

# THE LIBRARY

The Heart of the University

NUMBER 61 | SPRING 2017

## Action Steps

Putting plans into motion



**PennState**  
University Libraries

# Message from the Dean

Greetings:

Spring is a time of growth, including at the University Libraries. We are actively pursuing several strategic initiatives even as we plan for changes in our spaces and among our faces.

Penn State's voluntary retirement package offered to eligible employees last September provided several Libraries faculty and staff an exceptional opportunity to depart with a one-time payment of a year's salary. As a result, 21 Libraries employees activated this option. While it means we are wishing some longstanding colleagues a happy retirement during this academic year, it also means we have an occasion to reassess our staffing needs.



With great support from Penn State Provost Nick Jones, we are able to pursue outstanding candidates to meet current and anticipated needs, especially where we can help students. We are recruiting for an open educational resources librarian to support our goal of making course materials and textbooks free or more affordable. Additionally, we continue to seek funding for our textbook endowment to purchase more textbooks for students' use in the course reserves system at all our locations.

**Thank you for championing the University Libraries' efforts — strategic and ongoing — and for your interest in helping Penn State students.**

Other strategic hires include librarians specializing in entrepreneurship, global outreach, and student engagement, opening for us new avenues of University-wide programming and collaborations. These experts also will help us enhance Penn State's new, University-wide engaged scholarship initiative, where students learn outside the classroom to benefit their in-class learning.

You can read about our vision for these positions — and consider whether you might have interest in supporting their work — on pages 4-5.

Regarding spaces, you're likely familiar with our combined Collaboration Commons and Central Atrium projects from the Fall 2016 feature in *The Library*. We continue to seek leadership gifts to help us make this final phase of Pattee Library's transformation a reality, providing more collaborative study spaces for students and better access to our resources.

Happy spring,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara I. Dewey".

Barbara I. Dewey,  
Dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications

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On the cover: The Central Pattee Library staircase marks the westward activation point for the Central Atrium and Collaboration Commons. Our planned renovation and expansion of spaces reflects similar changes being made to positions and services — all strategic efforts to better serve Penn State students. Photo by Steve Tressler/Vista Pro Studios

# As I See It

with Athena Jackson  
Dorothy Foehr Huck Chair and Head of the  
Eberly Family Special Collections Library

Photo by Steve Tressler/Vista Pro Studios



## What most excites you about working with rare books, manuscripts, and archives?

What excites me most about my work is the way our historical record is built from the materials and histories we collect and preserve for all audiences to explore. In our specialized classes, secure and comfy reading room, and creative outreach events: students, faculty, scholars, and the general public can evaluate history without any secondary interpretation except what they bring to each interaction. History is written, collective memory is retained, knowledge is attained, and new scholarship is borne from our collections — that’s most thrilling and inspiring to my work every day.

## What do you most want students to know about the Eberly Family Special Collections Library?

The most important fact I want students to know is that these collections are carefully preserved and professionally described with one purpose: for use. To students, we believe: your institutional memory, your potential scholarly breakthrough, your cultural and civic enlightenment, and your future legacy are and will be found here. We support every discipline in the academy and with our newly enhanced collection development planning in place: we aspire to have tomorrow’s seeds for future student successes today and for generations to come. And, if I may, I’m doubly excited that my son, Jake (a freshman in the College of Communications), also is benefitting from our efforts!

“Your institutional memory, your potential scholarly breakthrough, your cultural and civic enlightenment, and your future legacy are and will be found here.”

## What projects are you working on?

This past year I was honored to work with the Special Collections team on a strategic plan to reimagine our services and collection development to make sure we are collecting and preserving materials that reinforce our strengths, fill necessary historical gaps, and bring unheard histories into our settings. All of our efforts are underscored by ensuring that access is as seamless and enticing as possible to our intellectually curious and technologically savvy students. Our goal remains the same, to encourage use of our collections in the creative and scholarly works designed and directed by our talented students, faculty, and scholars who visit the Special Collections Library from down the road and around the world.

## One more thing ...

I’m honored to represent Penn State as the incoming Chair of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of Colleges of Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. This highly visible and nationally elected role provides me a platform to lead our field during my tenure in new directions and to ensure our historical practices are in alignment with the larger academic enterprise across the nation. I’m happy to do this from my position here in the Libraries at Penn State — a place that is dedicated to learning and teaching and advancing the historical record that will benefit our reputation and keep our services and ideas fresh, timely, and inspired!

