

Friendscript

Alumni Couple Invests in Library's Future

Building project's 'versatile space' an inviting prospect

When Steve and Megan Shebik peer into their vision for the future, they see a modern library for students and faculty, a renovated space capped by a jewel-box top that would anchor the area just south of the University of Illinois Quad. The literally transparent environs of the newly renovated buildings would beckon students and passers-by, encouraging them to examine the Library's treasures, take advantage of easy access to scholarship and collaboration, and revel in a setting that focuses that part of campus.

Just as the Bardeen Quad and other changes revitalized the north end of the campus, so too do the Shebiks see the Library's building project as a major game changer for the south.

And with that belief, the couple pledged \$2.5 million to help launch the library building project. [For further details on the project's progress, see *First of Four Phases Gets Committee's OK*, p. 3.]

"We will begin in earnest," said Dean John Wilkin, "that effort to do what we have planned to do for decades"—an effort that transforms the Undergraduate Library into a special collections space, incorporates undergraduates into the broader educational environment of the university, and creates a research hub within repurposed sections of the Main Stacks for collaborative efforts among the humanities and social sciences.

"I think what impresses us most about the plan," said Megan, "is how far it is looking to the future."

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Portrait of an Illini family: Steve and Megan Shebik with children (from left) Brian, Matt, and Sarah

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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 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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Printed with UV ink on recycled paper.

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Library Is Looking For

Gifts to the Library Annual Fund are especially needed to enrich digital outreach efforts due to the coronavirus pandemic. In-person Library services and access have been severely curtailed; to fill the gap, the Library has vastly augmented its digital resources (see *Friendscript*, Spring 2020). These gifts would help preserve the excellent standards of research and teaching the university has upheld throughout its history.

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

The Map Library is seeking:

\$450 for Map of the United States/The Trouble in Cuba (Judge, 1895), a carto-cartoon published two years before the Spanish-American War and illustrating the United States' interest in dominating the Caribbean. Step back to view the outline of Uncle Sam, mouth gaping to swallow up the island of Cuba (hint: his eye is Washington, D.C., with Florida serving as a nose and the Gulf of Mexico as his open mouth). The drawing appeared as the Aug. 10, 1895, cover of *Judge*, a satirical magazine of the 19th and 20th centuries.

\$750 for Map of the Mexican National Railway showing also its Relative Position to the Railway System of the United States (E. Stanford, 1882). The complexities of the Mexican railroad are shown as it crosses over into the United States at Laredo, Texas, and moves up to Chicago via the Texas & St. Louis Railway. Colored lines indicate various railways, branches, and connections. If purchased, this item would broaden the Library's extensive collection of railroad maps; it would be scanned during the 2020-21 academic year and made widely available through the Library's Digital Library website.

\$950 for a map glorifying the role of the French Navy during World War II. Spotlighting the French empire (in yellow) and its communication sea lines (in red), *La sécurité La Prospérité de l'Empire Français Exigent de Notre Pays une Marine Forte et Toujours Prête* (France Ministère de la Marine, 1940) emphasizes the necessity of a strong and ready marine force. The propaganda poster, featuring warships, vessels,

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The following donors have adopted these items previously featured in Friendscript:

- ◆ **Paul Garcy** for *Location of German Camps and Hospitals where American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees are held* (Red Cross, 1944/5) (Map Library)
- ◆ **Brenda Pacey** for *myView Literacy 2020* (Social Sciences, Health, and Education Library)
- ◆ **Susan Ross** for *The German U-Boat Raid off the United States Coast* (1917) (Map Library)



Alumni Couple Invests in Library’s Future, *continued from page 1*

The Shebiks’ love for and connections to the University of Illinois run wide and deep. The first Illini in the family was Steve’s mother, the late Phyllis Shebik, who graduated in education in 1938. Following her were Steve ’78 BUS, ’78 BUS; Megan ’80 LAS; and their children—Brian ’16 BUS, ’16 LAS; Matthew ’18 LAS; and Sarah ’19 LAS. The family’s various fields of study include economics, finance, accounting, and psychology.

