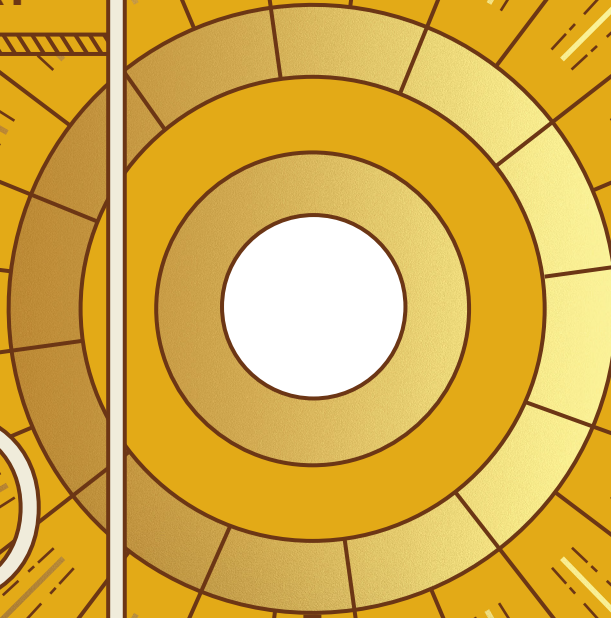


**2023
2024**

LSU Libraries

**IMPACT
REPORT**



RESINING

Together

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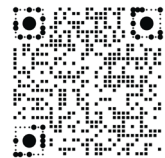
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Acknowledgments

Christine Wendling, Editor
Behnous Tavasolinia, Graphic Designer
Brooke Bell, Student Worker

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Many years ago, a mentor described to me the process he used to come up with goals for his library each year. His lists would be normal until the last item, where he'd say, "We will produce important benefits for the university that we cannot presently foresee." I loved this idea—a mix of humility as to what's knowable spiced with a jaunty confidence. He knew that his library staff were certain to recognize important opportunities as they arose and produce brilliant successes with them.

Thanks to my mentor's advice, I recognized immediately the opportunistic accomplishments in this year's Impact Report. These are the projects we never asked anyone to undertake and initiatives that we might not even have been aware of while they were underway. In retrospect, it's obvious that the only way such things can happen is if a library has a sufficient body of creative and hard-working professionals. Our library has an abundance of such individuals, and in truth, they are responsible for all the accomplishments listed here. I'm just especially proud of the things I couldn't have anticipated, let alone directed.

It occurs to me that focusing on those opportunistic accomplishments still sells our staff short. Here's an example: we fully discussed the Faculty Fellowship program, described in this year's report, prior to deciding to support the effort. At that point,

my contribution amounted to thinking, "Programs that encourage the use of Special Collections in research projects are a good thing, and this program is a reasonable way of doing so." So, here was a case of an initiative I knew about in advance, but even so, I could not have anticipated how successful it turned out to be. The Faculty Fellowship program is already well on its way to becoming part of the fabric of what makes LSU research distinctive and impactful.

LSU Libraries has every reason to be optimistic about the coming year—documented successes; strong support from faculty, students, and administration; and a new building in design. The secret sauce, however, the guarantor of our future success, is our amazing staff. They really will produce amazing benefits this year that we can't foresee, and I am so grateful and proud to work amongst such people.

THE SECRET SAUCE, THE GUARANTOR OF OUR FUTURE SUCCESS, IS OUR AMAZING STAFF.

Stanley J. Wilder
Dean of LSU Libraries

WHAT'S NEW

Website Launch

In January, LSU Libraries' web development team, launched a new website with a modern design and a more intuitive user interface. This upgrade has been years in the making and incorporates revamped searching capabilities on all pages and affords users a greater capacity to locate the Libraries' research guides and access items in the databases. Booking a study space in the main library is easier than ever, with wait times now visible on the webpage alongside at-a-glance status updates. New, digitized, isometric building maps enable users to survey the layout of the main library and locate a range of popular book subjects on our shelves with ease from their phone or computer. Visit lib.lsu.edu to explore these new features.



New Wayfinding

LSU Libraries' communications team, comprised of Christine Wendling, director of communications, and Behnoush Tavasolinia, graphic designer, updated the wayfinding signage in the main library building to create a more welcoming and intuitive space for visitors. Through interviews and analysis, they identified common pain points for patrons. Then, drawing on wayfinding design principles from secondary sources, the team formulated a plan that incorporated best practices and placed strategically-located, visually-distinctive signage throughout the library. They incorporated LSU Libraries' Tree of Knowledge illustration (which depicts an LSU oak tree emerging from the pages of a book) into the design, introduced color coding to match the color of the floors on each level, and added LSU's iconic purple and gold brand colors. Furthermore, the new signs included internationally recognized symbols for the more than 2,000 international students on campus and non-native English speakers.

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana recently honored them with a Red Stick Award for their design and execution.



Furniture Upgrade Enhances Study Space

LSU's main library is the most trafficked academic building on campus. In order to accommodate its many visitors, LSU Libraries upgraded the furniture in room 126, which is adjacent to CC's Coffee on the first floor. Local furniture distributor Frost-Barber of LA, LLC provided design assistance for the primarily Steelcase furniture layout that nearly doubled the capacity in the 6,000 square-foot room to 146 seats. LSU Libraries also added extra whiteboards, which are popular among students.

Mary Jack Wintle Educational Fund

The Mary Jack Wintle Educational Fund endowment was assigned to LSU Libraries in 2023. This endowment enables us to provide essential equipment and resources for disabled patrons and staff, enhancing their access to our library holdings and resources. This year, it was used to install updated Braille directional signage, purchase a Braille keyboard, and upgrade software and hardware on a bank of computers that are now designated for patrons who are visually disabled. Wintle's passion, ignited through volunteer work and furthered by her experience at the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, provides key support for our work in creating a more inclusive and accessible environment for all patrons. The library is grateful for this donation.



"Literary Layers"

LSU Libraries has installed three unique book sculptures that were created by Malcolm McClay, Pliner Professor in the LSU School of Art. "Literary Layers" exemplifies the interdisciplinary nature of LSU Libraries and provides patrons with unique opportunities to engage with art and literature, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. This permanent display is located on the first floor of the main library.



The Zoology of the Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle

In a landmark acquisition that helps preserve an important legacy of scientific discovery, LSU Libraries Special Collections acquired a rare copy of Charles Darwin's first major publication, *The Zoology of the Voyage of the HMS Beagle*, and added it to the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection.

Charles Darwin's name is synonymous with the theory of evolution, first laid out in *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Written for non-specialists, the book was instantly popular, and while the ideas contained therein were not without precedent, Darwin's clear articulation of the principle of natural selection and the wealth of detailed scientific evidence that he marshaled radically changed our understanding of life on Earth.