# Innovations

New faculty librarian positions will address students' current and future needs

As the role of 21st-century academic research libraries evolves, new positions will bring innovation to student-centered service. These positions are central to supporting Penn State's strategic efforts and tomorrow's successful students.



## Open education librarian

The University Libraries has taken the lead in establishing Penn State's use of open educational resources (OER). Since the Libraries hosted Penn State's inaugural OER Summit in March 2016, librarians are now collaborating with other faculty and exploring ways to incorporate openly accessible, high-quality free and affordable online content, such as academic e-books, into their course materials. Some faculty are writing their own for the courses they teach, and for their academic peers' use at other institutions — all to reduce the high cost of college students' textbooks.

A new open education librarian will build partnerships and offer support and strategies University-wide to accelerate the adoption of OER. Goals for this librarian will include evaluating and expanding free and affordable academic materials at the undergraduate program level and for general education courses. This person's impact on saving textbook costs will be felt among generations of students and at the University level, potentially saving millions of dollars for both.

## Entrepreneurship librarian

This new faculty position in the Schreyer Business Library will serve Penn State's growing entrepreneurship curriculum, including the multidisciplinary Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor. This position's efforts also will support Invent Penn State, the University's strategic initiative to spark entrepreneurship and economic development among faculty, students, and staff and in communities across Pennsylvania.

This fixed-term position seeks someone with expertise in business resources, including specialized databases, to assist students in both residential and online courses.

## Edible BOOK FESTIVAL



## BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK



Samsung Library, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea  
Photo credit: Christian140 CC BY-SA 3.0

## Student engagement librarian

This librarian will build and integrate an information literacy and learning program for undergraduate students' high-impact learning practices. A significant focus of the position will be engaged scholarship, defined at Penn State as out-of-classroom academic experiences such as undergraduate research, study abroad, and service learning, within the University Libraries teaching and learning program.

As with many Penn State librarians, teaching students and developing materials to support their learning and academic success also will be an ongoing part of this position's role. A librarian with a second master's degree in education would be helpful to grow the Libraries' fun and already successful series of interactive programs.

## Global partnerships and outreach librarian

A new position established last fall, the global partnerships and outreach librarian builds on the Libraries' existing success and expertise in this area. Mark Mattson was named to the position, succeeding his work in scholarly publishing for the Libraries' Publishing and Curation Services unit. He identifies opportunities for the Libraries to collaborate within Penn State and externally to support international education efforts, acts as the Libraries' liaison to Penn State's Global Engagement Network, and provides support to the Libraries-sponsored Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge and its scholarly journal *IK: Other Ways of Knowing*.

With a robust, multi-year agenda in the planning stages, already Mattson is working on establishing relationships with university libraries in Europe, Central America, and Asia. At Penn State he is collaborating with librarians and other campus contacts to create a model curriculum for international student library instruction.

Individuals with interest in supporting these dynamic, high-impact-potential positions can contact the Libraries Development team at 814-865-2258 or email Director Nicki Hendrix at [nmh18@psu.edu](mailto:nmh18@psu.edu).



# J. Clarence Kelly Library

## at Penn State Greater Allegheny

Celebrating its 60th year at its current location, Penn State Greater Allegheny has been at the forefront of change in “bringing the resources of a nationally prominent university to students of all ages.” Just 15 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, the campus now serves more than 600 students with a strong commitment to the University’s focus on undergraduate learning and globalization, and the Kelly Library’s outstanding librarians and staff are central to that role.

Constructed in 1972, dedicated as the J. Clarence Kelly Library in 1979, and named for a well-respected member of the community and campus benefactor, the exterior of the Kelly Library building has remained much the same. However, the vision and mission of the University Libraries faculty and staff who serve the campus have changed significantly to support its students, and more changes are underway for the library’s interior as collections are being relocated and shelving removed to create floor space for more tables and adaptable seating.



“Our vision is that the Penn State Greater Allegheny Library will become a vibrant, dynamic, accessible, and flexible Knowledge Commons for education and learning,” said Head Librarian Courtney Young. “This transformation will allow us to offer a library space that is more welcoming, comfortable, and rich in technology and resources.”

The library is developing and implementing the Knowledge Commons model in place at other Penn State library locations. The repurposed physical space and enhanced services will help facilitate information discovery, collaborative learning, and knowledge building with a focus on undergraduate students.

The improved space also will complement librarians’ programs and activities to engage and assist students during their academic careers. Students become acquainted with the services and resources during New Student Orientation and Open House events. Librarians also offer significant academic support, including collections and resources, to the campus’ annual Teaching International program. At the end of the semester students look forward to the “Finals Week Refueling Station,” when the library provides snacks so students can reach the semester “finish line.”

