

Northwestern | UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
FOOTNOTES



SPRING 2018 VOLUME 43 NUMBER 1

FOOTNOTES

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www.library.northwestern.edu

Dean of Libraries and
Charles Deering McCormick
University Librarian:

Sarah M. Pritchard
spritchard@northwestern.edu

Director of Development:

Jennifer Mullman '99
jmullman@northwestern.edu

Director of Marketing and
Communication:
Clare Roccaforte
c-roccaforte@northwestern.edu

Editor and Writer:
Drew Scott '92
drew.scott@northwestern.edu

"Hidden Treasures":
Jill Waycie, text; Tom O'Connell,
photography

Cover: Students (from left) Michael Smith '70, '72 MA, Steve Colson '71, Dan Davis '69, '78 MA/MS, and Eric Perkins '70 inside the Bursar's Office during the historic 1968 takeover. (See story on page 6.) Photo courtesy of Steve Colson.

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Preserving what was taken for granted



Francis Underwood, a 19th-century historian and literary critic, once commented that “the life of every community is made up of infinite details.” How do we keep ourselves warm in winter? What do we eat for breakfast? Where do we empty our chamber pots? The lives of the writers, artists, readers, and everyone else we encounter in the Libraries’ Distinctive Collections were filled with these “infinite details”—just as our lives are today.

As the Libraries’ director of Distinctive Collections, I take this very seriously. Scholars and students recognize that the study of what was taken for granted—things not recorded or commented on in major histories, the skein of little facts and details that are the stuff of everyday life, the arcane clues left behind in the fabric of material culture—represents a gold mine for those trying to put flesh on the bare bones of the past. And all this is available for discovery in the substantial constellation of holdings we are now calling Distinctive Collections: the Art, Music, Transportation, and African Studies Libraries; Special Collections; and University Archives.

More than simple repositories of primary sources, our Distinctive Collections also function as laboratories for analyzing the material remains of the past. Under the guidance of our

experienced curators, the collections are “archaeological zones” where students may experience the transformative effect of physical contact with the materiality of history and where we can attempt to understand the past through millennial conversations between texts and readers.

Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine better venues for injecting our remarkable collections into the Northwestern University curriculum. All disciplines, from sciences to historical studies, have made extensive use of our holdings. These collections and their curators are consulted by scholars around the world. In the aggregate, these collections constitute one of Northwestern’s most powerful pedagogical resources.

Two special exhibits this spring showcase how we use these collections to understand the University’s own past. One reflects on the consequential 1968 Bursar’s Office takeover by Black students; the other celebrates the history of stage and screen performance by faculty and alumni. As you read about both in this issue, I hope you’ll have a greater appreciation for the Distinctive Collections that make such historical studies possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin Antonetti".

Martin Antonetti
Director of Distinctive Collections



AJ Brown

Renovated Mudd Library opens

Seeley G. Mudd Library reopened last September after an 18-month renovation to make way for new physics and astronomy laboratories in the building. Long a popular study space, the library now has a dedicated geospatial and data visualization lab, a video recording studio, group study rooms, two active-learning classrooms, and a technology workspace.

Quinn donates Gold Star correspondence

At a ceremony last November, former Illinois governor Pat Quinn '80 JD announced the donation of his papers to University Archives. He highlighted a component he considers particularly important: his correspondence with Illinois Gold Star families.

During his tenure as governor from 2009 to 2015, Quinn corresponded with the families of more than 300 Illinois soldiers killed in the line of duty and meticulously saved news clippings, photographs, and letters from those interactions. At the Mudd Library ceremony hosted by the Libraries to announce the donation, Quinn spoke to a gathering of about 70 people, most of whom were relatives of the service members memorialized in Quinn's papers.

Quinn's Gold Star family files now occupy about 10 linear feet of storage in University Archives. He plans to donate his career papers at a later date.



Nate Bartlett, NUIT

A family member of a fallen soldier spends a quiet moment with a traveling memorial to the Illinois service members who died in the line of duty while former governor Pat Quinn was in office. The memorial, by artist Cameron Schilling, was on display during Quinn's remarks at Mudd Library in November.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Marc McClellan '81

Last year Marc McClellan '81 went all in for Northwestern University Libraries.