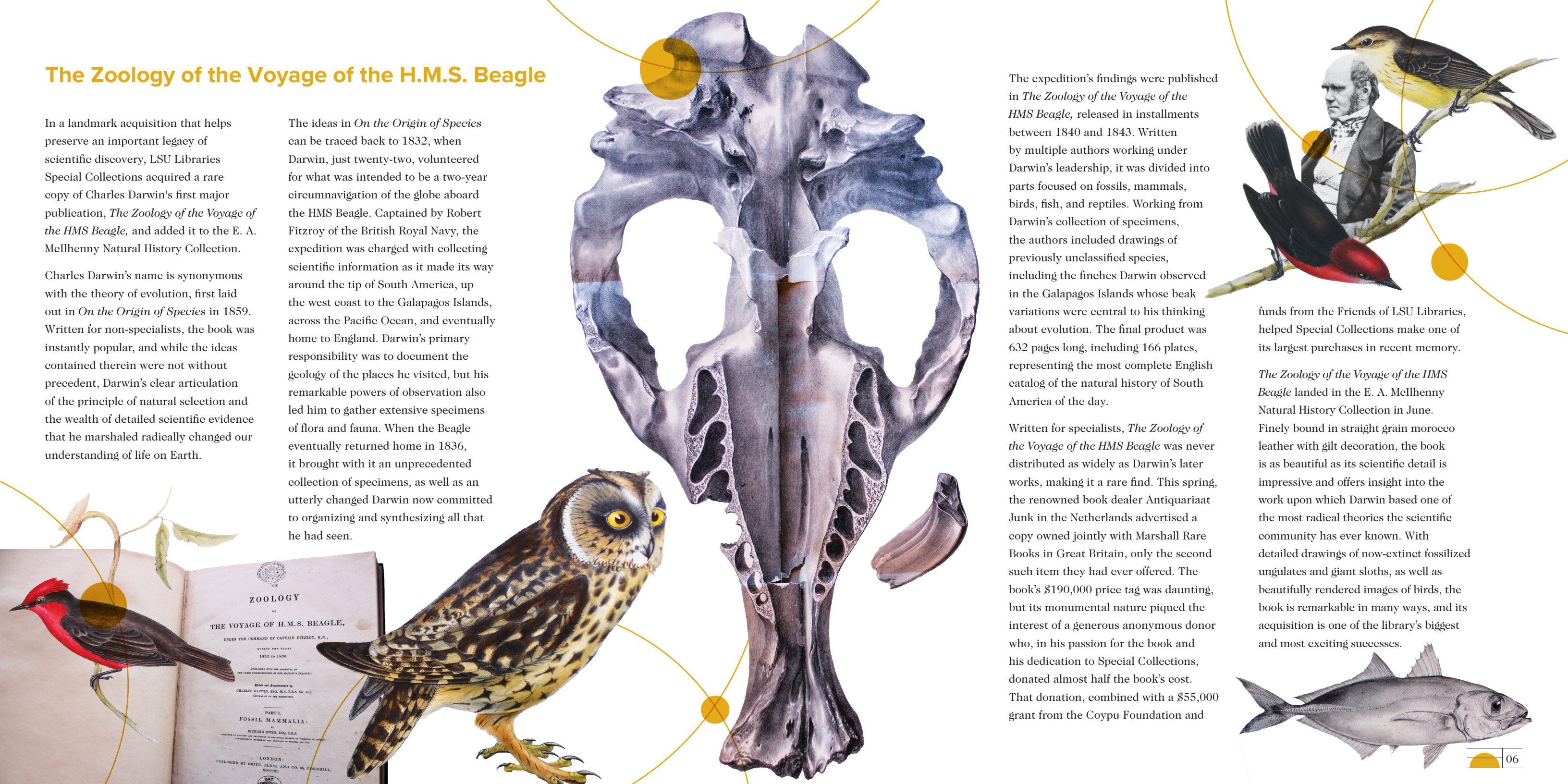
The ideas in *On the Origin of Species* can be traced back to 1832, when Darwin, just twenty-two, volunteered for what was intended to be a two-year circumnavigation of the globe aboard the HMS Beagle. Captained by Robert Fitzroy of the British Royal Navy, the expedition was charged with collecting scientific information as it made its way around the tip of South America, up the west coast to the Galapagos Islands, across the Pacific Ocean, and eventually home to England. Darwin's primary responsibility was to document the geology of the places he visited, but his remarkable powers of observation also led him to gather extensive specimens of flora and fauna. When the Beagle eventually returned home in 1836, it brought with it an unprecedented collection of specimens, as well as an utterly changed Darwin now committed to organizing and synthesizing all that he had seen.

The expedition's findings were published in *The Zoology of the Voyage of the HMS Beagle*, released in installments between 1840 and 1843. Written by multiple authors working under Darwin's leadership, it was divided into parts focused on fossils, mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles. Working from Darwin's collection of specimens, the authors included drawings of previously unclassified species, including the finches Darwin observed in the Galapagos Islands whose beak variations were central to his thinking about evolution. The final product was 632 pages long, including 166 plates, representing the most complete English catalog of the natural history of South America of the day.

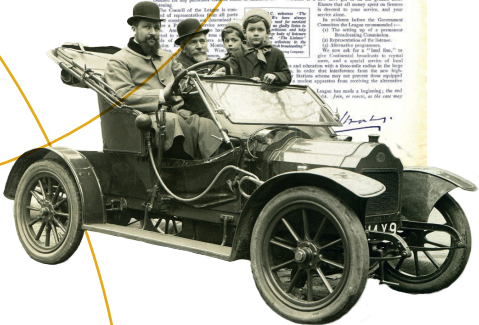
Written for specialists, *The Zoology of the Voyage of the HMS Beagle* was never distributed as widely as Darwin's later works, making it a rare find. This spring, the renowned book dealer Antiquariaat Junk in the Netherlands advertised a copy owned jointly with Marshall Rare Books in Great Britain, only the second such item they had ever offered. The book's \$190,000 price tag was daunting, but its monumental nature piqued the interest of a generous anonymous donor who, in his passion for the book and his dedication to Special Collections, donated almost half the book's cost. That donation, combined with a \$55,000 grant from the Coypu Foundation and

funds from the Friends of LSU Libraries, helped Special Collections make one of its largest purchases in recent memory.

The Zoology of the Voyage of the HMS Beagle landed in the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection in June. Finely bound in straight grain morocco leather with gilt decoration, the book is as beautiful as its scientific detail is impressive and offers insight into the work upon which Darwin based one of the most radical theories the scientific community has ever known. With detailed drawings of now-extinct fossilized ungulates and giant sloths, as well as beautifully rendered images of birds, the book is remarkable in many ways, and its acquisition is one of the library's biggest and most exciting successes.



New Resources

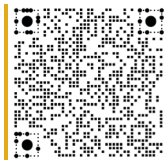


Thanks to a donation from the LSU Department of History, LSU Libraries now offers two new digital resources: **The Listener Historical Archive, 1929-1991**, and **American Historical Periodicals from the American Antiquarian Society, part VI**. The Listener Historical Archive is a valuable online resource for studying the critical reception of visual arts and culture, featuring contributions from literary icons and emerging writers. American Historical Periodicals collection spans from the colonial period to the twentieth century, offering diverse perspectives on American history, culture, and society, with the latest part covering 1866 to 1877.

LSU Libraries has digitized the early years of the academic journal **"1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era,"** making volumes 1 (1994) through 23 (2016) freely available online for the first time. This journal, edited by Kevin Cope, LSU professor of English, focuses on scholarly studies of the long eighteenth century, and its digitized articles have already been downloaded more than 27,000 times.

Using funds donated by LSU's Department of English, Special Collections acquired a **first edition of Toni Morrison's debut novel, The Bluest Eye**, published in 1970. This book launched Morrison on a career that would include the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel *Beloved* in 1988 and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.

Special Collections' Book Arts collection acquired **William Morris's 1895 edition of the Old English epic poem, Beowulf**. Morris's Kelmscott Press was central to the Arts and Crafts movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and this book reflects his interest in medieval book design and fine, hand-produced, intricately illustrated books.



VISIT THE LISTENER HISTORICAL ARCHIVE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE

The McIlhenny Natural History Collection added a copy of Conrad Gessner's ornithological work, **Historiae animalium liber III qui est de avium natura**, published in 1555. Gesner was a sixteenth-century Swiss physician and naturalist whose five-volume, illustrated *Historia animalium* is one of the most important works of natural history from the early modern period.

Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. and Family Papers, MSS 5401—In 2023, A.P. Tureaud, Jr., the first Black student to integrate LSU's undergraduate program, donated his family archives to LSU Special Collections. The collection illuminates his journey for equality at LSU in 1953, documents his career as an educator and social leader, and contains rich genealogical material on his Creole ancestry. Collections like Mr. Tureaud's fill gaps and elevate previously underrepresented stories in Louisiana history.

The Burleigh-Duboisson-Stagg Family Papers contain correspondence and photographs from three prominent Louisiana families living in St. Landry Parish between the 1830s to 1950s. The extensive collection is related to other Special Collections manuscript collections including the Garland, Dupre, and Terrebonne families.

The Emily "Emmi" Cotten Papers, MSS 5403 detail the life and work of Emily Stevens



Top: Photos from the 1957 Encampment for Citizenship in New York City. Tureaud, Jr. was invited to this summer program organized by social rights activist Algernon D. Black and supported by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a special guest at the Encampment.

Bottom: Tureaud, Jr. photographed the two photos on the bottom. On the left is a photo of Eleanor Roosevelt and Algernon Black. On the right is a photo of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cotten (1908-2002), an award-winning fashion designer, artist, magazine and newspaper columnist, and author of *Clothes Make Magic*, published by E.P. Dutton in 1949. Cotten attended LSU in the late 1920s. The collection includes more than 450 hand-colored original fashion drawings along with Cotten's diary, and correspondence.

LSU Office of Communications & University Relations Records, RG A0020—The University Archives added to its collections the LSU University Relations' entire body of historical files dating to the 1940s and covering nearly every topic related to LSU. As the official voice of LSU, this office documented the stories of past LSU students, staff, faculty, and administrators, programs and services, major initiatives and community projects, LSU's response to local and world events, and more.

