Skillman Library Welcomes New Library Dean, Anne Houston

Skillman Library is pleased to announce that Anne Houston, currently the Director of Teaching, Learning, and Research at the Smith College Libraries, will join us as Dean of Libraries on July 1, 2017. In conducting an extensive national search, we were extremely impressed with Anne’s range of experience, strategic vision, collaborative style, and leadership in national library networks.

At Smith, Anne works closely with faculty members and students to support their research and promotes student learning and information literacy. She has helped Smith build its library collections, improve learning spaces, create innovative library services, and integrate instructional technology and digital scholarship into the curriculum.

Prior to joining Smith, Anne served as Director of Humanities and Social Sciences Services at the University of Virginia Libraries, where she helped to create a digital institutional repository for scholarship and to identify space improvements in the University’s Library. Anne has also held librarian positions at Tulane University and Loyola University Chicago. A native of Pittsburgh, Anne earned an MLS degree from the University of Michigan, a master’s degree in English Literature from Duquesne University, and a bachelor’s degree in English and History from the University of Virginia.

We conducted a short interview with Anne where we found out more about her background, what excites her about liberal arts college libraries, and her vision for our role on campus now and in the future.

Skillman Launches Library Social Justice Reading Series

Librarians Ben Jahre (Research and Instruction Librarian) and Charlotte Nunes (Co-Director of Digital Scholarship Services) recently initiated the Library Social Justice Reading Series. The goal of the reading discussion series is to provide opportunities for all members of the campus community to participate in open, accessible conversations anchored in short, shared readings. The first reading discussion took place during the last week of classes in the fall 2016 semester.

Participants discussed Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *We Should All Be Feminists*. The excellent turnout of about 20 participants (including a mix of students, faculty, and librarians) at such a busy time of year signaled that there is indeed a hunger on campus to address, discuss, and learn about issues of social justice. On February 16, the Library Social Justice Reading Series partnered with Africana Studies for a discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates’
Recent Gifts to Special Collections

Special Collections is the frequent beneficiary of donations from alumni, faculty, and staff. Alumnus Joe Nechasek ’72 has built a remarkable collection of modern literary classics, including a foundational gift for the new collection of writings by African American women featured in our current exhibit in the Simon Room. Librarian Ana Luhrs has just recently donated her superbly curated collection of food advertising pamphlets, which she describes below, and it is not often, that we receive gifts from current students, but two such gifts just came our way.

Recipe Pamphlet Collection

Librarian Ana Ramirez Luhrs donated approximately two hundred advertising recipe pamphlets. Recipe pamphlets were a popular way for food companies to advertise their products. The collection spans from the late 19th century to the 1970s and contains recipes for major American food products and well-known companies such as Hershey Chocolate, Chiquita Banana, Maxwell House Coffee, Betty Crocker, United Fruit Company, Aunt Jemima, and many others.

In addition to recipes, pamphlets often contained advice for homemakers from how to pickle vegetables to setting a formal dinner table. In the fall of 2016 the collection was used by students of Professor Rebekah Pite’s Food History of the Americas course to study the advertising of Latin American commodities such as bananas and coffee in the United States. The pamphlets are also a resource for studying nutritional trends in the 20th century, the intersection of race and ethnicity in American food, the modernization of food in the 20th century, home economics, women and homemaking in 20th century U.S., and a variety of other topics.

Recipe Pamphlet Collection

In December a delegation of Tau Beta Pi members visited Special Collections to present the recently uncovered records of the Epsilon Chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, to the College Archives. The materials—chapter minutes, by-laws, and membership rolls—were found in a closet in Acopian last fall. Members of the student delegation included Michael Bennett ’17 (current president), Laura Strang ’18 (incoming president), and Travis Shoemaker’18 (incoming vice president). The records are already processed and ready for use, thanks to Special Collections student assistant and engineering major Brittany Dobson ’19.

Memorabilia of Robert E. Ellis, Class of 1915

In January, Christina Yerdon’18 brought in several examples of the clothing worn by her great uncle, Robert E. Ellis, Class of 1915 at various Lafayette Alumni Reunions. We chose the powder blue jacket and hat for the College Archives Memorabilia Collection, a touch of sartorial elegance not previously represented there. Robert Ellis was a mechanical engineering major at Lafayette, as well as captain of the wrestling team and a Barge Math Prize winner. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War I and went on to head the aviation department for Standard Oil in New York City.
Lafayette College’s Seed Library, LaSeed, Launches Through a Partnership with LaFarm & Skillman Library

Seed libraries, where members of a community can obtain herb, flower and vegetable seeds and growing information for free, have been thriving in public libraries around the country, but are newer initiatives within college and university settings. The vision for Lafayette College’s seed library, LaSeed Library, was developed through consultation and collaboration between the Library, our student focus group – the Library Ambassadors, and LaFarm, Lafayette’s working farm.

