



Community Connections

2022-23 Impact Report

LSU | Libraries

Message from the Dean



This year's impact report is a testament to the astonishing variety of ways the Libraries enables, supports, and promotes the academic mission of LSU. It illustrates a library balancing traditional functions with innovative programs—one that is responding to a technological and learning environment that is in the midst of a full-scale revolution, from artificial intelligence to virtual reality. In a fundamental sense, “what” libraries do remains as timeless as it is essential. “How” libraries operate, however, is in a state of constant flux requiring diligence and a tolerance for risk.

There is a secret sauce supporting the efforts you'll read about here: the people who make our programs and services possible. LSU Libraries has proved to be a destination workplace despite the challenging recruitment environment we've experienced this past year. Our new hires are formidable in terms of their experience, commitment, and creativity. These rising stars have joined a group of colleagues on par with the best in the country. It is an honor to work among such people. This is their library in every meaningful way.

I would be remiss if I failed to note the phenomenal support the Libraries enjoys from all quarters of our community. In fiscal year 2023, President Tate and Provost Haggerty completed the best legislative session in LSU's history, one which succeeded in funding the design phase of a new main library. Additionally, we were blessed by the financial support of hundreds of donors who enabled the Libraries to excel in ways that would otherwise have been impossible to imagine. We are also grateful for the support of faculty and students, who have come to see us as valuable and trusted partners. Support from our community makes us who we are. Hence, the theme of this impact report: “Community Connections.”

*“Support from
our community
makes us who
we are.”*

What a deeply fulfilling challenge it is to help such people make the best of their natural talents and change the world in amazing ways. Geaux Tigers!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stanley Wilder". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stanley J. Wilder
Dean
LSU Libraries

Table of Contents

04

By the Numbers

2023 By the Numbers

06

Innovations & Resources

LSU Librarian Named a 2023 Emerging Leader by American Library Association
LSU Research Recap: Uncovering Hidden Histories from WWII to the Wild West
LSU Libraries Announces New Government Publications and Open Scholarship Department
2023 Tiger Tapestry

16

Special Collections

Descendants of African American Poet Discover their Roots in LSU Libraries
“Poetry Night at Hill” Highlights Wyatt Houston Day Collection of Poetry by African Americans
Curator of the Louvre Visits LSU Special Collections
LSU Students Capture the Voices of Louisiana’s Veterans
Exhibition: Water, Water Everywhere
LSU Libraries Restores Historic Mardi Gras Scrapbook

26

Philanthropy

Special Collections Awards FY23 Research Grants to Four Scholars
LSU Libraries Shatters Giving Day Records with Strong Donor Support
Friends of the LSU Libraries’ Book Bazaar Raises \$80,000 for Library Acquisitions

30

People

Celebrating Excellence: Moises Chirinos Aleman Honored with Zamin Scholarship
LSU Libraries Staff and Faculty Awards Winners
New Hires
Promotions & Tenure
In Memoriam
Publications

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

By way of this Impact Report, I am excited to share with you the remarkable achievements and contributions of LSU Libraries in the past year, and I look forward to continued growth in the years to come.

I am honored to serve as LSU Libraries’ Director of Communications, and by extension, editor of the Impact Report, a role I first undertook in 2022. This year, I am thrilled to lead LSU Libraries’ new communications department, a team of two including myself and Behnoush Tavasolinia, a full-time graphic designer who is responsible for the beautiful design and layout you will see throughout these pages. In addition, we are accompanied by two student workers, Brooke Bell and Madison Woods, who have contributed to this year’s report.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my direct reports for their commitment and dedication in shaping this publication. Their hard work and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in bringing it to life. Most importantly, I would like to thank you for your readership and support.

Sincerely,
Christine Wendling
Director of Communications
LSU Libraries



Christine Wendling



Behnoush Tavasolinia



Brooke Bell



Madison Woods

By the Numbers

\$3.25 million

New Building Funds

In 2023, LSU received an additional **\$3.25 million** in priority funding from the Louisiana legislature for a new main library building!

\$6 million+

Digital Resources

In FY23, LSU Libraries dedicated more than **\$6 million** to digital resources that patrons can access from anywhere, saving our faculty and students time and money.

730,000+

Web Views

From July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, the Libraries' website was visited more than **730,000** times.

10.5 million+

Downloads

The LSU Scholarly Repository is an open-access repository that collects, preserves, and publishes LSU research and scholarship. In FY23, items were downloaded from the repository more than **2.1 million** times. Since it began in 2016, more than **10.5 million** items have been downloaded.

Two students studying on the first floor of the main library

387

Consultations

In FY23, 19 subject liaison librarians conducted **387** consultations, an average of **20** consultations per librarian.

\$209,547

Raised

In 2023, LSU Libraries raised **\$209,547** in cash and in-kind gifts, and an additional **\$250,000** toward a new library building.

\$5.7 million+

Saved

The LSU Libraries' e-textbooks initiative provides access to e-textbooks at no cost to LSU students and their families. In FY23, this program saved students more than **\$5.7 million**. Since it began in 2014, it has saved more than **\$17.3 million**.

503,685

Research Guides Views

LSU Libraries' digital research guides, called "LibGuides," support research and learning by offering curated information on specific subjects and courses. In FY23, our **439** LibGuides received an impressive **503,685** views.

109

Events & Programming

In FY23, LSU Libraries held **109** events and programs making a total of **21,134** contacts with patrons and visitors.

100+

Classes

In FY23, more than **100** different classes visited Hill Memorial Library, and utilized LSU Libraries Special Collections materials, comprising nearly **1,500** students who represented departments across the university.



Friends of the LSU Libraries Appreciation Event

Innovation & Resources

LSU LIBRARIAN NAMED A 2023 EMERGING LEADER BY AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LSU Librarian Nicollette Davis has been named a 2023 Emerging Leader by the American Library Association. Established in 1876, ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world with more than 60,000 members.

“Nicollette’s selection as an ALA emerging leader will move LSU into the spotlight as an institution that has recruited and developed nationally recognized talent in our field. In addition, it reflects our unwavering dedication to growing and developing our librarians throughout their careers,” said Mike Holt, head of LSU Libraries’ Research and Instruction Services.

Davis’ cohort consists of 46 early-career leaders from across the U.S. and Canada who will gain an inside look into ALA structure, network with other emerging leaders and participate in project planning work groups that will enhance their careers. Some participants may earn a spot in an ALA division, chapter, round table committee, task force or workgroup as well as other library-related groups.

“These types of information exchanges help build thriving communities of librarians. Participating in this program is my first step in making cross-country connections that will benefit LSU Libraries. And, I am so grateful for the support I received from my department head and fellow colleagues throughout this process,” Davis said.

Davis earned a master’s in library and information sciences from LSU in 2018 and has served under Holt as LSU’s Kinesiology, Social Work and Health Sciences Librarian since June 2022.

“So many of the librarians that I look up to and model my career after came up through the ALA Emerging Leaders program, and I think that Nicollette could easily be that model for others who are in the field as well,” Holt said.

In her short time at the university, she has not only earned this prestigious ALA honor but also been appointed to the editorial board of *Library Diversity and Residency Studies*. This open-access, peer-reviewed journal is focused on increasing diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, in the library profession and in library and information science curricula. Additionally, Davis serves as a member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association which sponsored her to be an ALA Emerging Leader. She has published articles related to DEI in *American Libraries* and is a founding member of the LSU School of Library and Information Science’s Diversity Council.



“*Not many get to have this honor, and I can’t think of a more fitting person to receive it than Nicollette. She truly represents everything that the ALA emerging leader program stands for.*”

➤ **Mike Holt**, Head of LSU Libraries’ Research and Instruction Services



Nicollette Davis, ALA Emerging Leader





Entrance to Camp Livingston Alien Internment Camp (Declassified Authority 803028)
Credit: Camp Livingston - 4; Construction Completion Reports, 1944-1917; RG 77;
National Archives at College Park, Maryland.