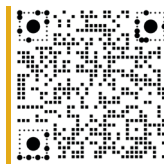
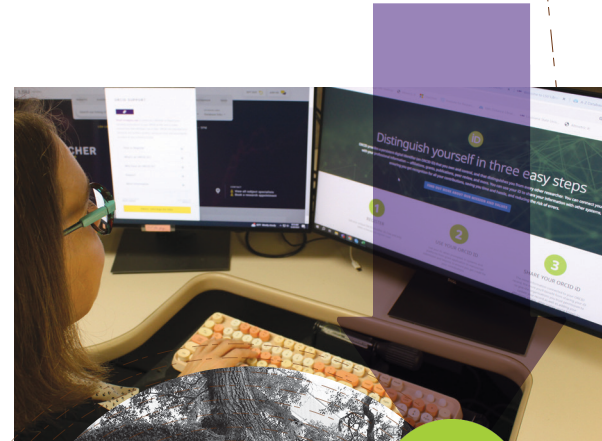
Assuring the Accuracy of LSU's Scholarly Identity

LSU's scholarly record is a key indicator of its academic excellence and impact, and librarians play a significant role in ensuring that LSU's record accurately reflects its researchers' academic contributions and achievements.

LSU Libraries is leading a campus-wide implementation of ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID). ORCID integration is instrumental in verifying that records of LSU scholarship and funding are accurately represented in scholarly databases and platforms, enhancing the visibility and traceability of LSU research activities on a broad scale. The Libraries works with faculty members to connect their ORCID accounts to online databases and has integrated ORCID into the appropriate university workflows.

Librarians also work with faculty members to improve and maintain the accuracy of their scholarly identity, which can increase a researcher's impact and, by extension, LSU's. Librarian-facilitated audits of faculty members' author profiles can pinpoint and resolve inaccuracies in common academic networks like Google Scholar, Web of Science, and more.

Through this work, the Libraries contributes to the integrity of LSU's scholarly record and empowers faculty members to strengthen their own academic records.



GET ORCID SUPPORT BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



Scopus

Enhancing LSU Research with Scopus

LSU Libraries is enhancing LSU's academic research capabilities with a new subscription to Scopus, a comprehensive abstract and citation database with enriched data and linked scholarly literature across a wide variety of disciplines. It supplies authoritative research, identifies experts, and provides access to reliable data, metrics, and analytical tools. This is an example of LSU's ongoing commitment to academic excellence, fostering innovative research, and maintaining a competitive edge in higher education.

Tiger Den Data Storage System

Michael Stewart, LSU Libraries' assistant director of libraries technology, is part of a team that has been awarded \$500,000 by the National Science Foundation to build a shared data storage system called Tiger Den. This centrally managed system will provide 4 petabytes of storage, making research data accessible and easily shareable for LSU faculty, staff, and students. Tiger Den will streamline data management, allowing researchers to focus on their work and collaborate more effectively across institutions.



MICHAEL STEWART, LSU LIBRARIES' ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES TECHNOLOGY, HELPED SECURE \$500,000 FROM THE NSF TO BUILD TIGER DEN, A SHARED DATA STORAGE SYSTEM.



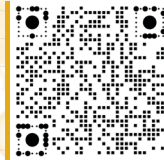
UNDER TRENT DUNKIN, THE LSU SCHOLARLY REPOSITORY COLLECTS AND PUBLISHES LSU RESEARCH. RECENT ADDITIONS INCLUDE R.F. LAX'S TEXTBOOK, *LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE* MAGAZINE, HONORS THESES, AND NEARLY 600 FACULTY BOOKS.



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LSU Scholarly Repository

Formerly called LSU Digital Commons, the LSU Scholarly Repository collects, preserves, publishes, and makes openly accessible the research and scholarship by LSU faculty and selected students. The new name more accurately reflects its aims and scope under LSU's Scholarship First Agenda. Research and scholarly materials that are archived in the repository include articles, books, theses and dissertations, research datasets, and more.

Under the leadership of Institutional Repository Librarian Trent Dunkin, the repository continues to grow with LSU scholarship contributed from every discipline. Notable new additions from this year include *Modern Algebra and Discrete Structures*, an open-access textbook written by R.F. Lax, professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics; the complete run (1957-present) of *Louisiana Agriculture*, a quarterly magazine published by the LSU AgCenter; and digitized editions of honors theses written by LSU students in the Honors College from 1970 to 2023. Additionally, metadata records for almost 600 books written by LSU faculty were added to the repository, making an organized record of this facet of LSU scholarship available for the first time.



From left to right: Hayley Johnson, Department Head; Allen Leblanc, Open Scholarship Librarian; Audrey Portier, Microforms & Collections Specialist; and David Dunaway, Director of Open Scholarship & Affordable Learning

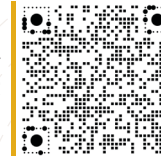
Community of Practice for Instruction

In the summer of 2023, LSU Libraries created a Community of Practice dedicated to instruction. Open to anyone in the Libraries interested in instruction, this community has welcomed librarians new to the profession, seasoned instruction librarians, and graduate students. The community of practice has allowed participants to explore the myriad ways academic librarians approach classroom instruction, but more specifically, it is a space where they can share the different forms and modalities of librarian-led instruction at LSU. This instruction can vary based on the discipline and faculty member, but often librarians are working with students on understanding various facets of information literacy, research strategies, and how to properly and ethically utilize the vast number of resources available to them. What makes this community of practice unique is that each participant brings their own experience, perspective, and expertise to the table. Through discussions, diving into the literature, and gaining insight from colleagues here at LSU Libraries and even nationally (via a virtual symposium), the community has grown in understanding instruction practices and created an intentional space for reflection and connection.

Promoting Equitable Access to Education

LSU Libraries' Open Scholarship and Government Publications Department (OSGP) is fostering equitable access to information at LSU with a new OER Advancement Fellowship. Open Educational Resources (OERs) provide free access to quality educational resources to those who may not have the financial means to afford traditional educational materials. OSGP received a \$40,000 grant from LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network's Open Educational Resources Advancement Projects, a part of the Louisiana Board of Regents, for this purpose. During the 18-month project period, OSGP will host a series of workshops and consultations with select faculty fellows; these will arm them with the knowledge and skills needed to undertake OER work, help bridge educational gaps, and promote equity in education.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OPEN SCHOLARSHIP BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE





Archive-Centered Teaching Initiative Empowers Educators

LSU Libraries facilitated the first annual Special Collections Faculty Fellowship with a cohort of six LSU faculty fellows representing different fields. The fellows, along with Libraries' partners, worked together to develop archive-centered curricula for a diverse array of courses.

The LSU Special Collections Faculty Fellowship program is designed to enable digitally engaged and archive-centered teaching across campus by providing hands-on workshops, ongoing guidance and support from Libraries' partners, and access to archival collections and digital tools. The program supports the fellows with a professional development stipend for the year-long commitment.

The inaugural fellowship kicked off in August 2023 with an intensive three-day orientation during which the fellows learned about and discussed: archival research skills, digital pedagogy, digital humanities tools and methods, and critical perspectives relevant to digitally engaged and archive-centered teaching. During the fall semester, the fellows met biweekly in Hill Memorial Library to engage with Special Collections materials, continue conversations among the cohort, and workshop their plans for curriculum development.



Meet the Fellows

John Bardes | Department of History

An avid archival researcher himself, Bardes plans to take what he has learned during the fellowship and create an archives-driven curriculum and assignments for undergraduate primary source research experience. Special Collections Outreach and Instruction Librarian Alia Kempton and Undergraduate and Student Success Librarian Sarah Simms were Bardes' collaborators during the program.



Michael Bibler | Department of English

Bibler developed a curriculum that leads students to think about historical identities represented in some of Special Collections' LGBTQ+ materials, including pulp novels that explore LGBTQ+ themes. Digital Engagement and Educational Services Librarian Leah Duncan was his collaborator during the program.



Fabio Capra-Ribeiro | School of Architecture

Capra-Ribeiro conceptualized a multimedia project for his Graduate Design Studio, tasking master's in architecture students with pursuing archival research about North Baton Rouge and presenting their findings in a short video. Special Collections Exhibitions Manager Leah Wood Jewett was his collaborator during the program.



Anne Stuckey Williams | School of Social Work

Williams created projects that led social work students to empathetically connect with the Civil Rights Movement by engaging with the histories of cruelty and heroism revealed in the collections. University Archivist Zach Tompkins was her collaborator during the program.



Johanna Warwick | School of Art (Photography)

Warwick developed instructional resources that lead art students to engage with Special Collections as inspiration and source material. Conservation Coordinator Caroline Ziegler and Art and Design Librarian Marty Miller were her collaborators during the program.