LaFarm purchases bulk organic seed to grow food for campus dining halls. It often has surplus seeds at the end of the growing season and was interested in organizing and creating a resource for campus and community members interested in gardening. After designing eye-catching seed packets, we decided to start out with fourteen seed varieties that would be easy to grow and that appeal to students who could grow them in their dorm rooms. We had a soft launch during Family Weekend at the start of the year where we gave away seeds and provided a ‘make and take’ basil planting project. This was followed by a garlic planting event before Thanksgiving. The reception so far has been very positive from faculty, staff and students.

Our official launch will be on March 24 at noon when we will host a bunching onion planting event on the steps of Skillman Library. Seeds from the LaSeed Library will be available at the circulation desk and do not need to be returned. Simply choose which variety you want and you will receive basic planting instructions.

The LaSeed Library will also be accessible to the whole community, not just the Lafayette community, so we can support community gardeners and gardens. We also aim to educate members about seed saving in hopes that we will be able to develop a bank of seeds from community-contributors and distributors alike. The mission of the LaSeed Library is to increase food security and food justice and to educate and empower community members with knowledge about seed saving and gardening, while creating a collection of the best possible seeds for our community.

-Kylie Bailin

Skillman Installs New Bookeye Color Scanner for Use in Digitization Projects

Last fall Special Collections and Digital Scholarship Services collaborated on the selection and installation of an overhead scanner in Skillman Library. We are delighted to announce that this purchase was funded by the Friends of Skillman Library through generous gifts from Michael Neborak ’79, Arthur ’55 and Barbara Rothkopf, and Paul and June Schlueter.

The Bookeye 4 VI color scanner features unique optics that avoid distortion in the corners of rectangular material and offers a 33.5” x 25” inch scanning bed to accommodate the reproduction of oversize manuscripts and rare books. The Bookeye design also includes a motorized flat mode and a 140 degree “V” mode for bound and fragile materials that cannot lie flat. Special Collections and Digital Scholarship Services are currently determining protocols for Bookeye use, data storage, file management.

“The new scanner made it possible for my colleagues at Skillman to digitize an old scrapbook of Japanese military postcards. The frail album was carried by a soldier, and helps us connect the images of war to actual battlefields. This unusual resource was lent to me by another historian. Thanks to this machine, we were able to reproduce the whole album at high-resolution, and return the item to its owner unharmed, and quickly. Without this equipment, I would not be able to incorporate these novel sources of history into my research projects.”

- Dr. Paul D. Barclay, Chair, Asian Studies, Associate Professor, Department of History

Above: The Bookeye scanning a view of the Capital during the inauguration of Lincoln, Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, March 16, 1861.
What interests you most about working at Lafayette College Library and how do you see the role of libraries evolving at a small liberal arts college?

I am so excited about the opportunity to lead a liberal arts college library. During my time at Smith College I’ve seen first-hand how liberal arts colleges educate students to be complete individuals and have admired the opportunities they provide for a fully well-rounded education. The role of the library in a liberal arts college is to be the intellectual hub of the campus, the place where students and faculty from all disciplines come together and knowledge is created, shared and preserved. I’m very interested in exploring what makes the library a unique place on campus. In addition to its central role as the place to study, research, and do intellectual work, what other functions does it serve? It is a place where special and unique collections of materials help to define the identity of the college, and it is a scholarly unit in its own right, where new approaches to scholarship can be developed and explored. And it is the ideal place to experiment with new types of learning spaces, because in the library those spaces can be shared by everyone on campus, regardless of discipline.

One of the great advantages of working in a liberal arts college library is that the smaller size of the organization (unlike a big university research library) allows us to make quick transformations with less bureaucracy. We can be responsive to changes in the student body and the curriculum, and we are not afraid of experimentation. Many liberal arts college libraries, such as Lafayette, have become real innovators in integrating digital scholarship into the curriculum, and in bringing students into closer contact with special collections. Another trend is collaboration: I think it is essential for us to forge strong working partnerships across the institution, with faculty, with our partners in teaching and learning support services, and with other units that specialize in the uses of technology. We’ll also be collaborating more with other libraries, I think. We have so much to do and we can’t do it all alone, so how can partnerships help us move forward.

