

LSU LIBRARIES  
IMPACT REPORT

BUILT

2024/2025



FOR

YOU



**YOUR LIBRARY.**

**YOUR FUTURE.**

**ASK**





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Brooke Bell, Student Worker



# Message from the Dean



Rendering of the future LSU Library & Learning Commons as seen from the intersection of S. Stadium Dr. near Field House Dr.



View from S. Campus Dr.

It is bracing to witness the many ways in which LSU's new library project is charging ahead, driven by an unstoppable consensus that extends to Governor Landry, Louisiana legislators, LSU's Board of Supervisors, and Tiger Nation generally. I especially appreciate LSU's administration for supplying the vision and leadership that is turning a chronic problem into an inspirational reality.

It's true that it has taken years for us to reach this point. Mustering the political, logistical, and financial resolve to undertake the construction of a 200,000 square foot, state-of-the-art research library is extraordinarily difficult. Only one such building has opened in the U.S. since 2019, and to my knowledge, LSU has the only comparable library project in any stage of consideration. We already knew that our new library would become the symbol of the university's academic aspirations, but it's become clear that it will also be the international standard of excellence for many years to come. This is exactly where LSU belongs.

A veteran colleague of mine recently gave me the following challenge: convert every question you get about the library's cost, size, and completion date into an opportunity to convey how the building will change the lives of LSU students and faculty. In one sense, the task is easy: nobody who has seen a modern research library in action would ever ask whether libraries are obsolete. One look at the intensive use of these buildings is all it takes; they are full of students leveraging new technologies and skills in a dizzying variety of ways. These are not the libraries of our own college days, but if all this activity feels foreign, it is also instantly recognizable as essential for both modern learning and the workplaces of the future. The only reasonable response to such a sight is to ask what we have to do to make it happen here at LSU.

As the theme of this impact report suggests, **this will be your library, too.** It will belong to you and everyone who loves this great institution and enables it to serve future generations of LSU students and faculty.

*Stanley Wilder*

Stanley J. Wilder  
Dean of LSU Libraries

Interior rendering of LSU's Library & Learning Commons



View from Engineering Lane; in the future, there will be a new Quad.





# What's New

## TEAM CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

This summer, an LSU team traveled to Portland, Oregon, to plan for the future of LSU Libraries.

With the LSU Board of Supervisors' unanimous approval of the schematic designs for LSU's new 193,000 square foot Library & Learning Commons (LLC) building in February, LSU Libraries entered an exciting phase of change. Designed to enhance the student experience and support research, collaboration, and innovation across LSU, the state-of-the-art LLC building will also serve as a vital resource for the Baton Rouge community and the state of Louisiana.

To ensure LSU Libraries' staffing and services were well-positioned for this transformational next chapter, four representatives joined library and humanities professionals as participants in the inaugural Values-Enacted Leadership Institute (VELI), hosted by HuMetricsHSS. Held in July at the University of Oregon, VELI offered participants dedicated time and facilitated sessions to explore how values can shape effective, ethical leadership and drive institutional change.

Representing LSU Libraries at VELI 2025 were:



**Gina Costello**

Associate Dean of Technology & Special Collections



**Hayley Johnson**

Head of Open Scholarship & Government Publications



**Elissa Plank**

Head of Circulation



**Sarah Simms**

Undergraduate & Student Success Team Lead

Their project, "Building a Framework for Change: Leveraging a New Library Building to Identify Transformational Values-Driven Opportunities," focused on preparing for the challenges and opportunities that come with constructing and moving into a new library building.

Team leads Costello and Johnson were excited about the opportunity to develop a strategic framework that would help guide the Libraries through this transformative time. According to Costello,

**THE DYNAMIC FRAMEWORK WILL EMPHASIZE STAFF DEVELOPMENT, PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS, AND COLLABORATION IN ORDER TO BETTER POSITION LSU LIBRARIES TO BE ADAPTIVE, CONNECTED, AND ABLE TO MEET THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF ITS COMMUNITY.**

Now, the team will begin its work across the Libraries, university, and community to ensure that future LSU Libraries staff and services are as innovative, inclusive, and forward-looking as the landmark LLC building.

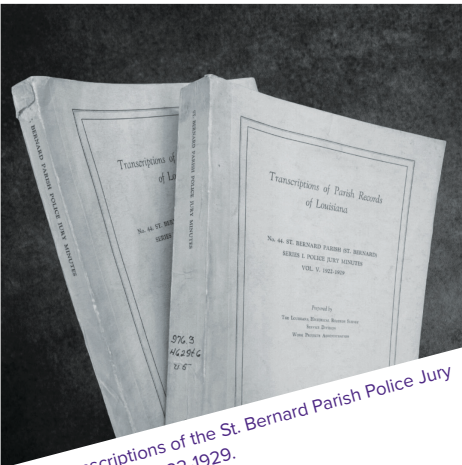


LSU students at work in the current library

Interior rendering of LSU's Library & Learning Commons



# DIGITIZING LOUISIANA HISTORY



Bound transcriptions of the St. Bernard Parish Police Jury minutes between 1922-1929.



Scan to explore the Louisiana Digital Library [louisianadigitallibrary.org](http://louisianadigitallibrary.org)

LSU Libraries has received a **\$190,320** grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents to expand the statewide capacity for digitizing historical materials and enhance public access to Louisiana’s cultural heritage.

The project, “Digitizing Louisiana History: Enhancing Digitization and Access Capabilities for LSU and the State,” is led by **Gina Costello**, Associate Dean of Technology and Special Collections, with co-principal investigator **Elisa Naquin**, Interim Head of Digital Programs and Services (and Metadata and Digital Strategies Librarian), along with technology leads **Michael Stewart**, Assistant Director of Libraries Technology; and **Gabe Harrell**, Digitization Lab Manager.

This grant will enable LSU Libraries to significantly grow the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL), the state’s foremost online repository of historical and cultural content. Managed by LSU Libraries, the LDL includes digital collections from 32 institutions across Louisiana and serves everyone from K–12 students and educators to researchers and genealogists across the globe.

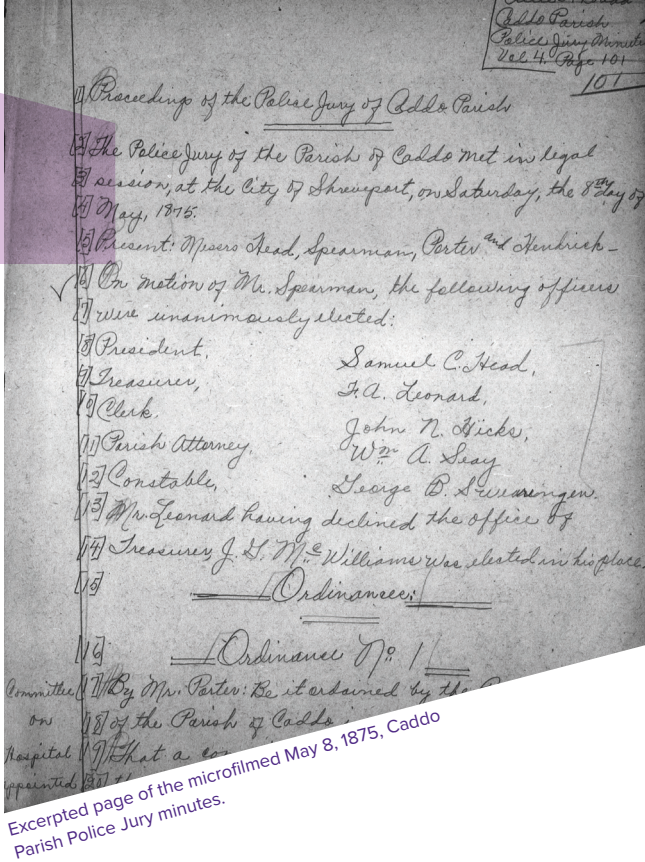
With this new funding, LSU Libraries will modernize the LDL’s infrastructure and improve content accessibility and site usability for LDL visitors. These advancements will allow the Libraries to expand its support of Louisiana libraries, archives, and museums participating in the LDL and begin a large-scale project to digitize and preserve previously inaccessible collections.

A key component of the project involves the digitization of more than 200 reels of microfilm from the *Works Progress Administration’s Louisiana Historical Records Survey Louisiana Police Jury Minutes Collection* (LLMVC MSS. 2984), which contains unpublished historical data from 60 Louisiana parishes dating from 1811 to the 1940s. Once digitized, these materials will be freely available online, providing access to a wealth of primary sources that support research in Louisiana history, politics, law, and culture.

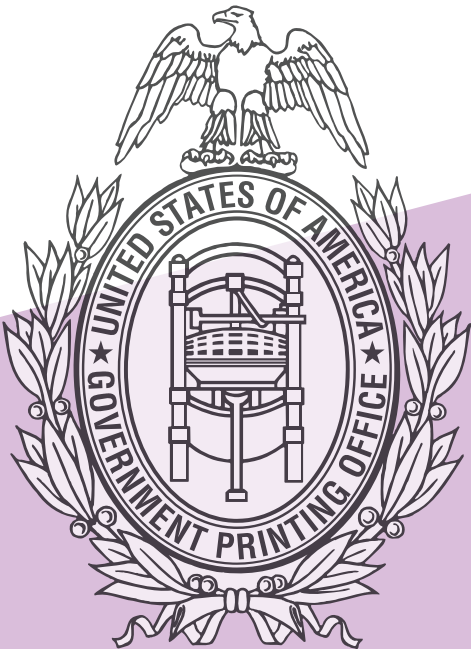
In addition to its research impact, the project will offer undergraduate and graduate students hands-on experience in digitization, metadata creation, and digital project management—valuable training for future careers in archives, libraries, and museums.

**“OUR TEAM AT LSU LIBRARIES IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A ROBUST DIGITAL LIBRARY PLATFORM TO SUPPORT THE DISCOVERY OF UNIQUE HISTORICAL LOUISIANA MATERIALS. WE ARE EXCITED TO EXPAND THE LOUISIANA DIGITAL LIBRARY AND PROVIDE BETTER DIGITIZATION TOOLS FOR OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS AROUND THE STATE. THE CURRENT FUNDING IS A WELCOME EXTENSION TO PREVIOUS BOARD OF REGENTS’ SUPPORTED WORK, INCLUDING PROJECTS THAT MADE MASS DIGITIZATION OF LOUISIANA NEWSPAPERS POSSIBLE,”** said Costello.

By expanding digitization capabilities and improving access to historical records, this grant will strengthen the research infrastructure at LSU, support teaching and learning across the state, and preserve Louisiana’s stories for generations to come.