"Latrine 5" (Declassified Authority 803028)
Credit: Camp Livingston - 4; Construction Completion Reports, 1944-1917; RG 77; National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

LSU RESEARCH RECAP: UNCOVERING HIDDEN HISTORIES FROM WWII TO THE WILD WEST

Updated from an article that also appeared in *LSU Research Magazine*.

For the past six years, LSU librarians Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms have helped give voice to the voiceless by uncovering the hidden histories of the United States of America. Their work began in 2016 with research that examined the internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans in Louisiana during World War II, and with the help of three Carnegie Whitney grants from the American Library Association, it has since expanded to include an exploration of stories from communities that have been historically omitted from narratives about the settlement of the American West.



"The two projects seem so different, but there are these threads that link both. It's a very natural evolution, even though it's two different groups from two different periods of time. I think we are both quite passionate about it."

> Sarah Simms, Undergraduate & Student Success Librarian

> Through an Extended Lens: Louisiana, Internment, and the Geography of Chance

In 2016, Johnson and Simms were inspired by a story they read in the Los Angeles Times in which survivors of U.S. Japanese internment camps spoke out against the rising tide of hate Muslim Americans were enduring. These Americans, who had experienced institutional racism, appeared in a video featuring Muslim children reading aloud letters that had been written by Japanese American children in internment camps. It drew parallels between the rhetoric used against the Japanese during World War II and the rhetoric used against Muslims in 2016.

This video showcasing the solidarity between two communities, one of which had experienced the trauma of incarceration, and another facing the same rhetoric, was a powerful moment for Johnson and Simms. As a result, they became curious as to whether there were any internment camps in Louisiana. Their research led them to Camp Livingston in Alexandria, Louisiana, best known as the site where a series of Army exercises called "the Louisiana Maneuvers" were practiced that helped develop U.S. modern fighting forces. Camp Livingston was far less known as an internment camp that held more than 1,000 Japanese and Japanese American men throughout the war.



After some digging, they interviewed Marion Couvillion Kohara, a member of the only Japanese family living in Alexandria during World War II. Kohara revealed that while her family narrowly escaped being interned, the FBI had investigated her cousin, Reverend Buntetsu Miyamoto, who lived in Hawaii, and had classified him as an “enemy alien.” Eventually, Miyamoto was taken to Louisiana and interned at Camp Livingston.

During his internment, his family had such little economic support, they chose to be interned on the mainland in the hopes of being reunited with him.

“They ended up in a vacated old house owned by a fellow church member. They had no income, so his son, David, left college to work at a nearby bank. They were ostracized in the community. Some members of their church would bring them goods, but many were afraid to do so,” Johnson said.

Eventually, they resorted to entering a family internment camp in Crystal City, Texas, as a means of survival and with the hope that they would be reunited with Miyamoto. In 1943, he was released from Camp Livingston and reunited with his family in Crystal City, but they were not allowed to return home to Hawaii until the conclusion of the war.

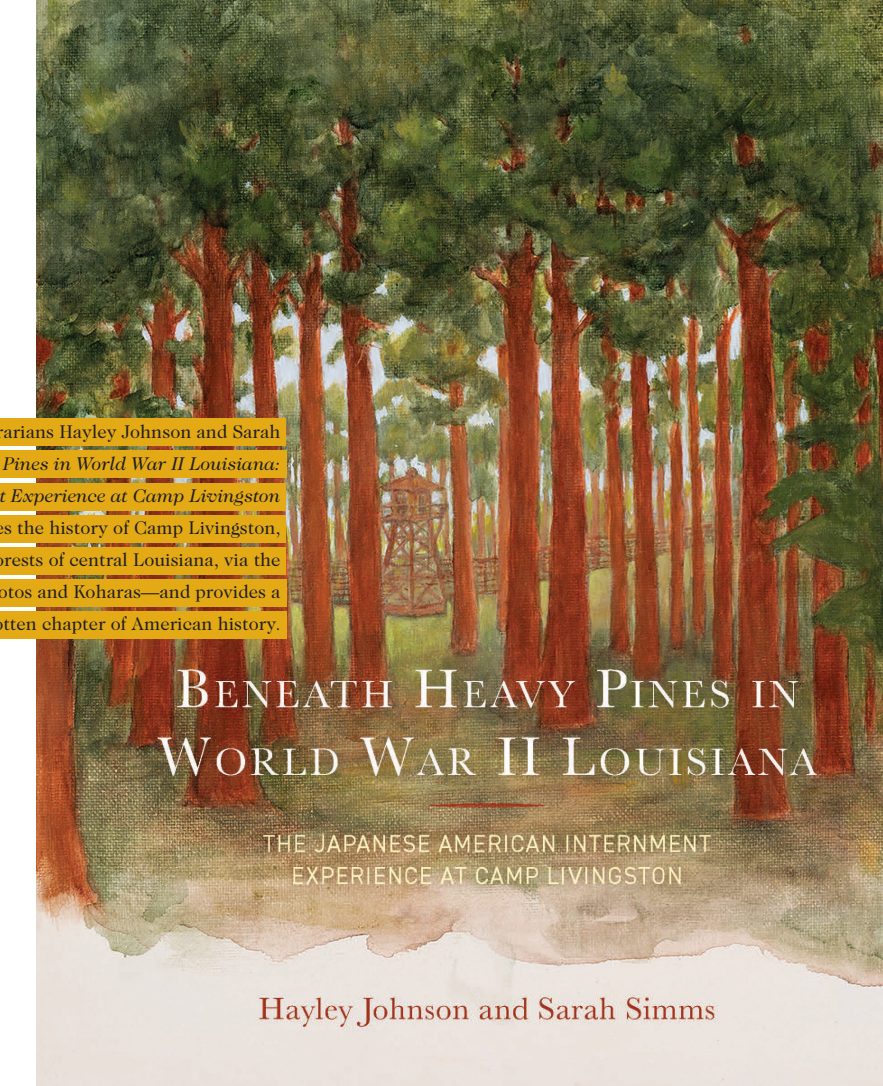
The researchers’ interview with Kohara served as the starting point that allowed them to apply for the Carnegie Whitney Grants that they received in 2017 and 2018. The grants allowed them to travel to different archives across the U.S. to piece together more information about Japanese American internment at Camp Livingston.

Through archival records, they discovered that the internees were all men between the ages of 20 and 80, but most were in their 50s. Many of them were chosen for internment because they were leaders in their communities and therefore perceived as threats. Through journals and oral histories, Johnson and Simms found that, unlike other internment camps, they were allowed to receive visitors in some cases and to have recreation in the form of a baseball field. However, they were also forced into hard labor. In the face of this adversity, many practiced “gaman” (我慢), a Zen Buddhist concept of bearing hardship with patience and dignity.

“The point was to find a disciplined way to endure their pain without losing their sense of identity,” Simms said, which the men did through sculpture, calligraphy, and growing bonsai trees.

Originally, Johnson and Simms intended for the final product of their work to be an extensive online resource guide, but at its conclusion, they found they still had so much to say. They decided the best way to describe the profound impact this work had on them would come in the shape of a book, *Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana: The Japanese American Internment Experience at Camp Livingston*.

After six years of intense research, LSU librarians Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms published *Beneath Heavy Pines in World War II Louisiana: The Japanese American Internment Experience at Camp Livingston* in June 2023. This book approaches the history of Camp Livingston, an internment camp in the pine forests of central Louisiana, via the experiences of two families—the Miyamotos and Koharas—and provides a critical exploration of a forgotten chapter of American history.