Others changes may not be visible, but are just as important. While students can enjoy the new physical space, the blending of the University Libraries’ digital and multimedia technologies with Kelly library programs and online collections extends the library’s reach far past its doors, delivering the Libraries’ world-class resources to students and researchers at the campus. With philanthropic support, these same resources can expand the range and capacity of access to students not just at Penn State Greater Allegheny but wherever they may be learning around the world.

# Space Transformations

## Nine reasons to support West Pattee Library's proposed projects

Penn State students' high demand for work areas in Pattee Library and Paterno Library have created the need to transform and expand available spaces. To better inform plans for the proposed Collaboration Commons and the Central Atrium Project in West Pattee Library, a Spring 2016 Undergraduate Student Survey sought students' input about use of library space, and a Fall 2016 Library Assessment Department multi-phase study asked students about workspace needs. Here's what they told us.



### **Students come to the library to be productive...**

Students appreciate the library's studious environment, which makes them feel like they can focus and get work done. When asked what she is doing when she comes to the library, one focus group participant replied, *"I come and conquer."*



### **Up to two new floors of programmable space will support enhanced teaching and learning services and access to advanced research and collections expertise.**

One floor will serve as a Teaching and Learning Center that houses flexible classroom space, services for teaching support, innovation and experimentation for Penn State faculty and space for the department of Library Learning Services. Also, a proposed Research Commons will centralize access to and add critically needed service points for experts offering sophisticated research consultations.



**...but are frustrated when seeking available seating, especially during evening hours.** Another participant said that during high demand for work spaces, she wanders the building looking for any available seat a common occurrence.



### **Unified spaces will join both arts and humanities and digital humanities faculty.**

In addition to creating more advanced services for students majoring in the arts and humanities, the Arts and Humanities Library is investigating services to support digital scholarship.



**Pattee Library is challenging to navigate.** The Central Atrium Project will open these floors for improved flow while adding programmable space.



**Construction would provide greater accessibility to the world-class Donald W. Hamer Maps Library.** In addition to its renowned collections, the Maps Library also now incorporates librarian expertise in geospatial services and geographic information systems (GIS), digital mapping data and related technologies — but is only accessible from the Central Pattee stairs and elevator.



**Funding has been secured for a portion of the projects, but it won't come to fruition without philanthropy.**



**Expansion and reconfiguration will relieve space constraints in MacKinnon's Café.** MacKinnon's is rarely without a long line or empty seats. Shifting the café's location on West Pattee's ground floor and opening its seating area in the Collaboration Commons will expand its service capabilities while supporting students' space-related needs.



**You can help!** Supporters will join the \$1 million gift commitment announced in January 2017 by Marie Bednar and her husband, the late Donald Hamer, for the proposed Collaboration Commons.

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Contact Director of Development and Alumni Relations Nicki Hendrix at 814-865-2258 or [nmh18@psu.edu](mailto:nmh18@psu.edu) to discuss opportunities.

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# Celebrating the Center

There are many chapters needed to tell the story of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book. The first begins when an Act of Congress established the national Center for the Book on October 13, 1977, nearly 40 years ago. After a first iteration of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book (PACFTB) in Harrisburg, the University Libraries, in 2000, became one of just a few academic research libraries nationwide to sponsor its state's Center for the Book. This successful partnership, recently renewed for a sixth three-year term, points to a bright future.

The Center's mission is to study, honor, celebrate, and promote books, reading, libraries, and literacy to the citizens and residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Steven Herb, education and behavioral sciences faculty librarian at the University, has guided the PACFTB at University Park as its director, focusing on poetry, literacy, and children's literature. With two faculty members, Karla M. Schmit and Ellysa Stern Cahoy, and three staff members, they devote a percentage of their time to administer the Center's programs and awards.