Excerpted page of the microfilmed May 8, 1875, Caddo Parish Police Jury minutes.



## LSU LIBRARIES JOINS GPO PRESERVATION STEWARDS

This year, LSU Libraries partnered with the US Government Publishing Office to become a Preservation Steward for six historic federal titles: Army Corps, Serial Set, Foreign Relations of the US, Astronomical Almanac, Nautical Almanac, and Congressional Directory. As a Preservation Steward, LSU Libraries commits to retaining and preserving these important print publications. This partnership supports long-term public access to trusted government information.





# EXPLORE OUR NEW CREATOR SPACE

LSU Libraries is proud to announce the launch of its Creator Space, a cutting-edge sound booth designed to inspire creativity and support academic success. Located in the main library, one of the most highly trafficked buildings on campus, the Creator Space makes professional-grade audio and video recording equipment more available than ever to the LSU community.

The project was brought from inception to reality through the leadership of **Mikel LeDee**, Head of Music Resources, and **Michael Stewart**, Assistant Director of Libraries Technology. Funding for the booth and its equipment was made possible in part by a 2023-2024 LSU Student Technology Fee grant.



Mikel LeDee

As multimedia communication becomes an essential skill in both academia and professional settings, the Creator Space positions LSU as a forward-thinking institution dedicated to student success and innovation. This resource equips users with the tools needed to excel in the digital age, from podcasting and music production to video creation and more.

The Creator Space's central location within LSU Libraries ensures easy access for students and faculty across all disciplines. Unlike facilities housed within specific departments, this "neutral location" promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, creating a shared resource where ideas from engineering, music, communications, and beyond can converge to produce groundbreaking projects.



Learn more at  
[lib.lsu.edu/music/creatorspace](http://lib.lsu.edu/music/creatorspace)



Whether enhancing coursework, advancing research, or pursuing creative endeavors, the Creator Space empowers users to achieve professional-quality results. It's a testament to LSU Libraries' commitment to fostering innovation, accessibility, and academic excellence.

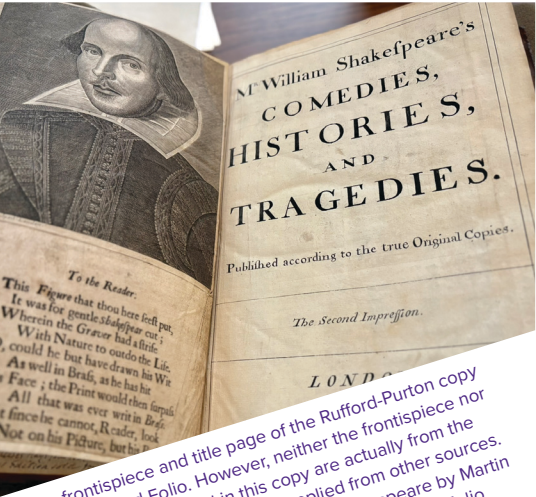
# THIRD-FLOOR FURNITURE UPGRADE

In November 2024, LSU Libraries unveiled new, modern furniture on the third floor of the main library—enhancing comfort, functionality, and access to power for the thousands of students who rely on this space each day. The upgrade, completed with design support from Frost-Barber of LA, LLC, reflects our continued commitment to providing a welcoming, well-equipped environment for learning and collaboration.





# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ACQUIRES RARE SECOND FOLIO AND CIVIL WAR EYEWITNESS LETTERS



The frontispiece and title page of the Rufford-Purton copy of the Second Folio. However, neither the frontispiece nor the title page included in this copy are actually from the Second Folio but are instead supplied from other sources. The famous frontispiece portrait of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout has been added from a later, handwritten facsimile, (1685), and the title page is a later, handwritten facsimile, presumably from the late eighteenth century.

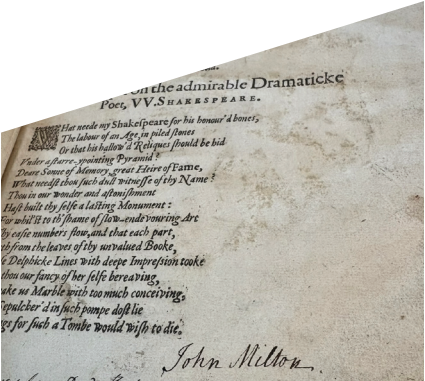


Jeffery M. Leving

In the fall of 2024, Special Collections welcomed two new acquisitions: the “Rufford-Purton” copy of William Shakespeare’s Second Folio and a set of Civil War-era letters describing the capture of Jefferson Davis, in which eyewitnesses claim he was disguised in women’s clothing. These remarkable additions align with LSU’s collecting strengths and will provide scholars and students with valuable opportunities for research and learning for years to come.

**“AS A COLLECTOR, I’M FASCINATED WITH FINDING RARE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS AND PRESERVING THEM, SO THEY DON’T END UP LOST. NOW, I’M AT A POINT WHERE I’D LIKE TO SHARE THEM SO THEY CAN BE STUDIED,”** said **Jeffery M. Leving**, the renowned rare book and manuscript collector who donated the items.

“This gift stems from my professional relationship with LSU’s Dean of Libraries, **Stanley Wilder**. Dean Wilder is a close friend, and I have full confidence that LSU will preserve these documents for future generations while ensuring that students and faculty benefit from their presence. LSU is the ideal institution to make that possible.”



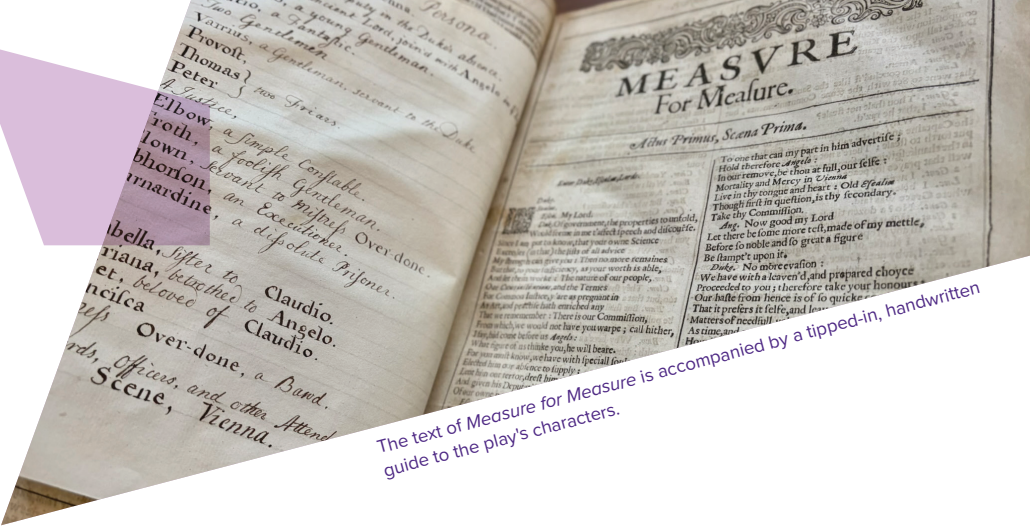
John Milton's first published poem, which makes up part of the prefatory material of the Second Folio. It is annotated here in what appears to be an eighteenth-century hand, possibly Reverend Rufford's.

Shakespeare’s Second Folio is among the most coveted and studied books in the world of literature. The First Folio, published in 1623, preserved many of Shakespeare’s plays that might have been lost otherwise. Originally published in 1632, the Second Folio introduced almost 1,700 changes, mostly minor corrections to the text or modernizations of language that was by then almost 40 years old. Significantly, the Second Folio includes an anonymous dedication to Shakespeare attributed to then-young poet John Milton. Thirty years later, Milton would secure his reputation as one of the most important British poets of the early modern period with his publication of the epic poem, *Paradise Lost* (1667).

The “Rufford-Purton” copy of Shakespeare’s Second Folio is particularly distinguished by its unique provenance and marginalia, featuring manuscript notes by 18th-century rector Francis Rufford, as well as additional annotations and documents tracing its ownership through the Purton family. This book resided for a time at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon before crossing the Atlantic and finding a new home in LSU’s Hill Memorial Library.

Leving also contributed a historically significant collection of letters and statements related to the capture of Confederate President Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865, near Irwinville, Georgia. These documents were gathered and preserved by Robert Burns (ca. 1832–1899), a lieutenant colonel of Company C, 4th Michigan Cavalry. Burns himself was not an eyewitness to Davis’ capture, but he was stationed nearby and later collected first-hand accounts from the soldiers who were eyewitnesses to the event.

These accounts of Davis' dramatic capture include descriptions of his attempted disguise. According to multiple eyewitness statements, Davis was discovered wearing what appeared



The text of Measure for Measure is accompanied by a tipped-in, handwritten guide to the play's characters.

to be women’s clothing, a fact that became a source of both controversy and satire in the following years. These materials provide valuable insight into how historical narratives are shaped and remembered, offering researchers a deeper understanding of the political and cultural climate of the time.

Taken together, the newly acquired folio and the Burns collection offer a unique juxtaposition of literary and historical artifacts, demonstrating the breadth and depth of LSU’s Special Collections. Scholars in literature, history, and archival studies will find these acquisitions invaluable for their research and educational endeavors forever after.

Both the Second Folio and the collection of Civil War documents are being cataloged and will soon be available to students and researchers alike. Please contact us to make an appointment.

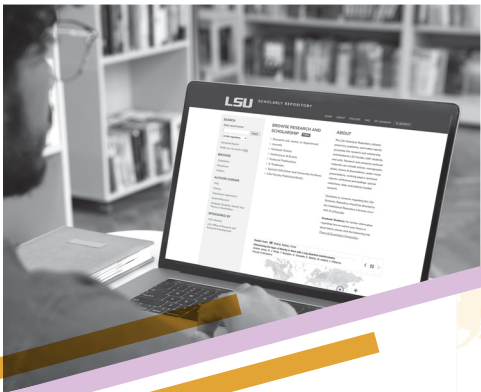


A list of the plays included in the Second Folio, across from the opening page of *The Tempest*. The marginal annotation on the right corrects ‘firrs’ to ‘furze’ (a family of shrubbery often found on islands in the Atlantic Ocean).



# Scholarly Endeavors

## SHARING LSU RESEARCH WITH THE WORLD



The Scholarly Publications and Analytics Department continues to advance LSU’s research mission by expanding access to knowledge and supporting responsible data sharing. The LSU Scholarly Repository—an open-access platform for research, scholarship, and creative work by LSU faculty, students, and researchers—added more than **8,600 new works in FY25**. During the same period, repository content was downloaded more than two million times. Since its launch less than a decade ago, it has surpassed **15 million total downloads**, significantly broadening the global reach of LSU research. This year also marked the launch of a new conference hosting service through the repository, offering faculty a platform to organize and share scholarly conference content such as event schedules, session details, and presentation materials in one accessible location.