> Blood and Thunder: The Idealized American West and Its Place Today

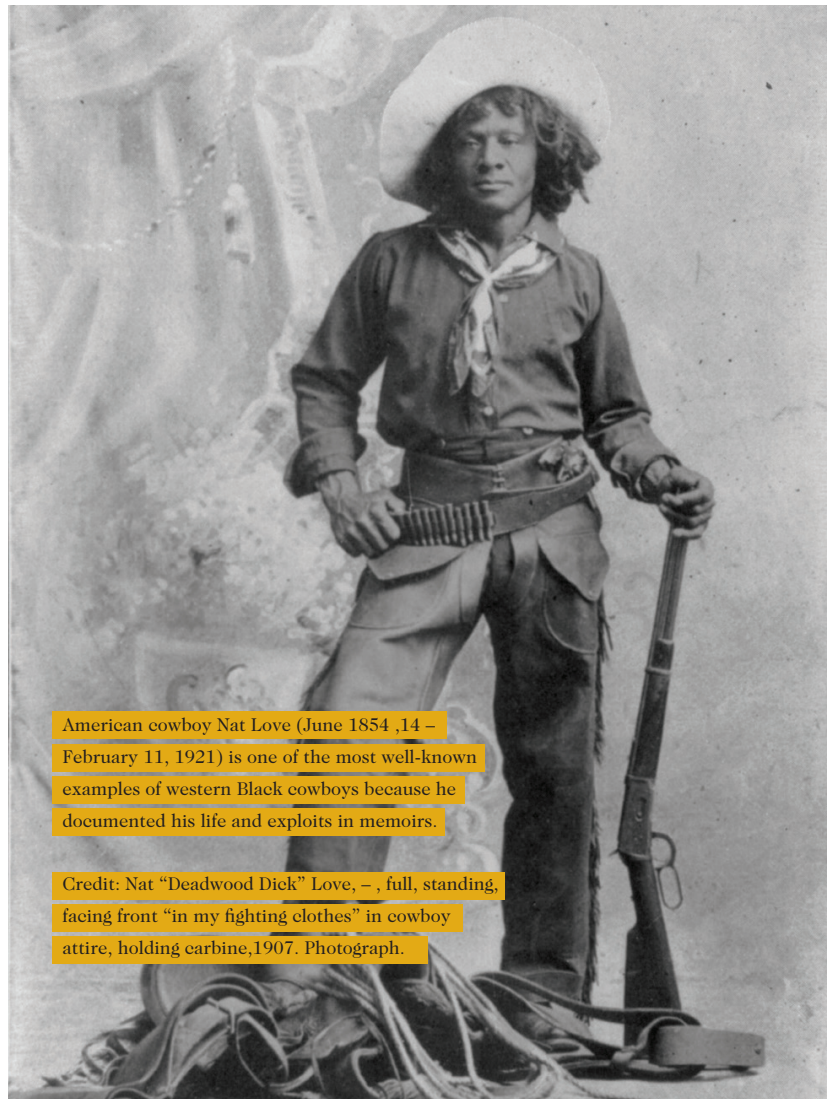
In 2022, Johnson and Simms received their third Carnegie Whitney Grant for a new project, “Blood and Thunder: The Idealized American West and Its Place Today.”



“Just as the history of Japanese enemy alien internment has been left out of the dominant historical narrative, so too were the histories of many indigenous and non-white peoples during America’s westward expansion in the 19th century. Unfortunately, **this thread of exclusion runs long through our history. We hope that by highlighting it through these two research projects, we can help finally cut the cord.**”

> Hayley Johnson, Head of Open Scholarship and Government Publications





American cowboy Nat Love (June 1854, 14 – February 11, 1921) is one of the most well-known examples of western Black cowboys because he documented his life and exploits in memoirs.

Credit: Nat "Deadwood Dick" Love, - , full, standing, facing front "in my fighting clothes" in cowboy attire, holding carbine, 1907. Photograph.

Now, they are exploring how the idealized myth of the West and westward expansion was used to justify the expulsion and murder of indigenous peoples, the taking and exploitation of land and resources for economic gains, and the exclusion of minority groups who were perceived as infringing on the rights and resources deemed exclusive to Anglo settlers. **This project will use the stories and experiences of those communities that have been historically excluded and oppressed to paint a fuller picture of the dominant historical narrative.**

This research is still in what Simms

describes as the "discovery phase." Like any good detectives, Johnson and Simms are starting with a broad concept and will let the initial stages of their investigation help them zero in on areas of focus.

The grant will fund their travel to archives located throughout the heart of the Midwest. In Oklahoma City, they plan to visit the First Americans Museum, the largest single-building tribal cultural center in the country, honoring Oklahoma's 39 tribal nations and housing the National Native American Hall of Fame.

"This museum is created and curated solely by Native Americans, and the museum tells the story of those nations as they lived it. The museum's mission is to educate the public about the unique cultures, diversity, history, contributions, and resilience of these Nations. I'm excited to see what we will learn," Johnson said.

In Wyoming, they will visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, which houses one of the country's largest and finest collections of Plains Indian art and artifacts in addition to an extensive research library that contains more than one million photographic images that the researchers hope will help bring their findings to life.

"LSU librarians are interdisciplinary by nature. We are connectors of people and information. It is so important for us to be able to assist our students and researchers in deepening their knowledge by uncovering previously unknown sources of information that they can then use to enrich their own scholarly works," Simms said.

"We are constantly questioning what 'American history' actually means and who is being left out of that conversation. At the conclusion of this research, we plan to develop a very approachable supplemental resource that goes beyond what you'd typically learn about in your introductory history classes, something that anyone can pick up and learn from," Johnson said.



From left to right: Audrey Portier, Hayley Johnson, Allen LeBlanc, David Dunaway

LSU LIBRARIES ANNOUNCES NEW OPEN SCHOLARSHIP & GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

In the latter half of 2022, the Government Documents and Open Scholarship & Affordable Learning departments combined into a new LSU Libraries department named Open Scholarship & Government Publications. This new department aims to combine the uncopied materials in Government Publications with openly licensed resources available via Open Scholarship to provide students and faculty with free access to research materials.

Both divisions of this department have accomplished notable achievements.

Open Scholarship & Affordable Learning saved students and their families more than \$4.1 million in the 2022 fiscal year through LSU Libraries' e-Textbooks initiative, which provides free access to library-licensed eBooks that are used in courses.

"This initiative provides students with quick access to course materials that are available for free through the LSU Libraries, and it also provides an easy-to-use search tool for instructors to identify e-textbooks that the Libraries owns or can purchase for them."

> Hayley Johnson, Head of Open Scholarship and Government Publications

Additionally, in 2021, Government Documents created an agreement between LSU, Louisiana Tech, and the University of Mississippi to allow these three libraries to share materials and tools across state lines—an agreement that benefits both Louisiana and

Mississippi residents. This agreement was the first in the nation to feature three regional depository libraries joining together to provide enhanced access and services to citizens.

The new Open Scholarship & Government Publications Department consists of the following members.

- **Hayley Johnson**, Head of Open Scholarship & Government Publications
- **David Dunaway**, Director of Open Scholarship & Affordable Learning
- **Allen LeBlanc**, Open Scholarship Librarian
- **Audrey Portier**, Microforms and Collection Specialist

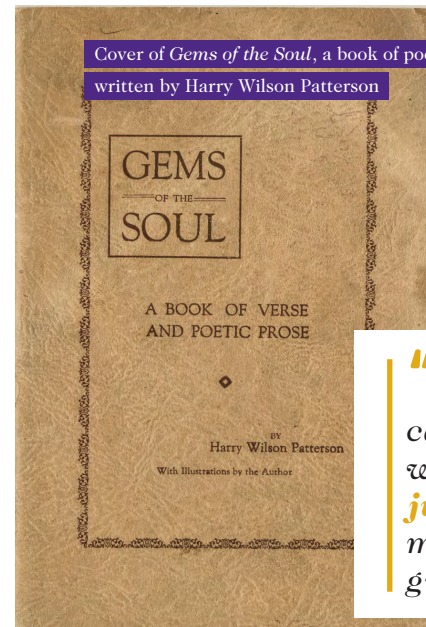
2023 TIGER TAPESTRY

LSU Libraries' service to our community extends far beyond academia. **We are a vibrant hub where students, faculty, and visitors come together to learn, collaborate, and forge lasting community connections.** In the last fiscal year, we hosted a remarkable number of events and programs—109 to be exact—that fostered meaningful engagement across our campus community. This collage captures the essence of these shared experiences which transcend textbooks and research.



