

Northwestern | UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
FOOTNOTES



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Above: Banners celebrating 150 years of women at Northwestern hang in the Libraries. Cover (from left): “The Co-Ed” from a student event flier, 1903; Heather Headley ’97 in the 1996 *Waa-Mu Show*; two-time Big Ten softball MVP Lisa Ishikawa ’88, 1986; biomedical engineering and neurobiology professor Christina Enroth-Cugell, 1971. All images from University Archives.

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Putting librarians at the heart of academic life

by Elsa Alvaro

Head of Academic Engagement

It may seem obvious that librarians play a key role in teaching and research at Northwestern. But this work is about more than making faculty and students aware of our resources; it is about taking a strategic approach to partnering with scholars on campus.

That's why in 2018 the Libraries created the academic engagement department, which I am fortunate to lead. This team unites the Libraries' main outreach and service roles, ensuring that librarians, faculty, and students are working as one to advance the University's scholarly mission.

For students, our message is "We're not just going to help you with your research paper; we're going to ensure you thrive." To do that, we acknowledge the many dimensions that define a student and the many ways we provide support. For instance, if you're a history major, we have a liaison librarian specializing in your field who can help you discover the resources you need for rigorous research. If you're an international student, we have you covered there, too; a librarian works with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services to make sure we're addressing your unique concerns. Conducting undergraduate research? Studying abroad? We have tools and services that support these needs as well.

Librarians don't contribute to students' academic success by simply pointing them to resources. That's essential, of course, but it's only part of the work.

Our engagement efforts extend to other aspects of the student experience, including exam relief (the many stress-relief events we offer near the end of every quarter) and new-student programs. Every fall we work hard to engage with all first-year and transfer students (and



their families) so they feel welcome here and confident about working with us. During orientation this year, we gave tours of University Library to more than 800 undergraduates in two and a half hours—that's about 40 percent of the incoming class!

Another major part of our outreach is our liaison program, which assigns a dedicated librarian to each department and program. These librarians forge working relationships with faculty to boost achievement through collaboration. Complementing specialized faculty expertise, our liaisons offer expertise in the greater information ecosystem, including the research methodologies, analytical tools, collections, and connections that make the Libraries an essential node in the campus network.

The Libraries are an indispensable thread in Northwestern's academic fabric. We connect, we contribute, and we bring our own unique perspectives and skills. My goal is to make sure every faculty member and student on campus knows it. ■

Gould family donates original Dick Tracy strips

The family of Chester Gould '23 recently donated an assortment of Dick Tracy memorabilia, including 20 original comic strips, to supplement the renowned cartoonist's papers and artifacts already housed in University Archives.

Dating from 1949 to 1971, the strips are drawn on 23-by-7-inch Bristol board and reveal penciled notes, scribbles, cut-and-pasted text corrections, and other artist marks. The backs of some strips bear light scorch marks where Gould had held a match to dry the ink more quickly.

Donated in stages by his family since 2003, Gould's collection includes correspondence, books, photographs, newspaper clippings, bobblehead dolls, and even novelty yellow fedoras in Dick Tracy's signature style.

Celebrated theater director's papers donated

This summer University Archives received the personal papers of renowned theater director Marshall Mason '61. Best known as a cofounder of New York's award-winning off-Broadway Circle Repertory Company, where he was



artistic director from 1969 to 1987, Mason received a 2016 Tony Award for lifetime achievement in theater.

His voluminous collection, comprising almost 90 archival boxes, documents his entire career, which included work with legendary Northwestern acting professor Alvina Krause (as a student actor and later a director at Krause's summer repertory theater in Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania) as well as his tenure as a theater professor at Arizona State University. The papers include working scripts, production notes, playbills, and correspondence.

A notable artifact in the collection is a set model by influential designer Ming Cho Lee, considered the dean of American set design, for Mason's 1998 Arizona Theatre Company production of *Long Day's Journey into Night*, starring fellow alumnus Lawrence Pressman '61. Mason recalled it as "my best production ever" in a typewritten note stored with the model.

Mason's collection has been processed, and a finding aid will soon be available in University Archives.



Top: *Dick Tracy* comic strip originals donated by the family of Chester Gould '23. Left: Ming Cho Lee set model from the donated archive of theater director Marshall Mason '61.

Books of burden

Grants help faculty create free alternatives to expensive textbooks

Last spring Northwestern University Libraries and the provost's office cofounded a grant program to help faculty create no-cost alternatives to expensive textbooks. Seven projects received grants of up to \$5,000 to enable faculty to produce or adapt original course materials—called open educational resources—and make them free for students.

“I dread having to scavenge books or scrape up money every quarter.”

