project (CCP) has won the best electronic resource prize from the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA).

Carol Rudisell, librarian in the Reference and Instructional Services Department at the University of Delaware Library and CCP project member, accepted the award on behalf of CCP and the University of Delaware Library at the PCA/ACA annual conference, held April 12-15, 2017, in San Diego, California.

CCP is an interdisciplinary scholarly project that brings the history of the convention movement—and the many leaders and places involved in it—to digital life. The Colored Conventions movement began in response to the violence and expulsion faced by free Blacks across the United States. From 1830 until the end of the century, hundreds of state and national meetings followed, anticipating the founding of civil rights organizations such as the NAACP.

ColoredConventions.org houses the first digital collection of these minutes, many of which were previously out of print and difficult to find. CCP’s growing archive and the many digital exhibits that tell the stories that emerge from the conventions have sparked renewed national interest in these historic meetings.

The PCA/ACA best electronic resource award recognizes the growth and importance of new academic formats.

“We are delighted that our collective effort to recover this early movement for Black voting, educational and labor rights has received recognition from an organization that focuses on American and popular culture,” said P. Gabrielle Foreman, co-founder of CCP and Ned B. Allen professor of English at UD. “The convention movement speaks to current issues—state-sanctioned anti-Black violence, unequal pay and schooling—that resonate as strongly as ever.”
“It was a real honor to accept the award on behalf of the Library and CCP, and to attend the PCA/ACA conference,” said Rudisell. “While I was familiar with the association’s Journal of Popular Culture, which provides such insightful analysis of American culture, I had never attended their conference. The conference papers were absolutely fascinating and the topics wide-ranging. ‘Teaching Tarantino’s Django Unchained and Hollywood’s Slave Narratives’ and ‘Frederick Douglass/Finn and Frederick Bailey/ FN-2187: The Doubled Selves of Slavery in Star Wars: The Force Awakens’ are examples of two papers that examined the representation of slavery and Black activism in popular film. They helped me to realize that the digital archive built by the Colored Conventions Project not only supports new scholarship on the African American experience, but it can also provide source material for creative, interpretive works as well.”

The Colored Conventions Project
The Library has an agreement between Gale, a global provider of research resources and part of Cengage Learning, and CCP regarding the use of Gale’s database, 19th-Century U.S. Newspapers. This agreement allows CCP to present images from Gale’s database for use in its exhibits, which bring seven decades of 19th-century Black organizing to digital life. Another agreement between CCP and Accessible Archives allows the CCP national teaching partners and the almost 1,500 students who have adopted its research curriculum to present historical images from the Accessible Archives databases alongside interactive maps and visualizations the project creates on the ColoredConventions.org website.

CCP received the Modern Language Association’s 10th Biennial Prize for a Bibliography, Archive or Digital Project, and a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant in 2016. On Feb. 14, 2017, CCP hosted a national “transcribe-a-thon” of convention proceedings as part of a 199th birthday party for Frederick Douglass. Douglass was active in the convention movement for a full 40 years, along with thousands of Black people who advocated for full citizenship rights for all people, regardless of race.

Tax Information
The University of Delaware Library Associates, following the regulation of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), needs to inform members what portion of their contribution may not be tax deductible if a Library Borrower Card is requested. A Library Borrower Card is considered to have monetary value and is therefore a benefit gained and cannot be considered tax deductible. When a member of the Library Associates makes a gift of $150 (or more) in a calendar year and requests borrowing privileges via a Library Borrower Card, the benefit value of the card ($25 for Delaware residents and $60 for out-of-state residents) is not tax deductible.

For example, if a Delaware resident makes a $150 contribution to the Library Associates and requests a Borrower Card, the benefit value of the card ($25) means that, for tax purposes, the deductible amount is $125. If an out-of-state resident makes a $150 contribution to the Library Associates and requests a Borrower Card, the benefit value of the card is $60. In this case, the legally deductible amount is $90.
Making information available online is crucial to modern life. Public and private figures, corporations, and cultural heritage institutions all maintain web presences to disseminate original works and interact with communities and individuals in the wider world.

Unfortunately, according to the Orbit Media Solutions online article, “What is the Average Website Lifespan? 10 Factors in Website Life Expectancy,” the average lifetime of a website is 31 months. This short timeframe puts the vital and unique content within these records more at risk of permanent loss than decades-old paper records. The ephemeral nature of web content necessitates collecting institutions develop a documentation strategy that includes the preservation of web content. Special Collections has been doing just that.