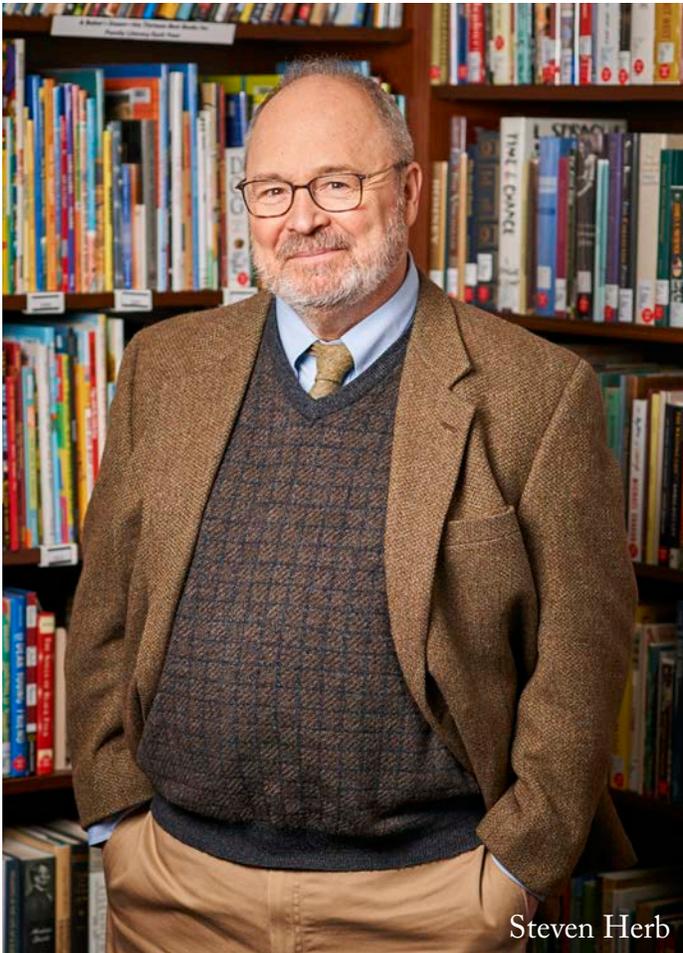


Photo by Steve Tressler/Vista Pro Studios

## Promises made, promises kept

The first of four promises Herb made as the Center transitioned to Penn State was to promote a program at the state level that also was at the national level. The "Letters About Literature" contest invites students in grades 4-12 to submit a letter to their favorite author, living or dead, explaining how their book motivated them and changed them. The annual winners are honored in front of their families and teachers at a special luncheon.

Herb's second promise was to commit not only to the celebration of reading, but the celebration of learning to read. This focus on family literacy impacts children and adults in every state as the Center's online curriculum is used by thousands of libraries nationwide. Developed in collaboration with two institutes in Penn State's College of Education, its activities include learning guides for parents and caregivers, lesson plans, and Family Fun Night programs.

Promoting the love of books and learning drives one of the most popular programs administered by the PACFTB. Thousands of new picture books are delivered each year to Paterno Library where family literacy specialists select 13 books for the Baker's Dozen, now in its 14th year. Tips for teachers and parents to support the books are written, and once published, this list influences library and school purchases and is a must-have source for children's reading gifts.

"Literacy is as important today as ever. Even with the increase in the use of technology, the most powerful literacy weapon is still the picture book, it's not the computer. Children need to hear the stories, they need to be read the books, they need the rhythm, the songs, and the playfulness of language."

Steven Herb, director,  
Pennsylvania Center for the Book, and  
education and behavioral sciences librarian

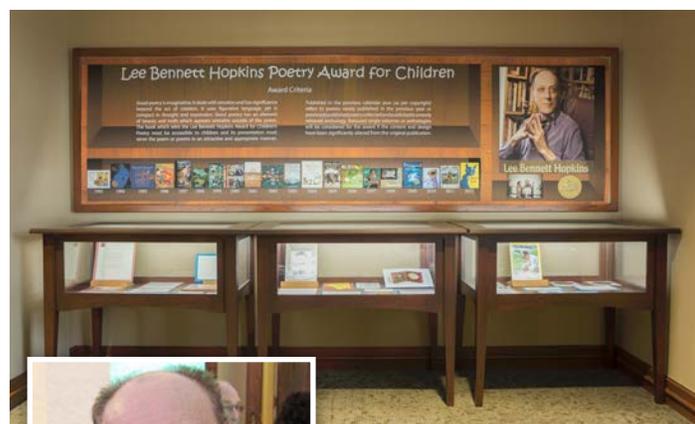
Technology and literacy intersect in one of most ambitious promises the Center fulfilled with the creation of an interactive, online literary and cultural heritage map, the first of its kind and still the most complex one in existence. More than 1,300 biographies of Pennsylvania's historical figures and 300 essays are connected to locations in the Commonwealth. It can be found at [pabook.libraries.psu.edu](http://pabook.libraries.psu.edu) along with details about all of the Center's programs and awards.

Perhaps the most important promise made was one that championed a steady commitment to the mission. The Center has maintained or enhanced the programs it started in 2000, and has grown in its capacity to improve the lives of its citizens and residents.

