

# Friendscript

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## Partnership Produces Historic Exhibit

*Archives, UI Alumni Alliance collaborate on Welcome Gallery*

**O**n the first floor of the Alice Campbell Alumni Center, the spirit of the University of Illinois comes alive.

Stroll by 14 towering display boxes to peruse anything from a freshman beanie to Japan House origami to an REO Speedwagon album cover. Touch a screen to read about iconic people, places, and traditions—including classics professor Richard Scanlan, the Main Quad, and concrete canoe races. Sit at coffee tables and bring up

*“Many of the kinds of stories that we’re trying to tell about the University we wouldn’t be able to tell without using the Library’s collections.”*



Jeff Dahlgren/University of Illinois Alumni

images of Bronze Tablets, *Illio* yearbook covers, Homecoming football programs, or front pages of *The Daily Illini*. Stand at a Trailhead Map that details the history of the very ground this campus stands on—going back 15,000 years. Listen to the voice-over memories of students from days gone by, then go on to record your very own.

This is the Richmond Family Welcome Gallery, a lively, interactive exhibit comprising photos, artifacts, videos, a recording booth, and touchscreens, all wrapped up in striking dynamic

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*Friendscript* is a publication of the Office of Library Advancement, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Room 227, Urbana, IL 61801. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome and should be submitted to Heather Murphy at [hmurphy@illinois.edu](mailto:hmurphy@illinois.edu) or (217) 333-3758.

The Office of Library Advancement garners interest and secures external funds from Illinois alumni and friends, provides visibility for the Library through its programs and events, and promotes the Library within the Illinois campus and the community-at-large.

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# Building Project Update

## Major Library plans proceed on schedule



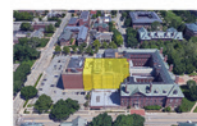
Dean John Wilkin's plans for a major reconceptualization of Library space continue to progress, with several major components in place this spring.

The vision—to establish a collections-centered research hub for the humanities and social sciences, and to provide a home for special collections in what is now the Undergraduate Library—has seen these developments:

- Ongoing salons to discuss the project with graduate students and library personnel.
- Approved selection of two firms to develop programming and conceptual designs: Chicago-based Johnson Lasky Kindelin (JLK) Architects and brightspot strategy. JLK specializes in historic preservation and renovation of existing buildings, while brightspot partners with universities and colleges to strategically manage spaces and operations.
- Formation of a campus-wide Library Consultation Working Group to review, discuss, and propose changes to both the Main and Undergraduate libraries. Organized by the Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, and the Dean of the University Library, the committee comprises 14 regular members and three ex officio participants representing a broad spectrum of disciplines. Those areas include architecture, business, chemistry, classics, dance, English, geology, history, information science, microbiology, and recreation, sport and tourism. The group will conclude its work by September.

“I’m excited to see the momentum behind the project, and particularly the way the University has embraced it as a major priority,” Wilkin said.

Future issues of *Friendscript* will continue to provide information on the Building Project’s progress. Meanwhile, the latest renovation news is always available at the Building Project website at [library.illinois.edu/library-building-project](http://library.illinois.edu/library-building-project).



“We need to renew our commitment to our magnificent library that brings people together in ways that only a library can—collections, services, disciplines, and in touch with techniques and technologies that help us create and understand.”

—John Harter, Associate Professor of History and Director of the History, Art, Architecture, and Museum Center

“I am so excited to see the momentum behind the project, and particularly the way the University has embraced it as a major priority.”

## Partnership Produces Historic Exhibit, *continued from page 1*

design. Taking the perspective of legions of students who have traversed the institution's venerable halls, the venue opened in October 2018 and bursts with topics, testimonials, and the truly marvelous happenings of the University campus.

To tell that remarkably complex story, an equally remarkable collaboration took place between the University Library and the University of Illinois Alumni Alliance.

Conceived by the Alliance's History and Traditions unit and realized by RhodesWorks, an experiential design firm, the Gallery morphed over a five-year period from a simple timeline to a privately funded, \$4.5 million campus welcome center. Involved from the very start were Ellen Swain and Anna Trammell of the Library's Student Life and Culture Archives, who helped guide the initial vision of how to craft the history of the 150-year-old campus.