What experience do you bring that would be an asset for Skillman achieving this evolving role?

I have a lot of experience in developing learning spaces, especially at Smith where we’re planning a new library building and experimenting with prototypes for the types of experiences we want to support in the new building. We’re seeing the library as a kind of lab for learning and scholarship. I hope to bring some of these ideas to Lafayette and to talk with the staff and with students about what will work in Lafayette’s unique environment. I also have experience in working directly with students in designing library spaces and services. When I first became a librarian we would make decisions about the library without ever asking students what they wanted, because the library was materials-centered; the books were most important. Now we’ve made a very radical transition, I think, to the idea of the user-centered library, where the spaces and materials are developed to serve the changing needs of the people who use the space, including the librarians and library staff. This transition to the user-centered library requires us to be flexible, adaptable and to listen to users.

When she joins Lafayette in July, Anne will succeed Neil McElroy who was the Dean of Libraries since 1990.

-Kylie Bailin

New Electronic Acquisitions

**EARLY ENCOUNTERS IN NORTH AMERICA**
Online collection of letters, diaries, memoirs and accounts of the encounters between peoples from 1534-1850. It has been indexed to allow for unique browsing and searching (e.g. by type of flora or fauna, encounters between groups of peoples, specific events or places, etc.).

**PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER AND PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

**CHINA FILMS YEARBOOK**
A database of digitized books presenting annual summaries of the Chinese film industry including major productions, events, and statistical data such as box office revenue and audience size.
**Don’t Miss the Edible Books Contest on March 31**

Skillman Library is hosting its 6th Edible Books Contest on Friday, March 31 to celebrate the April 1 birthday of French gastronome and author Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin and April Fools’ Day. Everyone is invited to submit entries made of edible materials and relating to books — by form, literary inspiration, or subject. For example, books might have waffles or graham crackers for pages or be in the shape of a scroll. A book made of Greek pastry might be a “booklava.”

Winners from past contests at Lafayette include “Goodnight Moon Pies,” “Banana Karenina,” “Tart of Darkness,” “The Pound and the Fury” and “Brittle Women.”

Those who want to enter the contest should drop off their entries in Skillman Library by 10:45 a.m. on March 31. Even if you decide not to submit an entry, join us to vote for the People’s Choice award and to help us consume the edible books. A public preview, photography and judging will begin at 11 a.m. Prizes will be awarded at noon.

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**International Conference Presentations from Members of Digital Scholarship Services**

James Griffin, who was recently welcomed as the new co-Director for Research and Development in Digital Scholarship Services, presented at the Digital Scholarly Editions as Interfaces Conference hosted September 23-24 by the Centre for Information Modelling at Graz University in Austria. James reported on his encoding and design work for the Swift Poems Project. With faculty collaborators James Woolley, Frank Lee and Edna M. Smith Professor of English at Lafayette College, and Stephen Karian, faculty at the University of Missouri, James develops web service infrastructure supporting an ambitious digital humanities initiative to transcribe, collate, and encode a publicly accessible digital archive of the verse canon of Jonathan Swift (1667-1745).

Michaela Kelly, the 2016-2017 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities at Skillman Library, was in Bucharest, Romania from September 14-17, to present the East Asia Image Collection at the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS). Michaela’s presentation, ‘Building an archive of Japanese images at Lafayette College and creating international partnerships with others,’ offered an introduction to the physical collection held at Lafayette College Special Collections, and the digital East Asia Image Collection (EAIC), supported by Lafayette College Digital Scholarship Services (DSS), that corresponds to it.

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**Social Justice, continued from page 1**

“The Case for Reparations,” in recognition of Black History Month. Professors Jeremy Zallen and Wendy Wilson-Fall led the discussion. On February 22, the reading series joined several other co-sponsors including the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and the student group Kaleidoscope to offer a screening and discussion of “After Spring,” a documentary about the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

On March 23, in anticipation of Amitav Ghosh’s March 27 visit to campus, Professors Neha Vora and Bill Bissell will lead a discussion of chapter 2, “History”, from Ghosh’s _The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable_.