Since 2015, Special Collections has partnered with Archive-It, a subscription service offered by the Internet Archive, to capture and preserve web content. Archive-It manages the technical aspects of the web archiving process: capturing content from individual sites, indexing web pages, and providing ongoing storage and access to archived websites. The Special Collections staff curates the collections (a thematic set of websites), determines specific resources to preserve, performs quality assurance to ensure that preserved websites function properly, describes web resources, and manages access permissions to the archived materials in consultation with the website owner.

Special Collections’ robust web archiving program, developed over the last two years, includes four collections, 84 websites that are archived on a regular basis, and a total of 171 different sites that have been archived to date. One of these collections focuses on Delaware politics, policy and government. In modern political collections, websites are a vital information resource, serving as a primary avenue for constituent interaction and information dissemination. Initial web archiving activities complemented existing political collections by capturing official websites and social media accounts for Delaware’s congressional delegation, major state political organizations and public policy groups. Over the last two years, web archiving in this area has expanded and over 100 political websites have been archived, including more than 50 campaign websites and social media accounts from candidates during the 2016 election. These sites offer an unparalleled look at state- and local-level political engagement. To be able to capture these sites, particularly those of unsuccessful candidates, is invaluable in documenting the political sentiment, campaign activities and policy stances that engaged Delawareans in 2016.
Special Collections’ Web Archiving Program (Continued)

The Special Collections web archiving program also includes three additional topical collections that complement holdings and collecting priorities: websites and social media accounts related to the University of Delaware Library’s literary collections, book arts and printing, and Delaware environmental policy. With these new collections, the digital legacies of Theresa Rebeck, the Delaware Theatre Company and the Delaware State Beekeepers Association are being preserved to complement related papers already residing in Special Collections.

Currently, only the Delaware politics, policy and government collection is available for viewing. However, the SC staff is planning to make all four collections available by the end of summer 2017. To explore these collections, please visit archive-it.org/organizations/883.

Help Write the Next Chapter

The University of Delaware Library has enjoyed loyal and generous support from alumni and friends for generations. This support has enabled the University of Delaware to be on the cutting edge of electronic access to information and simultaneously serve as a major academic resource for the UD community, the state, the region and the nation.

Gifts in support of the Library provide for enrichment of the research collection and acquisition of rare books and materials, and maintain an environment that provides innovative research, technology and scholarship opportunities.

You can create your personal legacy in support of the Library through a bequest in your will or other estate plan. In addition to supporting the mission of the Library, when you notify us of your commitment to support the Library through an estate gift, you will become a member of the Carillon Circle, UD’s recognition society for all who have included Delaware in their estate plans.

Please contact Martha Mitchell, assistant vice president of principal gifts and gift planning, to discuss any plan you may wish to put in place or may possibly already have in place to support the future of the Library at 302-831-8633, or via email at martham@udel.edu or visit the gift planning web page at www.udel.edu/giftplanning.

Martha R. Mitchell
Assistant Vice President of Principal Gifts and Gift Planning
University of Delaware
Library Student Assistants Thanked

The University of Delaware Library thanked its many library student assistants at the Library Student Assistant Appreciation Reception held Thursday, April 27, 2017. The library also recognized 41 graduating library student assistants for their academic achievements.

The library could not function without all of the 157 student assistants who work approximately 27,066 hours per year, a representative said. This is the equivalent of 14 full-time staff.

The reception provided an opportunity for library staff to thank the student assistants who performed essential “front-line” services such as checking out library and reserve materials; shelving new and returned books, journals and newspapers; checking in new journals, newspapers and other periodicals; processing interlibrary loan requests; assisting library users with multimedia equipment; providing assistance to users at a service desk; and many other information-related duties.

The highlight of the reception was a display of books selected by and honoring the graduating library student assistants. The books were selected from recent library acquisitions and had special bookplates noting the student’s name and year of graduation.

The selected titles reflected the personal and academic interests of each of the graduating library student assistants as well as current events. Examples of books selected by members of the Class of 2017 include: *Bling Bling Baby* by Nadine Barth; *Beyond Bruce Lee: Chasing the Dragon Through Film, Philosophy and Popular Culture* by Paul Bowman; and *Cartographics: Designing the Modern Map* edited and published by SendPoints Publishing Co., Ltd.

Pratigya Paudel was presented with the 2017 Library Student Assistant Service Award in appreciation for having worked more than 2,300 hours.

