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Dean’s Message

What a difference a year makes!
Or in this case, 18 months.

I cannot begin to express how excited we are to welcome students, faculty, staff and visitors back to campus this fall. After more than a year of almost entirely online meetings, events, research consultations and workshops, it is refreshing to see more and more people in our buildings studying, conversing and using our collections and services. That said, we have learned invaluable lessons around online user services during the pandemic, and we expect to continue to offer some of these services moving forward. For example, our subject librarians will continue to offer flexibly-scheduled online consultations, we will continue to focus collection acquisitions on digital resources and media, convenient book pickup from lockers or the circulation desk will remain, and we will offer faculty the opportunity to request scanned items to upload into their Blackboard course materials. And we’ve learned the value of virtual events, so you can expect to be invited to participate in some Libraries’ events even if you can’t make it to campus.

Speaking of events on campus, the Libraries is excited to host several in-person and virtual events during this year’s Orange Central alumni weekend. In addition to two outstanding exhibitions in Special Collections Research Center—“Explore and Connect” featuring primary sources that span 4,000 years and “Survival Kit: Provisions for Your Research Journey” featuring materials from the Plastics Artifacts Collection—the Libraries will also be hosting a “Founders’ Cup for Entrepreneurs and Creatives” competition in the Blackstone LaunchPad and “Return to Jabberwocky,” a throwback to one of the greatest artistic venues on campus in the 70s and 80s.

Regardless of whether you are on campus or visiting us virtually this semester, the Libraries continue to look forward to providing the information services, responsive collections, knowledgeable staff and accessible spaces you expect to all members of our community.

Respectfully,

David Seaman
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian
On November 12, 2020, Syracuse University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center received the Onondaga Historical Association’s (OHA) 2020 Medal Award at a virtual event. The OHA Medal Award is the organization’s highest honor for contributions made to the cause of preserving and interpreting Onondaga County’s collective heritage.

The history of Onondaga County and Syracuse University are inextricably connected. SU Libraries is dedicated to advancing the University’s teaching, learning and research mission. An important component of that is preserving and interpreting the incredible assets within the Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC).

“Receiving this award affirms the extraordinary effort SCRC staff have put into acquiring, preserving, interpreting and providing access to our magnificent collections throughout the years. We are committed to this standard of excellence and to promote an even wider array of stories and programs to engage a more inclusive audience,” stated Petrina Jackson, Director of the Special Collections Research Center.

“Our artifacts enable the University and Central New York communities and researchers and historians globally to pursue new knowledge through historical materials,” said David Seaman, Dean of Syracuse University Libraries and University Librarian. “SCRC has had the opportunity to collaborate with OHA on numerous projects over the years that require our collective resources of archival materials. The University’s collections, like materials from Archimedes Russell, the founder of King and King Architects, or Gerrit Smith, one of the most important figures in the anti-slavery movement, are housed within Special Collections. But these artifacts are essential to the greater community’s history of architecture and abolitionism. In that way, we are symbiotic.”
Although its current name dates only from 1997, the Setnor School of Music has roots going back more than a hundred years to 1877 when the first music professor was hired by the College of Fine Arts. Since then, music faculty, students and visiting artists have enlivened the Syracuse University campus with chamber music, glee clubs, jazz concerts, degree-required recitals, lectures and more. As time went on and recording technology became smaller, cheaper and more portable, many of these performances were recorded, and some were broadcast on local radio stations. Today, the Setnor School of Music Recordings (120 linear ft.) contain more than 6,000 recordings on reel tapes, DAT tapes, CDs and DVDs, dating back to 1956, as well as supporting material such as tape indexes, transcripts from broadcasts and programs from hundreds of the performances. According to University Archivist Meg Mason, “This is an important collection in the University Archives. It documents Syracuse University’s history, particularly the work of music faculty and students.”

This spring, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) completed an extensive multi-year project to review, rehouse and describe every single one of these thousands of recordings. Coordinated and supervised by SCRC Media Archivist Iva Roleva-Peneva, a series of student employees created detailed descriptive metadata for each item, including date, event, format and the names of all individuals involved in the recording’s creation. The goal of the project was to expand the Libraries’ understanding of what the collection contains as well as to increase discoverability for patrons using the collection, whether for personal nostalgia or scholarly research. Alumni of Setnor often request copies of their performances, and the work of SCRC staff will make it easier for them to identify their recordings.

The process of creating this metadata was not always straightforward and required the use of multiple information sources. Unlike commercial recordings, most of the Setnor recordings are labeled with very minimal information, sometimes no more than an ID number or a cryptic handwritten abbreviation. To determine their content, students often had to undertake additional research, examining the printed programs for the events (which are also in the collection) or referring to related material in the University Archives. Students referred to databases commonly used in the library and archives fields to standardize names and terms for roles to ensure they were consistent across the entire collection. More than 5,000 unique names appear in the collection. To provide the ability to search the recordings by name as well as by role (e.g., performer, conductor, director, composer), students also assigned roles to names. In total, this resulted in more than 37,000 name/role entries.

The work was demanding and painstaking, requiring accuracy, consistency and good research skills, and it would not have been possible without SCRC student workers. Roleva-Peneva reflected, “Setnor’s project required plenty of skills, and the most important ones were patience and attention to detail, which our student workers excelled in. During the training of our students, a few times the project workflow had to be adjusted in consideration of the specifics of the media formats. I found the most challenging part of the project to be the amount of information that a single physical object held. Sometimes a single recording will hold multiple events making the capturing of all the data a tedious but necessary task.”