The Library Social Justice Reading Series aims to provide a forum for students, faculty, and staff to generate dialogue on topics that are important to them. Do you have an idea for a Library Social Justice Reading Discussion? We welcome your input! Feel free to contact Charlotte Nunes (nunesc@lafayette.edu) or Ben Jahre (jahreb@lafayette.edu). For more information about upcoming Library Social Justice Reading discussions, please visit the Library website library.lafayette.edu

—Charlotte Nunes
Q: What motivated you to apply for an IL grant for REL 306 Jewish Responses to the Holocaust?

In all my courses, I teach students the research process and to be critical of sources. The grant offered me the opportunity to collaborate with a librarian and to improve and expand how I teach in these two areas. “Jewish Responses to the Holocaust” is especially well suited to ask students to reflect on how we gain and organize knowledge in our everyday lives and how scholars analyze ideas and practices in the world. We examine several types of sources in the course: literature, theology, photography, film, political trials, memorials, and the representation of all these. The Holocaust is a familiar topic for Americans, but it has not always been. Therefore we try to deconstruct how it has become such a popular topic in historical study, social memory, and personal understanding. We also analyze the role of economics in memorializing the Holocaust, from tourism to film profits.

Q: How did you structure and sequence the research project?

Students complete a series of assignments that gradually build their final research project. Each week, students submit a one-page paper on the major points of that week's texts. They consider not only the argument of the texts but also the evidence that scholars use to make their arguments. After a few weeks, students submit a “shelfie.” With some practice in writing, citation, and research skills, students submit a short proposal and annotated bibliography. The proposal provides us the opportunity to discuss how to conceive and organize a research topic and how to begin working on it. The annotated bibliography, along with weekly writings, allows students to begin to write what they can revise and expand upon for their final project. We hold in-class workshops for projects longer than the weekly papers so that students see each other’s work and receive feedback. Students continue to expand their annotated bibliography and workshop a draft of their final paper before submitting it at the end of the semester.

Q: A few weeks into the semester, you asked students to submit shelfies. What is a shelfie? Why did you assign it?

A “shelfie” is a “selfie” in the library with a book from the shelf! It is a fun way to practice research and think extensively about how we find texts for our projects. Students research a new source that complements in-class discussions and their personal interests. They post a picture of themselves with a book in the library stacks. Students learn what a call number is, and as a group we discuss several aspects of the search or “presearch” process and what makes a source “academic.”

Q: One of the main goals for this class was to help students understand that the memory about the Holocaust is historically and contextually contingent. What in-class activities did you do to help achieve this goal?

For me, this is where the comparative methodology of history and religious studies is so important, as is literary theory about reception. We studied both primary and secondary sources each week that gave perspectives of multiple geographic contextual responses, such as the differences between understandings and representations of the Holocaust in the US, Germany, Israel, and Poland. We also traced how the same text has been received in different times and places: this includes both the form it took and how people reacted.

Q: You worked closely with Ben Jahre on this class. What were the advantages of collaborating with a librarian?

It was great to have someone help me plan my syllabus and my individual assignments. Ben joined our class for discussions, and his personal and professional background gave him an ability to ask students and me to think about different questions that I could have raised on my own. It was nice to be able to debrief after seminar meetings to discuss what points had been most salient and what might be important to make clear in the future. It really helped me reflect on my teaching. For students it meant having someone they could turn to for assistance on the project who knew our class intimately and who they could ask questions with a different kind of interaction than they might expect from a professor.

Q: Would you continue to incorporate IL into future versions of this course or other courses?

I definitely will! Now when I begin my students on any research assignment, whether it is a shelfie or something larger, I always ask a librarian to meet with the class.

Q: What do you think professors and librarians could do to help students develop their critical thinking and IL skills?

It seems especially important to help students understand what we mean by an “academic source.” I’ve realized that it’s important to clarify what this means by division or discipline, although there are aspects of peer review that are common across scholarly disciplines. Lafayette students are skilled thinkers, but part of a college education should be to help students gain more specialization in understanding knowledge production and publication.

Q: Do you have any advice for faculty who are interested in integrating IL into their classes?