The support of its sponsors, Barbara I. Dewey, dean of the University Libraries and Scholarly Communications, and the University Libraries, and funding from Patrick E. Malloy III and Candace Malloy, the Douglas and Tracey Sieg Fund for the Pennsylvania Center for the Book in the University Libraries, and the Paul and Betty Oves Program Endowment for the Education Library in the University Libraries have made the Center's success possible.

## Influence and impact

Just before arriving at Penn State, Herb received a letter from Pennsylvania native and educator, poet, author, and anthologist Lee Bennett Hopkins. Hopkins expressed an interest in sponsoring an annual award for the best book of children's poetry, and believed it could start at a local level with national aspirations. The first award was presented in 1993, and this year, the PACFTB, University Libraries, and Hopkins recognized excellence in children's poetry with a nationally recognized panel selecting the winner for the 25th annual award.



Lee Bennett Hopkins' great influence on children's poetry extends to the award in his name, presented annually with PACFTB to an outstanding poet. Hopkins was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in February 2017.

The most prolific author of children's poetry in the world, Hopkins pledged his entire collection of books and papers to the University Libraries' special collections, valued in excess of \$3 million, and an invaluable treasure for scholars. Hopkins' additional gift of \$1 million will fund in perpetuity the Lee Bennett Hopkins Award for Children's Poetry, guaranteeing a national spotlight for children's poetry.

Another program, the Public Poetry Project, was initiated at University Park and continues through the efforts of the PACFTB. Kim Fisher, the first Paterno family librarian for literature, was inspired to display poetry in public spaces, similar to what he had seen in metropolitan areas, and hoped to highlight poets with connections to Pennsylvania. Since 2001, this juried contest has produced and distributed thousands of poetry posters each year throughout the Commonwealth and at the National Book Festival.



Barbara I. Dewey, dean of Scholarly Communications and University Libraries, receives a unique copy of Lynd Ward's *The Biggest Bear* from Robin Ward Savage, who also brought Ward's Caldecott Medal he received for the book in 1953.

Faculty interest also played a role in the most recent national award to be administered by the Center, the Lynd Ward Prize, emerging from discussions related to inviting graphic novelists to speak on campus. The Eberly Family Special Collections Library had recently received more than 5,000 pieces of art by Lynd Ward, as well as his papers, from his daughters Nanda and Robin, so naming an annual award for the creator of the first American wordless novel seemed a perfect fit.

Robin Ward Savage recently added to the University Libraries' collection of his artifacts, donating Ward's Caldecott medal and a bearskin-covered volume of his work *The Biggest Bear*. The collection is an inspiration for many influenced by his work and will be studied as long as Penn State exists.

As an incredible chapter in the history of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book comes to a close with Herb's retirement in June 2017, the mission, and the story of the PACFTB continues as new chapters will be written.

# New and Notable



Susanna Cronin, associate director of Development, has an extensive background in federal government operations, political campaign management and fundraising. Most recently, she managed a U.S. Congressional race in Houston, Texas's 7th Congressional District. She comes to Penn State with her husband, an alumnus and Ph.D. student of energy and mineral engineering.

Beth Thomsett-Scott, head of University Park's Engineering Library, comes to Penn State from the University of North Texas where she most recently was interim head of its information technology and engineering library. A prolific presenter and co-editor of the journal *The Electronic Library*, she also has experience as a science and engineering librarian.



Nathan Tallman is the Libraries' new digital preservation librarian, having arrived from the University of Cincinnati Libraries where he was a digital content strategist. He has a breadth of experience in various aspects of digital collections and has been instrumental in the collaborative Academic Preservation Trust, or APTrust, digital preservation service.

Mark Mattson is the Libraries' first global partnerships and outreach librarian. Previously with Publishing and Curation Services, his new responsibilities include providing support to the Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge (ICIK), engaging in liaison activities with Penn State's Global Engagement Network office, and identifying collaboration opportunities to support international education efforts.



Julia Proctor is the University Libraries' first collection services and strategies librarian. She previously served as the University of Wyoming Libraries' collection development and electronic resources librarian, the University of Michigan's public policy, international documents, and government information librarian, and as an indexer at Alexander Street Press.

# Why We Give

Sandra Stelts and Ronald Filippelli

Sandra K. Stelts, better known by University Libraries colleagues as Sandy, has made a lifetime of impact at the Eberly Family Special Collections Library, having worked in the rare books and manuscripts unit for 38 years and served as curator for 19 years. In 2010 Penn State awarded her its McKay Donkin Award for her extraordinary contributions to the “economic, physical, mental, or so-

cial welfare of the faculty” for her class presentations that feature rare books and manuscripts, and for her efforts in acquiring rare materials to support Penn State faculty researchers’ projects.