McClellan had already volunteered for 22 years with several Northwestern alumni groups, including leadership roles as president of Northwestern University Gay and Lesbian Alumni and a regional director on the Northwestern Alumni Association board.

Then he joined the Libraries' Board of Governors and was done moving.

"I found a way to connect with an area I'm really passionate about," said McClellan. "I really believe the Libraries touch more people and have a greater impact on the University community than any other group does."

McClellan was referred to the board by Dan Jones '61, '91 P, owner and president of NewsBank, the media archiving company where McClellan works. (Jones has been on the Board of Governors since 2010 and is a University life trustee.) McClellan knew it would be an ideal fit because the Libraries had played an important role in his own journey at Northwestern.

"I came from a small town in southern Illinois, and I was awestruck by the size and the collections of the main library, which was fairly new at the time," he said. He was so drawn to Deering Library that he made a film about it—an architectural study of the neo-Gothic landmark.

Years later, his work with NewsBank introduced him to the broader library world. For several years he worked as an account executive selling historical newspaper archives to public libraries, and he got to know what kinds of information libraries look for and



Marc McClellan (right) and his husband, John Hetzler, at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

how they use it. He also observed firsthand the contributions of the service-minded people on library staffs.

"I had become passionate about the work libraries and librarians do, and I decided I wanted to make it part of my volunteer work and also my giving," he said. "I wanted to use my energy to support something that will have the biggest impact on the most people."

He shares the Board of Governors' focus on the planned Deering Library renovation, for which fundraising is still under way. For McClellan, the building is more than an iconic campus symbol; it's "the center and the heart" of the University.

"It's important to preserve the building and at the same time develop the collaborative spaces that have become so important at Northwestern," he said. "We want to make Deering the shining light on this campus."

Not only has McClellan been a Libraries donor, but his estate plan will eventually provide the Libraries with a bequest. ■

Words' worth

The poetic and scholarly mission
of Northwestern University Press

John Vinci: Life and Landmarks is a large book with a small audience.

It tells the story of the architect best known for preserving Louis Sullivan's Chicago Stock Exchange trading room, but the Venn diagram of the book's ideal audience intersects at "Chicagoans" and "architecture buffs." That relatively narrow sliver means the work probably appeals to few large commercial publishers.