Carla White | School of Art (Art History)

White frequently brings students to Hill Memorial Library to view facsimile reproductions of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts—of which Special Collections houses more than 125. These high-quality facsimiles allow students to study the illuminated content of the books as well as material features that teach about medieval book production. Curator of Books John Miles was her collaborator during the program.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT WITH HISTORICAL MATERIALS IN ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, THE LIBRARIES WILL CONTINUE THE PROGRAM WITH A NEW COHORT IN FALL 2024.



2024 Special Collections Research Grant Recipients

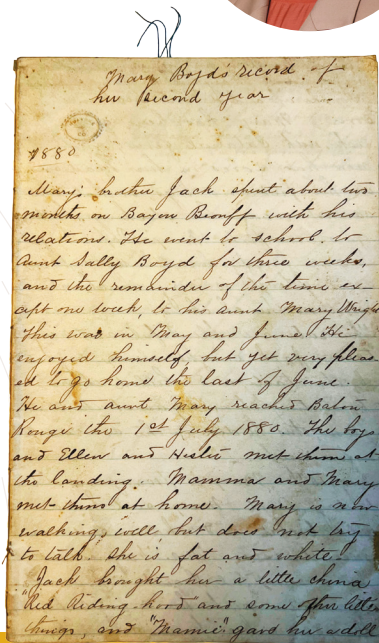
By Brooke Bell

Three scholars were awarded Special Collections Research Grants during the 2023-2024 academic year for projects using materials in Special Collections' holdings. The grants covered funds for travel, lodging, and other support associated with a research trip to Hill Memorial Library.



Tammy C. Owens

Owens is an assistant professor of American Studies at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. Her research examines the intersection of race and American childhood during the Civil War era through the twentieth century. This summer, Owens examined items in LSU's collections that document two events: 1) the sale or trafficking of enslaved African-American youth under the age of sixteen during the nineteenth century, and 2) slave-owning families who documented their experiences of grief and the loss of their own children during the years they purchased or sold enslaved African-American children. She found rich sources to support her research such as bills of sale, diaries or journals, scrapbooks, and correspondence that she will use to support research in her forthcoming book. These materials will enable her to address topics such as attitudes related to slavery among slave-holding youth, American girls becoming women in the plantation South, and the conditions that shaped the lives of enslaved youth.

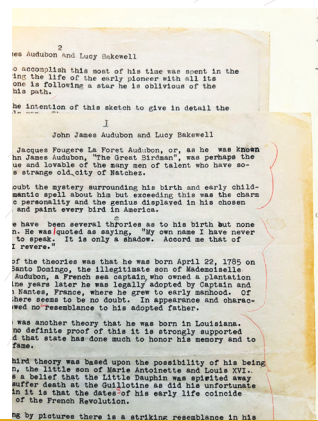


Wright-Boyd Family Papers, Box 7, Mss. 3362, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Mara Curechian

Curechian, a PhD candidate at the University of St. Andrews, will examine literary depictions of kinship in the nineteenth-century cultural production of the slaveholding South – with a focus on formations of communities not centered around the productive logic of the white heteronormative family – for her doctoral thesis. Utilizing a queer methodological lens, her research will highlight the complex entanglements of kinship, race, gender, and sexuality in the Southern cultural imagination to reveal a specifically Southern set of tensions and contradictions subversive to conventional understandings of the family in nineteenth-century literary studies.



Joseph D. Shields Papers, Box 17, Mss. ,1821,1709,1542,1526,390,2053,1996, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Roraig Finney

Finney is a PhD candidate in American history at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His research interests include the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the US South, political history, political economy, labor, race, and class. His doctoral dissertation, “Strangers in Dixie’s Land: How the South Confronted the Age of Mass Migration, 1850-1924” explores immigration in the South. He plans to trace the interconnected changes in the Southern political economy, racial attitudes, and the region’s contributions to national political culture and policymaking. He intends for his dissertation to be a published monograph.



James B. Aswell Papers, Box 15, Mss.,1620,1483,1468,1426,1408,1621, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Special Collections' Summer Research Project Program

Special Collections partnered with LSU Discover, which supports undergraduate research to launch the first annual LSU Libraries Special Collections Summer Research Project Program. Students had the opportunity to submit their own project idea or participate in one of three preselected projects. Two undergraduate participants, Nathaniel Dela Peña and Madison Saucier, spent their summers in Hill Memorial Library exploring diverse research and creative projects.

LSU's Rich Legacy: A Digitally-Integrated Campus Walking Tour



VIEW DELA PEÑA'S DIGITALLY-INTEGRATED WALKING TOUR



From left to right: Zach Tompkins and Nathaniel Dela Peña

A picture of Audubon Park at New Orleans in 1887. In 1891, it would become the home of the Audubon Sugar School.



Nathaniel Dela Peña, a political science and history major, graduated in Spring 2024. His mentor on this project was Zach Tompkins, LSU's university archivist.

Nathaniel Dela Peña created a digitally integrated walking tour of LSU's campus highlighting important narratives about the university's past, particularly emphasizing its interactions with underrepresented communities.

During his archival exploration, Dela Peña discovered a black-and-white photo of Filipino students in a 1920s Gumbo yearbook in Special Collections' University Archives that inspired

him to focus on the stories of international students at LSU from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries.

He found that the first international students came to LSU to study at the Audubon Sugar Institute, which has a complex history with international students of color. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, LSU developed a world-renowned agricultural and sugar sciences program. However, despite efforts to attract international students through multilingual advertisements, prejudiced and segregationist practices persisted, as evidenced by correspondence from the sugar school's director. A reminder of the former sugar school still exists on LSU's campus in the form of the sugar kettle and sugar factory next to Tiger Stadium and appears



Black-and-white photo of international students in an old Gumbo yearbook

as one of several "stops" on the walking tour.

This research experience gave him a deeper understanding of primary sources and their role in making history tangible and dynamic, a highlight of his summer work.

"At first, I thought Hill was a library for grad students and PhD candidates, but any student can come in here and look at these primary sources," Dela Peña said. "Dealing with primary sources is a surreal experience. It's not like history in the classroom that primarily focuses on secondary sources. This makes history living. That was my favorite part of this experience."



From Arlington Plantation to Louisiana State University



Madison Saucier, a history major, graduated in Spring 2024. Saucier's mentor for this project was Alia Kempton, Outreach and Instruction Librarian.

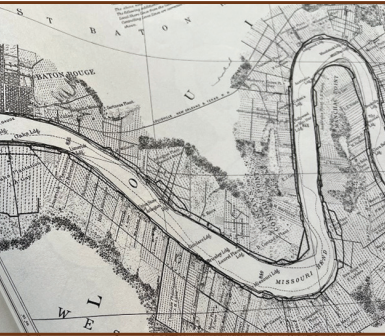
Initially, Madison Saucier aimed to create a database of enslaved individuals listed in Special Collections but shifted focus after uncovering the history of Arlington Plantation. While the plantation no longer stands, its land is now a part of LSU's main campus.

Eliza McHatton-Ripley was the wife of one of Arlington's many owners as well as an author and chronicler whose first-person accounts provided Saucier with invaluable insights into the plantation's past. Through McHatton Ripley's writings, Saucier gleaned insights into the lives of the plantation's enslaved individuals. Two such people occupied special places in McHatton-Ripley's narratives: Charlotte and William, known as "Old Will." However, their appearances in McHatton-Ripley's writings serve as a stark reminder to Saucier that too often the stories of enslaved people are only ever seen through the perspective of their enslavers.

Also, Saucier explored Arlington Plantation's post-Civil War transition to the McHatton Home Colony and its eventual acquisition by LSU between 1920 and 1921. Louisiana Governor John M. Parker's vision for an expanded agricultural program led to the purchase of former plantation land for LSU's use.

"This was the first time that I got to experience physical, primary sources as opposed to digital sources by myself. I feel like this made me a better student and researcher, especially since I've gotten so attached to the project," Saucier said.

Saucier's work underscored the intertwined histories of LSU and Arlington Plantation, spotlighting previously unacknowledged stories and enriching the university's historical narrative.



Map of the Mississippi River along which Arlington Plantation once stood; United States Mississippi River Commission. (1975). Master index: Upper and lower Mississippi River surveys for period 1879-80 to 1928 and some historic maps prior to this period. Mississippi River Commission.



Illustration of Arlington Plantation alongside the Mississippi River; Ripley, E. (1912, 1975). Social life in old New Orleans. Arno Press.