As an undergraduate, Steve was a well-known fixture in the Undergraduate Library. Classmates and friends knew exactly where to find him, ensconced each day in the same seat in the lower level of the Undergraduate Library. “I studied a lot,” the Bronze Tablet recipient recalled, “and the library was the perfect place.” But he wasn’t always hitting the books. “I love history,” Steve said, and to help his mother with her passion for genealogy, “I would spend several hours every month in the Newspaper Library, tracking down our and other families’ ancestors,” a pastime that opened Steve’s eyes as to the vast resources the Library had to offer.

Although their years at Illinois overlapped, Megan and Steve did not meet until after graduation, when both were forging careers in the insurance industry. And over time, “we have increasingly realized the importance of the Library and all that it provides to the students and to the community,” said Megan, who serves as vice-chair of the Library Board of Advocates.



Phyllis Shebik, above, started an Illini tradition when she graduated from the University of Illinois in 1938. Her love of genealogy inspired son Steve to explore the UI Newspaper Library for historical information, thereby expanding his knowledge of the Library’s treasures.

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First of Four Phases Gets Committee’s OK

In April, the Chancellor’s Capital Review Committee approved Phase One of the library building project, ensuring the next chapter of the Library’s development.

“This kicks off this multistage library building project,” Dean John Wilkin said of the action. “And now, in front of us, we have the prospect of this gorgeous, secure, climate-controlled facility for rare and archival collections.”

In Phase One, students and staff will vacate the Undergraduate Library setting by 2022, with plans in place to align and consolidate services for them within the Main Library. UGL will then transform into a space for special collections, including a state-of-the-art vault for archival items, collaborative work spaces, a reading room, and exhibits.

Subsequent stages will then be implemented, each dependent on completing the previous one. The stages (in chronological order) are:

- **PHASE TWO:** Demolition and reconstruction of sections one through five of the Main Stacks, preceded by the relocation of University Archives and the Rare Books & Manuscript Library into the renovated space of the former Undergraduate Library
- **PHASE THREE:** Repurposing of the Main Library into a collections-centered, research hub for the humanities and social sciences
- **PHASE FOUR:** Addition of a roof (of a height and angle so as not to disturb the neighboring Morrow Plots) to the Special Collections building; additional vault added

Funding for Phase One’s Special Collections building—estimated at nearly \$50 million—is proceeding apace. The university has provided more than half of that amount, along with several million in deferred maintenance funds; the Library has contributed \$3 million

in building funds from its budget; and approximately \$6.5 million in donor gifts has been gathered. While initial projections saw the entire project finished four years from now, revised estimates now see early 2024 as the time frame for completing Phase One.

“We are very grateful,” Wilkin said, “to the university and to all of the other people who have helped us make this possible—to bring to life something extraordinary in the history of the university and the Library.”

For continual updates on the project, visit the website at library.illinois.edu/library-building-project.



Conceptual rendering of a reading room on the basement level of the Special Collections building

Conceptual rendering of the atrium (including main circulation desk) in the Main Library



JLK Architects

Alumni Couple, *continued from page 3*



“I think what impresses us most about the plan is how far it is looking to the future.”

— MEGAN SHEBIK

“When Steve and I were first married, we had a conversation on philanthropy,” recalls Megan Shebik. Giving has always been part of the Shebik mindset—from basic needs to educational opportunities for college students. The latest venture of the Shebiks, above, involves a \$2.5 million gift toward the library building project.

The forward-looking nature of the renovation, as well as the collaboration and accessibility that renovation will afford faculty and students, is especially appealing.

“The whole idea of bringing people together in the research hub from various schools that have never had a way to easily interact is tremendous,” Steve said of the interdisciplinary areas planned for the humanities and social sciences.