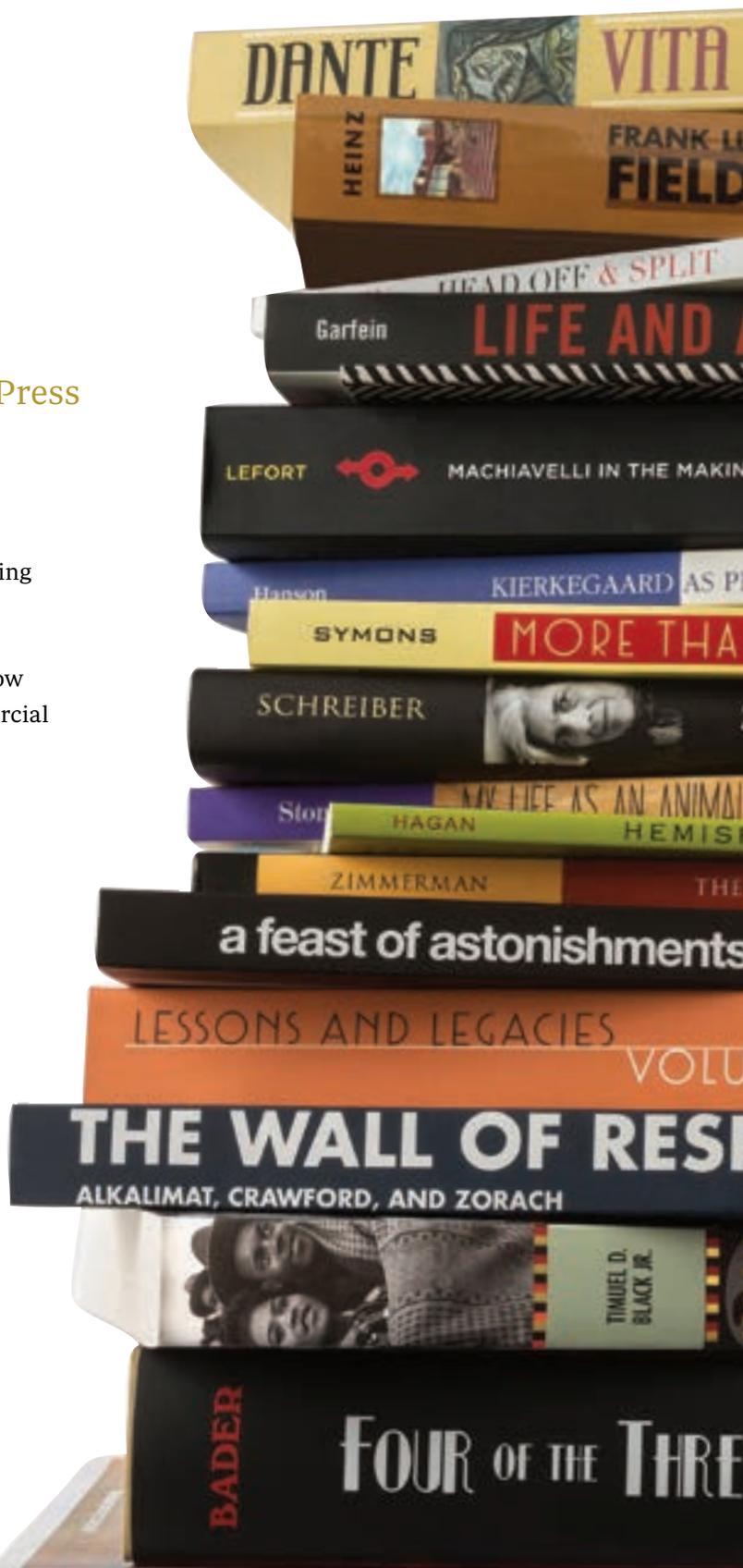
Which is one reason to be grateful that university presses exist.

"We tell stories that big national publishers would not typically tell," said Jane Bunker, director of Northwestern University Press. "We make it possible for influential books with niche audiences to get into print."

Written by Robert Sharoff, with photography by William Zbaren, and published in 2017, *John Vinci* is a local story—a specialty of regional publishers like the Press. Bunker knew that architecture-loving audiences would receive the book eagerly, because its creators invested years compiling comprehensive research on and photography of the renowned architect's work.

Because regional history is a key part of its mission, the Press last year also published *The Wall of Respect: Public Art and Black Liberation in 1960s Chicago*. The book focuses on a mural painted in 1967 on Chicago's South Side.

"Regional-interest books may have a small audience, yet they still tell the best American stories," said marketing and sales director



Robert Sharoff
William Zbaren

John Vinci
Life and Landmarks



JD Wilson. “*Wall of Respect* is a Chicago story that shows how the city’s cultural influence ripples across the world.”

More than 100 US universities maintain their own scholarly presses, and they don’t simply preserve local history. Most specialize in scholarship areas with audiences of just a few hundred people.

Northwestern University Press is renowned in fields such as Slavic, German, and Jewish literary criticism; philosophy; and the performing arts. Titles like *The Natural World as a Philosophical Problem* by Czech philosopher and dissident Jan Patočka will not show up on bestseller lists. But Wilson says the book’s existence is important to scholars who rely on Northwestern’s press as a source of books at the leading edges of knowledge production.

Northwestern has also built a reputation as a first-class publisher of poetry and fiction. Its books regularly garner literary awards. In February, poet Patricia Smith’s *Incendiary Art: Poems* won the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the largest cash prize for a single volume of poetry. In 2017, another Northwestern University Press book won the prize, Vievee Francis’s *Forest Primeval*.

“Though boutique-sized, we punch above our weight,” said Wilson.

The Press uses a peer-review process to curate the roster of 70 new books published every year. Editors send manuscripts to scholars in relevant fields to comment on the works’ value or eminence. The editorial board—12 faculty members from a variety of Northwestern schools and departments—then evaluates the reviewers’ feedback before deciding whether to send the projects to print.