Now that the project is complete, the payoff is enormous. With this metadata, researchers can locate performances by a particular student, such as George F. Coble’s senior recital in trumpet on July 10, 1970; by a particular composer, such as Brazilian Zequinha de Abreu; led by a particular person, such as Barbara Tagg, founder and long-time conductor of the Syracuse Children’s Chorus; or during a particular year (there were 89 performances in 1969 alone!). This metadata can also be repurposed in the future once the recordings are digitized to enable search and discovery of the digital objects.
Syracuse University master of science in Library and Information Studies student **Rachael Hickman** was the last of our invaluable student employees to work on the Setnor project and saw it through to completion:

“When I started working on the Setnor collection, it was my first experience working in an archive, not to mention a special collections archive. I was just getting my feet wet, but it was a wonderful project to learn with. We had high hopes that the project would finally be finished, and I was kind of excited that it was me. As I got more involved in the project, I could see just how big the project was and how long it had taken to finish. The more I learned, the more I could feel myself becoming confident and sure of what I was learning and doing. At the end, it felt wonderful to be able to put a stamp on the project, close the book and have it completed. Stepping into this new job, I didn’t know what to expect, but I am glad I was given the chance to complete the years-long project.”

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**Example of Names/Roles metadata:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names (people, groups, organizations, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990. conductor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990. composer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990. interviewee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krueck, Alan Henry, 1939-2010. interviewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpe, Patricia (Oboist) performer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse University. University Symphony. performer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, Andre J. (Andre Jerome), 1952- conductor cc_cd_1440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, Andre J. (Andre Jerome), 1952- arranger cc_cd_1440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, Andre J. (Andre Jerome), 1952- composer cc_dat_0480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, Andre J. (Andre Jerome), 1952- composer cc_dat_0503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, Andre J. (Andre Jerome), 1952- composer cc_dat_0566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example of Description:**

**FULL CONTENT** Detailed or item-level list or description of content.

Additional credits: Jamison, Lawrence, organ; Lemmon, Merrill, tenor; Walsh, Dan, baritone; Irwin, Ray, speaker. Includes concert’s program with Preamble in honor of the United Nations.

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Performance Script from Setnor School of Music Recordings, University Archives, SCRC.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Why I Give

Linda Troeller G’72, G’75
Establishes Photographic Archival Fund

Practicing artist Linda Troeller is establishing a Historic Photographic Archival Fund in Syracuse University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) to help SCRC acquire historical photographic archival and printed material, such as papers, books and letters, created by or about women and inclusive of a multitude of women’s voices and gender expressions, diasporic communities, indigenous people, non-white peoples, people identifying as LGBTQIA+ and/or people with disabilities.

Linda received a master’s degree in 1972 from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and a Master of Fine Arts from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1975. She taught the first course at Syracuse University on the history of women in photography. Linda’s art projects focus on personal, women and social issues. For 20 years the Chelsea Hotel in New York City was her personal and professional base. There she curated an exhibition for the 125th Anniversary, “Chelsea Hotel Through the Eyes of Photographers,” and published a monograph, “Chelsea Hotel Atmosphere – An Artist’s Memoir,” (2007) and wrote a book, “Living in the Chelsea Hotel,” Schiffer Publishing (2015), which won the International Photo Award in 2016. Linda’s work has been displayed at exhibitions at Leica Gallery in Los Angeles, Ilon Art Gallery in Harlem and Laurence Miller Gallery in Manhattan. She received the Pictures of the Year award in 1998 for “Healing Waters,” and her book, “Erotic Lives of Women,” Scalo, Zurich (1998) was reviewed as one of the “most gutsy and imaginative books of the decade” by the NY Times.

She received a New Jersey Arts Grant and the Woman of Achievement Award from Douglass College in 1991 for her TB-AIDS DIARY, a series of photo-collages in Color Polaroid that helped prevent discriminative stamping of HIV in passports. She also has an ongoing series of self-portraits titled “Self-Reflection.” In addition to SCRC, her photographs can be found within corporate, private and library collections such as the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, American Express, Johnson & Johnson and the Library of Congress.

“it’s important to me to leave a legacy by providing greater access to women’s photographic collections, art and books. Helping my alma mater to grow their special collections is especially poignant to me, since I have a deep history with Syracuse University, both as a student and as a professor.”

—Linda Troeller
“This gift will help SCRC expand its collections of diverse voices, reaffirming our commitment to promote an even wider array of stories and programs to engage a more inclusive audience. We are grateful to Linda Troeller for her generosity and vision and look forward to providing our university scholars and researchers around the globe with access to our collections.”

— Petrina Jackson, Director of the Special Collections Research Center

Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) Exhibitions

Featured Fall 2021 exhibitions, located on the 6th floor of Bird Library, include:

**Explore and Connect: Selections from the Special Collections Research Center**

*6th Floor Galleries*

A sampling of SCRC’s rich collections invite the visitor to explore the familiar and the unfamiliar, the history of this university and this region, as well as that of cultures far away or long gone. The primary sources represented at Syracuse University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center span over 4,000 years of the human experience, from the 21st century BCE to the 21st century CE. It is not only the age and variety of media that makes these collections ‘special’ but the stories they contain and produce.