Discover LSU’s  
Scholarly Repository  
[repository.lsu.edu](https://repository.lsu.edu)

## TIGER DEN: ADVANCING RESEARCH DATA AT LSU

During the past year, LSU Libraries and LSU Information Technology Services continued their collaboration on Tiger Den, LSU’s shared data storage platform. In the fall of 2025, Tiger Den will integrate with Globus, a tool that makes it easier for researchers to find, access, and securely share large datasets. This upgrade strengthens LSU’s research infrastructure and supports national standards for data transparency, accessibility, and collaboration.

## SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIP FIRST: HOW INTERLIBRARY LOAN EMPOWERS FACULTY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

LSU Libraries is committed to supporting the university’s mission of academic leadership and research excellence. One of the many ways we do this is through Interlibrary Loan (ILL), a vital service that provides faculty with access to resources beyond our collections—no matter how rare or specialized.

This commitment to accessible research is exemplified by several recipients of the 2025 LSU Faculty Awards, many of whom have made extensive use of ILL to support their research and publishing achievements. For example, **Christopher Rovee** (English) and **John Bardes** (History) both published books in 2024, drawing on numerous materials obtained through ILL.

“The fact that I can always get pretty much any book that I need, even if it’s not located in our own stacks here at LSU, has given me peace of mind as I pursue my research,” said Rovee. **“I COULD NOT HAVE FINISHED MY 2024 MONOGRAPH, NEW CRITICAL NOSTALGIA—THE ARCHIVE FOR WHICH WAS PREDOMINANTLY LOW-CIRCULATION CRITICAL WORKS FROM THE 1920S AND 1930S—WITHOUT LSU’S ILL SERVICE.”**



Christopher Rovee, LSU English professor and winner of a 2025 Distinguished Faculty Award



John K. Bardes, LSU assistant professor of history and winner of a 2025 LSU Alumni Association Rising Faculty Research Award

For humanities scholars like Bardes, whose research depends on rare and often undigitized primary sources, ILL is not just helpful—it’s indispensable. “Simply put, ILL transforms any library into every library,” Bardes explained. “It is absolutely invaluable and essential to my research.” He emphasized that **“[LSU LIBRARIES] EXPONENTIALLY INCREASES MY ACCESS TO SCHOLARLY IDEAS AND SOURCES,”** noting that “the vast majority of scholarly material [in the humanities is] not digitized.”

One especially meaningful example from Bardes’ work is a rare anti-slavery newspaper from 1830s Ohio—one of the only surviving sources offering firsthand accounts of the Underground Railroad and Deep South resistance stories that pro-slavery papers refused to cover. “Only one known set of surviving copies exists,” he said. “[LSU Libraries] staff tracked down a microfilm surrogate of it.”

The impact of ILL goes far beyond access. It enables LSU’s faculty to pursue groundbreaking research, enhances scholarship across disciplines, and plays a crucial role in advancing LSU’s “Scholarship First” agenda.

“ILL is essential to humanities research, full stop,” Bardes concluded. “I ask a lot from LSU Libraries... and I always remain very grateful and humbled by their professionalism and generosity.”



# OER ADVANCEMENT FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHES INAUGURAL COHORT

This year, LSU Libraries established a new initiative designed to increase awareness and usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) across LSU's campus. The OER Advancement Fellowship awards stipends to faculty members who are committed to reviewing or incorporating OER materials into their curricula, thereby reducing the reliance on costly commercial textbooks.

During the 18-month project period, the fellows participated in a series of workshops and consultations that equipped them with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully implement OER in their courses. By embracing these resources, the fellows play a crucial role in advancing educational equity at LSU, ensuring that students have greater access to free, high-quality learning materials.

The following faculty were accepted into the OER Advancement Fellowship.



Learn more about how the Libraries support OER adoption

## Creation Awardees

Participants developed original OER to replace commercial textbooks and materials for courses where no suitable OER currently exists.

- Fabio Capra-Ribeiro**, College of Art & Design
- Liliana Naranjo**, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Tracy Norton**, LSU Law
- Kate Pettrey**, College of Engineering
- Anna Priddy**, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Vinit Sehgal**, College of Agriculture

## Adaptation Awardees

Faculty adapted and updated existing OER, possibly combining multiple resources and creating supplementary materials to enhance instruction.

- Naomi Bennett**, College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Open educational resources reduce textbook costs for students.



Allen LeBlanc led the development of LSU's OER Advancement Fellowship program.

- Narcissa Haskins & Jazzlynn Boyd**, LSU Libraries
- Yong-Ha Kim**, College of the Coast & Environment
- Andrea Morris**, College of Humanities & Social Sciences

## Adoption Awardees

Fellows adopted existing OER with minimal modifications to replace commercial textbooks in their courses.

- Janice Lee**, Manship School of Mass Communication

# RESEARCH SABBATICALS



**Gina Costello**, Associate Dean of Technology & Special Collections, conducted extensive research and completed chapters of a monograph about academic library leadership and organizational change she plans to publish next year. Between January-June 2025, Costello also co-wrote a grant application (see pages 3-4 for details) and served as guest editor for forthcoming issues of the *Library Leadership & Management* journal.



**Andrea Hebert**, Research Impact Librarian, is on a sabbatical from August 2025-January 2026 to collaborate with the EC3 Research Group (Quantitative Studies of Scientific Communication) at the University of Granada in Spain. During her sabbatical, she will work alongside internationally recognized experts in scientometrics on a research project exploring evaluative research metrics, including altmetrics, narrative bibliometrics, and the responsible use of bibliometric reports.



**Lois Kuyper-Rushing**, Associate Dean of Public & Collection Services, is on a sabbatical from July to December 2025 to travel to Valenciennes, France, on a research project to transcribe and edit a critical edition of never-before-published vocal music by prolific twentieth-century French composer Eugène Bozza (1905-1991) (See pages 19-20 for details).





## IN FOCUS: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS' 2024 FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

In its second year, LSU Libraries Special Collections Faculty Fellowship continued to enrich faculty pedagogy and student learning by fostering archive-centered teaching and research on LSU's campus. The fellowship provided LSU faculty with the resources, training, and support needed to incorporate archival materials into their courses, enhancing students' understanding of primary sources and historical inquiry.

The fellowship began in August 2024 with an immersive three-day orientation at Hill Memorial Library, where participants explored archival research techniques, digital humanities tools, and strategies for integrating Special Collections materials into their curricula. Throughout the semester, the fellows engaged in biweekly meetings, collaborating with librarians and experts in LSU Libraries and fellow educators to refine their approaches and develop meaningful, archive-based assignments.

### Meet the Fellows



**Dorota K. Heneghan** | Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Heneghan enriched her interdisciplinary courses in Comparative Literature, Women's and Gender Studies, and Screen Arts by introducing new pedagogical tools for close and comparative reading. By incorporating digital humanities techniques, such as mapping word frequencies and analyzing references to specific objects and artifacts, her students will uncover insights into gender norms and social structures beyond the discreet charm of the Victorian gentleman's life and will explore society's enduring fascination with Sherlock Holmes, science, and detective fiction. Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian Elizabeth Allen was her collaborator during the fellowship.



**William Ma** | College of Art & Design

Working with the Judith Ann Schiebout Chinese Communist Poster Collection at Hill Memorial Library, Ma developed a research seminar that provides students with hands-on experience in original archival research. After the passing of LSU Professor Emerita Judith Schiebout, who had collected the posters during her first visit to China, Ma facilitated the acquisition. The collection consists of colorful posters from the early 1980s that offer insight into China's shifting political priorities, social changes, and cultural trends following its 1978 economic reforms. Through Ma's course, students will research, write, and curate an online exhibition based on these unique materials. Kelly Larson, Special Collections' Head of Research and Public Services, was his collaborator during the fellowship.



**Will Mari** | Manship School of Mass Communication

Mari developed a new Honors College class, "Honors 2030: Propaganda of the Cold War," with a particular focus on NATO and the Warsaw Pact. By Spring 2025, Mari's students were actively engaging with LSU's archives and getting hands-on experience in primary source research. By incorporating archival resources into innovative teaching, he enabled his students to gain deeper insight into historical propaganda, critical research skills, and an appreciation for the role of archives in preserving history. University Archivist Zach Tompkins was his collaborator during the fellowship.



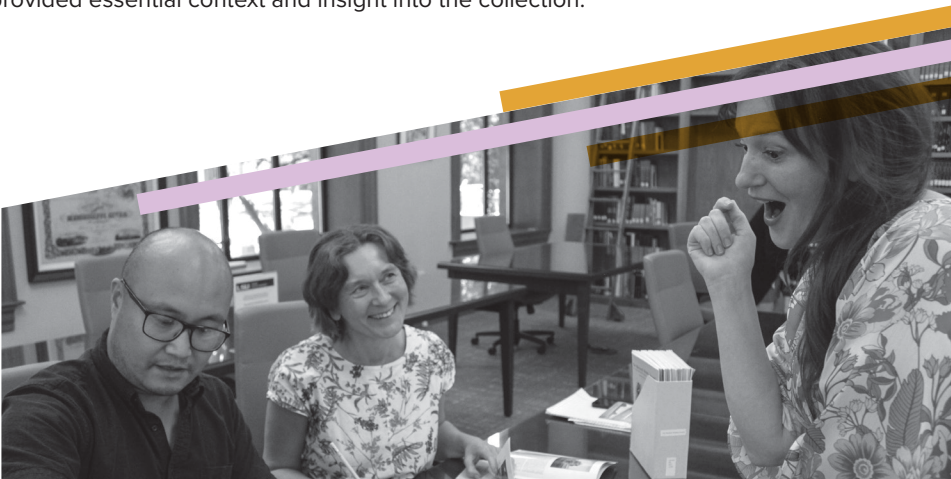
**Heather O'Connell** | Department of Sociology

O'Connell enhanced an upper-level sociology course on racial inequality (SOCL 4571) by incorporating archival research on historical monuments and their impact on contemporary society. By integrating archival resources, O'Connell's course will encourage students to critically engage with the past and its enduring effects on public spaces today. Students will examine the construction and removal of a Confederate monument that once stood on the Louisiana State Capitol lawn, approaching the topic from multiple angles by examining newspaper coverage, information about similar monuments, materials from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, personal letters from the 1890s, and oral histories from the Civil Rights era. African and African American Studies Librarian Narcissa Haskins was her collaborator during the fellowship.