Scholarship on the south end of campus will be enhanced further by a complementary \$2.5 million gift the Shebiks are making to the Gies College of Business. Plans are to construct a shared instructional facility offering additional opportunities for faculty and students with larger classrooms, more offices, and added production studios.

As for the Library, technological aspects such as digitization are important, but being able to touch and see the breadth of the Library’s resources captivates as well. That will be much easier to do with the exhibit and work areas planned for the Special Collections building.

“We’ve been really pleased with the plans we’ve seen,” Megan said. The transformation of the Library into “the versatile space needed for the future is wonderful.”

“The Library has to change for the 2020s and beyond,” Steve said. “And bringing people together in the same location, to collaborate, study and create, I believe, is vital.”



The Shebik children—from left) Brian, Matt, and Sarah—form the third generation of Illini graduates in the family.

Publications Expand to Online Textbooks

Open-access format offers distinct advantages

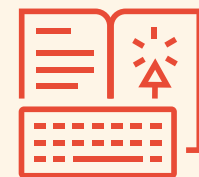
“Illinois Open Publishing Network” may be a mouthful, but its abbreviation—IOPN—offers a short but sweet message.

Pronounced “I Open,” the acronym refers not only to the University of Illinois but to the unit’s mission: to disseminate scholarly works via an open-access, online format.

And IOPN’s offerings are, well, eye opening. Launched collaboratively by the Library five years ago, the digital publishing initiative provides services for higher education “where the publication needs of the authors go beyond the typical offerings of traditional presses,” said Dan Tracy, MA ’02 LAS, PHD ’08 LAS, MS ’12 LIS, who heads the Library’s Scholarly Communication and Publishing unit and has directed IOPN’s activities since 2018. Because the publications appear online, a variety of obstacles can be overcome—multimedia elements, such as video, interactive maps, and data visualizations, can be incorporated; access is easily obtained; and additional pain to student budgets is eliminated.

IOPN has been producing conference monographs, translated biographies, and literary studies, but in August it published its first two textbooks: *Instruction in Libraries and Information Centers: An Introduction* by Laura Saunders and Melissa A. Wong, and *A Person-Centered Guide to Demystifying Technology* by Martin Wolske (Wong and Wolske teach at the UI School of Information Sciences). Downloadable, PDF versions of the works are also available, with the librarianship text to offer a print-on-demand option as well. To view the textbooks, visit doi.org/10.21900/wd.12 and doi.org/10.21900/wd.7, respectively.

IOPN has worked hard to spread the word about the usefulness of open textbooks. “It’s something that we can do that contributes to the academic and teaching mission of our institution,” Tracy said, “that also helps out students . . . by saving them money.” He’s hoping the venture opens both doors and minds.



Library Services Slowly Reopen This Fall

Restrictions remain, but some loosening in place

This fall, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the flow of information and aid on the University of Illinois campus will still be running—in a careful and slightly expanded manner.

When the virus hit the U.S. last spring, campus abandoned in-person instruction and adjusted its teaching and resource services. For the university to complete its spring semester, the Library responded quickly and nimbly (see *Friendscript*, Spring 2020). That focused response continues as the university cautiously reopens.

“I liken the Library’s services to a faucet,” Dean John Wilkin said. “We want to ensure that we have a baseline of services like access to collections, reference and research support, and instruction, and that we can open the faucet more in response to demand and changing circumstances.”

Back on campus, students and faculty found all digital services and collections functioning, and remote reference and consultations available. Many of last spring’s restrictions, however, necessarily remain in place, such as electronic resources being the go-to best option for those seeking materials.

This fall, however, three libraries allow limited entry: the Main Library and Grainger Engineering Library Information Center (for on-site consultation) and the Undergraduate Library (for loanable technology pickups and use of media creation spaces). Patrons can pick up requested items at lockers placed in the Main Library and Grainger, and two libraries (Grainger and UGL) offer bookable, modified study spaces.