**Survival Kit: Provisions for Your Research Journey**

*Plastics Pioneers Reading Room*

A selection of artifacts, documents, and photographs from the Edwin F. Bushman Papers, a mid-century plastics engineer, and the Plastics Artifacts Collection to guide visitors through the process of using primary source materials for research and discovery.
What’s the Impact of Your Research?

The Libraries recently launched a new suite of services dedicated to helping faculty and other University researchers strategize on how best to demonstrate the impact of their research. “How do you set up or troubleshoot your Google Scholar profile?” “What are the differences between research metrics like h-index, Journal Impact Factor, or the Altmetric Attention Score?” “When is it appropriate to use one research metric over another?” The Libraries’ Research Impact Team answers questions like these by helping researchers, departments and institutes better understand and communicate the value of their scholarly and creative works. This, in turn, helps the University achieve greater research visibility.

The team provides guidance to faculty and other University researchers on creating research profiles and gathering a variety of metrics that help demonstrate and quantify the full value of a person’s scholarship. The team also specializes in understanding and educating others about the responsible use of research metrics across disciplines. For example, a researcher in a discipline that emphasizes publishing books over journal articles may choose to avoid using several common metrics that favor authors who publish primarily in journals, and instead seek out alternative metrics that are more representative of their scholarship.

Other examples of questions that the Research Impact Team can help with include:

> Why are some of my citations not appearing in Google Scholar?
> How do I account for missing citations in my research profiles and the impact that can have on metrics?
> Can considering preprints and open access publishing options impact the attention (and number of citations) my publications receive?
> What can I do to increase the attention my scholarly works are receiving, including garnering more citations?
> Can you assist me with compiling citation counts for my publications and finding appropriate metrics to include in my tenure and promotion portfolio?
> How do I update my Experts@Syracuse profile?
> How do I combine multiple Google Scholar profiles?
> Where can I find a report of the research published by faculty, post-docs and graduate students in my department?
> What steps are involved in completing a systematic review, and is my research question ideal for conducting a systematic review?

Questions like these are often complex and the Libraries are uniquely positioned to provide guidance on issues related to research dissemination and impact. For more information or for assistance with your questions, contact the Research Impact Team at riteam@syr.edu.
Proximity to Intersecting Highways of Knowledge

by Dr. James Gordon Williams, Associate Professor of Music in African American Studies

My study office in Bird Library has provided geographical proximity to a world community of knowledge that continues to be crucial for my advancement as a scholar, humanitarian and citizen. I wrote a part of my first book Crossing Bar Lines: The Politics and Practices of Black Musical Space (2021) in my study room as I often glanced intermittently through the room window at the Hall of Languages. Winning is when you see your ideas transformed over several years of hard work into a university press book cataloged and shelved in the stacks that share the same building where some of my ideas were developed.

A researcher’s walk through the library is always unique. We live in an advanced technical age, an internet search term away from litanies of researched knowledge spooled about in webs of data that devour weak research questions while helping advance stronger ideas into the discourse. Yet the improvised walk one takes through the library while searching for a single book with the aid of a call number potentially leads you to other literary discoveries beyond the powers of a server. This is why the tactility of the search continues to be vital for my success, because I am not just in a community of books but a community of people who believe in Bird Library’s mission - a mission thrown into sharp relief within the context of our pandemic.

We rediscovered Bird Library together through the library’s adaptation to the pandemic, partially manifested in blue and orange social distance messaging placards strategically placed across spaces in the company of orange hand sanitizing machines that stand about like inanimate centurions reminding us to wash ourselves of potential COVID-19 germs. Yet I didn’t need a pandemic to know that my interlocutors are not just scholars but the people in Bird Library administration, book restorers, archive caretakers; the people who feed us and keep various areas hospitable; the circulation desk at the nexus of knowledge exchange, facilitating the sharing of information across the country. We have been socially distanced but our ideas, as complex and disagreeable they may be at times, share the same space. Bird Library will continue bringing a diverse group of individuals and communities physically together on the intersecting highways of knowledge.
Recent New and Notable Collections Added to SU Libraries

Databases

- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Data Pages—Archive of digitally captured articles, data sets and proceedings on geology and earth sciences from AAPG and other partnering geological associations from around the world.
- Drama Online—Play scripts, video, audio and scholarly books supporting the study of drama, stage design, acting, directing and performance practice. Includes Methuen Drama, Faber & Faber, and Arden Shakespeare play scripts, plus video content from the National Theatre Collection and Shakespeare’s Globe.
- New Play Exchange—Contemporary play scripts, monologues, adaptations and more from a variety of writers, lyricists and composers.

Online Archives

- Children's Literature and Culture—Chapter, pop-up and picture books, pamphlets, sketches, toys, games, paper dolls and sheet music documenting the history and literature of American and European childhood from the 1820s to the 1920s. Materials digitized from collections held by the American Antiquarian Society and the Winterthur Museum and Library.
- Daily Worker Online Archive—Newspaper published by the Communist Party USA, 1924-1958.
- Imperial Russian Newspapers—Newspapers from Russia published between 1782-1918, digitized as part of a Global Press Archive (GPA) CRL Charter Alliance project. SU Libraries contributed funding to this project to make the collections open access.
- Records of the Persian Gulf War—Documents from the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library related to the diplomatic and military response by the United States to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.
- Sex and Sexuality, Vol. 2—Unpublished papers of American sexologists, researchers, advocacy groups and campaigners, digitized from the Kinsey Institute Library and Special Collections.
Streaming Video

> **Art Films Digital**—Films, documentaries, masterclasses and interviews for arts education and practitioners.