The OER grant program is part of the Affordable Instructional Resources initiative, a multidepartment effort at Northwestern to tackle the effects of commercial textbooks' and course packets' rising costs. “Federal research shows that 65 percent of students report not buying a textbook because it's too expensive,” said librarian and AIR task force member Lauren McKeen. “These OER projects eliminate the costs of textbooks and make life a little easier for students who are struggling to cover all the costs of going to college.” The 2019 grant program is bringing OER materials to 11 undergraduate courses serving over 750 Northwestern students.

These materials include textbooks, websites, presentations, lesson plans, and other resources

that can be distributed without restriction and modified by other instructors to fit their own course-specific needs. While most materials originate in digital format, they can also be printed, at home or commercially.

Last spring, faculty members Shelby Hatch (chemistry) and Bruce Spencer (statistics) each received a \$2,500 grant to produce materials to replace textbooks in their courses. Five \$5,000 grants were awarded to faculty Jean Clipperton (political science), Jonathan Emery and Ken Shull (materials science and engineering), Arend Kuyper (statistics), Peter Mwangi (Swahili), and Karrie Snyder (sociology) to create and publish new OER materials. Their work began over the summer, with their projects rolling out this academic year.

“I've avoided taking certain classes because I knew they had expensive textbooks ... Hope I'm not missing out.”

“These grants are meant to reward faculty who take the time to redesign a course with new instructional materials,” said McKeen. For example, Hatch is consolidating three different OER chemistry textbooks into a single source. Spencer is developing digital homework

“I try my hardest not to buy textbooks. I would rather not read and be behind; I'm too poor.”

exercises that enable students to get real-time feedback in his statistics course. Mwangi is using his grant to travel to Africa to record interviews in Swahili—a language not commonly taught at English-speaking universities and thus with fewer teaching resources and more costly traditional textbooks.

In 2016 Northwestern announced that, within four years, 20 percent of incoming undergraduate classes would be eligible for Pell Grants, which assist students from low-income backgrounds. In 2018 the University achieved that goal two years early, meaning that more low-income Northwestern students than ever are grappling with the costs of higher education.

“If more faculty create and use OER, it will have a positive impact at Northwestern,” said McKeen. “We can only go up from here.” ■

The student quotes featured in this article were written on a whiteboard in University Library as responses to the question “How has the cost of textbooks affected your life and education?”

150 years, four students, and an archive

Student researchers document women's history on campus

With 150 years of Northwestern women's history to distill into a single exhibition, the

Libraries needed an assist. They found that help in not one, but four current women students.

The students are members of the faculty- and staff-led 150 Years of Women Committee, and their research is now part of the exhibit *On the Same Terms: 150 Years of Women at Northwestern*, on display through June 2020 in Deering Library. The exhibition displays the materials, selected from University Archives, surrounding the 1869 decision to admit women. Each student pursued a distinct research topic that would become part of the exhibit and contributed to a poster display that traces the history of Northwestern women through much of the 20th century.

With their research funded by both the Office of the Provost and Weinberg College's Leopold

Fellowships, the three undergraduates and one graduate student were tasked with uncovering the archived stories of women on campus. They worked closely with history professors Leslie Harris and Kate Masur and assistant University archivist Janet Olson to illuminate the experience of Northwestern women across the decades.



WHAT THIS CO-ED REALLY THINKS



Vivien Hough '21 researched how the non-gendered term “coed” came to mean exclusively women. Her search of the Archives uncovered abundant examples of the word—and how it was used, often dismissively—in print over the years. (The last example she found in the Archives: a 1980 *Daily Northwestern* classified ad touting “3 attractive co-eds” who would share expenses for a ride to St. Louis.)

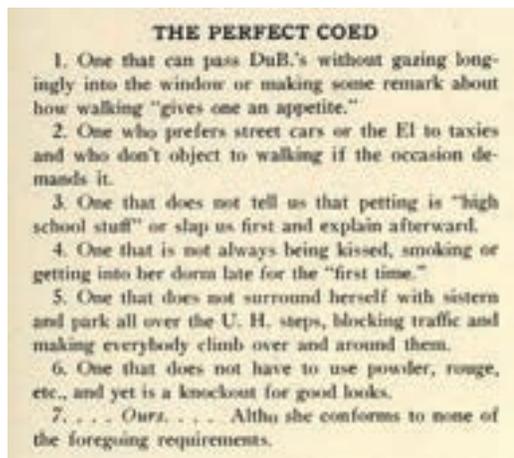
Beatriz Sampaio '21 studied one of the more unusual social clubs in Northwestern history. In the first decades of the 20th century, women students could join the Helen Club if they met just one criterion: being named Helen. Though its origins played on an amusing commonality of birth names, the club became an advocate for amplifying women’s roles at Northwestern—sometimes expressing opinions through letters to the *Daily* signed simply “Helen.” Wrote Sampaio, “Solidarity was key to creating the identity of ‘Helen’ as a strong woman who represented the future of women at Northwestern.”