The mission of a university press isn’t always obvious outside academia. Citing a common misconception, Wilson said that “some people think you’re a photocopy shop,” while others assume that universities have presses just to publish books by their own faculty members. Though Northwestern’s press does publish some works by its faculty, most faculty authors find that it makes sense to take their works to a press specializing in their field.

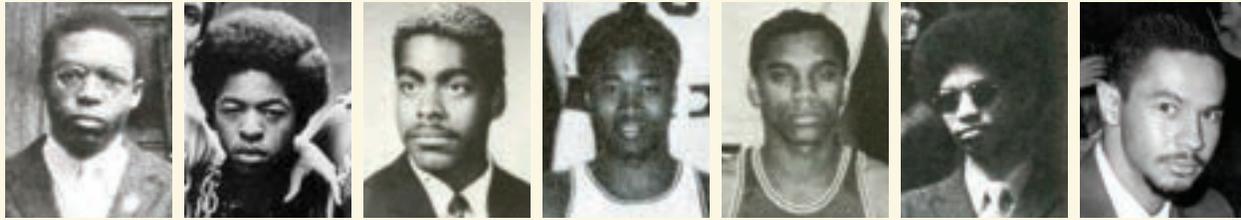
“Having a press is a competitive advantage,” Bunker said. “It’s a sign that a university has made a commitment to not just consuming scholarship but producing it.” ■

Gary Gaertert

Debra Avant, Andre Bell, Elaine Brazil, Clinton Bristow, Josephine Bronaugh, Stephen Broussard, Floyd Brown, Millicent Brown, Janice Bumphus, Nona Burney, Herman Cage



Leon Coleman, Steve Colson, Floyd Crider, Dan Davis, Vernon Ford, Earl Freeman, Victor Goode, Gregory Harper, Dorothy Harrell, Jaquita Harris, Jocklyn Harris



Lestlie Harris, James Hill, Stanley Hill, Audrey Hinton, Valeria Howell, Gail Irving, Marianne Jackson, Eva Jefferson, Nelson Johnson, Isola Jones, Lillian Jordan



Loester Lewis, Sandra Malone, Daphne Maxwell, Mario McHarris, Herbert Melton, Robert Miller, Maxine Mitchell, Janice Morris, Laura Murray, Harvette Nelson, Kathryn Ogletree



Carol Oliver, Dorothy Parson, Roland Person, Mark Phillippe, James Pitts, Thomas Preston, Christine Price, Lonnie Radcliffe, Robert Ray, Cora Regalus, Sue Rhoden



Regina Rice, Ronald Riley, Robert Scott, Clovis Semmes, Thomas Sharpton, Charles Shepard, Janice Sims, Sandra Small, Detra Smith, Jinx Smith, LeRoy Smith



Michael Smith, Eleanor Steele, Dianne Strickland, Lonnie Terry, Adrienne Thomas, John Trimble, James Turner, Mae Tyler, Tom Vance, Joyce Wade, Roger Ward



Wayne Watson, Bill West, Joanne Williams, Judy Willoughby, Dolores Wilson, Arnold Wright, Cheryl Wright



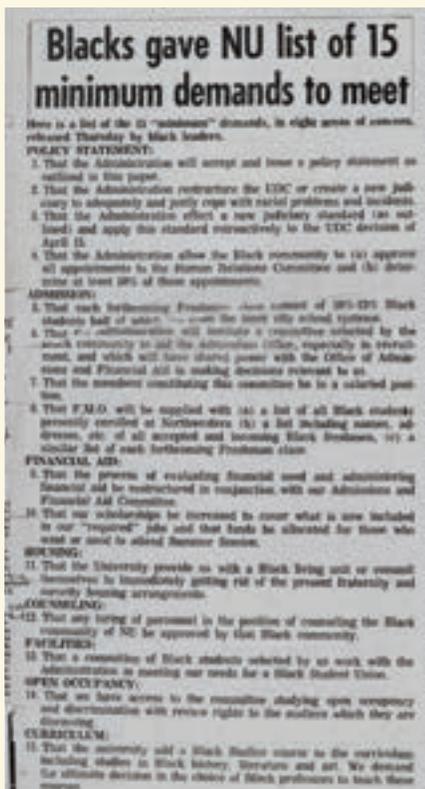


They Demanded Courageously

Exhibit honors 1968 Black student protest

On May 3, 1968, about 120 Black students occupied the Bursar's Office on the Evanston campus to protest inequitable campus policies and heighten awareness of Black students' experiences of isolation at Northwestern. At the time, many administrators, alumni, faculty, and students considered it an embarrassing blow to the University.