> **Digital Theatre Plus**—Streaming video of theater, dance, musical theater, opera and stage productions, as well as interviews and notes by practitioners about production, technique, lighting, design and more. Includes content from providers such as the BBC, Broadway HD, LA Theatre Works and Royal Shakespeare Company.

> **Electronic Arts Intermix**—Media art from early works to present, as well as biographical information about artists, essays and information about the media artworks.

> **Human Kinetics Library: Dance Techniques**—New module in Bloomsbury’s Human Kinetics Library; includes streaming videos for dance technique instruction, dance anatomy and kinesiology, and dance choreography instruction.

**eBook Collections**

> Business Expert Press, 2018–2021

> InFocus Collections 1 and 2, from the American Chemical Society

> Jossey-Bass Professional Learning, from Wiley

> Translated Texts for Historians, from Liverpool University Press

**Journals**

> **Derrida Today**

> **Evolutionary Linguistic Theory**

> **Journal of Popular Music Education**

> **Medical Care**

> **Middle East Law and Governance**

> **Public Affairs Quarterly**

> **Religion in the Roman Empire**

“The Libraries and its expert staff were instrumental in allowing BioInspired Syracuse to host a virtual screening and facilitated discussion of the documentary [Picture a Scientist](#) in April 2021. The Libraries’ digital access to the documentary through its collection saved us hundreds of dollars compared to paying for access with the production company. Moreover, Head of Collections and Research Services [Anne Rauh](#)’s quick actions and personal connections with ProQuest allowed us to offer customized viewing options for facilitators not associated with the University. In all, 24 folks from the University community viewed the documentary and participated in the discussion sessions, all thanks to the personal attention and resources of the Libraries.”

—Jeremy L. Steinbacher, PhD, Director of Operations, for [BioInspired Syracuse](#)

**Research Guides for Your Use:**

Check out the Research Guides curated by SU librarians at [researchguides.library.syr.edu](http://researchguides.library.syr.edu). With 58 subject areas and 270 guides in total for various courses and partnerships across the University, Research Guides provide the perfect starting point for your research and academic needs. New guides developed the past semester include:

> Advertising 523: Digital Branding and Strategy

> Asexuality

> Books in the Humanities © 2020

> ENG 730: Hamlet

> Identifying Journals for Publication Purposes

> IST 345: Managing Information Systems Projects

> Juneteenth

> Preservation

> PSC 435: Humanitarian Action in World Politics

> Resources for Conversations with Children about Anti-Racism

> Ruby Bridges: SU Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2021

> Wellness Guide

> Whitman Information Literacy Skills
Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) Finding Aids

Making Collections Discoverable

SCRC Finding Aids (findingaids.syr.edu) help researchers on campus and around the globe discover collections available within Syracuse University Libraries’ SCRC. A curated list of new and updated finding aids of some of the most notable processed material from the past semester includes:

NEW OR NEWLY PROCESSED MATERIALS

African American
> Eleanor Brown Portfolio (photography), 1 folder
> Ida E. Lewis Poster (author, journalist), 1 item
> La Femme Politique Fashion Show Collection (photography)
> National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers Collection, 1 folder
> Phi Delta Kappa scrapbook (photography), 2 folders
> P H. Polk Photographs (photography), 2 folders

Civil War
> Civil War Tintypes of Women (?) Soldiers, 2 items

New York State
> Auburn Prison Riots Collection, 0.5 linear ft.
> Citizenship Book of I and II Forms (Girls’ school), 2 folders
> Foundation for Change Collection (New York City anti-poverty/anti-racism organization), 2 folders

Pan Am Flight 103
> Atkinson Family Cross Stitch Sampler, 2 linear ft.
> Reverend Alan Neal Papers, 3 folders

Radicalism
> OSPAAAL Posters, 2 posters

Syracuse University Alumni
> Albert Geary Papers, 2.75 linear ft.
> James Hunter Jones Collection, 1 folder
> Laura Teitelbaum Papers, 1 folder
> Margaret R. Johnston Papers, 1 folder

Syracuse University Faculty and Staff
> David Stam Papers (University Librarian), 17 linear ft.
> Otway Pardee Papers, 0.75 linear ft.

University and Student Organization Records
> Omega Pi Alpha Scrapbook (student organization), 1 folder
> Syracuse University Glass Plate Negative Collection, 4.25 linear ft.

UPDATES/ADDITIONS
> Dick Clark Papers (television/music/pop culture), TV Guide magazines added
> George Fett Cartoons (cartoons), items from 1973-1975 added
> Gordon D. Hoople Papers (faculty), 0.25 linear ft. added
> Institute for Sensory Research Records, 4 folders added
> Morton J. Savada Papers (record collector/dealer), 13 boxes of song title card files added
> Setnor School of Music Recordings, completed multi-year project to create item-level descriptions for more than 6,000 recordings
> Syracuse University Memorabilia Collection, sesquicentennial materials added
> Syracuse University Poster Collection, 23 posters added
> Union Congregational Church (Lenox and Sullivan, N.Y.) Records, 0.45 linear ft. added
> Wendy Anne Lincoln Papers (Pan Am Flight 103), 4.85 linear ft. added
Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communications

Syracuse University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion is actively engaged in creating the future of what a more inclusive campus community looks like at our university through the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Strategic Plan Task Force. Each of the units across campus is also engaged in important work through various initiatives. One example is the Libraries’ and SU Press’ adoption of the Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communications’ (C4DISC) Joint Statement of Principles.