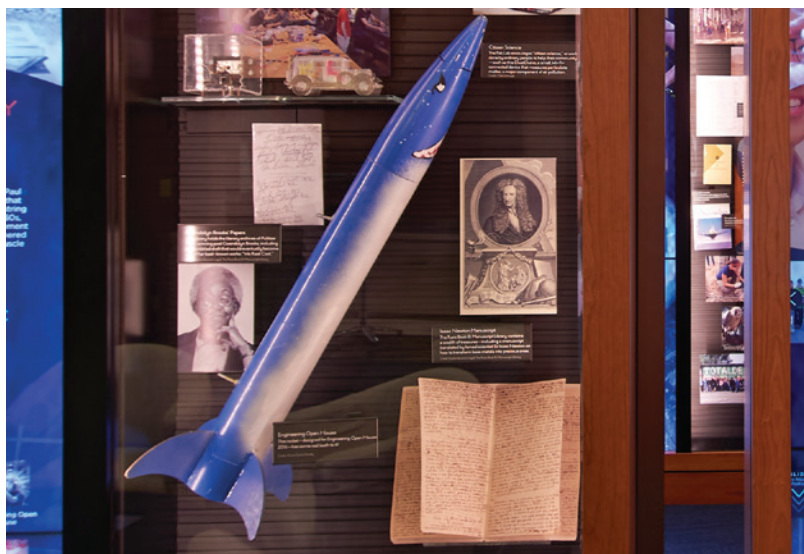
Rather than a chronological display, the exhibit presents the past and present through Discovery Boxes, including four tagged with an "I" theme (Imagine, Innovate, Inspire, and Interact) and 10 others that examine such topics as "Who Are the Illini?," "What Will I Study?," "Illini Traditions," "How Do Students Live Here?," "Music in the Air," and more.

The task was gargantuan. "My role," recalled Swain, who heads SLC, "was to think about the history and . . . what we had in the Archives that . . . could be drawn on." Later, key help came from William Maher and Chris Prom at the Archives, and the Rare Book & Manuscript Library's Adam Doskey and Dennis Sears.

Once the ideas were narrowed down, the hard work of portraying them began. According to Ryan Ross, the assistant director of the History and Traditions programs who curates the exhibit, more than 100,000 images were reviewed, with approximately 250 from the Archives making the Gallery's first round. The current display also contains a history of the Library (tucked within the "Imagine" box) as well as several artifacts gleaned from Archives, including the beanie, a military cadet sword, a megaphone, a 1930s homemade movie, a bottle of Archaea Ale, a Class of 1881 plaque, and facsimiles of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library's Isaac Newton manuscript and a handwritten poem by Gwendolyn Brooks.

Somewhat wryly, head archivist Maher sums up the massive effort this way: "The approach would be, on any given topic, 'Oh, stump the Archives! What can you find on this?'"

But the endeavor was not a hit-and-miss venture. Maher points out that Ross, a certified archivist, was



Facsimiles of an Isaac Newton manuscript and a handwritten poem by Gwendolyn Brooks are featured in the Richmond Family Welcome Gallery.

able to pull hundreds of items from the Library as a result of decades of work on the part of Archives, "collecting material and then building information systems that enable us to find those topics." And success ran both ways: After Ross found needed images for the display, Archives could scan and digitize additional pieces, as well as add connections to its database. And as news of the Welcome Gallery spreads, Ross continues to collaborate with the Library regarding possible donations of items of interest.

So far, Ross says, approximately 35,000 people have visited the award-winning center, which draws prospective students and their families, current students, alumni, campus entities, and the community at large. This fall, the Gallery, which will be periodically updated, will become part of new faculty orientation.

"Many of the kinds of stories that we're trying to tell about the University we wouldn't be able to tell without using the Library's collections," said Ross, who earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University and worked in the Library's Illinois History and Lincoln Collections for five years before joining the Alumni Alliance.