When patrons access a campus library—after having their health status screened via the Safer Illinois phone app or Boarding Pass option—they enter a safety-conscious environment. Floors are marked and taped; health-care reminder signs abound; furniture is spaced; stations offer masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer; and barriers are up at service counters.

Chris Prom, PHD ’02 LAS, associate university librarian for digital strategies, served as the point of coordination for the Library’s reopening efforts. He said flexibility was key in planning for a campus comeback comprising many unknown variables.



Rand Hartsell from Central Access Services prepares books for pickup in the Main Library.



Marla Crook (left) and Alissa Marcum from Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery scan materials for digital delivery.

“I would say my greatest concern has been keeping up the flow of communication, to help people to understand . . . why we are . . . doing things the way we are doing them,” Prom said. “I am very confident that we’re doing the right thing, and that we are meeting campus needs and our student and faculty needs in the best way possible under the circumstances.”

The Library expects to make adjustments as the semester goes on. Hopes are that—slowly and carefully—the flow of resources will return full stream.

Upcoming Events


Mark your calendars for our November 5 noontime webinar *The Mystery Recordings of Langston Hughes: A Poet Visits the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* with Archives Program Officer Jameatris Rimkus! Visit go.library.illinois.edu/hughes for more information and to register.





Please refer to the Library’s online calendar for a list of all events. go.library.illinois.edu/calendar

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Quest Unspools Cuisine's History

Prize honors revelations about Jewish ties to Viennese food

Following a scholarly passion is a bit like creating a culinary masterpiece—both require a careful sifting of stamina and vision, a dollop of inspiration, a tablespoon of insight, and lots and lots of careful kneading.

Susanne Belovari knows that lesson well. A *fêted* historian and archivist of the Holocaust, she has researched the field for more than two decades. Recently, the University of Illinois assistant professor and archivist for faculty papers received the 2020 Sophie Coe Prize, the world's most well-known award for writing on food history.

Belovari's treatise—*The Viennese Cuisine before Hitler—'One Cuisine in the use of Two Nations'*—uncovers the hidden story of the dual origins of that city's vaunted gastronomy. Her work reveals the striking similarities among recipes cherished by both Jewish and non-Jewish households in Austria's capital, and details how World War II wiped out not only most of Vienna's Jewish population but also recognition for its contribution to its collective cuisine.

Belovari charms as well as educates, as she weaves the Viennese backgrounds and culinary histories of her own Protestant family throughout the piece. She herself came

to the startling realization of the similarities between Vienna's Jewish and non-Jewish kitchens when, as a graduate student, she served as a cleaner and cook for the Orthodox Jewish family of a UI professor. "How was it possible," she asks, "that many of my grandmother's recipes . . . were applicable to even the strictest Jewish culinary rules without needing any adjustments for kosher cooking? And my next thought was an unsubstantiated leap: was our famous historical Viennese Cuisine perhaps a shared culinary product, practice, and legacy of Viennese Jews and non-Jews alike?" And so Belovari's quest to answer those questions began.

As she writes in her prologue, "If this culinary research helps to unearth, acknowledge, and honor the contributions of Viennese Jews to our Viennese Cuisine, if it helps us see the complexities involved in everyday culture and the most simple of acts, if it helps us to remember and honor the Viennese Jews I met along the way as well as the amazing grandparents on both sides of my family who held on to the humanity of their neighbors, friends, and their own in troubling and dangerous times, then this research served its purpose."

Belovari '85 LAS, MA '87 LAS, PHD '97 LAS, MS '02 LIS, has worked for the University Library since 2014 and is an affiliated faculty member with the UI Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. To read her essay, visit go.library.illinois.edu/2020sophiecoep prize.



Wiener Küche (the Hess) cookbook by Adolf and Olga Hess (ca. 1929)



Viennese Holocaust survivor Lilly Weit, Belovari's research collaborator and friend (ca. 1960). Weit passed away during the editing of Belovari's article.