Jessica Brannen received the 2017 UDLAPS Library Student Assistant Scholarship in recognition of her outstanding student service, commitment to librarianship and leadership potential. The $750 scholarship supports Brannen’s graduate library education. The scholarship is funded by private donations from the library staff and coordinated by the University of Delaware Library Assembly of Professional Staff (UDLAPS).
New Appointments

Ashley Rye-Kopec

Ashley Rye-Kopec was appointed curator of education and outreach for Special Collections and Museums, February 1, 2017. Rye-Kopec will develop and manage innovative educational programs and tours around exhibitions in Old College Gallery, Mechanical Hall and other campus venues; offer gallery talks and other programs for students, alumni and the general public; collaborate with staff to develop initiatives to broaden the impact of exhibitions; and work with the faculty to define and develop new approaches to engage students and reinforce class topics through museum exhibitions and study of the collections.

Rye-Kopec is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Art History at UD and was a graduate research assistant in the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection from 2012-2014. She has taught survey courses in Art History, Twentieth Century Art, Visual Culture and the History of Photography at UD and at Widener University. She received her bachelor’s degree in Art History and History magna cum laude from Emory University in 2007 and her master’s degree in Art History from the University of Delaware in 2009.

John D.M. Caldwell

John D.M. Caldwell was appointed senior assistant librarian and political papers archivist, Special Collections and Museums, February 1, 2017. Caldwell will be processing and promoting the use of congressional papers and other collections, notably the senatorial papers of Joseph R. Biden Jr. Like many contemporary archives, the Biden collection includes extensive electronic records and born-digital media.

Caldwell comes to us from Capitol Hill where he processed Senate Committee records for the United State Senate Historical Office and gained further expertise with electronic records in the Senate as a National Digital Stewardship Resident. He holds his master of library science with a specialization in archives, records and information management from the University of Maryland, College Park, and he received his bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from Mount Saint Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Caldwell is also a Certified Archivist, Academy of Certified Archivists, and has a Digital Archives Specialist Certificate from the Society of American Archivists.
2016 - 2017 Contributions to the University of Delaware Library Associates

The Board of Directors of the University of Delaware Library Associates thanks members and organizations listed below for their generous contributions of cash and/or securities received during the fiscal year, July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. The Board also appreciates members of the Library Associates who initiated matching corporate contributions.

Gifts received by the Library Associates during the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, were previously published in the Newsletter of the University of Delaware Library Associates Number 71, October 2016. The financial assistance of the University of Delaware Library Associates has supported the important work of the Library Associates including events that raised awareness about Special Collections in the University of Delaware Library and communications such as the Newsletter of the University of Delaware Library Associates.

Most important is the annual gift that the University of Delaware Library Associates presents to the Library for the acquisition of primary resources of rare books and manuscripts for Special Collections to be used by students, faculty and scholars.

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Donors may call the Office of the Vice Provost at 302-831-2231 or email UDLA-UDLibrary@udel.edu to report any comments.

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Contributions to the University of Delaware Library Associates are counted toward membership in the Delaware Diamonds Society of the University of Delaware. For more information visit www.udel.edu/delawarediamonds or contact the Donor Relations team at 302-831-1943 or at delawarediamonds@udel.edu.

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September 2017 Newsletter of the University of Delaware Library Associates

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Morris Library, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Through September 15, 2017:
“Documents for Delawareans.” Exhibition on view in the Information Room, First Floor, Morris Library.

September 6 - December 8, 2017:
“Contemporary Chinese Carvings: Classic Concepts” from the Collection of Francis Hueber. Exhibition on view in the Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall.

September 6 - December 8, 2017:
“Faces in Black and White: Photography and Identity.” Exhibition on view in Mechanical Hall Gallery.

September 6 - December 8, 2017:
“Fashion on All Fronts: Stories from the Wardrobe.” Exhibition on view in Old College Gallery.

September 6 - December 15, 2017:
“Issues and Debates in African American Literature.” Exhibition on view in the Special Collections Gallery, Second Floor, Morris Library.

September 6 - December 15, 2017:
“John Dickinson: Penman of the Revolution.” Exhibit on view in the Lincoln Exhibition Case adjacent to the Special Collections Gallery, Second Floor, Morris Library.

October 28, 2017:
Fall Meeting of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America, with talks and a display of books and photographs connected to the author of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland from UD Library collections, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Class of 1941 Lecture Room, Morris Library. Free and open to the public.

November 2017:
Year-end appeal of the University of Delaware Library Associates to be mailed.

November 15, 2017:
Meeting of the Board of Directors of the University of Delaware Library Associates, 4:30 p.m., Reading Room, First Floor, Morris Library. Open to the membership of the Library Associates. This event will be followed by refreshments.

June 1-3, 2018:
University of Delaware Alumni Weekend 2018. For further information, see www.udel.edu/alumniweekend.

July 13, 2018:
Meeting of the Executive Committee of the University of Delaware Library Associates, 9 a.m., Room 215A, Morris Library.
### Officers and Board of Directors

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