And the Library appreciates the opportunity to display both its deep history and its wealth of treasures. Archives and creations like the Welcome Gallery "are part of establishing what the heritage is," Maher said, "because . . . heritage is really the identity of the institution.

"And we like being part of that."

### Richmond Family Welcome Gallery

#### LOCATION:

Alice Campbell Alumni Center  
601 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, IL 61801

#### HOURS:

*Monday–Friday:* 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
*Saturday:* 9:00 a.m.–noon (only when spring and fall classes in session)  
*Sunday:* Closed

For more information on the Welcome Gallery, visit [illinoisalumni.org/2019/02/25/our-space](https://illinoisalumni.org/2019/02/25/our-space).

# Renovations Planned for Main Library

*Projects provide service, style, and scholarly opportunities*

A first-floor service point, a refurbished Reading Room, and a newly envisioned commons for digital scholarship will soon be features of the Main Library.

Perhaps the most visible change involves relocating the information desk (currently on the second floor) to a centrally designed space on the main level. Strategically positioned at the intersection of the north-south and east-west corridors (not far from the Bronze Tablet walls), this new “information point” will offer an easily identifiable service counter from which multiple staff can answer information and reference questions, and direct visitors. The area—expected to open this fall—will also provide a virtual reference desk, consultation space, accessible consultation/work area, and public computer terminals, printers, and scanners. Although somewhat contemporary in style, the design of the service point will remain sensitive to the historic detailing of its surroundings.

Meanwhile, the elegant Reading Room—with its stately parade of tall windows and iconic printers’ marks—will get a bit of a facelift. This summer, a low-profile, raised floor and new flooring materials will be put in place atop a submerged power distribution system that will provide electrical outlets at all tables. Other possible upgrades include up lighting at wall panels; perimeter wood shelving refurbishment; new, perforated roller shades for the printers’ mark windows; and table lamps.

Lastly, Room 220—just across the hall and around the bend from the Reading Room—will be transformed into a digital scholarship commons. A conceptualization study under way envisions the area as a vibrant, collaborative hub, whose flexible space would host exhibits and events, catalyze dialogue, and form lasting cohorts through shared interests. Seen as a working center where researchers gather, the commons could offer long-term research and project support, training workshops, and the establishment of communities of practice.



This is the most recent rendering of the first floor service point in the Main Library.

Support for the Facilities and Technology Fund helps us provide spaces that meet the 21st century needs of our students and faculty scholars. The Room 220 project is in need of funding and naming opportunities are available.

[go.library.illinois.edu/gift](https://go.library.illinois.edu/gift)

## THE LIBRARY IS SOCIAL

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# Take Note: Music and Performing Arts Library Will Mark Milestone

*Unit to celebrate 75th anniversary this fall*

**P**eek into the Music and Performing Arts Library, and you'll encounter an array of wonders—from historic sheet music to vintage LPs to videos of opera to, yes, even a functioning reproducing (player) piano.

Holding one of the more varied collections among library units on the University of Illinois campus, MPAL will celebrate its wealth of performing arts materials at its 75th anniversary this fall. An open house on Friday, September 6 will mark the occasion (see additional details on page 7).

According to its head librarian, Kirstin Johnson, the event will help people realize, “Oh, this library doesn't have just Beethoven, it's not just printed music,” but comprises an energetic space whose holdings support the study of music, theatre, and dance. One of the largest such libraries at a public university, the collection offers approximately 500,000 items, including books, scores of all types, journals, microforms, and sound recordings in many formats. In addition, its loanable technology pool offers materials such as iPads, microphones, and cables to bolster creative endeavors.

Particularly strong in music education, Renaissance music, and performance materials, MPAL had its beginnings solely as the Music Library in 1944; in its early years, its holdings were divided between the Main Library and what is now the Memorial Room at Smith Music Hall. In 1969, a burgeoning collection necessitated placing sound recordings in the nearby Undergraduate Library. The current unit opened in 1974 on two floors in the then-new School of Music building on West Nevada Street in Urbana. Later, the library absorbed materials from dance (2004) and theatre (2008) and was renamed the Music and Performing Arts Library.