Keerthi Yalamanchili '21 created a timeline showing how University services have supported women’s physical and mental health. Her research documented the major offices that have provided counseling and



healthcare services as well as many of the fliers and other outreach efforts that encouraged women to make use of available resources. As early as 1929, Yalamanchili reported, the dean of women had formally petitioned the University to offer her students psychological services.

PhD candidate **Elizabeth Barahona** studied the history of the black women students who helped produce the publication *BlackBoard*. Beginning in 1971, the newsletter (later a magazine) provided an outlet



Clockwise from lower left: Scrapbook page, Helen Paddock, 1913; “What This Co-Ed Really Thinks,” *Purple Parrot*, November 1924; *BlackBoard*, winter 2019; “Pretty Coeds Reign on Homecoming Weekend,” 1962 *Syllabus* photo; “The Perfect Coed,” *Purple Parrot*, February 1925.



for activism and community building among Northwestern’s black students, and many of its influential editors and writers were women—including the woman-led editorial staff that revived the publication in 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

The story of Northwestern’s decision to admit women in 1869 has reverberated on campus ever since. The work of documenting the complete experiences of women students is a years-long pursuit, said archivist Olson, and the roads to that research begin in University Archives.

“The story we tell in this exhibition only provides a jumping-off point for the kind of research that can be done in Archives,” she said. “What our students found is that there are many more themes and stories to be discovered in our collections. I can’t wait to see what comes next.” ■



CUCUMIS TUR-
CICUS.
Türkisch Cucumer.

Hand-colored engraving from the botanical encyclopedia *De historia stirpium commentarii insignes* by Leonhart Fuchs (Basel, 1542). Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections and University Archives.



CUCUMER
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Above: Hand-colored detail from the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, 1493. Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections and University Archives.

Northwestern University Libraries appreciate the generosity of our donors. This report reflects giving from September 1, 2018, to August 31, 2019.

Please send any corrections to Jennifer Mullman; Director of Development for Libraries, Press, and University Archives; Northwestern University; 1201 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois 60208-4410; phone 847-467-7278; jmullman@northwestern.edu.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Evelyn Riedel

Like many library donors, Evelyn Riedel '83 has had a lifelong interest in libraries—but few such donors go so far as to become librarians themselves.

“I grew up spending half my free time in the library,” said Riedel, a member of the Northwestern University Libraries Board of Governors. “When I was at Northwestern, I used University Library quite a bit. I found the librarians were so helpful in showing me how to access information that it made me better at research.” She went on to earn a library science degree at St. John’s University and spent 10 years as a librarian and fact-checker for Consumers Union.

But her profession is only a third of the explanation for Riedel’s devotion to the Libraries. The other two-thirds comes from formative service experiences on a school board and with a church, both of which showed how an organization’s stewards can serve the larger community.

While serving on the school board in Pelham, New York (where she lives with her husband, Kurt), Riedel felt a responsibility to ensure that all students had the same educational experience despite differences in their backgrounds. “There were different populations within our school district, and I wanted to make sure they all had the same kind of access,” she said. The district

eventually distributed laptops to all middle and high school students so that computers weren’t available only to students who could afford to buy them.

“I think that approach is important on a university level as well,” she said. “No matter where Northwestern students come from, they should have equal access and equal opportunity to gain the knowledge they came for.”

So while Riedel’s initial interest in library giving was collections-based (she helped fund Asian studies collections in 2013, when the department was new), her focus now is on how the Libraries support the whole student experience, from lending laptops to making expensive textbooks available for checkout.

In addition, Riedel’s time as a church elder showed her the importance of using older spaces to serve modern audiences. “Churches and universities and libraries are in the same boat, in that you have 21st-century people trying to work inside 19th- and 20th-century buildings,” she said. “It’s very important to adapt your buildings to what makes sense today; people are living differently than they did 50 or 100 years ago.”

Naturally, that means Riedel encourages the ongoing campaign to renovate Deering Library, though that isn’t the only space she regards as needing to function differently. She welcomed the creation of the Oak Grove Library Center to house low-demand materials off-site, thus freeing up areas within University Library for more creative uses to serve students.

“It’s important to make libraries inviting and productive spaces,” she said. “A library can enrich the experience of students so much.” ■



Bruce Powell

Supporting the entire student experience, including Explore Your Library Day, is important to donor Evelyn Riedel '83.

FOOTNOTES

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On the Same Terms: 150 Years of Women at Northwestern



An Exhibition

Deering Library • October 2019–June 2020

A century and a half ago, Northwestern Trustees voted to admit women to the University “upon the same terms and conditions” as men. But that 1869 decision was just the beginning of the work required to ensure equality for women on campus.

This archival exhibition, part of the University’s celebration of 150 years of women, examines the twisting and tenuous road Northwestern traveled on its way to educating college-age women in an era when the concept was still controversial, the implementation virtually untested, and the long-term results unpredictable.

To get a free catalog of the exhibition, visit libraries.nu/150catalog.



Entre Nous women’s tennis club at Northwestern, circa 1896