VOICES OF OUR STUDENTS

To everyone at Hill: —Nathaniel
Alia, Gina, John, Danielle, Germain, Kelly,
Meredith, Barry, Hans, Keerthi, Leah (x2),
Chairity, Caroline, all of the student
workers, Nathan, and Dr. Cramer,
and the rest of the people I have never
met (and maybe forgot to mention!)

To all the staff at Hill,
It has been a pleasure to get to know
all of you! As an undergraduate
researcher, all of you have driven
me to explore the extremely nuanced
history of our university. You are
all wonderful people who deserve
much more recognition for what
y'all do for this university. As a
friend, I have enjoyed our conversations
about random topics and most
importantly, the details of
your lives.
As the stewards of the past,
know that you have an important
place. You hold politicians accountable,
you bring stories to life, and you
preserve the 1% of human history
that has not been lost to time.
While the work you do may sometimes
be monotonous, remember that
the archives at Hill impact the
world around you.
I'll keep in touch with all of
you!
Sincerely,
Nathaniel

TOP:

TO EVERYONE AT HILL:

ALIA, GINA, JOHN, DANIELLE, GERMAIN, KELLY, MEREDITH, BARRY, HANS, KEERTHI, LEAH (X2), CHAIRITY, CAROLINE, ALL OF THE STUDENT WORKERS, NATHAN, DR. CRAMER, AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE I HAVE NEVER MET (AND MAYBE FORGOT TO MENTION!)

BOTTOM:

TO ALL THE STAFF AT HILL,

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO GET TO KNOW ALL OF YOU! AS AN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER, ALL OF YOU HAVE DRIVEN ME TO EXPLORE THE EXTREMELY NUANCED HISTORY OF OUR UNIVERSITY. YOU ARE ALL WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO DESERVE MUCH MORE RECOGNITION FOR WHAT Y'ALL DO FOR THIS UNIVERSITY. AS A FRIEND, I HAVE ENJOYED OUR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RANDOM TOPICS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE DETAILS OF YOUR LIVES. AS THE STEWARDS OF THE PAST, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT PLACE. YOU HOLD POLITICIANS ACCOUNTABLE, YOU BRING STORIES TO LIFE, AND YOU PRESERVE THE ONE PERCENT OF HUMAN HISTORY THAT HAS NOT BEEN LOST TO TIME. WHILE THE WORK YOU DO MAY SOMETIMES BE MONOTONOUS, REMEMBER THAT THE ARCHIVES AT HILL IMPACT THE WORLD AROUND YOU. I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ALL OF YOU!

SINCERELY,
NATHANIEL

Ten Years of Zamin Scholars



2024 marks the 10th anniversary of the General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship, and LSU Libraries thanks the Zamin family for their continued commitment to LSU Libraries!

General Syed Ali Zamin, for whom the scholarship was named, worked in 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. In 2014, the Zamin family established a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded annually to an undergraduate student assistant who shares General Zamin's work ethic and love for LSU.

Zamin Scholars Through the Years



Moises Chirinos Aleman, 2023



Calla Harper, 2022



Christine Gambino, 2021



Corinna Dean, 2020



Katlyn Bealer, 2019



Karielle Davis, 2018



Sarah Mahler, Fall 2017-Spring 2018



Cynthea Corfah, Spring 2017



Rachel Shirley, Fall 2016



Alantra Jackson, Fall 2015-Spring 2016



Rachel Shirley, Spring 2015

Mallarie Bishop 2024 Zamin Scholar

2024 General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship recipient Mallarie Bishop is the most recent undergraduate student worker to receive this annual scholarship for their dedication, commitment, and passion for service to the Libraries.

Bishop has worked in the Digital Access and Discoveries Department for the past three years. Her work requires a broad understanding of how multiple departments within the library function and involves locating electronic resources or other educational resources requested by patrons via online chat and through the Libraries' AskUs portal.

Currently, she is majoring in biological sciences and participating in the GeauxTeach STEM program, which allows students to pursue an undergraduate degree in biology, chemistry, mathematics, or physics while earning a secondary teaching certification at the same time.

Outside of class and work, Bishop participates in many extracurriculars. She serves as the director of new member events for Delta Zeta Sorority and as an ambassador in LSU Ambassadors, a group of students dedicated to promoting spirit and unity among LSU students and providing service to both the LSU community and local communities. In 2022-2023, she served as vice president for the College of Science in LSU Student Government's College Council.

"Mallarie's work in student government puts her focus on the needs of the LSU community which carries over to her library job where she focuses on providing access to e-resources or educational needs. She is consistently personable, courteous, and helpful to library patrons. She puts herself in the place of the patron to fully perceive their needs and meet those needs to the best of her ability," said Jeremy Fontenot, LSU Libraries' electronic access specialist and Mallarie's supervisor.

According to Bishop, "My employment with LSU Libraries has been a crucial part of my undergraduate career. This job has given me far more opportunities than I can ever imagine, and I owe it to LSU Libraries for helping me achieve my goals."



"I OWE IT TO LSU LIBRARIES FOR HELPING ME ACHIEVE MY GOALS."
—MALLARIE BISHOP



First Annual Graphic Notation Music Competition



Left to right: Victor Emery Gischler, Conrad Foreman, Dylan Burchett, Joseph Brooks and Mikel LeDee.

This year, LSU Libraries' Carter Music Resources Department launched its first annual Music in Motion: Graphic Notation Competition. Participants were challenged to create a graphic score using expressive visual symbols — graphic notations — to represent music, movement, or actions.

Dylan Burchett's "Dueling Dragons" took home the top prize. This innovative score features intertwining fabric scraps sewn onto three movable panels. To perform the piece, performers must first align the panels, creating a continuous path. Each performer then chooses a fabric trail and interprets the musical instructions based on their chosen path. In a duet performance, each musician selects a different trail, resulting in a collaborative improvisation.

In the spring, Burchett's creation came to life with a live performance in the main library. At the end of the semester, he graduated with a PhD in LSU's Experimental Music & Digital Media program.

While Burchett's work received top honors, Erin Demastes' project "Sum Sort Or Switch" and Joseph Brooks' project "Rend(ER)" were also recognized, taking second and third place respectively.



Conrad Foreman and Joseph Brooks

McNair Scholars

LSU Libraries is proud to support LSU University College's Ronald E. McNair Research Scholars program, which prepares first-generation, low-income, and ethnically underrepresented students for doctoral studies by providing faculty-directed research experiences and individualized advisement. In the summer of 2023, Undergraduate and Student Success Librarian Sarah Simms conducted three "Lunch and Learn" workshops for the McNair Scholars, focusing on research fundamentals, finding sources, and citation management tools. These workshops, attended by a dedicated cohort of students, offered tailored guidance to meet the scholars at their unique points in the research process. This collaboration allowed LSU Libraries to provide a metered approach to research, highlight relevant tools and resources, and ensure ongoing support through research consultations with subject specialist librarians. By engaging with programs like this one, LSU Libraries is expanding academic opportunities and success for LSU students.

International Student Orientation

This year, LSU's Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 International Student Orientations were held in the main library, and LSU Libraries plans to maintain this momentum in fiscal year 2025!

According to Jade Ngo, LSU's coordinator of international student engagement, "The Global Community Center has been fortunate to be able to expose incoming international students to the library and its resources upon their arrival at LSU. Having that access to the library sets up students for academic success before the semester begins."

During these events, more than 100 students received a comprehensive introduction to the numerous resources and services offered by LSU Libraries.

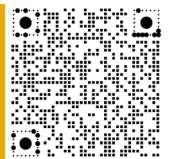
Gear 2 Geaux

For nearly 20 years, LSU Libraries, in partnership with LSU Information Technology Services (ITS), has expanded student access to technology via the Gear 2 Geaux program. This initiative, funded by LSU's Student Technology Fee enables LSU students to borrow the technology they need to complete their coursework in an increasingly multimedia curriculum. Students can borrow computers, video cameras, webcams, HDMI cables, phone chargers, and more and save on the cost of purchasing these items for themselves. Since the Libraries began tracking the circulation statistics for the Gear 2 Geaux program in fiscal year 2009, these items have been circulated more than 79,000 times.

"For students seeking to reduce the cost of their education, the Gear 2 Geaux program is a lifeline," said Elissa Plank, Head of Circulation. "By providing free access to essential technology, we give all students, regardless of their financial situation, an equal opportunity to succeed academically."