Special Collections

DESCENDANTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN POET DISCOVER THEIR ROOTS IN LSU LIBRARIES



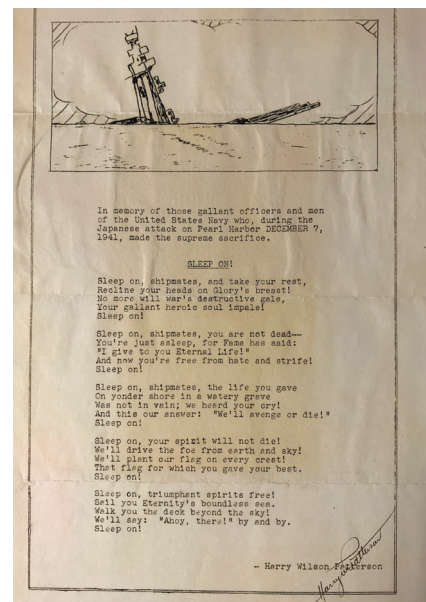
Cover of *Gems of the Soul*, a book of poetry written by Harry Wilson Patterson

After 50 years of searching for their grandfather's long-lost publications as part of a family genealogical project, two cousins from Maryland, Renee Anderson and Sharon Young, had no idea that they would find what they had been searching for more than 1,000 miles from home in LSU Libraries Special Collections.

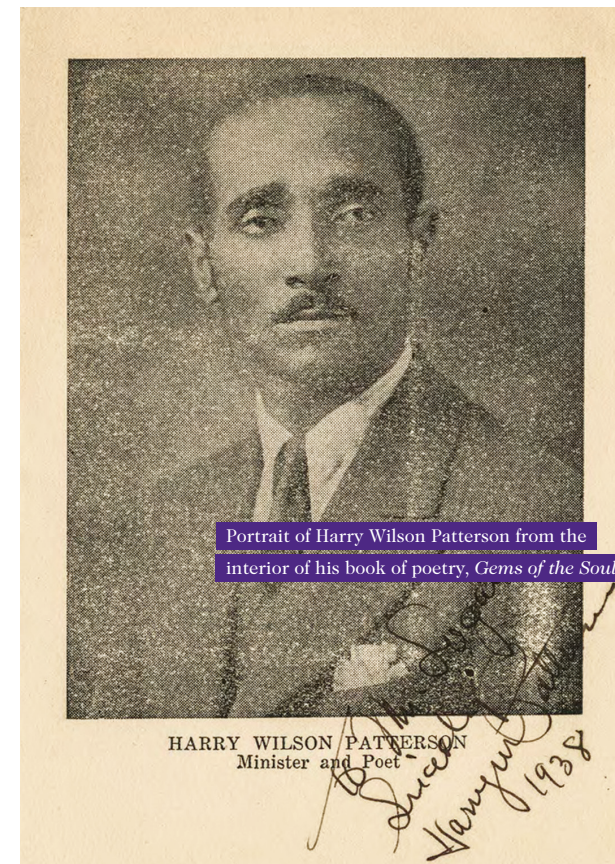
"After searching for so many years, to be able to call LSU and say, 'That's my grandfather!' makes the whole thing come alive in a different way. **It's not just a book on a shelf. It gives it energy. It has made a family be proud of their legacy. It is such a gift,**" Anderson said.

In 2022, LSU Libraries acquired the Wyatt Houston Day Collection of Poetry by African Americans, a collection of more than 800 works of Black poetry from the 18th century, the Harlem Renaissance, and through to the 21st century. Some of the more prominent items in the collection include books by Pulitzer Prize winner Gwendolyn Brooks; the typed manuscript of the music cues for Langston Hughes' 12-part poem, "Ask Your Mama"; and a first edition of Paul Laurence Dunbar's rare second book "Majors and Minors" once owned by Frederick Douglass' family. Unbeknownst to Anderson and Young, the collection included a signed, first edition of their grandfather's 1938 book, *Gems of the Soul: A Book of Verse and Poetic Prose*, as well.

Inventorying, cataloging, and safely storing such a large collection is a time-consuming and labor-intensive process. However, in December 2022, LSU Libraries began listing some of the items in the collection in their online catalog, and the timing could not have been better. A few weeks later, in January 2023, Anderson and Young contacted the Library of Congress for help in their search and discovered through them that LSU Libraries had what they were searching for. *Gems of the Soul*, by Harry Wilson Patterson, was among the first items in the collection to have been cataloged and listed online. Had they contacted the Library of Congress only a few weeks earlier, there would have been no record of it.



Broadside of Harry Wilson Patterson's poem, "Sleep On!" This poem was written in honor of the lives lost on Pearl Harbor Day during World War II.



Portrait of Harry Wilson Patterson from the interior of his book of poetry, *Gems of the Soul*

According to Alia Kempton, Special Collections' Outreach and Instruction Librarian, "The library catalog record of this book only went live on December 5, so it's honestly quite miraculous they found it when they did. I guess the fates aligned in their favor."

When Anderson and Young contacted Kempton, they discovered that not only did LSU have Patterson's book, but it also had a broadside of his poem "Sleep On!" which he wrote in honor of the lives lost on Pearl Harbor Day during World War II and which had not been cataloged yet. "Sleep On!" won him a citation from the Navy Department and was distributed around the world.

Patterson was born in Wake County, North Carolina, in 1897 and moved to Washington D.C. at 20 years old. Shortly thereafter, he served in World War I as a corporal of infantry and later as an acting sergeant. Patterson attended Howard University's School of Religion, and by 1938 he was serving as an ordained minister. During World War II, he worked as a draftsman and artist for the Navy, where he created many wartime Defense Department posters. He retired from government service in 1952. In a

brief autobiography that Patterson included at the beginning of *Gems of the Soul*, he wrote, "I am determined not only to serve this present age, but to leave an imprint upon the sands of time, that the coming generations may rise up and call me blessed. I shall leave to my children a heritage of which they may be proud."

"The autobiography at the beginning of the book gave us so much information about our family that we didn't know about...It was like a roadmap for us to go all the way back to 1897," Anderson said, "So many things have come out of this. It's not just about the book. It's about how much we are learning still. It's like an awakening—that's the best way I can describe it."

After contacting LSU, Anderson and Young reached out to Wyatt Houston Day, the private bookseller for whom assembling the collection was his life's work. The two cousins wanted to find out more information about how their grandfather's work made its way into Day's hands. While he was not sure exactly how he acquired it, he was able to give them more insight into how the book came to be. It was published by the Murray Brothers, a huge Black publishing company based in Washington D.C. And since Patterson was a minister, Day reasoned, he probably had the church sponsor the book's publishing, a common practice at the time.

After all these years, these new discoveries have invigorated Young, who is in the process of writing her autobiography. "Like my granddad said, 'No matter what the cost is, no matter what the balance is, just keep on striving,'" Young said.

Since Young and Anderson live out of state, LSU Libraries created high-quality digitized copies of Patterson's publications and sent them to the family. In the future, Anderson and Young hope to travel to Louisiana to see their family history up close and personal.