**Cynthia Sampson** | Department of Communications Studies

François Delsarte (1811-1871) was a French teacher of voice and movement who, despite never publishing any of his theories, profoundly influenced American culture through dance, acting, and physical education. His papers have been at LSU for nearly a century, and Sampson has been designing a graduate seminar on performance history archives that will dig into the collection. Students will create intellectual histories, map the movement of concepts across the Atlantic, and puzzle out the many synaptic charts. To bring this seminar to life, John Miles, Special Collections' Curator of Books and Head of Instruction, and Leah Wood Jewett, Special Collections' Exhibition Manager, collaborated with Sampson and provided essential context and insight into the collection.





# 2024-2025 RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS EXPLORE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

As part of its continued efforts to expand access to Special Collections' holdings, LSU Libraries selected three scholars from outside of Louisiana to receive Special Collections Research Grants during the 2024-2025 academic year. These grants covered funds for travel, lodging, and other expenses associated with a research trip to Hill Memorial Library.



**Brittany Marshall** is a PhD candidate in English at Rutgers University. Her research examines connotations of ‘silence’ and ‘noise’ in 20th-century Black women’s literature. Using Pinkie Gordon Lane as its point of origin, this research positions Lane as a "quiet poet" whose work exists outside the bounds of easily identifiable or "traditional" conventions of Black poetics due to its reliance on Louisiana flora and fauna. At LSU, Marshall studied Lane’s papers to weave a thread between her poetry and her pedagogy to argue for a new reading/interpretive method that locates Black poetics in the quiet and silent spaces of Louisiana’s natural environment. Studying her poetry and professional life helped Marshall recover Lane’s work from obscurity to expand the circuit of Black poetry aesthetics and the legacy of the Black Arts Movement in the South. Moreover, this research project was part of a broader conversation about the relationship between the natural world and Black women intellectuals in the South.



**Olivier Pélouquin** is a PhD candidate in history at Rice University. His dissertation, tentatively titled, *Reconstructing La Nouvelle-Orléans: Race, Citizenship, and Empire in the French Atlantic World, 1862-1877*, proposes a comprehensive study of New Orleans’ White and Afro-Creole communities during the Civil War and Reconstruction era. Through familial and business correspondences, newspapers, and French consular archives, his work provides a transnational perspective on the ideological and political debates over emancipation, the struggles for racial equality, and the redefinition of white supremacy in the aftermath of slavery. The research delves into the intertwined and often divisive paths of the Creoles, at home and abroad, through several key historical events such as New Orleans’ military occupation and wartime emancipation, Confederate diplomacy in Paris, Reconstruction-era civil rights activism, the White League insurgencies, and the Louisiana Unification Movement. Thus, he connects the challenges of the Reconstruction era to a global and interconnected French-speaking world.



**Betsy Schlabbach**, PhD, is an associate professor of history at Lawrence University. In this article-length project, she investigates the links between Homer A. Plessy’s arrest for violating the Separate Car Act and subsequent Supreme Court Case, and the Louisiana Legislature Anti-Lottery Act of 1894. The former resulted in federally supported segregation and the latter led to the creation of a vibrant informal lottery in New Orleans. There is considerable and conspicuous overlap in the names of the judges and detectives arresting lottery offenders and those involved in the adjudication of Plessy’s arrest and trial for violating Louisiana’s Separate Car Act. Consulting LSU Libraries’ Special Collections helped Schlabbach make sense of these overlaps. It is her hope that by tracking Plessy’s work before and after the Supreme Court’s ruling, she can prove that New Orleans’ formal and informal labor designations ossified at the same moment as the city’s racial schemas.



## FROM LSU TO FRANCE: FULBRIGHT AWARD FUELS BOZZA RESEARCH ABROAD



Thanks to a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, **Lois Kuyper-Rushing** will travel to France on a research project to transcribe and create a critical edition of never-before-published vocal music by prolific twentieth-century French composer Eugène Bozza (1905-1991). With this award, she joins the legacy of more than 132 Fulbright recipients from LSU dating back to 1952.

The Fulbright Program is an international academic exchange program whose goal is to increase mutual understanding and support peaceful relations between the people of the United States and other countries. Fulbright Awards, provided by the US Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, enable recipients to teach, conduct research, or carry out professional projects internationally. Notable Fulbrighters include 62 Nobel Laureates, 90 Pulitzer Prize winners, 82 MacArthur Fellows, 41 heads of state or government, and thousands of leaders across the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Kuyper-Rushing, LSU Libraries' Associate Dean of Public & Collection Services, is known as a foremost scholar of Bozza, a remarkably prolific composer of chamber music for wind instruments. His solo and chamber works are part of the standard curriculum in music schools throughout the world.

Kuyper-Rushing's interest in Bozza extends back to 1979, when she began researching his music for her doctoral dissertation at LSU. Following graduation, she continued working with Bozza's music and life, and in 2020, her book, *A Thematic Index of Works by Eugène Bozza*, was published.

"As an oboist, I was first drawn to Bozza because of how much music he wrote for woodwinds—flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon," Kuyper-Rushing said. "I became even more interested when I discovered he had written as much, if not more, for brass and percussion instruments, in addition to a wide range of large ensemble works, vocal and chamber music, and pieces for the stage." She finds his work to be technically challenging and filled with soaring melodic phrases.

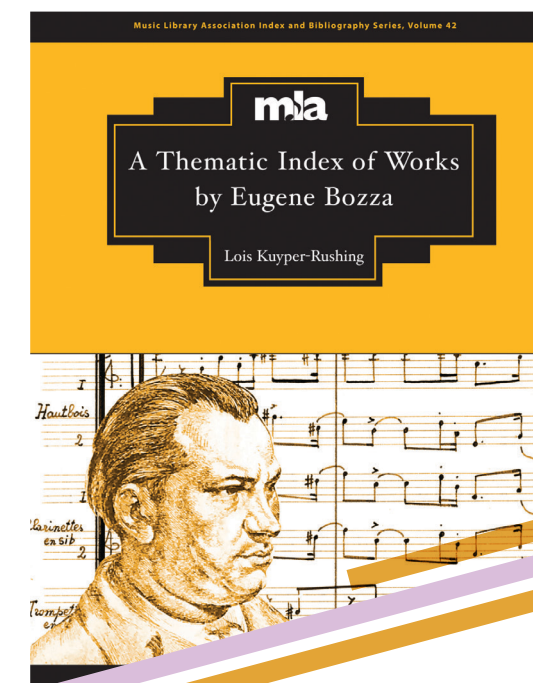
While Bozza is primarily known for his chamber music, Kuyper-Rushing will work to prepare much of his vocal music for publication. Her Fulbright award will fund her fourth research trip to Valenciennes. Located in northeastern France near the Belgian border, Valenciennes is where Bozza spent much of his post-World War II career, and where many of his manuscripts are housed at a local archive located within Médiathèque Simone Veil de Valenciennes.

Bozza set the work of a wide variety of poets in his songs, including the eighteenth-century Indian poet Rabindranâth Tagore, Adrienne Blanc-Peridier—a woman renowned for her World War I poetry, and many unknown twentieth-century poets from Northern France.

Rather than adhering to a specific twentieth-century compositional style, Bozza tried his hand at many of the prevalent styles. This resulted in a body of work that is too eclectic to be easily categorized—an ambiguity that may have limited his wider recognition within a specific genre.

**"MY HOPE IS THAT, AS A RESULT OF THIS RESEARCH, VOCALISTS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE SONGS OF THIS UNDERAPPRECIATED COMPOSER AND INCLUDE THEM IN THEIR REPERTOIRE AND THAT OF THE STUDENTS IN THEIR STUDIOS,"** Kuyper-Rushing said.

Through her Fulbright award, Kuyper-Rushing will bring global recognition to LSU, and her efforts to make Bozza's unpublished vocal music more available will offer fresh opportunities for research, performance, and discovery for herself and for others interested in this composer and his music.



Lois Kuyper-Rushing with Jean Leduc of Alphonse Leduc, one of France's oldest music publishing houses. Leduc was Eugène Bozza's primary publisher (Paris, 2011).



# Student Success

## 10 YEARS AND \$31 MILLION SAVED



David Dunaway

For LSU students, textbook relief comes in the form of LSU Libraries' e-textbook program, which is celebrating a decade of providing free course materials that support academic success and retention this year. Since 2014, it has saved more than \$31 million.

According to **David Dunaway**, who leads the program, "Libraries have long received requests from students asking if textbooks were available to borrow. Being able to provide unlimited-user, perpetual-access e-books that entire classes can use simultaneously allows the library to fulfill these requests more often."



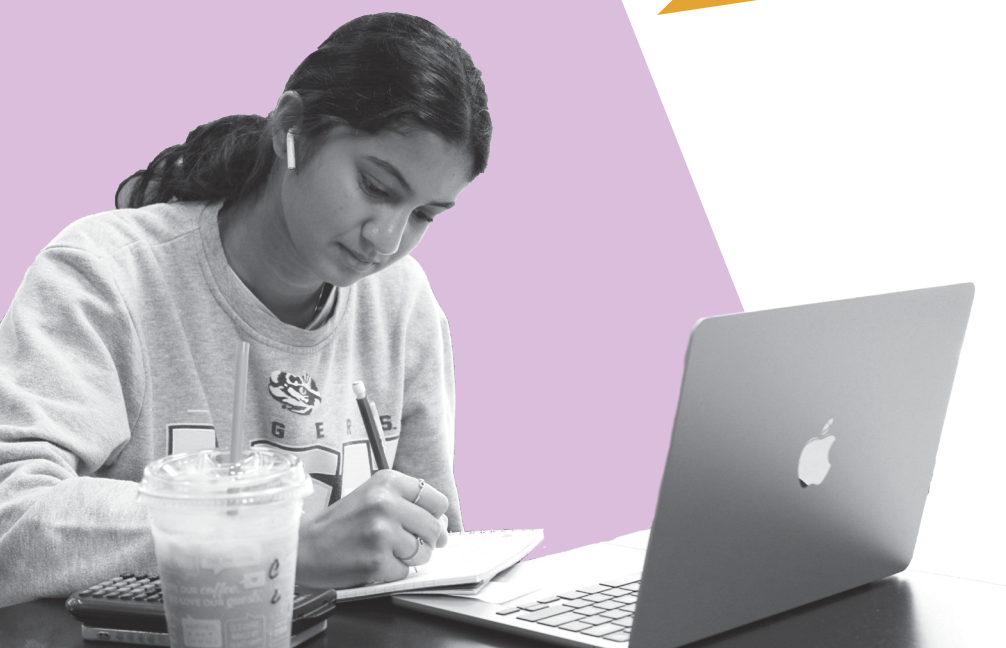
Helen Regis

**Helen Regis**, LSU's Richard J. Russell Louisiana Studies Professor in the Department of Geography & Anthropology, has enthusiastically embraced the program, saying, **"THE STAFF ARE SO RESPONSIVE. I USUALLY FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT A BOOK IS AVAILABLE ON THE SAME DAY THAT I MAKE MY REQUEST, WHICH IS AMAZING."**

Beyond the financial savings, the program ensures all students have access to their textbooks from the start of the course, eliminating delays caused by waiting for financial aid. According to Regis, "It's been really wonderful to be able to have the students access [the textbooks] through LSU Libraries and through Moodle... They have them right away at the start of the semester."