C4DISC was created in 2020 to accelerate diversity, equity and inclusion work in the scholarly publishing communications ecosystem and is comprised of scholarly publishing trade and professional associations. C4DISC is developing antiracism toolkits for equity for those working in scholarly publishing. The Libraries’ Associate Dean for Research Excellence, Scott Warren, sat on the C4DISC steering committee, representing both the Syracuse University Libraries and the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC), on which he also served as an elected board member. The LPC is an organization Syracuse University Libraries helped found in 2014, and that organization is also strongly dedicated to DEIA work, having developed a “Roadmap for Anti-racist Practice” to help member libraries who publish (including Syracuse) make progress in their own anti-racist initiatives. LPC is one of a number of affiliated communities of the Educopia Institute, whose board president this year is David Seaman, Dean of the Libraries and University Librarian.

“Participating in C4DISC’s critical work to expand the centrality of DEI in scholarly communications was something I felt strongly about. I am very grateful that I was able to represent not only the Library Publishing Coalition but also Syracuse University and its steadfast commitment to DEIA during C4DISC’s first year in operation,” said Scott Warren. “It was a whirlwind experience that saw libraries, university presses, commercial academic publishers, societies, editors and other organizational stakeholders join together to make a difference. While the work is only beginning, I’m confident that C4DISC has been firmly established and will no doubt act as a multiplier for our collective efforts to make academic publishing a more welcoming, diverse, equitable and inclusive industry for years to come.”
The heart of any library is access and resource sharing—providing circulation services for physical collections, interlibrary loan services for materials from other libraries’ collections, access to materials off-site including delivery services and maintenance and repair of materials in the collections. Many systems and people work together behind the scenes to ensure that library patrons receive what they need when they need it.

The Access and Resource Sharing department’s core value is to put users at the center of every decision made and service provided. The team does this through excellent service, respect for community diversity, stewardship of resources, building connections between people and resources and institutions and sharing knowledge. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the access and resource sharing team used remote work as an opportunity to strengthen the team through assessment activities, mental health discussions, focusing on values and conducting an internal customer service audit.

As the team responded to COVID, they reimagined how to provide seamless services. During this period, several new services were introduced, including contactless pickup including via new lockers, UPS shipment of materials to the homes of SU-affiliated patrons and request and hold services. Although the pandemic tested and stressed traditional services and skills, it also enabled employees to gain important new skills such as problem solving, flexibility, communication and teamwork.

Team building was not limited to the libraries’ staff but included student employees as well. Prior to COVID, the University’s Office of Career Services and Student Employment Services partnered to initiate a ‘CuseWorks program. In the fall of 2019, there were 7,000 jobs on campus held by nearly 5,000 student employees, with 58% of those student employment opportunities classified as Federal Work Study. In a regular academic year, the Libraries employ approximately 150 student employees. The ‘CuseWorks program formalized what the Libraries had already been doing—recognition that every job has a learning component, provides experiential learning opportunities for students and offers both work experience and skills preparation for future internships and jobs. As part of student employment at the Libraries, supervisors identify which of the following professional skills/competencies are integral to the work: accountability, adaptability, collaboration, communication, conflict management, initiative, leadership, problem solving, professionalism and time management.
One of the Libraries’ strategic goals has been to improve the student experience, including through student employment. In the last few years, Access and Resource Sharing implemented two initiatives that enhanced this goal. The first involved creating special projects for student employees. Each semester, a member of the access and resource sharing supervisory team sits down with each student employee to learn more about their skills and interests. The supervisory team then works collaboratively with each other and the student to devise a special project that utilizes the unique skills of that student to move forward the goals of the department. The students have benefitted greatly by obtaining concrete examples of their accomplishments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic work remote period in 2020, students worked on special projects including developing training materials and designing posters and materials. A unique example of this was a project completed by two InclusiveU interns: Ian Coe and Omari Odom. In addition to their work on browse counts and other stacks projects, their special talents were used to create Spotify playlists by floor for student employees to listen to while shelving books. Listening to the themed music that Ian selected provides students with an opportunity to think about the topics that are on each floor and better familiarize themselves with where to find resources in the library. Omari contributed to the project by focusing on a few of the themes of the playlists and illustrating cover art to accompany the playlists.

Student employees also received ongoing and in-depth monthly training that gave students the knowledge to do their job better. Topics have ranged from job specific to conceptual. Two graduate students have since taken the lead in creating content and facilitating trainings as part of their special projects. The benefit of training for supervisors, staff and students has been worthwhile and created countless opportunities for growth. Students leave their jobs at the Libraries better prepared for professional life, and staff gain experience managing and leading student workers to their fullest potential. Training topics have included: 'Get to Know our Loaner Technology,' ‘Safety and Security’ including de-escalation strategies in customer service interactions, ’Digging Deeper: Getting Patrons What They Need’ and how to field complicated service desk questions and use reference interviewing techniques, ‘Speak Confidently about Course Reserves,’ ‘Transferrable Skills Workshop,’ ‘Fostering Equity and Inclusion Through Patron-Centered Service’ and ‘Moving from Cultural Competence to Anti-Oppression.’