According to John David Miles, LSU Libraries' Curator of Books, "While Patterson may not be a particularly well-known poet, this story represents exactly the type of real-world impact we want this collection to have on members of the public. It highlights the scope and vibrancy of African American poetic accomplishments and the importance of this collection for Louisiana and beyond."

"Having it at LSU means this way it lives on forever. I'm honored that it will live on forever," Anderson said.



“POETRY NIGHT AT HILL” HIGHLIGHTS WYATT HOUSTON DAY COLLECTION OF POETRY BY AFRICAN AMERICANS

For Black History Month in February, LSU Libraries’ Special Collections collaborated with LSU NAACP, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Society for African & African American Studies at LSU on “Poetry Night at Hill,” an open-mic night for poets and creatives highlighting the Wyatt Houston Day Collection of Poetry by African Americans.

According to Lailah Williams, social chair for the Society for African & African American Students at LSU, “The significance of the event for myself and all others who helped coordinate the event is the **sense of community that the event fostered**. We brought students to Hill Memorial Library to discuss African American literature’s history and connect with the fantastic collection. It was impactful to see students learn about Hill Memorial and the vast breadth of knowledge that Black prose can contribute to various disciplines.”



The event began with viewing items in the Day Collection in which Special Collections staff were on hand to answer questions and assist in handling the materials. Then, select poems from the collection were read aloud to the audience as well as original pieces from student poets and artists.

“**We chose Hill Memorial because of the culture surrounding the library and the outstanding faculty.** My favorite moment was seeing people read from the available poems because it showed a genuine desire to engage with Black literature and that LSU has the resources to serve the student body,” Williams said.



Blaise Ducos,
curator of 17th- and 18th-Century Dutch and
Flemish Paintings at the Louvre

CURATOR OF THE LOUVRE VISITS LSU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

LSU Libraries boasts one of the most prestigious Special Collections operations in the country and serves as a destination archive for researchers around the world. In February, a curator from the Louvre Museum in Paris, visited LSU Libraries Special Collections to view the famed double elephant folio edition of John James Audubon’s *Birds of America* (London, 1827-1838), an illustrated compendium of the birds in the United States that is considered one of the finest, and largest, ornithological works ever completed.

Blaise Ducos, curator of 17th- and 18th-Century Dutch and Flemish Paintings at the Louvre, visited LSU’s campus to give a Paula G. Manship Endowed Lecture titled, “Bodies as the End? The Inquiry into the Human Form in Rembrandt’s Time” to the College of Art & Design. Ducos also carved out time to spend a couple of hours in Special Collections, where he and LSU Art History Professor Darius Spieth spent time with Special Collections’ staff delving into their Audubon-related materials. While Ducos didn’t have time to view all four volumes of Audubon’s work, he was still able to fulfill his desire to view one of the most sought-after books in the world.

“**I was thrilled to be given access to Audubon’s publication, a favorite of mine, the rarity and preciousness**

of which never cease to make me wonder. I’d like to extend a warm thank you to John Miles and the whole team for having me,” Ducos said.

According to John David Miles, curator of books in LSU Libraries Special Collections, “Sharing Audubon’s work with patrons is one of the great privileges of my job, and to share that enthusiasm with Mr. Ducos during his visit was a real treat. That LSU has holdings such as this, materials that attract the interest of a curator from one of the world’s preeminent cultural heritage institutions and who don’t themselves have a copy, speaks highly of the kind of resources we’re able to provide to our students, faculty, community, and researchers from around the world.”

Audubon was an American artist, naturalist, and ornithologist who was dedicated to the pursuit of collecting and drawing as many North American birds as possible. His magnum opus, *Birds of America* contains 435 plates depicting 457 bird species. At least 130 out of those 435 were made in Louisiana.





Leroy Poydras, a Lafayette native, who served as a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II



From left to right: Amara Bordelon, Tara Jones, and Ajalynn Crum.



On August 30, Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser, spoke to the Honors 2020 students about the importance of Louisiana veterans to the state and its culture.



Monica Mohindra, director of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project

LSU STUDENTS CAPTURE THE VOICES OF LOUISIANA'S VETERANS

In fall 2022, students in an LSU Ogden Honors College seminar captured the first-person narratives of Louisianans who have served in the military. In addition to being added to the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, part of LSU Libraries, the oral histories they collected will be housed in the Library of Congress' national database as part of a partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

Students in Honors 2020: Oral History and the Louisiana Veterans Experience learned how to preserve valuable historical information by collecting personal recollections through recorded interviews. These interviews became powerful primary sources that are available to anyone interested in understanding the impact of Louisiana veterans who have served in the U.S. military during the 20th and 21st centuries.



“What’s amazing about this class is that you’ve got these students practicing qualitative research and going into the field as freshmen and sophomores doing original research. There is a lot of work to get to that point, and they’re creating this

primary source that is going to be preserved locally and nationally.”

> **Jen Cramer**, Director of the Williams Center and instructor of the course

In August, Monica Mohindra, director of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, flew to Baton Rouge to meet with the students and discuss the collaboration between LSU and the Library of Congress. She spoke about the importance of preserving these stories at the local and national level, emphasizing how these students are “creating a living memorial to veterans’ stories...not just about their service, but how that service impacted their lives and communities.”

A few weeks after Mohindra's visit, Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser, also spoke to the students about how their work will add insight into the rich history of the state and enhance its culture.

“Louisiana veterans are near and dear to my heart. **So, when I heard about these LSU students who were preserving their stories for future generations of Louisianans, I recognized the significance of what that meant.** What a difference it will make to the veterans telling these stories as well as to other veterans who will hear these stories and feel that what they have done for their country and their state has made a lasting difference to the citizens of Louisiana,” Nungesser said.

According to Ajalynn Crum (Lake Charles, La.), a student in the class and a mechanical engineering freshman in the Ogden Honors College, “The more localized your history becomes, the harder it is to track. It's easy to find the history of America. It's a little bit more difficult to find primary

sources on Louisiana...So, the more things that become available [regarding] the history of Louisiana, the better we can understand our culture and our own history.”

Crum interviewed Tara Jones, a Black woman who served as a staff sergeant in the Louisiana Air National Guard from 1988 to 1997. Amara Bordelon (Baton Rouge, La.), who is also an Ogden Honors College freshman studying mechanical engineering, served as the audio engineer. During the Persian Gulf conflict, Jones served in a ground support capacity in the 159th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron. Now, she works at the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs where she is making a difference by working with incarcerated and disabled veterans.

“At first, I was a little nervous talking with the students, but they were great,” Jones said. “As a female veteran, I felt that it was important to share my story since the military traditionally has been such a male-dominated field. Whatever doesn't get recorded or told can easily get lost, and that's history we're losing, knowledge. Plus, kids don't seem to speak as much to their elders today. Being raised up, my mom always told me things weren't the same when she was a child. Now, I tell my kids that. So much is constantly changing, but if we preserve our experiences like these LSU students are doing, that's a resource that someone could reach back to and study, perhaps later in life.”

In particular, the class strove to document stories of those who are notably missing from most war narratives, such as people of color and women.

In her capacity as director of the Williams Center, Cramer has long understood the value that these types of oral histories bring to the Louisiana community. The Williams Center holds several important interviews from Black Americans who

served in World War II and returned to a country that did not give them the same respect or opportunities as white veterans. Despite their sacrifice, they were still made to use the back door or sit at the back of the bus.

“Many veterans from World War II, mostly African American veterans but even some white veterans, ended up participating in social movements in large part because of their experience in World War II—having been treated one way while abroad and then returning to very different treatment in the Jim Crow South afterward,” Cramer said.

One example from the Williams Center's collections is the founding of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, an armed Black self-defense group operating during the civil rights era in Bogalusa, Louisiana. Most of the founding members were combat veterans who served in World War II and the Korean War. Another prominent example of this is the Baton Rouge bus boycott that was led by many World War II veterans, including Dupuy Anderson. LSU played an important role in uncovering the story of the Baton Rouge bus boycott which helped to plant the seed for the more well-known Montgomery bus boycott.