These photos of some of the nearly 120 students who participated in the takeover were compiled using yearbooks, media guides, and other archival material. But many who participated are still not represented in University Archives holdings. Help us fill in the gaps by sharing photos and stories at archives@northwestern.edu.



This year Northwestern is honoring the 50th anniversary of the takeover of the Bursar's Office, proving that in the fullness of time, attitudes about race and equity really can change for the better.

The Bursar's Office takeover had a lasting impact on Northwestern, heightening awareness of racial concerns on campus and eliciting real change. To commemorate the takeover's anniversary, University Libraries is hosting an exhibition, both online and on site, that revisits that bold action.

"This was a transformative chapter in Northwestern history," said Charla Wilson, who was hired in 2017 as the Libraries' first archivist for the Black experience. "These students were fighting to fully participate in all aspects of student life, to attain a sense of belonging and safety on campus."

They Demanded Courageously: The 1968 Northwestern Bursar's Office Takeover opens May 1 in Deering Library and online at www.libraries.nu/bursars1968. The exhibition draws on the holdings of University Archives to highlight the work of the Afro-American Student Union and the For Members Only student group, which jointly coordinated the daring demonstration. Negotiations during the peaceful 38-hour standoff resulted in a range of concessions around Black representation in annual admissions, the establishment of an African American studies program,



and creation of a Black student union, which became the Black House at 1914 Sheridan Road.

They Demanded Courageously focuses on more than the day and a half of protest. It examines the months of growing tension that preceded it, as Black students presented their demands to an unresponsive administration. Wilson is working with the Northwestern University Black Alumni Association (NUBAA) to obtain the archives and firsthand accounts of Daphne Maxwell Reid '70, Eva Jefferson Paterson '71, Jim Pitts '66, '68 MA, '71 PhD, and other key activists. Their materials are helping Wilson bring to life the experiences of discrimination and isolation that led the takeover participants to risk physical confrontation, loss of scholarships, and even expulsion.

"The legacy of the takeover didn't come without struggle," she said. "We're taking the time to recognize and honor those who did that work and took that risk."

The first week of May will feature commemorative events planned by NUBAA as part of its annual summit, including a campus procession, a symposium featuring some of the protesters, and the premiere of *The Takeover*, a documentary produced by NUBAA and the University.

They Demanded Courageously will remain on view in Deering through July 31. ■

(Opposite, top) Lead negotiator James Turner '68 MA, president of the Afro-American Student Union, speaks with the press during the Bursar's Office takeover.

(Opposite, bottom) On May 4, 1968, the *Daily Northwestern* published the full list of demands issued by the protesters. See more at www.libraries.nu/bursars1968.

(Above) Northwestern students and faculty gather in front of the Bursar's Office in support of the protest.

HERE TO HELP: LibGUIDES

Not everyone who explores a wilderness can be accompanied by a trail guide; some set out with just a map.

Although librarians think of themselves as guides for scholars entering unfamiliar territory, they know there are those who prefer to explore on their own—or who are unable to come to the library for a one-on-one consultation. For them, Northwestern University Libraries offers LibGuides, a digital self-service solution that helps researchers find the right path on their own.

LibGuides is part of a suite of products, developed by library technology company Springshare, that are used at academic institutions the world over. The content management system provides an orderly digital way to share resources on a particular topic. A guide can cover everything from the basics—such as the most commonly cited resources a researcher should know—to the advanced tools used by scholars for finding databases, primary source materials, legal references, and more.

Ready to dive into genetic engineering? The relevant LibGuide on

the Libraries' website will link you to the most influential books, peer-reviewed journals, and—just in case—the Libraries' own subject specialist, science librarian Becca Greenstein. Taking Sustainability and Social Justice next quarter? Life sciences librarians have already created a LibGuide for this Weinberg College class.