It also alleviates the stress of having to share or go without textbooks, enabling students to focus fully on their coursework and improve their academic performance. Over the past 10 years, an average of **27,246 students have benefited annually** (this includes instances of the same student benefiting across multiple courses and semesters).

On average, **377 courses** utilize LSU Libraries' e-textbooks per year. Currently, professors opt into the program on a course-by-course basis. However, over the next 10 years, Dunaway plans to deepen the program's impact by embedding it into campus culture as an essential resource for affordable learning. "By fostering greater engagement, the program will continue to grow, reduce textbook costs for more students, and enhance academic success," Dunaway said.





# REFLECTIONS ON A DECADE OF OPEN HOUSES

*In honor of the tenth anniversary of LSU Libraries' first open house, the current and previous committee co-chairs recall memories from the event's origins up to the present.*

The creation of LSU Libraries' open house, an event that began modestly and has now grown into one of our largest annual events, was driven by the need to increase awareness among undergraduates of the vast resources and research support the Libraries offers. When **Rebecca Kelley**, the open house committee chair from 2014-2016, was asked what inspired her to establish it, she informed us that, initially, the idea was to have subject librarians engage with students by hosting information booths at events within their respective colleges. However, since the turnout was dismal, Kelley pivoted to hosting a grander event in the library that would “not only introduce students to their subject librarians but also all the great services and resources [the library] has.”

In the spring of 2014, the first open house featured a Mardi Gras theme in which the Open House Committee “served king cake, passed out Mardi Gras beads, and had Mardi Gras party music playing in the lobby,” Kelley said. These enhancements were a hit, and the library’s administration approved hosting such an event annually.

**Sarah Simms**, who served as the committee’s chair in 2017 and co-chair in 2018, credits open house as “the opportunity to really collaborate with folks around the Libraries, setting [her] up for future successful collaborations.” In her mind, “seeing students and librarians interact and the joy that comes from that” was the best part of chairing this special event.

Later open houses became autumn affairs—timed around midterms, when students were most eager to learn about helpful library services—and adopted a Halloween theme. Kelley noted that the costumes and decorations were one of the best parts of the event.

**Randa Lopez Morgan**, a self-proclaimed “Halloween nerd,” and the committee’s co-chair—and later chair—from 2018-2023, stated that **“GETTING TO COMBINE [HALLOWEEN] WITH [HER] LOVE OF LIBRARIES AND HELPING STUDENTS [WAS] TRULY A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN.”**

Originally, the open houses were indoor celebrations that sprawled throughout the entire library, from the basement to the fourth floor. But as the years passed, significant changes occurred. Morgan oversaw the most dramatic transformations. In 2020, the world changed, altered by the COVID-19 pandemic that left the once-bustling building eerily empty. As LSU’s COVID protocols gradually relaxed and the students returned to campus (but were still “social distancing”), Morgan made the bold decision to take the open house outdoors into the Quad. This made it much more visible to passersby, and as a result, it “reached a different set of students who may have never stepped foot in the [library] building,” Morgan said.

At its core, the open house has always been about creating a space where LSU students feel empowered, reminding them that the library is more than a place to study—it’s a key part of their journey to success. This decade-long tradition serves as a reminder that, no matter the challenge, our students will find a supportive community ready to help them succeed.

As the new co-chairs, we are deeply grateful for the hard work and dedication of our predecessors who enabled us to seamlessly transition into our roles this year. Looking ahead, we are committed to building on the foundation our predecessors have laid, ensuring the open house continues to be a place where the next generation of Tigers can thrive.

Sincerely,

**Larissa Elliott and Elizabeth Long Allen**

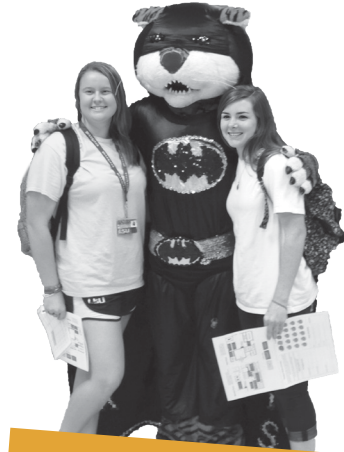
Open House Co-Chairs



Open House 2016



Open House 2024



Open House 2014



Open House 2015



# STUDENT RESEARCH SHINES IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The summer of 2024 marked the return of Special Collections' Summer Research Project Program, an initiative that offers LSU students an opportunity to engage in original research using the rich resources housed in Hill Memorial Library. In its second year, the program continued to provide grants supporting student-led projects, developed in collaboration with LSU's Office of Undergraduate Research, formerly known as the LSU Discover Undergraduate Research Program. Student researchers Charlotte Balart and Bryce Edwards explored distinct aspects of history, contributing valuable insights to the study of manuscript materials and oral histories.



## Charlotte Balart, LSU Ogden Honors College

When Charlotte Balart first opened the Nancy Pinson Papers, she wasn't just reading old documents—she was piecing together a complex chapter of Southern history. Over several weeks in Hill Memorial Library's Reading Room, Balart carefully examined this collection, which details the business affairs of Nancy Pinson, a woman planter in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, during the Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras.

Working under the guidance of John Miles, Curator of Books and Head of Instruction, and Kelly Larson, Special Collections Head of Research and Public Services, Balart navigated the intricacies of archival research with patience and precision. Her deep dive into the collection uncovered key details about the Pinson plantation's location and expanded the known genealogy of the Pinson family.

Balart shared her findings last August at the LSU Summer Research Forum (SURF), where she discussed the challenges of archival research explained its instructional value and highlighted major themes in the collection.

These include:

- Inheritance rights for women in the nineteenth century
- The impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on the cotton trade
- The shift from slavery to sharecropping
- The Mississippi River's role in the plantation economy

Through her work, Balart enhanced the educational potential of the Pinson Papers, making them more accessible for classroom discussions and historical analysis—one document at a time.

From left to right: Charlotte Balart, LSU undergraduate researcher, and Kelly Larson, Special Collections Head of Research and Public Services



## Bryce Edwards, LSU Ogden Honors College



What compels someone to serve in the military? How do deployments shape their lives? And, what challenges do veterans face when returning home? Working alongside Jen Cramer, director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, Bryce Edwards spent his summer seeking answers to these questions and ensuring that the voices of U.S. military veterans are preserved for future generations.

Through a collaborative effort between LSU Libraries' T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History and the Library of Congress Veteran History Project (LOC VHP), Edwards conducted in-depth research and interviews, and created transcriptions to document the firsthand experiences of veterans who served in the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq. His work culminated in the production of a short podcast for the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History.

At the LSU Summer Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) in August 2024, Edwards shared insights from his research, emphasizing the importance of preserving these stories—particularly in the wake of the 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan. His project explored fundamental topics, including:

- Why individuals chose to enlist
- The realities of deployment in conflict zones
- The soldiers' reactions to the withdrawal
- The challenges of reintegrating into civilian life

Through interviews with veterans like Scott Edwards and Jose Corsino, Edwards provided a nuanced look at military service, ensuring that these personal narratives are not lost to history. His work, housed in both LSU and LOC archives, serves as a lasting resource for researchers, historians, and the public—shedding light on the personal and societal impacts of war.

By carefully transcribing, auditing, and curating these powerful testimonies, Edwards isn't just documenting history, he's helping to shape our collective understanding of it.

From left to right: Bryce Edwards, LSU undergraduate researcher, and Jen Cramer, director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History



Listen to retired Colonel Edwards's podcast





# MEET ISABELLA RODRIGUEZ, 2025 ZAMIN SCHOLAR



Isabella Rodriguez

LSU Libraries is proud to announce Isabella Rodriguez as the recipient of the 2025 Zamin Scholarship. Now in its eleventh year, the Zamin Scholarship is a \$1,000 annual award that recognizes student employees who reflect General Syed Ali Zamin’s work ethic and love for LSU.

Rodriguez is a theatre major who works behind the scenes on lighting and sound for productions at LSU, in Baton Rouge, and in theatres across the greater New Orleans area. She has served as a dedicated student employee in Library Technology Support for three years and embodies the core values that the scholarship honors: leadership, courage, and customer service.

"[LSU Libraries] has offered me much more than just employment—it has provided me with friendships, personal growth, and a sense of purpose," Rodriguez said. "Reflecting on my progress, I realize that I am no longer the shy freshman I once was."



General Syed Ali Zamin

LSU Libraries enables student employees to work in an environment that understands their needs as students while providing them with the practical workplace experience they need to succeed in their careers. For example, Rodriguez’s role in Library Technology Support has given her opportunities to take on leadership responsibilities and develop professional confidence.

"Leadership is not just about giving orders; it's about leading by example," she said. "I believe in the value of teamwork and collaboration, and I'm fortunate to work with a team of incredible individuals."

According to Matthew LeBlanc, Technology Support Manager and Rodriguez’s supervisor, **"BELLA BRINGS WARMTH AND KINDNESS TO THE LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TEAM. SHE EXCELS AT TACKLING PROBLEMS WITH A SMILE, ALL WHILE BAL-**

**ANCING HER CLASSES, HER MANY THEATRE PERFORMANCES, AND THREE JOBS! HER COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN BOTH HER PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE TRULY EXEMPLIFIES THE QUALITIES GENERAL ZAMIN WAS KNOWN FOR."**

General Syed Ali Zamin, for whom the scholarship was named, worked in the LSU Libraries for 14 years following an illustrious career serving in the Pakistan army and later served as a Pakistani ambassador to four countries. At LSU, he was known for his commitment to serving as custodian of the library’s materials and for his extraordinary customer service orientation.

As she continues to grow as a student, stage technician, and professional, Rodriguez exemplifies the impact student employees have on the Libraries and how the Libraries can shape them in return.