Photo of a modern cooking school in Vienna from a cookbook by Jewish Author Alice Urbach



Susanne Belovari (left) in 2015 with Trudy Duhi, Viennese Holocaust refugee, research collaborator, and friend

Library Is Looking For, *continued from page 2*

and planes, may have been issued shortly before Germany stood poised to invade France in 1940.

\$1,100 for a Cold War era propaganda map underscoring preparedness of the U.S. Strategic Air Command. Produced in 1961—between the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and the start of the Berlin Wall—**Concept of Deterrence** (Andrew Shallo, 1961) shows how the U.S. could strike Russia and China. Originally published in newspaper, at this time no separately cataloged copy appears in OCLC (Online Computer Library Center).

\$1,100 for a rare pictorial map of the world depicting the Empire of Japan in 1933. Tucked inside an issue of a Japanese boys’ magazine, the illustration highlights Japanese holdings (in red), accompanied by cartoon-like drawings and vignettes of culture, flora, and fauna. A militaristic undertone simmers: Japanese warships patrol the Pacific, American ships guard their territory, and the Atlantic Ocean appears diminished. At present, only one university library holds a copy of **World Panorama Daichi Sakai**.

\$2,250 for a rare strip map depicting the Transcontinental Railroad from Chicago to the Pacific Ocean. The illustration, created in 1876, includes wonders

and landmarks along the way, as well as humorous commentary (such as contrasting the modern railway’s sleeping quarters with the hard ground that pioneers settled on beneath wagons). If purchased, **Trans Continental Route Illustrated Crossing the Switzerland of America/Panoramic Map of the Great Overland Route from Occident to Orient. Europe to China, Japan & Australia** (Chicago: A.M. Smith, 1876) would be scanned this fall and made available through the Library’s digital library collections. Fun fact: The item measures just 6 inches high but stretches to 5 feet.

\$2,500 for World at One View (Phelps, 1847), a richly drawn, double-hemisphere global map that sings the praises of not just the world’s wonders and cultures but the glory of the proposed transcontinental railway. The item suggests that in addition to benefiting the continent, the railway would help bring you that much closer to visiting China. The map’s imagery includes waterspouts, informational charts, famous buildings, women’s wear around the world, and even a Native American warrior.



An up-to-date, comprehensive list of items in need is located at library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for



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8 FRIENDSCRIPT FALL 2020

Your History Is Now

*IHLC collecting Illinoisans'
COVID-19 experiences*

No corner of the nation remains untouched by the coronavirus pandemic, and University of Illinois archivists are determined to reach any and all populations affected by it.

“We are trying to be thoughtful that we’re not stepping into the domain of other archives that are collecting for projects like this,” said Claire Weibel, MS ’20 LIS, outreach and collecting projects specialist at the Library’s Illinois History & Lincoln Collections unit. While University Archives is focusing its COVID-19 project on the campus community, IHLC seeks to connect with anyone residing in the state.

Launched in July, “Collecting COVID-19 Stories in Illinois” has solicited such entities as chambers of commerce, farmer’s markets, and artist groups in an attempt to reach a wide range of geographic and interest-based groups.

The “rapid-response” archival project (collecting in real time, rather than long after an event has passed) is wide open as far as what it will accept, including photography, diaries, emails, video and audio recordings, and screenshots of social-media posts. The submissions so far range from poetry to a reflection on changing medical research.

“People can submit what feels right to them,” Weibel said. “The Illinois History & Lincoln Collections hopes to gather materials that will provide future researchers with a view of Illinoisans’ experiences, thoughts, and feelings during this unprecedented time.”

To submit an entry, or for FAQs, visit go.library.illinois.edu/IHLCcovidproject.



The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections documents the history of Illinois and its inhabitants from the colonial era and earlier to the present day.