In all, University Libraries offers more than 600 guides, each designed by a librarian to dovetail with a specific course or introduce a field of study.

“The beauty of these guides is that they are infinitely customizable,” said John Hernandez, who manages the Libraries' LibGuides. “We can make them focus on whatever is relevant for an audience. And we know that as soon they're discovered, they are universally valued.”

Librarian Tracy Coyne curates LibGuides for majors in the School of Professional Studies, including the program in data science. Because it's an interdisciplinary field—a hallmark of Northwestern scholarship—the program's popular LibGuide is used by students from several Northwestern schools.



“I tell students, ‘This is the digital equivalent of sitting with me while I show you the best starting resources.’” – Tracy Coyne

“I tell students, ‘This is the digital equivalent of sitting with me while I show you the best starting resources,’” said Coyne. “We’re all about the in-person consultation, but for some students it’s not feasible to sit down with a librarian.”

When creating a guide for a specific class, librarians work with the instructor to gather books and databases helpful for that course’s assignments. Other guides may help develop students’

research skills in a particular discipline, such as how

to plumb a science database or look up a corporation’s financial reports.

Last year, Hernandez worked with Northwestern University Information Technology to integrate LibGuides into Canvas, the main software that faculty members use to manage their courses. Canvas lets a professor provide a syllabus, communicate assignments, collect and grade papers, and share resources. From inside Canvas, LibGuides are now easier than ever to discover.

“This is a real game changer,” said Hernandez, “because it puts more of our guides right in front of students’ eyes and gives faculty a chance to request guides tailored for their courses.”

Librarians also create LibGuides on topics of

current interest. Last year, Esmeralda Kale, the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Herskovits Library of African Studies, developed a guide in response to West Africa’s Ebola outbreak. She gathered dozens of books and journal articles about the disease, along with links to official government and World Health Organization reports from Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and other nations. “For anyone looking to study the outbreak, she has already done an enormous amount of the groundwork,” said Hernandez.

Hernandez and Coyne stress that the guides are just one of the Libraries’ digital support solutions—one that meets the Northwestern community where many prefer to be served.

“Students love it when they discover the LibGuides,” said Coyne. “The Libraries have so many resources that it can be overwhelming. But a guide like this can show them a place to begin, a path to go down.” ■



HIDDEN TREASURES

OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



What is it? A cup-and-saucer service set used on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. After Chessie the Railroad Kitten first appeared in 1933 with the slogan “Sleep Like a Kitten,” she became an icon of C&O advertising campaigns promoting the comfort of the railroad’s sleeper cars. Chessie remained an enduring and charming symbol of C&O for decades, appearing on menus, in advertisements, and throughout corporate publications.

Where is it? William Hough Transportation Collection, Transportation Library



What is it? A bronze elephant statuette standing about 8 inches high. Beginning in 1908, Northwestern students staged an annual circus, complete with midway, acrobatic acts, and even elephants. This statuette was awarded as a prize for parade participants in 1932, the last year of the circus.

Where is it? University Archives



What is it? A folk art chicken figurine made of wire, hard plastic, and rosettes fashioned from trimmed plastic bags, purchased at a roadside stall in South Africa by Herskovits Library curator Esmeralda Kale.

Where is it? Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies



What is it? John Martin's *The Country of the Iguanodon*, an illustration commissioned for the frontispiece of volume 1 of *Wonders of Geology* (1839) by Gideon Mantell. This is one of the earliest imaginings of a science-based prehistoric world to include what would come to be known as dinosaurs. Martin was famed for his large-scale paintings and mezzotints of biblical and literary scenes.

Where is it? Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections

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April 9–22 • Deering Library

School of Communication alumni will gather in Evanston April 20 and 21 for CommFest, a weekend of workshops, open houses, and other events, including a student film festival and a star-studded performance. In honor of CommFest, University Archives has mounted a brief exhibition celebrating the history of Northwestern student and faculty performance with materials ranging from Waa-Mu memorabilia to objects from the collections of Patricia Neal, Frank Galati, and Alvina Krause, among other alumni and faculty.

A 1942 *Syllabus* yearbook photo of a chorus line from the 1941 Waa-Mu Show, *Wait a Minute*.