Emilia Gonzalez (cello) and Victor Emery Gischler (violin) perform the winning compositions during the competition concert.

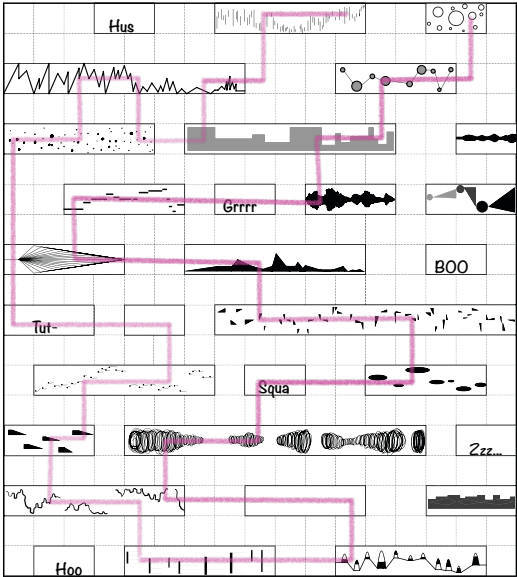
From left to right: Emilia Gonzalez (LSU Libraries Music Resources graduate assistant and competition judge), Victor Emery Gischler (Music Resources graduate assistant and competition judge), Fiona Ju (First Place), Mikel LeDee (Head of Music Resources), Treya Nash (Third Place), and Drew Farrar (Second Place)

## 2025 GRAPHIC NOTATION MUSIC COMPETITION WINNERS

First conceptualized in 2023 by Mikel LeDee, LSU Libraries’ head of Music Resources, the Graphic Notation Music Competition encourages participants to explore the intersection of music and visual representation. This year’s submissions showcased remarkable creativity, blending music and visual artistry to push the boundaries of traditional composition. The winning compositions were performed live on February 14, 2025, in the lobby of the main library, offering audiences a unique opportunity to experience these innovative works brought to life.

- First Place:** Fiona Ju – "Air in Between Distances"
- Second Place:** Drew Farrar – "Ash, Soot, and Other Remnants"
- Third Place:** Treya Nash – "Natural Progression"

Honorable mentions were awarded to Drew Farrar for "39°22'40N 89°22'54"W" and Karem Ergener for "Torn Score."



"Air in Between Distances," by Fiona Ju



## WHY OUR PATRONS LOVE OUR LIBRARIES



**Christopher Rovee**

Professor, LSU Department of English

"The librarians at LSU have always been exceptionally supportive of faculty scholarship, willing to give of their time to strategize about locating materials, book purchasing, and research strategies. **Our librarians deserve all the credit in the world (and far more than they get) for how essential they are to the work that makes a university.**"



**Kevin Smiley**

Associate Professor, LSU Department of Sociology

**"Working with the libraries advances my research.** When I needed know-how on a complex search for materials for a project, I was able to turn to Mitch Fontenot, our subject librarian, who not only helped immensely but connected me to several other terrific people who helped too. Thank you, LSU Libraries!"

**John Bardes**

Associate Professor, LSU Department of History

"I ask a lot from LSU Libraries... and I always remain very grateful and humbled by their professionalism and generosity."



**Ryan Sinitiere**

LSU Alumnus, B.A. in Political Science and Government

"Whether I was poring over important reference materials, catalogs, and journals, or engaging with peers over coffee and study sessions, LSU Libraries were a huge part of my college experience. **Our library system is where you'll find the heart and soul of LSU.** It's important that we keep it that way for generations of students to come!"



**Will Mari**

Associate Professor, LSU Manship School of Mass Communications

**"LSU Libraries help drive the intellectual life of our university community.** Their resources are invaluable to my work as a scholar and a teacher, and their people truly care for our students, staff, and faculty."



**Joshua Jones**

LSU undergraduate marketing student

**"LSU Libraries provides so many essential resources and services—** whether it's research, fun events, or a quiet place to study. You never know where the library can take you! If you're considering attending LSU or you're already a Tiger looking to get more involved, my biggest advice is to start by exploring LSU Libraries."



Hear more about Lailah's library experience

**Lailah Williams**

LSU undergraduate political science and international studies student

"Without LSU Libraries I would not be as robust or as prepared as a student for the future and my future endeavors."

## Voices from Giving Day

On LSU Giving Day, donors and friends told us why they value LSU Libraries. Here are some of the messages they shared:

**Jane Taber**

"LSU played a huge role in preparing me for my profession, and giving back financially so others can have the same educational opportunities is the least I can do."

**Diana Sanderson**

"As an archivist and librarian, I know the value of libraries in our society. Let's keep them strong!"

**Dale McNeill**

"LSU Libraries were a great support to me for my [degree]!"

**Celeste Uzee**

"LSU Libraries deserve support!"

**Megan Fitzgerald**

"Libraries are critical and vital tools for success."

**Anonymous**

"The library is the soul of the university."

**Anonymous**

"Big believer in Libraries."



Scan to support  
LSU Libraries  
[lib.lsu.edu/giving](http://lib.lsu.edu/giving)





Gladys Clark with handwoven towels, c. 1980.  
Gladys Clark Papers, Mss. 4953, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA.



Gladys Clark weaving in costume, c. 1950.  
Gladys Clark Papers, Mss. 4953, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA.



Mrs. Elmer Stewart, Louise "LuLu" Olivier, and Congressman Henry Larcade at Acadian Handicraft display in New York, c. 1949.  
Acadian Handicraft Project Records, Mss. 1880, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA.

# WOVEN LOUISIANA HISTORY: ACADIAN TEXTILES

The understated beauty of handmade textiles—produced in a soundscape of whirring spinning wheels and thumping wooden looms—is the essential “thread” that weaves through the history and cultural identity of the Acadians of Louisiana. In fact, the earliest descriptions of French-speaking Acadians by outsiders include reference to the making of homespun fabric, from lamb’s wool and flax in Nova Scotia to brown and white cotton in post-expulsion Louisiana communities.

While modernization and assimilation have diminished reliance and interest in producing handwoven cloth, preservationists have attempted to highlight the textile tradition as well as retain the Acadian French dialect by capturing the public’s collective imagination in various ways since the late nineteenth century.

LSU Libraries’ fall exhibition, “Woven Louisiana History: Acadian Textiles,” displayed in Hill Memorial Library from September 23-December 13, 2024, told the story of this unique cloth through blankets, quilts, hand towels, and garments from the collection of the LSU Textile and Costume Museum, along with poems, plays, historical accounts, newspapers, photographs, oral histories, and cultural preservation records housed in LSU Libraries Special Collections.

**“THE ACADIAN TEXTILES HELD BY THE LSU TEXTILE & COSTUME MUSEUM ARE REMNANTS OF A ONCE ROBUST WEAVING TRADITION AMONG THE ACADIANS OF LOUISIANA. TELLING THIS CAPTIVATING STORY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THE WOVEN HISTORY OF THE ACADIANS IS CELEBRATED AND ULTIMATELY NOT FORGOTTEN,”** said Michael E. Mamp, director and curator of the LSU Textile & Costume Museum.

Much of the exhibition was dedicated to the Acadian Handicraft Project (1942-1962) created and managed by Louise “LuLu” Olivier of Arnaudville, LA. In 1938, LSU hired Olivier, a recent graduate, who traveled the state to encourage the preservation of Acadian French through music and dance assemblies and radio programs. Her efforts ultimately resulted in a twenty-year project sponsored by LSU that promoted Acadian handicrafts, instilled a sense of pride among the participants, and enabled the workers to improve their families’ quality of life through a small income.

The exhibition also featured Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s *Evangeline*, photographs of costumed “Acadian girls” in the 1930s, and materials related to real Acadian weavers (such as Gladys Clark).



Display from “Woven Louisiana History: Acadian Textiles” at Hill Memorial Library



# LSU RECEIVES COYPU FOUNDATION GRANT TO RESTORE RARE LOUISIANA MAPS

A generous \$20,000 grant from the Coypu Foundation will allow LSU Libraries’ Special Collections to professionally restore two rare, early nineteenth-century maps.

John La Tourrette’s *Reference Map of the State of Louisiana* (1845) and Catesby Graham’s *Map of the State of Louisiana on an Enlarged and Improved Plan* (1838) are significant cartographic works that provide invaluable historical insights into the state’s geography, settlement patterns, and land use during the 1800s.

“Both maps set themselves up against two rather difficult problems,” said John Miles, Special Collections’ Curator of Books and Head of Instruction. “On one hand, the need to accurately represent the notoriously mutable land and waterways of Louisiana using the surveying equipment available at the time, as well as the technical difficulties of engraving and reproducing a large-format map—a highly specialized skill at the time.”

Each map is rich in detailed geographic data and is also visually striking, featuring hand-coloring and artistic embellishments that depict the state’s early geography. To do so, both maps are large: La Tourrette’s map is roughly four and a half feet wide and four feet tall, while Graham’s is almost five feet wide and a whopping six feet tall.

“While this large format allows for a surprising level of geographic detail, it does pose problems for conservation, as working with such large, fragile, multi-sheet maps is ungainly and difficult. As the maps close in on two centuries of use, it is well time for some professional attention,” Miles said.

La Tourrette’s *Reference Map of the State of Louisiana* (1845) features early plots of newly established parishes and detailed depictions of plantations throughout the state, providing a unique glimpse into Louisiana’s development at that time.



La Tourrette's *Reference Map of the State of Louisiana* (1845); Photo Credit: Behnouth Tavasolinia, LSU Libraries

Catesby Graham’s *Map of the State of Louisiana on an Enlarged and Improved Plan* (1838) is a hand-colored, highly detailed map. Currently divided into six separate sheets, this map is difficult to use and display in its current state.

**“BECAUSE BOTH ARE SO RARE, AND BECAUSE THEY BOTH CONTAIN A LEVEL OF GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL NOT AVAILABLE ON ANY OTHER MAPS FROM THIS PERIOD, WE THOUGHT THEY WERE IDEAL CANDIDATES FOR PROFESSIONAL RESTORATION,” SAID JOHN MILES, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS’ CURATOR OF BOOKS AND HEAD OF INSTRUCTION. “GIVEN THE COYPU FOUNDATION’S DEDICATION TO PRESERVING THE NATURAL HISTORY OF LOUISIANA AND THE GULF COAST, WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE IDEAL PARTNERS IN THIS ENDEAVOR.”**

The Coypu Foundation supports research related to wildlife ecology and was established by John Stauffer (“Jack”) McIlhenny (1909-1997) upon his death. His dedication to LSU and the sciences is memorialized by Special Collections’ E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection, given in honor of Jack’s uncle, Edward Avery (1872-1949).