For Cramer, the work is personal as well as professional. Cramer is the granddaughter of two World War II soldiers, daughter of a Cold War veteran and sister to an Army veteran who served in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment as a Nightstalker.

“I chose a civilian life, but I want to somehow help honor those who serve,” Cramer said, “**Veterans are so much a part of our culture and have so much to teach us civilians about life and leadership. What better way to understand and honor the veterans in our lives than by providing a welcoming place to tell stories, and most importantly, to listen.**”



EXHIBITION: WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

In the fall of 2022, LSU Libraries Special Collections unveiled the exhibition, “Water, Water Everywhere: Control and Consequence in Louisiana’s Coastal Wetlands.” The exhibition, which also ran through the spring semester, told the story of Louisiana’s relationship with water, as revealed in photographs, family papers, business records and a variety of publications that document the infinitely meandering waterways, human attempts to control them and the adversarial attitude toward the marsh embraced in the not-too distant past.



“We hope that ‘Water, Water Everywhere’ can serve as a starting point for anyone interested in coastal wetlands, whether their interest is history, science or politics. Levees, outlets and coastal land loss are constantly in the news, so it is important for the public to know that **LSU Libraries Special Collections contains many important resources for understanding these issues.**”

> Leah Wood Jewett, Exhibition Manager for LSU Libraries' Special Collections

2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 which, among other regulations, stipulates that U.S. wetlands must be protected from dredge and fill materials that undermine water quality. Consequently, this exhibition served as a timely reminder of the fragility of Louisiana’s coastal wetlands, the human activities that have impacted them and the work left to be done to help return them to some semblance of balance and health.



“Coastal research is an important pillar of LSU President Tate’s ‘Scholarship First’ agenda of priorities, and rightly so. Coastal land loss is one of the most serious environmental issues facing our state. This exhibition highlights the importance of preserving not only the significant historical moments that led us to where we are now but also the stories of the incredibly wide-ranging and impactful research that continues at LSU today.”

> Gina Costello, LSU Libraries' Associate Dean of Technology and Special Collections

LSU LIBRARIES RESTORES HISTORIC MARDI GRAS SCRAPBOOK

LSU Libraries Special Collections restored a historic Mardi Gras scrapbook that provides unique insight into Louisiana’s history and culture through the perspective of the individual who collected and curated its contents. The scrapbook, which was acquired in the 1950s, is dated circa 1871-1907 and contains materials relating to local New Orleans attractions and Mardi Gras in New Orleans, including invitations to balls, event programs, holiday cards, and clippings.

At the time of its acquisition, no information was recorded about the owner or the origins of the scrapbook. However, LSU Libraries Special Collections conservation coordinator, Caroline Ziegler, suspects that it may have belonged to a high-society woman from the New Orleans area based on the inclusion of a doily preserved from a wedding bouquet, indicating the owner was a member of a bridal party, and the nature of the item itself—scrapbooks were a popular pastime for women during the Victorian Era.

According to Darius Spieth, an art history professor at LSU’s College of Art & Design, “Someone surely bought it as a blank book and then someone glued the invitations and paraphernalia into it, making it a very personal memory of these events. It’s very eclectic and combines different references to cultures and places in the world.”

The scrapbook contains colorful, chromolithographic Mardi Gras invitations in a variety of shapes that often unfold into larger images or feature elaborate moving parts.



Interior of 1887 Krewe of Rex invitation (before treatment, right flap detached)

Many of the invitations evoke a sense of wonder due to the vivid colors, whimsical designs, different yearly themes, and references to literature or mythology. Perhaps for this reason, the scrapbook is popular among LSU professors who use it for instructional purposes. Frequently, it is used by LSU classes visiting Hill Memorial Library to learn more about Special Collections’ materials.

“When you look at these invitations and these prints, they continue to speak to us today. The floats are gone, but we still have the invites, and the invites allow us to conjure up in our minds how the floats would have looked and how the costumes would’ve looked. **There is a certain pleasure in beholding these objects that is a reward in its own right,**” Spieth said.

Unfortunately, after years of viewings, the scrapbook’s condition deteriorated to the point where it could no



Exterior of 1887 Krewe of Rex invitation (partial removing of loose backing paper)



longer be displayed. In response, Ziegler consulted with the manuscripts team, and they decided the effort was warranted to preserve and restore the one-of-a-kind treasure. As a conservator, Ziegler helps preserve the paper and book items at LSU Libraries. Some of her responsibilities include creating custom housing for unusual pieces, stabilizing fragile materials so that they can be handled by patrons and staff, and conducting training in proper handling techniques. Her background in artists' books and printmaking also aided her in the project.



"We are taking all of the materials off of their acidic pages and we're cleaning them. Then, we're going to create new pages and reuse the covers of the scrapbook to build a new scrapbook that has a similar feel to the current one. That way, it's not just all these loose things that don't have any context. You still get the experience of looking through somebody's curated scrapbook."

> **Caroline Ziegler,**
Conservation Coordinator for
Special Collections

In restoring the Mardi Gras scrapbook, LSU Libraries Special Collections is not only preserving a unique artifact of Louisiana's history and culture but also allowing future generations to experience the joy and wonder of Mardi Gras celebrations past.



Scan this QR code to watch a Youtube video about the scrapbook restoration.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AWARDS FY23 RESEARCH GRANTS TO FOUR SCHOLARS

LSU Libraries selected four scholars to receive research grants during the 2022-2023 academic year for their projects using materials in Special Collections' holdings. Three travel grants cover funds for travel, lodging, and other types of support associated with a research trip to Hill Memorial Library. This year, the Libraries also awarded one support grant to provide digitization funds toward scanning collections and making them available on the Louisiana Digital Library.

Travel Grant Awardees



Jared Asser is a PhD student in history at the University of Georgia. His research uses the conceptual tools of emotions history to re-interpret the Reconstruction period. Believing that emotions are both culturally conditioned and central to politics, his research focuses on moments of political crisis and how emotion influenced the outcome of those crises. This interest includes the state-level problems that shaped the period, but also the quotidian issues influencing the lives of ordinary people. For instance, how dealing with horse theft may have become a political issue, affecting how small communities experienced Reconstruction. With one of the longest-lasting Reconstruction governments, the state of Louisiana is uniquely suited to this research.



Michelle Donnelly, PhD candidate in the history of art at Yale University, will conduct research for her dissertation, "Spatialized Impressions: American Printmaking Outside the Workshop, 1935–1975." Her project examines how women artists and artists of color expanded the technical and material parameters of printmaking in five alternative sites: the home, the studio, the outdoor environment, the internment camp, and the science lab. At LSU, she will consult sources that are crucial to her chapter on LSU Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts Caroline Durieux. In the 1950s, Durieux developed "electron printing" with Harry Wheeler, an LSU professor of botany, and a student assistant, Naomi Wheeler, in the LSU laboratories. Donnelly will investigate how Durieux harnessed atomic science for artistic creation as well as how her works materialized corporeal vulnerability in the thermonuclear age.



Samuel Niu is a PhD student in the history department at Columbia University, where he studies immigration, race, and labor in the 19th century in the U.S. and Atlantic World. He will conduct research for his dissertation, which examines Chinese plantation labor in the post-emancipation U.S. South. Of particular interest to Niu is how labor brokers, planters, and the immigrants themselves tied together the U.S. South and West, the Caribbean, and China, and what the history of Chinese labor can tell us about the shifting meanings of freedom in this thoroughly transnational post-emancipation moment. Using LSU's extensive collection of plantation records, Niu aims to explore these questions of immigration, freedom, and labor and to tell the history of the Chinese immigrants' lives and experiences.