The Libraries recognize the invaluable contribution of student employees. In fact, seven of the long-term Access and Resource Sharing student employees received recognition and monetary scholarships in 2021 for their contributions. Teaching, developing and supporting student employees, even amidst a pandemic, has been at the forefront of access and resource sharing.

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Spotify playlist created by Ian Coe and artwork created by Omari Odom

Playlists artwork created by Omari Odom
The LaunchPad’s Rubin “Orange Team”

Last year, Todd B. Rubin ’04 and the Rubin Family Foundation supported 18 students working with Syracuse University Libraries’ Blackstone LaunchPad. Following are some of the students’ reflections on their experience:

“Being able to help uplift others while growing personally and professionally has made all the difference as I complete my master’s in public administration program at The Maxwell School. The generous contribution you have made to the inaugural Diversity and Innovation Scholars has made an impact on my life during the trying times of COVID-19. It has been an honor for me to serve in this role and I look forward to witnessing the ways you will touch other student’s lives in the upcoming years.”

—Tyra Jean, Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Innovation Scholar

“As a transfer student, the opportunity to work at the LaunchPad helped me feel at home at Syracuse University. Through my position as a diversity and inclusion scholar, I was able to meet wonderful, driven SU students, make an impact on the SU community and utilize my academic strengths and practice skills I’ve learned in my courses. When I worked the Hult prize, I was able to meet globally esteemed judges and young entrepreneurs internationally which I think is an example of the networking opportunities available too!”

—Gabriela Holliman-Lopez, Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Innovation Scholar
“As a Rubin Family Innovation Mentor, I had the pleasure of working with dozens of student startups. I was able to offer them advice from forming a business to the technical requirements of potential platforms and everything in between. I really enjoyed watching the teams take what the other mentors and I suggested and build a complete startup from it. In many cases, these teams went on to win substantial prize money. Being a mentor was something that I was proud to do!”

—James LePage, Rubin Family Innovation Mentor

“The opportunity has enabled me to explore creative avenues and interests in truly liberating ways. It allowed me to develop my digital storytelling skills as well as my technical skills with regards to film production, project management and overall conceptual framework for large scale projects.”

—Zain Edeen Elwakil, LaunchPad Orange Ambassador

“I am effusive to have had the opportunity to be an Orange Ambassador this year because it allowed me to hustle comfortably, make mistakes and do my best from school to my enterprise, all while being unselfish.”

—Russell Fearon, LaunchPad Orange Ambassador

“This role allowed me to meet so many wonderful people who inspired me. I got to expand my network and develop what I now treasure as a meaningful portfolio of writing work. I now tell everyone I know about the amazing people and resources the LaunchPad has to offer.”

—Alesandra “Sasha” Temerte, LaunchPad Orange Ambassador

“Prior to this school year, I didn’t know if I was going to be able to return to SU because of financial hardship. Being a student-employee not only allowed me to stay at SU, but it also allowed me to give back to the community that gave me so much advice, mentorship and support throughout the last three years.”

—Sam Hollander, Rubin Family Innovation Mentor and Orange Ambassador
Celebrating the Professional Contributions of Libraries Staff

Libraries staff routinely contribute to scholarship and the profession beyond the Syracuse University campus community. Examples of their impact over the past academic year include:

- **Tarida Anantachai** (Interim Head of Learning and Academic Engagement) was elected as a Member at Large to the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association Executive Board. She co-presented a session entitled “Beyond Breakout Rooms: Participatory Engagement Tools in Virtual Spaces” at the Eastern New York Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Virtual Conference. She co-presented a panel on the academic library application and interview process for the University of Illinois School of Information Sciences. She co-presented a panel entitled “Beyond the ‘Special Edition’: A Survey of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Research in Library and Information Science Journals” at the 2021 ACRL Virtual Conference. She presented to the University of Maryland Libraries on anti-Asian racism and bystander intervention. She co-facilitated a discussion group for Black, Indigenous and People of Color managers for the Conference on Academic Library Management. She co-presented an ACRL Science and Technology Section webinar entitled “Equity Starts Before Hire: A Look at Equitable Approaches to Hiring and Retention.”

- **Tarida Anantachai and Holli Kubly** (Web Accessibility and Emerging Technology Librarian) served on Association of College and Research Libraries’ TechConnect Presentations Committee.


- **Courtney Asztalos** (Curator of Plastics and Historical Artifacts, Special Collections Research Center) was elected to a five-year term on the Central New York Library Resources Council’s board. She is also a member of the Central New York Humanities Corridor working group “Decolonizing Fashion Studies: Rethinking Curriculum, Collections, and Creative Practice.”

- **Giovanna Colosi** (Librarian for the School of Education and Subject Instruction Lead) published a book review for “Ethics at the Heart of Higher Education” in CHOICE Connect. She presented a session on “Academic Librarianship as a Second Career” at the New York Libraries Association 2020 Annual Conference.

- **Michele Combs** (Lead Archivist, Special Collections Research Center) has joined the Editorial Standards Working Group for the Social Networking in Archival Context (SNAC) Project. She recently completed a two-year term on the steering committee of the Society of American Archivist’s Encoded Archival Standards Section. Michele began her role as president of the American Society for Indexing.

- **Natasha Cooper** (Collection and Development Analysis Librarian and Collections Lead) was a panelist on “From Pandemics to Psychology: Using Text and Data Mining to Analyze the Past and the Present” at the Charleston Conference. She recently completed a two-year term on the steering committee of the Social Networking in Archival Context (SNAC) Project. She presented to the American Library Association (ALA) councilors-at-large meeting on “How to Prepare Resolutions, Memorials, and Tributes.” She is a member of the ALA Resolutions Committee.