Narcissa Haskins, African and African American Studies Librarian; and Mitch Fontenot, Humanities and Social Sciences/Outreach Librarian



ACCESS GEAR 2 GEAUX BY SCANNING THE QR CODE (AN LSU EMAIL ACCOUNT IS REQUIRED FOR ACCESS)

The Legacies They Built: Honoring Pinkie Gordon Lane, Lutrill and Pearl Payne, and Julian T. White



Pinkie Gordon Lane



Lutrill and Pearl Payne



Julian T. White



Stanley J. Wilder

In 2022, LSU's board of supervisors voted to recognize the significant contributions of four Black LSU pioneers by naming two programs and one building in their honor: the Pinkie Gordon Lane Graduate School, the Lutrill and Pearl Payne School of Education, and Julian T. White Hall (formerly the Design Building) to honor their legacies. But who were these inspiring figures?

Special Collections' fall exhibition, "The Legacies They Built: Honoring Pinkie Gordon Lane, Lutrill and Pearl Payne, and Julian T. White," highlighted creative works, photographs, correspondence, and publications that told their stories before, during, and after their time on LSU's campus as well as the broader connections that they made in academia and in their public contributions.

"We're proud to celebrate these remarkable individuals who have shaped the fabric of our institution and inspired generations of scholars. Housing their materials within LSU Libraries ensures that their stories are remembered and accessible to current and future students, researchers, and community members. This exhibition not only pays tribute to their accomplishments but also highlights the importance of inclusivity and the power of education," said Stanley Wilder, dean of LSU Libraries.



Between 1951 and 1971, the four honorees achieved significant milestones at LSU. For each, these were not the capstones of their contributions, but foundations for the larger legacies that they would build as teachers and community leaders. In fact, a congratulatory note from a friend of Lane's upon her graduation could apply to all four: "Some people are great because they are first; you are first because you are great!"

Before becoming Louisiana's first Black poet laureate in 1989, Pinkie Gordon Lane was the first Black woman to earn a doctorate from LSU. She earned a PhD in English in 1967. Additionally, she was the first woman to chair Southern University's English department and a Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet.

Lutrill Payne was the first Black graduate student to matriculate at LSU. Initially, he was denied admission to the LSU Graduate School. After mounting a successful legal defense, he enrolled in a vocational agriculture class at LSU in 1951. In 1952, his wife, Pearl Payne, enrolled and became the first Black woman to earn a master's degree in education in 1956.

Julian T. White was among the first Black licensed architects in Louisiana and LSU's first Black professor. He joined LSU's Architecture Department in 1971. White continued working as a commercial architect while teaching; his real-life experiences were an inspiration to his students.

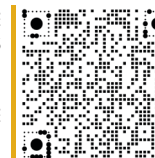
In addition to the photographs and documents on display from Special Collections' University Archives, visitors to the exhibition explored photos provided by the families of Lane, the Paynes, and White in honor of the recent memorialization of their relatives.



Leah Wood Jewett

"Because of the generous donations of personal and family papers to LSU Libraries' Special Collections, we are able to 'put a face with a name,' in a sense," said Leah Wood Jewett, Special Collections' exhibitions manager. "This exhibition showcases important collections that illustrate the lives of real people who surmounted real obstacles in the pursuit of education here at LSU. 'The Legacies They Built' reminds us of the flesh and blood behind the foundation and bricks."

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC WITH OUR RESEARCH GUIDE



Remembering Pinkie Gordon Lane: A Poetry Reading with Original Music

In addition to the exhibition, "the Legacies They Built: Honoring Pinkie Gordon Lane, Lutrill and Pearl Payne, and Julian T. White," a poetry reading with musical accompaniment celebrating the work of Pinkie Gordon Lane was held in Hill Memorial Library in October as part of LSU Libraries' "Music in Motion" series. Special Collections displayed unique materials donated by Lane, including her poetry, dissertation, correspondence with poets representing the Black Arts Movement, and more.

The focal point of "Remembering Pinkie Gordon Lane" was a selection of Lane's poetry, complemented by an original musical performance. First, the audience heard from Lane herself, from an audio recording of the poet reading "A Quiet Poem." Then, LSU Librarians Narcissa Haskins and Jazzlyn Boyd recited the poems, "Poems to My Father," "Wind Thoughts," "Gordon," and "Lyric: I am Looking at Music."

Mikel LeDee, head of LSU Libraries' Carter Music Resources Center, composed music honoring the four

pioneers highlighted in "The Legacies They Built," and these original works were performed by Wagner Duarte (cello) and Aaron Gonzalez (violin), doctoral students in the School of Music. Additional pieces based on the poetry of Pinkie Gordon Lane were commissioned and composed for this event by Duarte, Gonzalez, and Kevin George, a New Orleans composer and LSU alumnus. LeDee, Duarte, Gonzalez, and George were all students of the late LSU music professor Dinos Constantinides, and these connections reflected the creative collaborations between Lane and Constantinides in the 1980s and 1990s.

Among the distinguished guests were Lane's son, Gordon Lane, himself a musician, attending with his wife, Teresa, and two daughters, Jessica and Simone. In addition, the daughter of Lutrill and Pearl Payne, Carolyn White, attended with her husband, Herschel White. And, Judy Constantinides, wife of the late Dinos Constantinides, attended.



From left to right: Teresa Lane, Simone Lane, Jessica Lane, and Gordon Lane

"For There is Always Light": The Wyatt Houston Day Collection of Poetry by African Americans

Following LSU Libraries' acquisition of the Wyatt Houston Day Collection of Poetry by African Americans in 2022, and its full processing in 2023, Special Collections mounted an exhibition based on the collection in early 2024. Other exhibition items that complimented the new acquisition included titles already in the main library, the rare book collection, and the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections.

Collector and scholar Wyatt Day was driven by his passion for the socially engaged and political nature of African American poetry, and his collection reveals the story of Black Americans through the lenses of anti-slavery, anti-Jim Crow, and anti-racist movements. Though the Libraries' staff had worked to make the materials available for students and researchers as it was being processed, this was the first time that the public had been able to see a significant portion of the collection.

The exhibition takes its title from Amanda Gorman's poem "The Hill We Climb," which she read at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. On that occasion, so soon after the January 6th riot at the Capitol, Gorman implored her audience to find hope amidst fears of further violence. In so doing Gorman drew upon the long tradition of African American poetry of remembering the worst while imagining a better future, something that the poet June Jordan called

the "difficult miracle of Black Poetry in America" (from *Some of Us Did Not Die*, Basic Civitas Books, 2002).

Co-curated by John Miles, Special Collections' curator of books, and Leah Jewett, exhibitions manager, the exhibition featured a chronological overview of the more than 800 items in the collection, showcasing both well-known and more obscure works. Highlights included pieces from Phyllis Wheatley, a pioneering African American poet from the nation's founding era, to contemporary artists in the spoken word and poetry slam traditions. Reaching across LSU's quad to the main library, the exhibition also linked Special Collections' rare items with other resources that were identified and selected by Narcissa Haskins, LSU Libraries' liaison to the African and African American Studies department.

LSU Libraries is committed to expanding this collection, with a focus on Black poets in the South, ensuring that its holdings reflect the diversity of both Louisiana and the United States.

Special thanks to Narcissa Haskins and Alia Kempton, outreach and instruction librarian, for their invaluable contributions to this exhibition.



Amanda Gorman



Alia Kempton



Narcissa Haskins

Long Family Visit to Special Collections

We were delighted to host the Huey P. Long family in Hill Memorial Library in March to view Special Collections' papers related to their family's history!



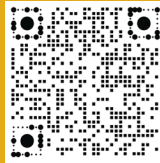
From left to right, top row: Florent Hardy Jr., Jeremy Walker Snider, Greg Talley, Davis Morgan Talley; From left to right, bottom row: Charlotte Snider, Audra McCardell Snider, Rita Katherine "Kay" Long, Martha Charlotte Green Talley, Mary Boutwell



Giving Day Raises More Than \$230,000 for Libraries' Future Growth

This year, LSU Libraries raised an incredible \$230,369 on LSU Giving Day, an essential LSU-system-wide annual fundraiser. These funds help advance LSU Libraries' mission to provide exceptional resources and services to our community and will be used to support the construction of a new Library & Learning Commons, enhance our collections, upgrade technology, and expand student support.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY AND COMMITMENT OF OUR SUPPORTERS, WITHOUT WHOM PROGRESS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. CONSIDER SUPPORTING LSU LIBRARIES AT LIB.LSU.EDU/GIVING.



\$68,000



From left to right: Friend of the LSU Libraries Paul Sandau, LSU Libraries Dean Stanley Wilder, and Friend of the LSU Libraries Georgene Jones

Community Support Shines at Annual Book Bazaar

The Friends of the LSU Libraries hosted another successful Book Bazaar that drew book enthusiasts from all over the region to LSU's John Parker Coliseum on April 14-12. The annual book sale offered more than 60,000 new and used books as well as CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records, and raised \$68,000 in support of acquiring collections for LSU Libraries that could not have been purchased otherwise.