Digitization Support Grant Awardee



David Thomson, associate professor of history at Sacred Heart University, will use his special collections research grant towards his new project on the political power of state debt in the Antebellum period. Drawing on several states, including Louisiana and Mississippi, Thomson wants to reconstruct the role of U.S. state debt growth and defaults. After massive outlays of state debt, eight states and one future state of Florida repudiated their debts in the Antebellum period while another five states barely avoided repudiation. Such actions had wide-ranging implications across the Atlantic owing to the deep ties of European financiers to this state debt. This project will help to demonstrate a greater integration of global capital markets and the larger implications (political, social, and otherwise) of debt from the state to the federal level in 19th century America.



Philanthropy

LSU LIBRARIES SHATTERS GIVING DAY RECORDS WITH STRONG DONOR SUPPORT

128
Supporters
\$302,215
Raised



LSU Libraries is proud to announce that this year's LSU Giving Day was a record-breaking success, both in terms of the dollar amount raised and the total number of donors. With the help of 128 generous supporters, LSU Libraries raised a total of \$302,215. LSU Libraries plays a crucial role in supporting researchers via scholarly sources, research assistance, and more.

"Because of generous donations to LSU Libraries, I have been able to publish three books and eighteen articles in my field of Reformation history during my tenure at LSU. Well-resourced libraries are vital to the research mission of scholars of the humanities in general and of history in particular. LSU Libraries, as a collection of scholarship in a wide variety of fields, have been absolutely critical to completing my research. In addition, the Libraries are an essential part of LSU's teaching mission. LSU would be a poorer place without these important institutions."

> **Christine Kooi**, Lewis, Katheryn and Benjamin Price Professor of History

The success of this year's Giving Day is due in large part to the hard work and preparations of LSU Libraries' External Group Manager, Amy Bieger. Under her leadership, the Libraries were able to prioritize two funds for Giving Day: the Library Excellence Fund and the Special Collections Acquisitions and Support Fund.

The Library Excellence Fund allows the Libraries to address the university's academic needs in ways that would not be possible otherwise, such as the purchase of digital textbooks, databases, and technologies for student study spaces. The Special Collections Acquisitions and Support Fund supports the purchase of rare books or manuscripts needed for specialized teaching and research projects in all disciplines.

"Working closely with Christine Wendling, LSU Libraries' Director of Communications, we successfully energized the community through emails, calls, and social media posts that demonstrated the profound impact LSU Libraries has

on faculty and students. And, we're incredibly grateful for the overwhelming response we received from our donors," Bieger said.

Giving Day is a powerful opportunity for LSU Libraries to create and share resources, learning opportunities, and programs. Without the partnership of loyal LSU alumni, faculty, and other generous benefactors, the Libraries could not provide the vital instructional and research materials demanded by today's students and faculty at Louisiana's flagship institution.

Thank you to our donors for helping us take BOLD STEPS FORWARD!

Amy Bieger



FRIENDS OF THE LSU LIBRARIES' BOOK BAZAAR RAISES \$80,000 FOR LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS



From left to right: Dean Stanley Wilder and Friends of the LSU Libraries leaders Anita Adams, Georgene Jones, and Mike Liffmann.

Following the tremendous success of LSU Libraries' record-breaking Giving Day in March, the April Book Bazaar continued the momentum, setting new records by earning an impressive \$80,000. The four-day sale, held from April 13-16, attracted book enthusiasts from far and wide and offered more than 60,000 items including new and used books, rare and collectible books, CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records.

The event was hosted by Friends of the LSU Libraries, a nonprofit that was established in 1962 to provide vital financial support to LSU Libraries. The proceeds generated from the Book Bazaar contribute to the acquisition of books that would otherwise be unattainable, enriching the resources available to students, faculty, and the wider community.

"The Book Bazaar has always been a cherished event for the Baton Rouge community," said LSU Libraries Dean Stanley Wilder. "The generous contributions from the public have helped to make the library a better place for everyone."

Beyond its local appeal, the Book Bazaar has become a magnet for antique book collectors nationwide. Each year, enthusiasts from across the country gather in Baton Rouge to explore the extensive collection of vintage books dating back to the 1800s.



"This was my first time attending, and I was thrilled to meet others who have been loyal customers for decades. This event is a haven for book lovers of all kinds, whether they be literary hobbyists, local professors, antique book collectors, or just families seeking a casual outing. With items ranging from very rare to very popular, there's something for everyone."

> **Christine Wendling**,
LSU Libraries' Director of Communications

\$80,000
Earned
60,000
Items

Friends of the LSU Libraries accepts book donations by appointment at their warehouse on River Road, affectionately known as the Book Barn. Interested donors should call 225-578-5925 to schedule a donation. Visit lib.lsu.edu/about/friends for more information.





General Syed Ali Zamin

General Syed Ali Zamin worked in the LSU Libraries for 14 years following an illustrious career serving in the Pakistan army and later serving 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.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: MOISES CHIRINOS ALEMAN HONORED WITH ZAMIN SCHOLARSHIP

This April, LSU Libraries continued its tradition of honoring those who tirelessly contribute to the academic ecosystem by bestowing the General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship upon an undergraduate student worker who exhibits dedication, commitment, and a passion for service. This year's deserving recipient is Moises Chirinos Aleman.

Chirinos is pursuing his passion for music performance as an undergraduate senior in the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. His journey in music began at the National School of Music in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, when he discovered his passion for the double bass at the age of 13. At LSU, he continues to develop his musical skills under the tutelage of Professor Yung-Chiao Wei. Beyond his musical pursuits, Chirinos has also engaged with the broader LSU community as an esteemed Tau Sigma Honor Society member.

Originally from Honduras, Chirinos transferred to LSU and serves as an assistant closer in the Libraries' Access Services department. According to Chirinos, his role in the Libraries has not only allowed him to expand his knowledge beyond the realm of music but has also enabled him to assist fellow students in accessing resources within the library on diverse topics such as science, engineering, agriculture, art, and history, among others.

"This makes me feel very helpful, especially considering that **these interactions could be the beginning of great achievements for some students and for the university.** It could have lasting and profound effects," Chirinos said.

Furthermore, Chirinos' responsibilities as a closer enabled him to develop profound leadership qualities. His encounters with patrons during closing hours have taught him the delicate balance of assertiveness, clarity, and kindness.

According to Karl Simmerman, LSU Libraries' evening supervisor, "Moises' customer service skills are exceptional; he is extremely knowledgeable about library policies and shares that knowledge with our patrons in a way that is always helpful, cheerful, and polite. He also knows a lot about how to use library resources for research purposes, which is especially important for helping our patrons late at night when fewer library staff are present."

In addition to his exceptional service to patrons, Chirinos contributes to an inclusive and positive environment among the Libraries' other employees.

Moises Chirinos Aleman



"Moises is one of the friendliest and most personable student employees that I have ever had the pleasure to work with. He walks in the door every time with a smile, and he takes a moment to cheerfully greet all the employees of our department. He also helps new student employees when they are struggling to understand processes and procedures," said Antonia Aultman, student coordinator for LSU Libraries' Access Services.

Chirinos considers himself incredibly fortunate to be part of the LSU Library community. The connections he has built have not only helped him improve professionally but also contributed to his overall personal development.

"I would like to continue living this amazing experience as long as possible – I really feel like **I am part of a big and diverse family. I have built meaningful and lasting connections that truly make me a better worker, leader, and person,**" Chirinos said.

LSU Libraries would like to express our deep gratitude to the Zamin family for their enduring support of the General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship and celebrate Moises Chirinos Aleman as an exceptional recipient who embodies the scholarship's values. His dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to service exemplify the spirit of the scholarship, and we are proud to have him as part of the LSU Libraries team.

People

LSU LIBRARIES STAFF AND FACULTY AWARDS WINNERS

Each year, LSU Libraries recognizes exceptional faculty and staff by bestowing three awards that recognize the employee's hard work and service to LSU Libraries. Winners receive \$1,000 each. Below are our 2022 and 2023 award winners.