- **Dr. Kate Deibel** (Inclusion and Accessibility Librarian) presented to Central New York Library Resources Council on “Remote Accessibility – Building Proverbial Ramps to Online Library Interactions.”

- **Kelly Delevan** (Information Literacy Librarian) contributed two lectures to Brooklyn Public Libraries’ “Information Literacy Instruction for Library Professionals.”


- **Rachel Fox von Swearingen** (Librarian for Music and Performing Arts) was appointed to the HathiTrust’s Shared Print Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

- **Mona Hamlin** (Marketing Analyst) was featured on a podcast “Marketing Your Scholarly Books.”

- **Marianne Hanley** (Preservation Librarian, Abby Kasowitz-Scheer (Reference and Academic Engagement Librarian) and Anita Kuiken (Librarian for Falk College) presented “Orange Quest: Organizing a Campus Trivia and Research Competition during a Pandemic” at the State University of New York Librarians Association Annual Conference.

- **Marianne Hanley** presented an instruction session for the American Library Association (ALA) councilors-at-large meeting on “How to Prepare Resolutions, Memorials, and Tributes.” She is a member of the ALA Resolutions Committee.

- **Emily Hart** (Science Librarian and Research Impact Lead), Brenna Helmstutler (Librarian for the School of Information Studies), Anita Kuiken (Librarian for Falk College) and Stephanie McReynolds (Librarian for Business, Management and Entrepreneurship) co-presented a session titled “Building a research impact team: Championing the role of liaison librarians” at the virtual Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community Conference.
Emily Hart, Brenna Helmstutler and Anne Rauh (Head of Collections and Research Services), along with Syracuse University Office of Research colleagues, presented “Two Heads are Better than One: Creating Partnerships Between University Libraries and Offices of Research” at the Society of Research Administrators’ Conference. They presented “Providing Robust Research Support Services at Syracuse University Through Cross-campus Partnership” at the OCLC Works in Progress webinar series.

Brenna Helmstutler co-presented “Evaluation Through Collaboration: Artifact Assessment for an Online Course” at the virtual Distance Library Services Conference. She was selected as a member of a project team on “Research Information Management at US Institutions” for an OCLC Research Library Partnership project.

Petrina Jackson (Director of Special Collections Research Center) completed a three-year term on the Society of American Archivists Council and a term as chair of the Rare Book and Manuscript section of American Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries. Petrina also participated on the 2021 Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Conference planning committee as chair of the panels/papers subcommittee.

Holi Kubly (Web Accessibility and Emerging Technology Librarian) was appointed to a second, two-year term on the Core Information Technology and Libraries Editorial Board.

Natalie LoRusso (Reference and User Experience Librarian) co-presented a workshop entitled “Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery” at Syracuse Community Choir’s workshop night along with WISH CNY (Women of Italian and Syracuse Heritage of Central New York). She was also featured in a StackMap blog post, “Maximizing StackMap’s Impact with Remote Usability Testing” for her usability work on the Libraries’ Discovery Team.

John Olson (Government and Geo-Information Librarian) presented “Writing and Publishing for Information Professionals” to the American Library Association’s (ALA) Government Documents round tables. He is editor of “base line: a Map and Geospatial Information Round Table publication” from ALA.


Michael Pasqualoni (Librarian for Newhouse School of Public Communications) published several documentary reviews in Educational Media Reviews Online.

John Stawarz (Online Learning Librarian) was elected to a two-year term to the Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Distance and Online Learning executive committee and chair of that section’s discussion group. He joined the editorial board of the Journal of Library & Information Services in Distance Learning. He moderated a panel discussion on “Instruction and Library Services During COVID-19: Semester Wrap Up” for ACRL’s Distance and Online Learning section. He co-wrote an article “Top 5 Articles for Librarians New to Providing Distance & Online Support” for ACRL Distance and Online Learning section’s Research and Publications committee. He presented a virtual poster, “The Library is (Mostly) Open: A Study of How Academic Libraries (Mostly) Shifted Online and Used Their Homepages to Communicate Ahead of 2020” at the 2020 Distance Library Services Conference.

Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn (Assistant University Archivist and Pan Am 103 Archivist) presented “We Remember Them: Archival Tragedy Response” at the Archival History Section meeting during the Society of American Archivists’ Annual Conference.

Scott Warren (Associate Dean for Research Excellence) co-presented on “US Public Access Compliance 2021: The Academic Librarian’s Role” at the Electronic Resources and Libraries conference. He joined the steering committee of the Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communications. He wrote the editorial “Community-building without a Building: Can Libraries Resume Their Place as the Academic Hearts of their Campuses?” in the German library studies journal Bibliothek Forschung und Praxis.


Nicole Westerdahl (Reference and Access Services Librarian, Special Collections Research Center) completed her year of serving as the Program Chair/Conference Co-Chair for the 2021 New York Archives Conference (NYAC). Nicole is also completing a 5-year term as NYAC Board Secretary and will begin serving as NYAC Board Treasurer this summer.