Don’t expect to have a total plan for how IL fits with your class before you meet with librarians. Part of IL is to help professors understand the expertise that librarians can offer, so librarians can help us shape what questions or projects we need to pursue through IL.
ITS News

MOST IN ITS MOVE DOWNTOWN
In January 2017, most all of the Information Technology Services division moved to the fourth floor of the Alpha Building located on the circle in downtown Easton. Also making the move were The Center for Community Engagement, all of the Admissions operations staff, and most from the Communications Division. Instructional Technology remains in Skillman Library and three members of User Services remain in the lower-level of Pardee Hall to manage the Tech Lounge. ITS welcomes visitors to its Alpha Building location.

UPDATES TO MOODLE
Over the winter break, ITS made a few changes to Moodle. The most noticeable change was changing the Moodle landing page to display one’s “dashboard,” which displays a list of an individual’s courses rather than news posts. We’re hopeful this change will allow the faculty to find their current and previous courses a little more quickly.

We also introduced a new self-service tool allowing professors to create a merged course on their own. This is especially helpful to professors teaching multiple sections of a course, who only want to maintain one Moodle course site for these sections. For those teaching multiple sections, you can read our help documentation at help.lafayette.edu/moodle/coursemerge

CLASSROOM REPLACEMENTS COMING SUMMER 2017
Summer is a busy time for ITS. We will be replacing the smart classroom equipment in Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, Ramer History House, Scott Hall, Simon Center for Economics & Business, and Skillman Library. The equipment will be replaced to meet the new smart classroom standard, which includes HDMI input and high definition video projection. To see a list of smart classrooms, visit its.lafayette.edu/facilities/classrooms

In addition to these smart classroom equipment replacements, we will be replacing classroom computer systems in all of the smart classrooms across campus.

UPCOMING DEADLINES
April 21: Teaching with Technology Grants
ITS is accepting proposals for the Teaching with Technology grant through April 21. This grant is designed to encourage full-time professors’ use of digital tools in ways that could positively impact teaching and learning in their classes. Each awardee will be paired with a member from instructional technology to assist with designing and implementing these tools. Proposals can be submitted at its.lafayette.edu/teachingtechgrant

May 1: Academic Lab Software Submissions
Faculty are encouraged to submit version update requests for currently deployed academic lab applications and to inquire about the possibility of deploying new academic lab applications for the fall 2017 semester. Requests should be forwarded by May 1 to Alan Johnson, Desktop Engineer, at johnsona@lafayette.edu

Skillman Library’s Digital Humanities Summer Scholarship Program Returns
Skillman Library is running its summer research program for students interested in the digital humanities for the third consecutive year. Motivated students will work on a digital humanities research project of their own design from May 22 - July 1. Students will initiate and develop their own research projects while participating in workshops and weekly discussions of readings. At the end of the summer session, students will present their research and small digital humanities project to the public.

Past students went on to present at national and local conferences, including the Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference and National Conference of Undergraduate Research, and have brought back their skills to other classes at Lafayette. We are proud of their initiative in shaping digital scholarship at Lafayette and look forward to seeing the results of another adventuresome summer. For more information, contact Sarah Morris, Research & Instruction Librarian at morrisee@lafayette.edu.

New URLs for Off-Campus Resources
In an effort to increase security and reliability for users accessing library databases and resources from off-campus, the Library transitioned its proxy servers to the EZproxy service over the winter recess. EZproxy is the industry leader in providing seamless, secure access via proxy server.

Access to resources through the library’s catalog and website is unaffected and remains seamless, but users who have saved URLs for favorite resources are advised to contact a librarian for assistance at refdesk@lafayette.edu

-Sarah Morris
Spring Exhibit in Skillman Showcases African American Women Writers

Living by the Word: African American Women Writers
February 1 - July 31, 2017. Simon Room & Corridor

Launched by a generous collection donated by Lafayette alumnus Joe Nechasek ’62, Skillman Library’s Spring 2017 exhibit features the extraordinary work of over 30 African American women writers. From the first published African American female poet Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753 – 1784) to Lafayette alumna and current Poet Laureate of Philadelphia Yolanda Wisher; from Broadway playwrights Lorraine Hansberry and Lynn Nottage to Pulitzer Prize novelists Toni Morrison and Alice Walker; from MacArthur genius science fiction writer Octavia Butler to Black Arts performance artist Jayne Cortez; from Harlem Renaissance luminary Zora Neale Hurston to 21st century million-dollar debut novelist Yaa Gyasi – the rich and varied body of work produced by these writers is inspiring.

- Beth Sica

Above: For a key to the identity of these writers, please visit the exhibit in the Simon Room.