Once restored, both maps will be available to the public in Special Collections’ reading room.

## REMEMBERING PHIL KITCHENS: A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY AND INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY

LSU Libraries mourns the loss of Phillip Hudgens Kitchens, a distinguished donor whose commitment to education, science, and technology leaves a lasting mark on our institution. The Libraries recently learned that Kitchens passed away on September 7, 2023, at the age of 78 in Huntsville, Alabama, leaving behind a remarkable legacy.

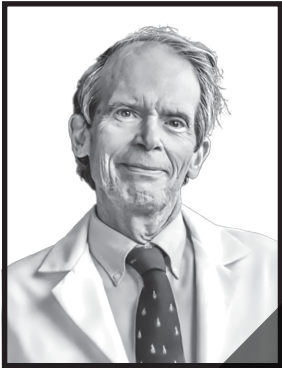
Kitchens earned a chemical engineering degree from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1967 and a master’s degree in library science from LSU in 1976. He was a member of the team that developed the Saturn V super heavy-lift launch vehicle that propelled the Apollo 11 spacecraft to the Moon. He also worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in Jackson, Mississippi, the Ethyl Corporation in Baton Rouge, and eventually the Redstone Scientific Information Center in Huntsville, where he remained until retirement.

In 2020, he created the Philip H. Kitchens Endowment for Science and Technology Resources, ensuring LSU Libraries’ continued ability to acquire essential science and engineering materials. The Libraries is honored to steward this gift, which was recently increased by an additional \$143,000 through Phil’s estate and secures his commitment to science and technology education for generations to come.

Phil’s legacy reminds us of the profound impact that donors have on LSU Libraries’ ability to serve our community. We are immensely grateful for Phil’s generosity and dedication, and we remain committed to using his endowment in the spirit in which it was given. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends and honor his memory by continuing the work he valued so deeply.



Catesby Graham's *Map of the State of Louisiana on an Enlarged and Improved Plan* (1838); Photo Credit: Behnouth Tavasolinia, LSU Libraries





# A YEAR OF FUN EVENTS

## Snow Day!

On January 21, 2025, Baton Rouge recorded a historic **7.6 inches** of snow, making it the snowiest day since records began in 1892!



## Book Bazaar 2025

The Friends of the LSU Libraries' annual used book sale, known as the Book Bazaar, raised **\$65,000** this year in support of acquiring collections for LSU Libraries that could not have been purchased otherwise! Since its inception in 1976, the Book Bazaar has grown into one of the largest used book sales in the region, attracting visitors from across Louisiana and beyond.



## Vintage Voices: About A Century of Shenanigans in the LSU Student Press

In September 2024, Special Collections hosted an open house during LSU's Fall Family Weekend in which it displayed archival publications of LSU student media, student government, and more that stretched back to 1913. These important artifacts of LSU's history are available to students and the public in Hill Memorial Library.





MORE 2024-2025 EVENTS



"Pressin' and Curlin' Through the Movement" Display



"Art as Communication" Display



Dog Therapy



Fall Fest



Cat Cafe`



"Theatrical Costumes" Display



International Student Orientation



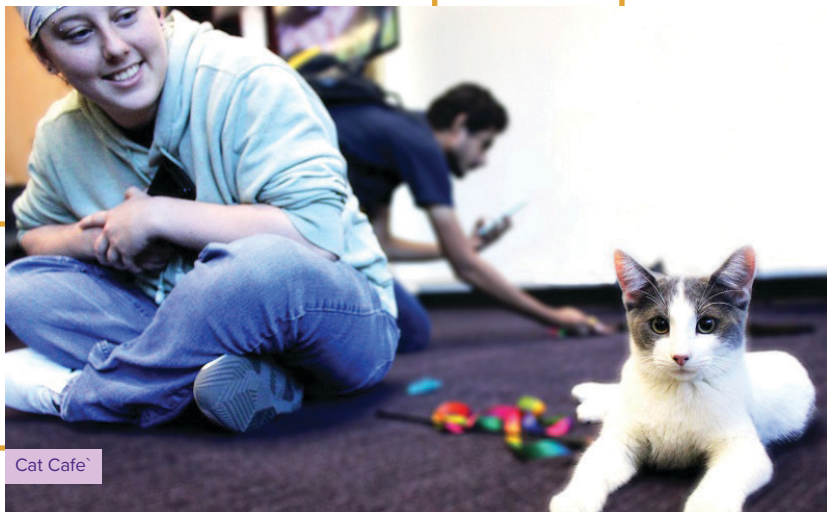
"Pressin' and Curlin' Through the Movement" Display



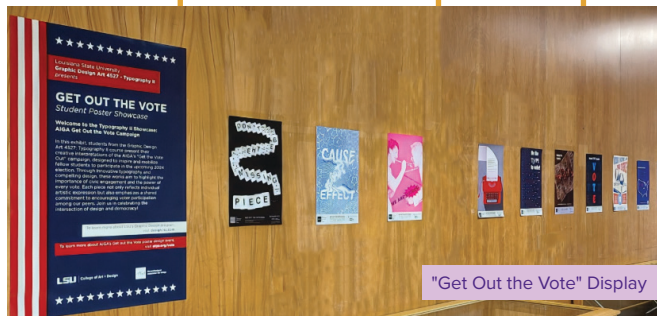
Audubon Day



Audubon Day



Cat Cafe`



"Get Out the Vote" Display



Free Breakfast



## DEAN STANLEY WILDER ELECTED TO BOARD OF ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES



Stanley Wilder, the Kathleen and Joel Ory Dean of LSU Libraries, has been elected to serve on the board of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) from 2025-2027. ARL is a nonprofit organization of 127 research libraries in Canada and the United States, 69 of which are members of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

According to Wilder,



**“ARL HAS AN INVALUABLE PERSPECTIVE TO OFFER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CONVERSATIONS, WITH AN EXCELLENT NETWORK OF PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS AND AGENCIES. ARL’S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE VALUES OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES ENHANCES LSU’S ABILITY TO TACKLE BOTH CURRENT AND EMERGING CHALLENGES IN SUPPORTING THE SUCCESS OF FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND THE OPEN INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT ESSENTIAL FOR RESEARCH AND LEARNING.”**

ASSOCIATION  
OF RESEARCH  
LIBRARIES

He will serve as one of eight board members and is an active researcher and speaker. In 1994, he served as a Visiting Program Officer for ARL and has been publishing his research on the demographics of research librarianship ever since. He has also published many papers relating to collections and library technologies in addition to his controversial critique of the literature on information literacy, published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in 2005.

Wilder’s journey in library science began when he earned his MLS at Columbia University, after completing a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin. After graduating from Columbia, he earned an MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he also launched his professional career as the manager of the Architecture and Art Library.

Later, he joined LSU Libraries, where he spent a decade serving in various leadership roles. He started as an assistant to the dean for administrative services and later became the assistant

dean for technical and financial services. Following this, he spent another ten years at the University of Rochester, initially as an assistant dean and subsequently as an associate dean. During his tenure there, he helped win and lead a series of large-scale software development grant projects.

In 2009, Wilder took on the role of university librarian at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Then, in 2014, he returned to LSU as the dean of LSU Libraries, bringing his extensive experience and leadership back to the institution.

His new role in ARL promises to enhance LSU’s engagement with cutting-edge developments in the library and information science landscape.





# RANDA LOPEZ MORGAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NETWORK



In 2024, LSU Librarian Randa Lopez Morgan was elected president of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), an organization that connects librarians and information professionals working in agriculture nationwide.

Morgan’s three-year term marks the first time a Louisianan and an LSU faculty member has been elected to lead their peers in this organization, which is at the forefront of creating, sharing, and disseminating agricultural research and innovation. Her role as president-elect presents a unique opportunity to impact agricultural topics and issues nationally.

**“AS A LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY, LSU IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, SO WE NEED TO BE IN THIS SPACE AND SHARING IDEAS—BUILDING ON WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE SO THAT OTHERS CAN BUILD ON WHAT WE’RE DOING.”** Morgan said.

“From ideation to creation to publication, librarians are involved in the research process every step of the way. It’s so important to have an organization like USAIN supporting agricultural librarians and other information professionals because it gives us a common place to share ideas. It is a great place to find collaborators and work with other people from different universities.”

USAIN members address emerging themes and issues that affect agricultural information professionals and provide input on legislation affecting the National Agri-

cultural Library and the US agricultural community.

Since joining LSU Libraries in 2013, Morgan has played an integral role in our community. Currently, she serves as the subject librarian for the College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter assisting students, faculty, staff, and extension agents in the field with all aspects of their research.

Beyond the library, Morgan’s interests extend to several non-LSU organizations. She serves on the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International’s (CABI’s) North American Library Advisory Board (NAL-AB) and the board of the Baton Rouge BeignYAYs, a local dance troupe.

In her role as president of USAIN, Morgan’s dedication and expertise will help elevate agricultural research and information and provide valuable insights that will benefit LSU and the agricultural community of Louisiana.



# GINA COSTELLO ELECTED TO ALA CORE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gina Costello, LSU Libraries’ Associate Dean of Technology and Special Collections, has been elected to serve as a Director-at-Large on the Core Board of Directors, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Her three-year term began in June 2025.

Costello has been a dedicated member of Core since its founding and previously participated in both the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), which merged to form Core. Inspired by the merger, she became more active in the organization and has served on the planning committees for the last three annual conferences, bringing collaboration and enthusiasm to her service.

In this new role, Costello is honored to represent LSU and hopes to support and enhance Core’s strengths

while helping the growing organization remain flexible and responsive to member needs.

**“THE OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN CORE HAVE HELPED ME DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE, WHICH ULTIMATELY SERVE TO FURTHER ONE OF LSU LIBRARIES’ MISSIONS TO LEAD AND INNOVATE ACROSS THE PROFESSION,”** she said.

Costello’s continued involvement in Core will help ensure that LSU Libraries remains engaged with national conversations around library innovation, leadership, and professional development, bringing back ideas and insights that benefit the entire LSU community.







From left to right: Christine Wendling, director of communications, and Behnoush Tavasolinia, graphic designer.

## AWARD-WINNING COMMUNICATIONS ADVANCE THE LIBRARIES' MISSION

This year, LSU Libraries' communications team received widespread recognition for its creative storytelling, strategic design, and user-centered approach to outreach. These accolades reflect the team's ability to elevate the library's mission through thoughtful and impactful communication.