Patrick Williams (Humanities Librarian and Digital and Open Scholarship Lead) led a Central New York Humanities Corridor Working Group on Data and the Humanities on Lauren F. Klein and Catherine D’Ignazio’s Data Feminism.
Syracuse University’s Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach at the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), headquartered in the College of Law, and Syracuse University Libraries have forged a strong partnership through several initiatives over the past few years. One of those initiatives is publication of an online, open access journal called “Wordgathering: A Journal of Disability Poetry and Literature”. Under the Editor-in-Chief, Diane R. Wiener, Research Professor and Associate Director of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach, the journal is free, available and searchable for any interested readers. Open access enhances availability to materials by ensuring there are no financial, legal or technical barriers to accessing the published materials. Wordgathering provides an accessible venue for featuring the work of emerging and well-known disabled writers committed to disability poetry, literature and the arts. The entire editorial team is disabled. “Assuming responsibility for the open access publication of Wordgathering aligns with the University’s goal of providing shared competency opportunities for students and other constituents around ethics, integrity and a commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion,” said Wiener. “We’re grateful to Syracuse University Libraries and the resources they provide to support this initiative.”

Notably, last year marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). “As the United States celebrated the 30th anniversary of the ADA, offering Wordgathering via open access was a demonstrable example of the progress we’ve made,” said Wiener. As part of that anniversary celebration, the team at the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach, in collaboration with College of Law’s IT Services, created an accessible video production of “A Crip Reckoning: Reflections on the ADA@30” along with an accompanying resources guide created by Rachael Zubal-Ruggieri. The video, with American Sign Language interpretation, English captioning and image descriptions, featured a distinguished panel of disabled thought leaders and scholar-activists discussing ableism, cultural change, equity, creativity and intersectionality. The panel was moderated by Stephen Kuusisto, University Professor and director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach.

Additionally this past year, Kenny Fries, a world-renowned poet, memoirist and disability arts leader and a professor in the creative writing masters of fine arts degree program at Goddard College, partnered with the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), Syracuse University Libraries and Wordgathering on a Canada Council for the Arts grant. As a component of his three-year, multi-project grant, Fries will curate and edit “Disability Futures in the Arts,” a series of 15 essays by disabled artists to be published by Wordgathering. The first five pieces along with an introductory essay by Kenny Fries (all with accompanying audio recordings) were published in the December 2020 issue of Wordgathering.

The subjects of “Disability Futures in the Arts” will relate to disabled artists’ personal practices, including disability representation, historical and contemporary role models and important events in disability arts. Diane Wiener appointed Fries as the journal’s special guest editor for 2020-23. “Kenny Fries is one of the leading disability arts scholars and supporters who has dedicated his life to bringing attention to
disabled artists,” says Wiener. “His ‘Disability Futures in the Arts’ series will provide important historical documentation of the successes and challenges experienced by contemporary disabled artists and writers, as well as embolden mentorship, advance empowerment and create archival work.”

Fries says he intends to use his privilege as a pioneer in disability arts to foster an enduring connection between generations of disabled artists. Collectively, these projects funded by the Canada Council for the Arts will not only fill historical and cultural gaps but also look at the historical and contemporary importance of disability culture.

“This reflection has become a more urgent goal, as the current coronavirus pandemic has brought to the surface the vulnerability of those who live with disabilities caused by the lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of disabled lives,” adds Fries.

“Working with the Burton Blatt Institute on Wordgathering has given the Libraries an opportunity to live our stated values, not only in supporting digital and open scholarship that focuses on works from disabled scholars and artists, but also in providing an accessible platform for this work that can be a model to our peers on campus and beyond,” said Déirdre Joyce, head of the Digital Library Program at SU Libraries.

SU Press and Sound Beat: Access Audio Partnership on Audiobooks

Syracuse University Libraries’ SU Press and Sound Beat: Access Audio, which is a broadcasting program through the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), have partnered to produce its first two audiobooks. *Reservoir Year: A Walker’s Book of Days* by Nina Shengold and *Harry Haft: Survivor of Auschwitz, Challenger of Rocky Marciano* by Alan Scott Haft were recorded and are available for purchase through several vendors, including Audible, Google Audiobooks, Libro.fm and many more.

Sound Beat is a 90-second daily radio program based on recordings held within the Belfer Audio Archive, part of Syracuse University Libraries’ SCRC. Each episode provides a short back story on a specific piece of recorded sound. The show is on air in 360 markets and carried by commercial and community-supported stations around the world.

“Over the past couple of years, the Sound Beat team has expanded to include longer format audio projects, like narrated journals and documentary-style pieces. Partnering with SU Press to create audiobooks was a natural progression and partnership for us. It aligns with our mission of inclusion and accessibility and bringing important stories to a new listening audience,” said Jim O’Connor, Sound Beat Producer.

Syracuse University Press has been publishing vital scholarship, sharing ideas, and giving voice to important stories since 1943. “We are so excited to be able to provide an alternate format for our authors and readers. We’ve been watching the trend of the growth of audiobooks for several years. These first two audiobooks are just the beginning for our partnership, and we’re looking forward to planning the next ones,” said Alice Pfeiffer, Director of Syracuse University Press. “Audiobooks provide another medium to reach audiences and to share stories that might otherwise have not been told.” More information about the audiobooks can be found at press.syr.edu.
When you support Syracuse University Libraries, either with a gift that will mature in the future through your will or trust, or through a beneficiary designation on an account or life insurance, you can make a significant difference in the lives of students, faculty and programs. For more information, or to explore options that are most beneficial to you, please visit ForeverSyracuse.syr.edu or contact us at 888.352.9535 or GiftPlan@syr.edu.