"I'd say this is one of the best book sales I've been to in Louisiana...They always have a great selection, and I try to come every year on the first day," said Anna Allsop, one of the Book Bazaar's regular customers.

LSU Libraries would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Friends of the LSU Libraries for their hard work and commitment to organizing and hosting this incredible community event!



Exploring Black Women's Narratives

This spring, LSU's main library hosted "Black Women's Biopics & Black Living Room Pedagogy" in collaboration with The Storytellers Lab at LSU, whose mission is to amplify the voices of the storytellers in the academy and community, and LSU NAACP. The Storytellers Lab was founded by Asha Winfield, an assistant professor in LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication, and the unique interactive display was based on her award-winning dissertation, "I Don't See Myself: Exploring Reception to Hollywood's Construction of Memory through Black Women's Biopics."

In her dissertation, Winfield used "sista circles" to interview groups of women around the U.S. about their engagement with Black women's biopics and other historical dramas. She found that Black women engage with media and other Black women, like their mothers, elders, friends, and themselves, in search of the truths of the past. She coined this phenomenon "Black Living Room Pedagogy."

LSU Libraries' African and African American Studies Librarian Narcissa Haskins and Mass Communication Librarian Lauren Lay planned and executed a series of events. According to Haskins, "Because Dr. Winfield's work bridges LSU's Mass Communications and African and African American Studies, Lauren and I joined

forces with her to create what I think was a highly impactful series of events. This [...] is an excellent example of the amazing interdisciplinary work that we conduct at LSU Libraries every day."

During March and April, they displayed a reconstruction of a Black living room, similar to ones depicted on television during the 1970s, that was open for patrons to use and explore as their own on the second floor of the main library. It included comfortable seating next to bookshelves featuring Black women's books and other works and posters of related books and films that patrons could check out of the library.

"It reminds me of my grandma's rental house out in West Tulsa," Lay said. "She had wood paneling just like this, and we would play funk music really loud and play board games together all night long. And that's exactly what it reminds me of. To be so far away from home, but for her to also be here in that space, is really special. When I see that, that's what I think of—my grandma."

Additionally, the Libraries hosted viewings of two Black women's biopics in Hill Memorial Library: "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," featuring the life of Whitney Houston, and "Respect," featuring the life of Aretha Franklin. At both events, Special Collections Outreach and Instruction Librarian Alia Kempton aided in coordinating the screenings and selected related items from Special Collections for display.

This project will endure through the purchase of more than 20 movies and 30 titles for the permanent library collection.

On opening night, Winfield said, "I love that we get to create spaces where people get to engage with Black women stories, Black women storytellers, and our lived experiences, right here at LSU."



Asha Winfield



Lauren Lay and Narcissa Haskins

Music in Motion

LSU Libraries Carter Music Resources Department hosted 14 "Music in Motion" pop-up concerts in fiscal year 2024! According to Mikel LeDee, head of Music Resources, "It was a privilege to collaborate with some of the university's most brilliant and talented performers."



Relaxation Room

During exam periods, the main library transforms what is normally a staff meeting space into the "Relaxation Room," a haven for student wellness during a stressful time of the semester. Filled with fidget toys, coloring supplies, and comfy chairs, the room offers a calming escape, and students consistently praise it as one of their favorite spots in the library!



Open House

LSU Libraries' Open House—which has taken place every fall semester for nearly a decade—empowers students to succeed by raising awareness of a range of essential campus support services. Whether students discover the Libraries' in-depth research support services, Open Access resources, or some other previously unknown gem, it often elicits the response, "I wish I knew about this sooner!"



Randa Lopez Morgan, Agriculture Librarian; and Allen LeBlanc, Open Scholarship Librarian

Awards & Recognition

LSU Librarian Nicollette Davis Drives Change As 2024 Mover & Shaker



In her short time at LSU, Librarian Nicollette Davis has made an indelible mark on LSU Libraries and the library world writ large. This year, she was named a 2024 Mover & Shaker by *Library Journal* for her dedication to equal opportunity initiatives. *Library Journal* is a premier American trade publication for librarians that was founded in 1876. It has awarded more than 1,100 recipients since the award's inception in 2002. Davis is one of 50 in her cohort and brings a wealth of experience and a passion for fostering a more inclusive environment within the library community.

“What we do as library workers goes beyond usage statistics and numbers. It's those, ‘Aha!’ moments, those joyful moments when you've connected someone to something that increases their research passion and so much more. I am honored to be a part of that,” Davis said.

Since she arrived at the Libraries, Davis has wasted no time in making a lasting impression. She began working as the Kinesiology, Social Work, and Health Sciences librarian in June 2022, after earning a master's in library and information sciences from LSU in 2018. Shortly thereafter, she was appointed to the editorial board of *Library Diversity and Residency Studies*. Then in 2023, her career launched to new heights when she was named

an Emerging Leader by the American Library Association, the oldest and largest library association in the world.

“I have seen the transformative power of libraries and library workers,” Davis said. “Where the seed of a mere idea turns into a world-changing project or paper. It is one of the most rewarding things! Specifically for LSU Libraries, I feel that in the future we will continue to be the hub of research imagination at LSU.”

Furthermore, Davis' leadership in We Here, a supportive community for library and archive workers of color, underscores her commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices in the field. Through her involvement in LSU Faculty Senate's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, she has been instrumental in shaping policies that promote fairness and justice for all members of the university community.

According to Davis, “Libraries are places of wonder, creativity and whimsy for everyone, where your imagination can grow and flourish. I think librarians are evolving into fierce advocates for our communities and ourselves as professionals dedicated to our work.”

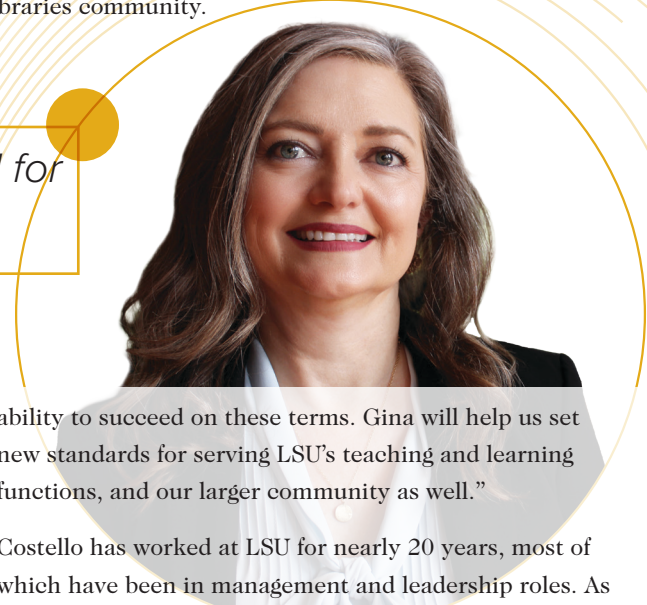
Additionally, she has published several articles (and a forthcoming book chapter) related to these topics

and how they apply to American libraries. As a student, she was a founding member of the LSU School of Library and Information Science's Diversity Council.

According to LSU Libraries Director of Scholarly Publishing Sigrid Kelsey (one of several who nominated Davis for this recognition), “Ms. Davis' attitude and work ethic are superb, which results in thoughtful, high-quality work in all areas. Her energy and enthusiasm are evident in everything she works on for the Libraries, and she approaches her work with a commitment to excellence.”

Davis embodies the spirit of innovation and progress that defines the LSU Libraries community.

Associate Dean Gina Costello Selected for Prestigious UCLA Fellowship



Gina Costello, associate dean for technology and special collections for LSU Libraries, has been named a 2024 UCLA Library Senior Fellow. She is one of 20 leaders from academic libraries across the nation selected for the competitive program.

Established in 1982, the UCLA Library Senior Fellows program is the longest-running library leadership development program in the field. Held biennially in July, the three-week residential program helps top U.S. and Canadian library leaders develop strategic thinking, explore management perspectives, and advance practical and theoretical approaches to a variety of issues confronting academic institutions and libraries. One in three UCLA Library Senior Fellows has advanced to become library directors.

According to Stanley Wilder, dean of LSU Libraries and one of Costello's nominators for the program, “Research librarianship remains in a state of nearly constant change. It is essential that library leaders put systematic effort into remaining current and honing their tactical/strategic skills. LSU's path to excellence will probably always be owed to working smarter as opposed to richer, and Gina's participation in this program will enhance our library's

ability to succeed on these terms. Gina will help us set new standards for serving LSU's teaching and learning functions, and our larger community as well.”