Visitors may also view the library's new furniture (procured in part by donor gifts), now safely ensconced beneath the building's year-old roof. Last September, MPAL also revealed its reproducing piano, which lies in restored grandeur in a newly constructed secure room, thanks to financial assistance from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and the Dean of Libraries and University Librarian.

*“We love to share things and we definitely want people to get the benefit out of this lovely addition to our library.”*



A true gem, the 1927 Steinway Model M walnut grand piano is a “reproducing piano,” meaning it imparts musical expression without the manual help required by regular player pianos. Such instruments were all the rage in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, before radio brought music into homes. “If you yourself could not go to concerts or play the music yourself,” Johnson said, “this was a way for you to hear it. And in some cases, these are examples of the composers [or famous pianists] themselves performing it.

“And,” she continued, “it wasn't just that you were hearing it on a machine—it was literally happening [on your piano] as if they were sitting there playing.”

Visitors will be able to listen to the piano during the open house, as well as any time during the year upon appointment. Johnson says the library also plans to host monthly lunchtime concerts, beginning this fall.

“We love to share things,” she said, “and we definitely want people to get the benefit out of this lovely addition to our library.”



To fund one of these items or to ask for additional titles in an area of interest, call (217) 333-5682 or email [klsimmns@illinois.edu](mailto:klsimmns@illinois.edu).

## Library Is Looking For



### \$1,200 for Geological Map of the Middle and Western States.

Published in 1843 in James Hall's *Geology of New York*, this item beautifully illustrates an area stretching

from southern Canada to Kentucky, and from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. The first to apply the "New York System" of geology—in which paleontological analysis helps determine geological layers—the landmark map uses various colors to distinguish 23 different strata and formations. Sought by the **Map Library**, the piece also would complement the collection of geology works held by The Rare Books & Manuscript Library.



### \$1,850 for The United States from the Latest Authorities for Hayward's Gazetteer,

a large-format map delineating the entire breadth of the U.S. in the

time period between the end of the Mexican-American War and the Gadsden Purchase. Issued in 1853, the map shows unusual border configurations (by today's standards) of states west of the Mississippi River, and includes routes of various explorers. Both

of the Library's copies of Hayward's *Gazetteer of the United States of America* lack this oversized depiction, originally enclosed with the volume; the **Map Library** seeks to fill that gap with the purchase of this uncommon piece.



### \$2,250 for United States in North America,

an intriguing look at a young America, including . . . Franklina and Morgania? This extremely rare gem, published in the

wake of the Revolutionary War, indicates two settlements that never made it to actual statehood—Franklina (yes, named after the Founding Father), situated in what is now eastern Tennessee, and the failed Morgania Colony, located in present-day Missouri. Drawn by English cartographer Sir Richard Phillips to illustrate *Mavor's History of the Discovery and Settlement . . . of North and South America*, the item was published in London in 1809 and is sought by the **Map Library**.



### \$4,000 to purchase the "small Letar"

created for famed Hawaiian guitarist Letritia Kandle, a member of the Kohala Girls performing group and director of the Chicago Plectro-Phonic Orchestra.

The instrument is a smaller, more portable version of Kandle's 400-pound, electric, multi-neck Grand Letar, which already resides in the **Sousa Archives and Center for American Music**. This acquisition (whose name derives from combining letters from Letritia's name and the word "guitar") would augment the Center's collection of Kandle Papers and additional Hawaiian guitars owned by the musician, who was a leading Midwest steel guitar performer and teacher in the mid-20th century.

### The following donors have adopted items, some of which were previously listed in *Friendscript*:

**Jonathan Buchbinder** for *Lucian Freud* (Ricker Library of Architecture and Art)

**Allen Chang** for his gift toward the purchase of a Cintiq Pro Creative Pen Display (Media Commons) and a large-format scanner (Scholarly Commons), as well as toward transferring and digitizing photographs (University Archives) in honor of Robert James Lam

**Paul Garcy** for *Four Events and Reactions* (Ricker Library of Architecture and Art)

**Marilyn Steenwyk** for her gift toward transferring and digitizing photographs (University Archives)

A listing of items in need is located online at [library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for](http://library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for)

# Upcoming Events

## SAVE THE DATE

### Annual Library Friends Reception

- ◆ September 27
- ◆ Undergraduate Library

### Homecoming Parade Watch

- ◆ October 18
- ◆ Main Library Parking Lot (Sixth and Armory)

### Writers and Their Tools

This summer exhibition will feature six different typewriters, including those belonging to Illinois alumni Roger Ebert and Hugh Hefner (both on loan).