Fifteen years ago she and her husband, Ron Filippelli, associate dean emeritus of Penn State’s College of the Liberal Arts and professor emeritus of labor

studies and a Penn State alumnus, established the Exhibitions Program Endowment for Special Collections, which supports exhibition production costs.

Ten years ago they established the Sandra K. Stelts and Ronald L. Filippelli Undergraduate Internship in Rare Books and Manuscripts and Historical Collections and Labor Archives.



Candice Driver, the current Stelts/Filippelli intern, is a senior art history major and a former intern at Penn State’s Palmer Museum of Art. She is applying to graduate schools to further her goal of becoming a museum curator. Her capstone project in Special Collections is curating an exhibition in the Henisch Photo-History Exhibition Room. The Libraries’ exhibition audiences look to the Libraries for examples of proper handling and preservation practices, and interns can give careful attention to fragile materials.

Photo by Steve Tressler/Vista Pro Studios

## What have you observed to be the impact of your philanthropy?

The exhibition gallery is the first public space of Special Collections, and I’d like to think that our endowment has raised the profile of our collections by allowing us to elevate the professional “production values” of the presentation of materials. Every exhibition has costs associated with it, and we have been able to help purchase custom frames, book supports, and preservation supplies that permit the safe display of rare and sometimes unique materials.

## What additional projects have benefited from your financial support?

There are so many worthy ways to support the Libraries. Over the years we have made contributions to support the construction of Paterno Library and the

acquisition of collections. Outside of the Libraries, we give money to the College of Liberal Arts for staff and student leadership awards, as well as support for students studying abroad.

## Aside from any work-related benefit, what are your reasons to have given to the Libraries?

Ron and I met in the library — he was the first labor archivist in Special Collections — and because of our shared experience, we know that the library is a good cause to support. It’s a center of learning that benefits everyone at the University and beyond.

## What has been meaningful about working with interns over the years?

The purpose of our internship is to encourage talented students to think about

librarianship as a profession. It’s gratifying to hear from many former interns that their work here led them to pursue advanced degrees and careers that relate to libraries and research.

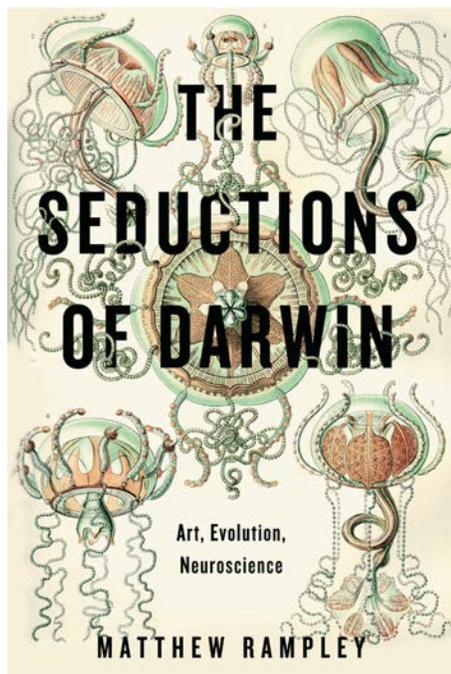
## What among their contributions are you proudest of?

In recent years, I have been thrilled to partner with the Department of Preservation, Conservation, and Digitization. Since the hiring of Bill Minter, senior book conservator, the interns have trained with Bill and benefited from his extraordinary knowledge. Former intern Shelby Hallman is completing her second year of a library and conservation degree at the University of Illinois, and Ashley Miller is earning a library and archives degree at Simmons College.

Now in its 60th year, Penn State University Press is the publishing arm of Penn State and a division of the University Libraries and Scholarly Communications. The Press is dedicated to serving the University community, the citizens of Pennsylvania, and scholars worldwide by publishing books and journals of the highest quality.

*The Seductions of Darwin: Art Evolution, Neuroscience*

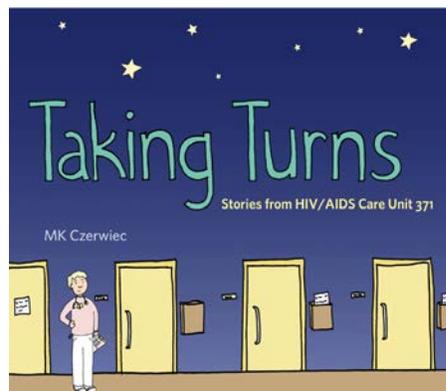
by Matthew Rampley



The surge of evolutionary and neurological analyses of art and its effects raises questions of how art, culture, and the biological sciences influence one another, and what we gain in applying scientific methods to the interpretation of artwork. In this insightful book, Rampley addresses these questions by exploring key areas where Darwinism, neuroscience, and art history intersect. *The Seductions of Darwin* is a compelling look at art history's identity and development and its complicated ties to scientific thought.

*Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371*

by MK Czerwiec

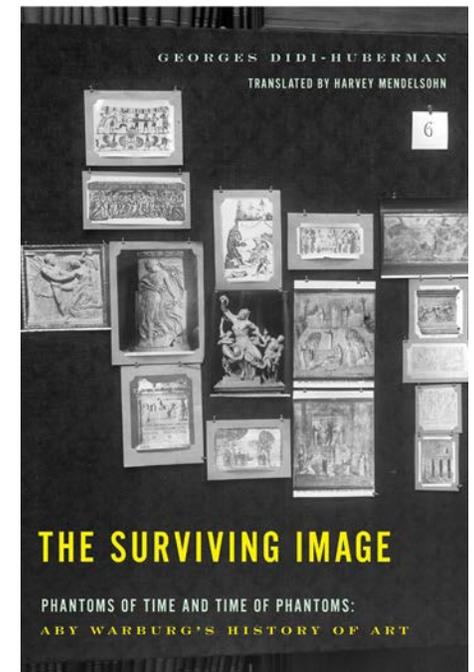


In 1994, at the height of the United States' AIDS epidemic, Czerwiec took her first nursing job, on Chicago's Illinois Masonic Medical Center HIV/AIDS caregiving staff. *Taking Turns* pulls back the curtain on life in the ward. Part of PSU Press's Graphic Medicine series, this graphic novel combines Czerwiec's memories with oral histories of patients, family members, and staff to show how individuals, institutions, and communities responded to the AIDS crisis, and to examine art's role in the grieving process.

*The Surviving Image: Phantoms of Time and Time of Phantoms: Aby Warburg's History of Art*

by Georges Didi-Huberman

translated by Harvey Mendelsohn



*L'image survivante*, originally published in French in 2002, is the result of Georges Didi-Huberman's extensive research into the life and work of foundational art historian Aby Warburg. Warburg envisioned an art history that drew from anthropology, psychoanalysis, and philosophy to understand the "life" of images. This first English-language edition of Didi-Huberman's masterful study is a stirring and significant treatise on the philosophical nature of art history.

# Exhibits



## “100 Years of the Pulitzers: Celebrating our Shared Humanity”

Extended through August 21, 2017  
Diversity Studies Room, 203 Pattee Library

In commemoration of the Pulitzer Centennial in 2017, this exhibit celebrates the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning composers, authors, poets, and playwrights who have championed the cause of civil rights, social equality, and democracy. In addition to showcasing the University Libraries’ collection of Pulitzer-related books, newspapers, and photographs, the exhibit also includes multimedia excerpts from Pulitzer Prize-winning plays, musical scores, fiction and poetry readings, and artist interviews.

## “From the Trenches: The Great War in Sepia”

Through May 5, 2017  
Eberly Family Special Collections Library, 104 Paterno Library

In recognition of the centennial of America’s entry into the “Great War,” this exhibit captures the perspective of the common foot soldier, drawing from more than 350 original glass-plate stereographic photographs in the Keystone View Company’s World War I Stereographic Views Collection. In turn, “From the Trenches” offers a rare view into the humanity and tragedy of the war to end all wars.



## “Plastics: Knowledge and Information Taking Shape”

Through August 10, 2017  
Sidewater Commons, 102 Pattee Library

Using the original definition of “plastic” — describing that which can be molded and formed — this exhibit unifies a variety of themes and concepts from neuroplasticity to the credit card, and offers a visual tour of the Libraries’ print and electronic collections, services, and emerging technologies including 3-D printing. All encompass some aspect of “plastic,” completing the metaphor for libraries as repositories and drivers of the ever-changing shape of knowledge.

## Coming in Fall 2017

- A new exhibit in Sidewater Commons will chronicle the 160-year history of the University Libraries. From its 1857 beginnings in the original Main Building, the Libraries now includes 36 locations at 24 campuses throughout the Commonwealth, with current holdings exceeding eight million volumes. Using archival images, maps, and oral histories, the exhibit will showcase how advancements in technology and collection growth have redefined our understanding of the library and its role within our academic community.
- Opening in August 2017, the Diversity Studies Room will host an exhibit about libraries around the world. Showcasing some of the world’s most outstanding architectural wonders, the exhibit will explore myriad aspects of international libraries’ similarities to and differences from our own American libraries. The exhibit will explore such topics as the Library Bill of Rights, banned books, and how borrowing privileges differ from country to country.