Costello has worked at LSU for nearly 20 years, most of which have been in management and leadership roles. As the first UCLA fellow from LSU, Costello is enthusiastic about the program and the connections it will bring to the Libraries and the university.

“I look forward to participating in the program because I believe in the value and effectiveness of building a cohort of leaders who can exchange ideas and bring unique perspectives to the broader conversation about leadership in libraries. LSU has supported my career in many ways, and I am grateful to have this incredible opportunity to develop my leadership skills and make connections with peer library leaders,” Costello said.

As Costello embarks on the UCLA Library Senior Fellows program, her dedication to advancing library leadership and commitment to excellence will undoubtedly make an impact on LSU and the broader academic community.



Randa Lopez Morgan Elected President of United States Agricultural Information Network

This spring, LSU Librarian Randa 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 Agricultural Library and the U.S. agricultural community. Morgan has been an active member of USAIN since 2016, and her term as president-elect begins on July 1 of this year.

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 (NALAB) 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.



From left to right: John Miles, Sigrid Kelsey, Dana Taylor

2024 Faculty & Staff Award Winners

LSU Libraries’ Faculty & Staff Awards celebrate excellence and dedication within our library community. Each award comes with a \$1,000 cash prize, recognizes a remarkable Libraries employee, and underscores their contributions to the advancement of the Libraries and LSU. Join us in honoring Sigrid Kelsey, John Miles, and Dana Taylor for their leadership, tenacity, and exceptional efforts.

Sigrid Kelsey, Carolyn H. Hargrave Faculty Leadership Award

The Carolyn H. Hargrave Faculty Leadership Award recognizes an LSU Libraries faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership through job responsibilities, research, and service. The award is named in honor of Dr. Carolyn H. Hargrave, whose outstanding academic leadership in higher education provided a statewide network cooperative for resource sharing among Louisiana academic libraries.

Sigrid Kelsey, the 2024 Carolyn H. Hargrave Faculty Leadership Award recipient, is the head of Scholarly Publications & Analytics at LSU Libraries. She has worked in various capacities in the Libraries since 1998. During that time, she has mentored tenure-track librarians, launched a successful diversity residency program, edited six books, and written numerous articles.

Kelsey is a recipient of the Baton Rouge Business Report’s Forty under 40 award (2010), the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) College Libraries Section (CLS) ProQuest Innovation in College Librarianship Award (2010), the Louisiana Library Association (LLA) Anthony H. Benoit Mid-Career Award (2010), and the ACRL-Louisiana Scholar Librarian of the Year Award (2009). Kelsey has also served on the ALA Publishing Committee, the American Libraries editorial advisory board and is a member of the LSU Institutional Effectiveness Council. Kelsey leads the LSU Libraries research group and is spearheading the efforts to integrate ORCID, a unique identifier for researchers, across campus.

John Miles, Early Career Librarian Award

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.

This year's recipient is John Miles, who began working as curator of books in Special Collections in the fall of 2018. Some of his most notable accomplishments at LSU include the acquisitions of the *Nuremberg Chronicle* (published in 1493) with a grant from the Breslauer Foundation, and two important late-sixteenth American travel narratives with a natural history focus, as supported by grants from the Coypu Foundation. Undoubtedly the largest acquisition that he has been a part of is the partial gift/partial purchase of the Wyatt Houston Day Collection of African American poetry in 2022.

Miles has also been involved in expanding Special Collections teaching efforts, which saw almost 90 class visits in the fall semester alone. He has two articles forthcoming, "Forgetting the Fall: Violence, Voter Suppression, and the End of Reconstruction in Tensas Parish, Louisiana" in *Louisiana History*, and "Studying the Physical Book across Collections," co-written with Brittany O'Neil and Lauren Coats, in the *Teaching with Primary Sources* "Case Studies" series.

Dana Taylor, Library Staff Award

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. The recipient must have demonstrated outstanding achievement and maintained excellent relations with library employees and library users in their service to the LSU community.

This year's recipient is Dana Taylor, director of Collection Services. She oversees the acquisitions, budgeting, and processing of library materials for LSU's main Library. Taylor has been a full-time staff member of the LSU Libraries since January 1989 when she began working as a binding associate. Before working as a full-time staff member, Taylor was employed as a student assistant for the library. She has spent her entire career in positions related to library technical services.



LLA Awards Elissa Plank for Meritorious Service

Louisiana Library Association (LLA) awarded Elissa Plank, LSU Libraries' head of circulation, a Meritorious Service Award for her years of service to LLA. LLA is a statewide professional organization for librarians and library workers in Louisiana.

Plank is a native Texan with Louisiana roots. She received her BA from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA and PhD in English from the University of Rochester. She joined LSU Libraries as the student supervisor for the Government Documents and Microforms department in 2001, and she has served as the head of circulation in the main library since 2008.

Plank became a member of the LLA in 2001, shortly after moving to Louisiana to work at LSU, and has served the organization in multiple positions in the intervening years. In addition, she received the Margaret T. Lane Award in 2008.

Jen Cramer Receives Happy Award for Community Engagement

Jen Cramer is one of 10 recipients of this year's Happy Awards. The awards are bestowed annually by the LSU Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership to faculty, staff, students, and community partners who represent the highest ideals of reciprocal service-learning partnerships.

Cramer is the director of LSU Libraries' T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, the largest and most comprehensive oral history repository in the state of Louisiana, and one of the largest in the South. She was nominated for this award by Jennifer J. Baumgartner, an associate professor in the School of Education and a 2023 Happy Award winner, for her work on Baumgartner's service-learning courses and other courses on campus.

Led by Cramer, the Williams Center works tirelessly to collect, document, and make accessible the stories of Louisianans. As an extension of that work, Cramer partners with LSU faculty to incorporate oral history projects and service-learning connections into their courses, and she instructs students on how to conduct their own oral histories. For example, in Dr. Baumgartner's "Critical Issues in Early Childhood Education" class, Cramer assists students in creating interviews and transcripts that can be used by anyone curious about the topic and that address current approaches to education in Louisiana. Additionally, Cramer works diligently to collect the first-person stories of military veterans from across the state that might otherwise be lost to future generations.

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History

Part of the Williams Center's mission is to help members of the public with their own oral history projects. The center offers community workshops on best practices including interviewing techniques, how to conduct background research, and how to navigate the paperwork required to have their oral histories housed at the Williams Center or the Library of Congress. For more information, email Jen Cramer at jabrah1@lsu.edu.



Transitions, Promotions, & Tenure

Lili Bedoya transitioned from RIS coordinator to general science librarian (June 2024)

Kendall Caple transitioned from library associate to Government Publications and Patent & Trademarks librarian (June 2023)

Larissa Elliot transitioned from library associate to agricultural support librarian (October 2023)

John Miles tenured as an associate librarian (July 2024)

Hans Rasmussen promoted to full librarian (July 2024)

New Faces

LSU Libraries welcomed the following new employees this year.

Christopher Bienvenu,
Processing Archivist, Special Collections

Camille Boechler, Assistant Processing Archivist, Special Collections

Ashli Gachassin, Resource Sharing Specialist

Kelly Larson, Head of Public & Research Services, Special Collections

Gabriella Lindsay, Resource Management & Assessment Librarian

Colton Ray, Scholarly Publications & Analytics Librarian

Angela Rippetoe, Business Office Coordinator

Christian Vidrine, Technology Support Analyst

BY THE NUMBERS

Events & Programming

92 events and programs encompassed 20,028 contacts with patrons and visitors

20,028

Web Views

More than 690,000 website visits

690,000

Footprints

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

+ 1 Million

Research Guides

471 "LibGuides" received 513,329 views

513,329

201,500

More than 1,500 eBooks and 200,000 eJournals downloaded

eBooks & eJournals

7,507

Borrowing

Interlibrary Loan facilitates the exchange of resources with other institutions. We loaned 7,507 items to other libraries and borrowed 22,805 items for our patrons.

+ \$25.6 Million

E-Textbooks

We saved students more than \$8 million by providing access to e-textbooks at no cost to LSU students. Since 2014, we have saved more than \$25.6 million.

130

130 classes visited Hill Memorial Library, comprising nearly 3,300 students

Special Collections Instruction Program



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The image on the By the Numbers page is inspired by one of LSU's historic university seals, the 1907 "Tree of Knowledge," which depicts an LSU oak tree emerging from the pages of a book. This modernized version illustrates how LSU Libraries provides students and faculty with a strong foundation to learn and grow, enabling them to create solutions that are essential to the future of our state and nation.