- ◆ ~~June 6 - August 23~~ June 17-August 30
- ◆ Rare Book & Manuscript Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://library.illinois.edu/rbx)

### Music and Performing Arts Library 75th Anniversary Open House

MPAL will be hosting an open house in honor of its 75th anniversary. All are welcome to attend! See examples from MPAL's collections ranging from technology items to unique scores, to learn about its services, and take a tour of the space, including the opportunity to hear its refurbished player piano.



Lynne M. Thomas

Roger Ebert's typewriter

The occasion will also be marked with exhibits, displays, refreshments, and the accompaniment of songs from the piano housed on the second floor.

- ◆ September 6, 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Music and Performing Arts Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/mpal](http://library.illinois.edu/mpal)

*continued on page 8*



We encourage you to visit the Library's online calendar at [go.library.illinois.edu/calendar](http://go.library.illinois.edu/calendar) for the most up-to-date information about events happening in and around the libraries at Illinois.

# Library Friends

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Annual gifts strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as one of the world's preeminent public university collections. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library's collections, programs, and services.

Please mail this form with your gift to:

University of Illinois Foundation  
P.O. Box 3429  
Champaign, IL 61826-9916

**Questions?** Please call (217) 333-5682 or e-mail [friends@library.illinois.edu](mailto:friends@library.illinois.edu).



**Yes!** I want to help ensure the Library's excellence with a gift to the Library Annual Fund.

Enclosed is my gift of:  \$50  \$100  \$150  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **UIF/Library Annual Fund (11332260)**.

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My company will match my gift:  
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*Upcoming Events, continued from page 7*

**The Good, The Bad and The Ugly:  
Conservation Treatments and Decision  
Making Through the Ages**

*Curated by Quinn Ferris, Jennifer Hain Teper, and Marco Valladares*

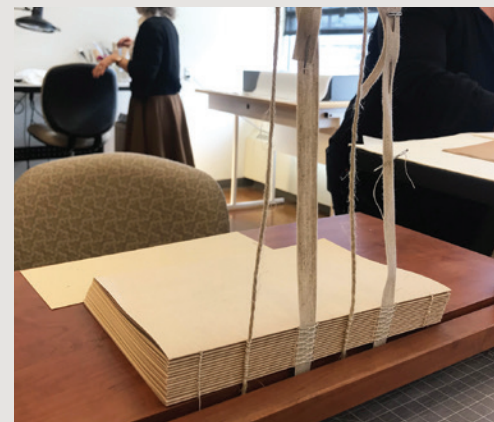
Every book lover has encountered a poor volume that is in need of repair and wondered what to do. When pages are detaching and binding is falling apart, tape can seem like a very appealing solution—but is it really the best option?

Conservation, as a profession, has developed over decades from traditional craft-based approaches to scientifically informed treatment methodology in order to preserve our most precious books and manuscripts. Modern conservation approaches bring together a fascinating blend of historic bookbinding and papermaking expertise with a modern application of organic chemistry and instrumental analysis in order to inform how to slow deterioration and extend the useful lives of our priceless collections. Perhaps it is this blend

of art and science that makes the field so fascinating.

While contemporary conservators strive to stay innovative on modern conservation treatments for our objects, we must acknowledge that we see the good, the bad, and the ugly of past repairs through the ages in our collections every day. In this exhibition, we bring together examples—many drawn from our own Rare Book & Manuscript Library's holdings—to highlight the dynamic practice of modern book and paper conservation.

- ◆ Fall Exhibition Opening coming this September; visit the website below for details
- ◆ Rare Book & Manuscript Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://library.illinois.edu/rbx)



**Bookbinding in the Conservation Lab**