# Recent Events



On Wednesday, February 15, Library Learning Services and a supportive campus-wide committee hosted the first **Penn State Human Library** at University Park. Penn State faculty, staff, students and community members signed up for nearly 200 free seats to “borrow” the time of “human books,” who shared personal stories in small-group settings about their appearance, beliefs, identity, life circumstances, and more.

The goal of a Human Library is to help participants learn to appreciate others’ differences, and understand social barriers and privilege, while listening and relating to their experiences.

The concept, which originated in 2000 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and has been held in more than 70 countries, reminds participants, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

Fourteen Penn State human books expected, appreciated, and answered participants’ honest, curious, and perhaps difficult questions, all in the spirit of challenging stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue. The Penn State Human Library was well received and will be held again in 2018. It can be expanded easily to be held at multiple Penn State campuses.

The University Libraries began a new tradition on Sunday, February 19, in support of the Penn State Dance Marathon, or THON, and its mission to conquer pediatric cancer “For the Kids” at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Members of the public, including students studying in University Park’s Pattee Library and Paterno Library, were invited to visit a “pop-up exhibit” of THON archival materials in Mann Assembly Room and to watch the final four of 46 hours of “no sitting, no sleeping” THON Weekend, live-streamed in Foster Auditorium.



## Libraries on the Move

Also on Sunday, February 19, the Libraries once again joined the Penn State Alumni Association’s Triangle Chapter members in Cary, North Carolina, for their annual THON watch party and fundraiser.

To arrange a chapter event or for more information on available presentations, contact Nicki Hendrix at [nmh18@psu.edu](mailto:nmh18@psu.edu) or 814-865-2258.

Penn State’s 2016-2021 capital campaign “A Greater Penn State for 21st-Century Excellence” has three goals: Open Doors, Create Transformative Experiences, and Impact the World. All three goals reflect the mission and vision of the University Libraries, especially through increased capabilities from digital innovation.

# Facts and Figures

In Spring 2016, 25,669 undergraduate students from among all Penn State campuses were invited to participate in a survey conducted by nonprofit service Ithaka S+R, and 2,204 completed responses, for a 9 percent response rate. Among findings from respondents:

"I likely use about 20% of the library's capability, but only a handful of days have gone by without my studying there, and checking out or returning a book or movie."



**Nearly 3 out of every 5 students (59.28%) who responded go inside a library building on campus at least once a week.** More than 1 in 3 (34.43%) visit more than twice a week, and another 1 in 4 (24.85%) visit once or twice a week. (This doesn't count student library employees' time working in the library.)

"I am constantly in the library doing work because I feel motivated to get a lot of work done when I'm there. I always go to the quiet study areas so I can think and focus better."

## On library space:



**61%** said they would prefer to spend more time in the library if they could.

**64%** said that they enjoyed studying or working on projects in the library more than in any other campus building.

**67%** agreed that being inside a Penn State library made them feel that they be longed.

**68%** were satisfied with the availability of seating (including the number of available seating options or places to study or work).

**78%** agreed that they felt motivated to do coursework or work on projects in the library.

**85%** of respondents said that it was very or extremely useful that the library offered spaces for them to study.

"Students stay long enough to see the sun go down and come back up again."

## Students understand the need for quality information sources in support of undergraduate research:

**95%** said that it was important for them to know how to locate academic sources of information.

**90%** said it was important to know how to evaluate academic sources of information.

**93%** said it was important to know how to use information ethically.

"I really enjoy the great library collections. Having access to as many journals and databases online is very important, and being able to get things quickly has been great. Even time at a branch campus, the information from the library has been invaluable."

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*The Library: the Heart of the University* is published semiannually by the Office of Public Relations and Marketing for the Office of Development, Penn State University Libraries, Barbara I. Dewey, dean.

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Office of Development  
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510 Paterno Library  
University Park PA 16802-1812

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## The last word

**“That’s why stories are so important to share — because you never know how you can affect people.”**

— Brian Davis, Penn State junior majoring in African American studies, criminology, and sociology

Davis was a “human book” who told his story during Penn State’s first Human Library, held Feb. 15, 2017, in Pattee Library and Paterno Library, University Park. His story was titled *From Gangs in Philadelphia to Social Justice at Penn State: How I Found My Identity*.