This spring, they earned top honors at the 2025 ARLies Film Festival, hosted by the Association of Research Libraries, by winning Best Collections-Focused Film for their video, "Descendants of African American Poet Discover their Roots in LSU Libraries Special Collections." The film celebrates the power of family, heritage, and the preservation of African American literary history as it follows two Maryland cousins on their journey to discover their grandfather's long-lost poetry book in LSU Special Collections.

In addition to film, the team's work on updating the wayfinding signage throughout the main library earned a *second* award this year. After receiving a Red Stick Award from the Public Relations



Public Relations Association of Louisiana  
Professional Development  
Networking | Awards  
Education | Accreditation  
Leadership Opportunities

Association of Louisiana last fiscal year, they went on to earn a regional Lantern Award from the Southern Public Relations Federation in October 2024. By applying best practices in accessibility and design, the new signs enhanced navigation for thousands of patrons, including the campus's large international student population.

Finally, the Libraries' 2024 Impact Report received three major awards from the American Advertising Federation, including Best in Show and a Gold Award at the local level, and a Silver ADDY at the district competition. The report, "Rising Together," used a sunrise motif and a bold, LSU-gold palette to symbolize collective progress and a bright future for the Libraries and the communities it serves.

These creative communications enhance LSU Libraries' story and strengthen its connection with the supporters that make our work possible.



## KENDALL CAPLE JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO PROMOTE CIVIC DATA LITERACY

Kendall Caple, LSU Libraries' Government Publications and Patent & Trademarks Librarian, was accepted into the Civic Switchboard Institute in 2024. This national program, funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, fosters collaboration between libraries and civic data intermediaries. With the knowledge gained from this program, Caple is enthusiastic about strengthening partnerships with other local libraries, such as the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, and adapting LSU Libraries' information literacy curriculum to better address civic data needs.





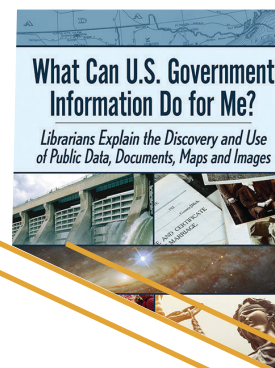
## SARAH SIMMS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP

Sarah Simms, Undergraduate and Student Success Team Lead, was awarded the 2025 Louisiana Library Association (LLA) Academic Award for Outstanding Librarianship. This award recognizes her leadership, innovation, and scholarly contributions that have significantly advanced academic librarianship in Louisiana. Simms' work in establishing an Instruction Community of Practice at LSU Libraries—later expanded statewide through LOUIS: the Louisiana Library Network—has created invaluable professional development opportunities for librarians, fostering collaboration and shared learning across institutions.

## TOM DIAMOND EARNS NATIONAL AWARD FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION RESEARCH

LSU Libraries is proud to celebrate Tom Diamond, Collections and Materials Selector Librarian, and his co-editor, Dominique Hallett, whose book, *What Can U.S. Government Information Do for Me?*, has been awarded the prestigious Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award. This national recognition, bestowed annually by the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table, honors outstanding research that highlights the significance of government information in libraries and beyond.

This is the second time in recent years that an LSU Libraries faculty member has received this award. In 2019, Hayley Johnson was honored for her contribution to the book *Government Information Essentials* (ALA, 2018), in which she authored a chapter titled "Networking and Training: Essential Tools for Collaboration and Learning."



## FACULTY & STAFF AWARD WINNERS

Each year, LSU Libraries honors faculty and staff members who exemplify the Libraries' commitment to service, innovation, and excellence. Here are the 2025 award recipients.

### Early Career Librarian Award: *Nicollette M. Davis*



*The Early Career Librarian Award recognizes an LSU Libraries faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishment in the LSU Libraries through initiative, creativity, and the ability to make a significant contribution to the Libraries within the first six years of their career.*

Since joining LSU Libraries in 2022 as the Assistant Librarian for Kinesiology, Social Work, and Health Sciences, Nicollette Davis has quickly established herself as a leader in academic librarianship. Nationally recognized as a 2023 American Library Association Emerging Leader and a 2024 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, Davis is an active researcher and speaker on critical issues in librarianship. Currently, she serves on the executive board of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, is a community administrator for We Here, and is president of LSU's LGBTQ+ Faculty & Staff Caucus. At LSU, she teaches as an adjunct for LSU's School of Information Studies. Her nominators describe her as a generous colleague, an inspiring professional, and a reliable campus leader who consistently goes above and beyond to support students, faculty, and peers.







## Excellence in Innovation Award: *Sarah Simms*

The Excellence in Innovation Award recognizes an exceptional achievement by an individual or a group of faculty or staff employees. It rewards an innovation, defined as a new or improved service, process, or program at LSU Libraries.

Sarah Simms, Undergraduate & Student Success Team Lead, is the inaugural recipient of this newly established award. In 2023, Simms launched the LSU Libraries Instruction Community of Practice (I-CoP), a collaborative space for instruction librarians, staff, and graduate students to share ideas, refine their pedagogical strategies, and support one another in their teaching. More than a typical professional development program, the I-CoP emphasizes peer learning, continuous reflection, and community building across departments. The initiative's success led to a statewide expansion in partnership with LOUIS: the Louisiana Library Network in 2024, providing a model for other academic libraries and strengthening librarian networks across Louisiana. Through her leadership, Simms has created an inclusive and dynamic environment for instructional growth, one that has been described as "a great community builder" with a "judgment-free" spirit that encourages creativity and collaboration.



## Library Staff Award: *Carlos M. Carrasco*

The Library Staff Award recognizes an LSU Libraries non-classified professional staff member who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishment in the LSU Libraries through job responsibilities, service to the Libraries, and service to LSU.

Carlos Carrasco, Library Systems Manager and Administrator, is known across the Libraries for his responsiveness, problem-solving skills, and unfailingly positive attitude. Whether restoring lost data, supporting remote operations during campus closures, or helping research technology solutions, Carrasco is the go-to person for his patience and technical expertise. As one nominator put it, "Call Carlos' has been my go-to mantra for as long as I can remember." In addition to his deep knowledge and dependability, Carrasco has cultivated a strong sense of teamwork within his department, helping ensure the Libraries' operations run smoothly behind the scenes. He lists his greatest achievement as "being able to serve employees and patrons of the LSU Libraries"—a sentiment clearly shared by the many colleagues who rely on him daily.



Front row, from left to right: Gina Costello, Elisa Naquin, Rikki Babin  
Back row, from left to right: Kelly Blessinger, Mikel Ledee, Frances Watson, Christina Riquelmy, Stanley Wilder



Dave Comeaux

## CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE

LSU Libraries honors the following employees for their years of faithful service to LSU.

### 40 Years



**Susan Allen**, Cataloging Associate

### 35 Years



**Jesse Carnes**, Cataloging Associate



**Christina Riquelmy**, Rare Book Cataloger




**Dana Taylor**, Director of Collection Services




**Tom Diamond**, Collections and Materials Selector Librarian



30 Years




**Leah Wood Jewett**, Special Collections Exhibitions Manager




**Mikel Ledee**, Head of Music Resources


25 Years



**Kelly Blessinger**, Head of Access Services




**Michael Russo**, Collection Analysis Librarian




**Frances Watson**, Access Services Library Assistant


20 Years



**Gina Costello**, Associate Dean, Technology & Special Collections




**Andrea Hebert**, Research Impact Librarian




**Stanley Wilder**, Dean

15 Years




**Jeremy Fontenot**, Electronic Access Specialist




**Kristina Sutherland**, Acquisitions and Processing Associate


10 Years




**Rikki Babin**, Human Resources Coordinator




**Holly Besse**, Invoice Processing Associate




**Dave Comeaux**, Systems & Discovery Librarian




**Heather Harvey**, Business Manager



**Randa Lopez Morgan**, Agriculture Librarian



**Elisa Naquin**, Metadata and Digital Strategies Librarian, Interim Head of Digital Programs & Services



**Christine Wendling**, Director of Communications

TRANSITIONS, PROMOTIONS & TENURE

Transitions




**Camille Boechler** was promoted to Special Collections Processing Archivist from Assistant Processing Archivist




**Randa Lopez Morgan** was promoted to Associate Librarian from Assistant Librarian

Tenure




**Michael Holt**, Head of Research and Instruction Services



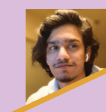
**Randa Lopez Morgan**, Agriculture Librarian

NEW FACES


LSU Libraries welcomed the following new employees this year.




**Autumn Bailey**, Research and Instruction Services Coordinator




**M. Wahaj Hussain**, Computer Analyst




**Brandon Layton**, Special Collections Digital Engagement and Pedagogy Librarian




**David Lowe**, Research Data Management Librarian




**Andrew Loyacano**, Special Collections Operations Coordinator



**Colton Ray**, Scholarly Publications and Analytics Librarian



**Sarah Rees**, Circulation Desk Supervisor



**Christian Vidrine**, Technology Support Analyst



# By the Numbers

**+\$31 million**

## E-Textbooks

LSU Libraries provides access to e-textbooks at no cost to LSU students. Since 2014, we have saved more than \$31 million.

**+15.6 million**

## LSU Scholarly Repository

The LSU Scholarly Repository is an open-access repository that collects, preserves, and publishes LSU research and scholarship. In FY25, items were downloaded more than 2.6 million times. Since 2016, more than 15.6 million items have been downloaded.

**+1 million**

## Footprints

The main library experienced high foot traffic with more than 1 million entries, reflecting that it is the highest-occupancy academic building on campus!

**700,000**

## Web Views

Nearly 700,000 website visits

**99**

## Events & Programming

99 events and programs encompassed 16,917 contacts with patrons and visitors.

**+57,000**

**eBooks**

**530,000**

**articles**

## Downloaded

In FY25, more than 57,000 eBooks and 530,000 eJournal articles were downloaded.

**545**

**guides**

**+487,000**

**views**

## Research Guides

545 research guides received more than 487,000 views

**150** **classes**

**3,000** **students**

## Special Collections Instruction Program

150 different classes visited Hill Memorial Library, comprising roughly 3,000 students.

**6,827** **loaned**

**21,640** **borrowed**

## Borrowing

Interlibrary Loan facilitates the exchange of resources with other institutions. We loaned 6,827 items to other libraries and borrowed 21,640 items for our patrons.





## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Tel: 225-578-5652

[www.lib.lsu.edu](http://www.lib.lsu.edu)

[libraries@lsu.edu](mailto:libraries@lsu.edu)



All renderings of the Library & Learning Commons were provided by Coleman Partners Architects. We are grateful for their contributions to LSU!