From left to right: Leah Wood Jewett, Christina A Riquelmy, Leah Duncan

2023 Library Staff Award

Leah Wood Jewett

This year's recipient of the Library Staff Award is Leah Wood Jewett, the Exhibitions Manager at Hill Memorial Library. Jewett assists patrons with their research and contributes to a variety of projects for students, scholars, and the public that promote the use of LSU Libraries' rare and historical materials. Jewett has curated or designed more than 70 exhibitions in collaboration with LSU faculty, staff, and external partners. Among the many highlights of Leah's exhibition work are "Through the Valley of Death: A Special Collections Perspective on the First World War," "Louisiana's Natural Treasure: Botanical Artist Margaret Stones," and "Water, Water Everywhere: Control and Consequence in Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands." Jewett is a native of Baton Rouge and holds a BA and MA in anthropology from LSU.

2023 Carolyn H. Hargrave Faculty Leadership Award

Christina Riquelmy

Christina Riquelmy is the Rare Book Cataloger at Hill Memorial Library. She has been a cataloger at LSU Libraries since 1989 and a rare book cataloger since 1994. In that time, she has been the primary cataloger for the E.A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection and the Rare Book Collection, and pre-1865 books in the Louisiana & Lower Mississippi Valley Collection. She has curated, co-curated, and contributed to several exhibitions in Special Collections on subjects ranging from the history of sugar production in Louisiana to the life and work of botanical artist Margaret Stones. In 2021, she compiled a comprehensive research guide on John James Audubon, available on the Libraries' website, and has served at the Libraries' annual Audubon Day since its inception. She has a triple-major BA in French, German, and Spanish from Rice University and an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh.

2023 Early Career Librarian Award

Leah Duncan

This year's recipient is Leah Duncan, the Digital Engagement & Education Services Librarian in Special Collections. Duncan is a primary member of the Special Collections' Teaching Team and develops and supports digital scholarship and pedagogy efforts across the university. She promotes and supports the use of the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL) and co-founded and manages the Y'ALL Award, which shares equipment and expertise with small, community-oriented libraries, archives, and museums across Louisiana. Duncan's accomplishments also include developing the LSU Libraries Special Collections Faculty Fellowship and co-planning and facilitating the first LDL Fest. She also serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Critical Digital Librarianship*. Duncan received her PhD in English from LSU, her MA in English from Boston College, and her BA in English from Samford University.

2022 Library Staff Award

Rikki Babin

LSU Libraries' Human Resources Coordinator, Rikki Babin, oversees the hiring and onboarding of new employees and student assistants. Babin has a wealth of experience with administrative services, having served in nearly every role, including as Interim Business Manager and as Payroll & Travel Coordinator for the Libraries. Babin finds it rewarding to help Libraries faculty and staff navigate the hiring process.

Babin earned her master's in public administration from LSU in 2019. In 2022, she earned certification with the Society of Human Resource Management Certified Professionals and with the College Business Management Institute.





From left to right: Rikki Babin,
Hans Rasmussen, Amanda Hawk

2022 Early Career Librarian Award

Amanda Hawk

Special Collections' former Head of Public and Research Services, Amanda Hawk, earned an MLS and an MA in history from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2013. Hawk managed reference services at LSU Libraries Special Collections, including in-person services in the reading room, remote reference inquiries, and the fulfillment of duplication requests through our online platform. Additionally, Hawk led primary resource instruction sessions and managed rights and permissions for the publication of materials held in Special Collections.

Hawk's accomplishments with the Libraries included playing a key role in the architectural design of the new Special Collections reading room; managing Audubon Day (LSU Special Collections' largest public event of the year); and developing and navigating temporary policies, procedures, the appointment system, and service hours for a safe return to campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2022 Carolyn H. Hargrave Faculty Leadership Award

Hans Rasmussen

Hans Rasmussen has served as the Head of Special Collections Technical Services since 2013. His department conducts the acquisition, arrangement, description, cataloging, processing, and conservation of Special Collections materials. Rasmussen also serves as the Louisiana Newspapers Librarian and the libraries' representative with the Louisiana Public Documents Depository Program.

Rasmussen received an MA in history from LSU and an MLIS degree in archives and records enterprise from the University of Texas at Austin. He worked as an archivist and catalog librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi until 2006 when he joined LSU Libraries as a Special Collections Cataloger. Hans has served as a member of the Rare Books & Manuscripts section of the Association of College & Research Libraries and is a member of the Catholic Library Association.

NEW HIRES

Faculty



Elizabeth Allen

Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian



Keerthi Chandrashekar

Special Collections, Processing Archivist



Candace B Jones

Scholarly Publications and Analytics Librarian



Alia Kempton

Special Collections, Outreach and Instruction Librarian



Lauren Lay

Mass Communication Librarian

Staff



Lili Bedoya

Research and Instruction Services Coordinator



Meredith Contreras

Special Collections, Public Services and Events Coordinator



Kelsey Gresham

Executive Assistant to The Dean



Justin Kline

Access Services Library Assistant



Matthew LeBlanc

Technology Support Manager



Behnoush Tavasolinia

Graphic Designer



PROMOTIONS & TENURE



October 2022

> **Jacob Fontenot**, Resource Sharing Librarian and Head of Interlibrary Loan, was promoted from library associate to general librarian.



October 2022

> **Allen LeBlanc** was promoted from Research and Instruction Services Coordinator to Open Scholarship Librarian, at the rank of general librarian.



October 2022

> **Mikel LeDee**, Head of Music Resources, was promoted from the rank of library associate to general librarian.



January 2023

> **Sarah Simms** was promoted from the rank of assistant librarian to associate librarian with tenure.



In Memoriam

Remembering Stephen Haddad

LSU Libraries lost a cherished friend and former colleague on September 19, 2022, when Stephen Haddad passed away after a yearlong battle with cancer. Stephen was a native of Mandeville, Louisiana. He earned a bachelor's in anthropology and a master's in library sciences from LSU as well as a master's in English from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Thanks to his "Gramps," George Guidry, the former dean of LSU Libraries, Stephen spent time in libraries from a young age. At LSU, Stephen climbed his way up from a page to a circulation student worker and then a supervisor to a government documents graduate assistant, and finally to a librarian. During his undergraduate studies, Stephen worked as a student worker in LSU Libraries' Circulation Department, then upon graduation, he took on a full-time position there from 2007-2009. Later, while completing his MLIS, he took a graduate assistantship with the Government Documents Department.

While completing his master's in English at SLU, Stephen worked on an archiving project of The Early Ruskin Manuscripts, which presents a comprehensive diplomatic edition of Ruskin's early writing paired with facsimiles of the manuscripts, providing a resource for the study of Ruskin's works. As an aspiring librarian at the time, Stephen was very proud of being a part of this project.

After leaving LSU, Stephen and his wife, Sarabeth, moved to Missoula, Montana, where Stephen secured a position at the Missoula Public Library. After several more years, they moved to Helena, Montana, where he found a position at the Corette Library at Carrol College. He took pride in his positions as a public librarian, a college librarian, and an interim co-director. He also enjoyed offering support to the library system in Montana through collaboration with the state library and during his tenure as a web developer for the Montana Library Association. His greatest pride was supporting others in the pursuit of knowledge.

He is remembered for his generous nature, quick wit, irreverent humor, and love of the outdoors. On any given weekend or day off, he could be found on the trail in his beloved mountains of Montana followed by a trip to a local craft brewery. He lovingly shared his passion for hiking and the mountains with his and Sarabeth's daughter Eponine, a.k.a. Epi. Stephen is greatly missed by his family, friends, and all who worked with him.

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LSU | Libraries

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The image you see here 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.

