

Fall 2024

Connection

Syracuse University Libraries



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Cover: **Natasha Brao '22, G'23, G'24**, Founder of Root and Seed Brands and Shooka Sauce, LaunchPad Entrepreneur and Orange Innovation Fund recipient.

Above: Students walking outside of Bird Library.

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Student with therapy dog in Bird Library.



Bobbi Brown '86, CEO of RPG, discussing "Creative Entrepreneurship and Building a Brand" at the Blackstone LaunchPad.



Dean David Seaman in Bird Library, Lower Level.

Dean's Message

As I write this we are firmly in the season of welcomes and new beginnings on campus. The fall brings a burst of energy and a sense of possibility and expectations as students and faculty return to campus en masse. For those of us who are here year-round, we enjoy the opportunity that summer brings to undertake renovations and systems upgrades, and hopefully to enjoy the outdoor beauty of Central New York. But I for one am always ready for the frenzy that September brings as the campus fills with life again, and we greet new and familiar faces, all of whom we hope find a place of belonging and meet new friends in our Libraries spaces.

As you will see in this issue of Connection, a thriving 21st century university library encompasses the familiar and the unexpected, especially if you have not visited one recently. We not only support student success through reference help and other academic expertise, but we now have a thriving student entrepreneurship community making full use of the Blackstone LaunchPad on the first floor of Bird. Students learn by reading scholarly books and journals - often now online - and they also undertake new research themselves, using primary source materials in Special Collections (archival letters, photographs, films, manuscripts and more). SOURCE Explore, a partnership between the Syracuse Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement (SOURCE) and the Libraries, allowed undergraduate students to work with experts from our Special Collections Research Center to research everything from Walt Whitman to SU basketball to science fiction and a 17th-century Japanese scroll. When I attended college such exciting research would have been reserved for faculty and graduate students.

When new information processes and tools come along faculty and students often turn to the librarians for advice. So it should be no surprise that Syracuse University Libraries has taken a proactive approach to understanding and utilizing generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). A comprehensive AI Research Guide has been developed to assist the University community in navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by this technology. We have offered numerous workshops and presentations to introduce generative AI and its applications and engaged in campus-wide discussions to explore the ethical use of AI.

We are also committed to fostering student success through our mentoring of the many students who are employed in every corner of the SU Libraries system. Our annual Student Employee Showcase each spring allows us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the experiential learning of our student employees, and to say thank you one more time to those about to graduate.

Looking out over a sunny campus being crisscrossed by faculty and students going to and from our classrooms, labs, libraries and recreation spaces, I am glad we are all back where we belong at the start of a new academic year.

With admiration and thanks to all my Libraries colleagues, from the senior librarian to the first-year student worker, who contribute so much to the life of the University.

P.S. A draft of this message was created using Generative AI technology, following the guidance found in the library's AI Research Guide.

David Seaman

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian



Graduate students held a public showcase in SCRC last spring describing their research and capping their course, "Significant Disabilities: Shifts in Paradigms and Practices." From left are Associate Professor **Julia White** and students **Neil Boedicker**, **Kayla Cornelius** and **Raquell Carpenter**. Photograph by **Martin Walls**.

Special Collections Research Center Exhibit Shows History's Views on Intellectual Disability

Excerpt reprinted from news.syr.edu, written by Diane Stirling

Graduate students in the School of Education turned to primary source documents and artifacts at Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) to discover enlightening—and sometimes startling—information and examples of the ways that people with intellectual disability have been treated over the past 180 years in the U.S., particularly in New York State.

The students were part of the Significant Disabilities: Shifts in Paradigms and Practices (SPE 644) course taught by **Julia M. White**, associate professor in the School of Education, who was the Libraries' 2023-24 Special Collections Research Center faculty fellow.

The students presented their findings at a public showcase in spring 2024 and their work is available online as a digital exhibition. [From Institutionalization to Inclusion: Disability Activism in the Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections](#) explores disability as a cultural construction by examining historical developments in special and inclusive education, as well as the development and later closures of institutions and asylums for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The archives—and exhibit-show details of how Americans in past

decades regarded disability, including information about eugenics (the selective breeding of humans) as the basis for institutionalization; letters exchanged between institutions and individuals about certain individuals and situations; and striking images collected by those who advocated for disabled individuals and disability rights.

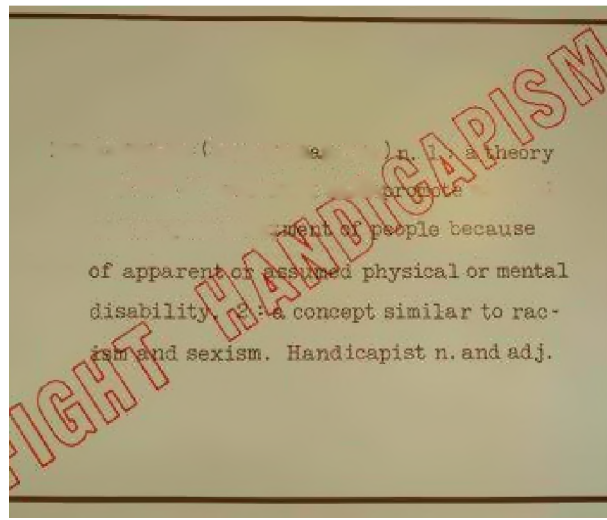
White says the primary source materials provided the students with particularly rich and informative records, in part due to Syracuse University's long history as a vanguard for disabled individuals and a leader in inclusive education and disability rights. Today, the Center on Disability and Inclusion continues the legacy of the [Center on Human Policy](#), founded in 1971 by **Dean Burton Blatt**, a groundbreaking disability rights scholar. Blatt and other individuals at the University were involved in disability rights lawsuits during the 1970s and developed language surrounding the creation of special education law. All that history—and dozens of associated original documents and artifacts—are preserved for viewing and research.

"We at Syracuse have really reconceptualized how to think about people with disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities. The

Left: Cover of [New York State Custodial Asylum for Feeble-Minded Women Record of Inmates](#). (Photo: Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries)



Right: A "Fight Handicapism" poster provides a historic perspective about the word's definition. (Photo: [Syracuse University Poster Collection](#), Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries)



University is known for its forefront advocacy on inclusive education and all that work is evident in the archives," White says. "There are so many things to investigate and so many lessons we can get from this; it's a gold mine waiting to be explored."

'Fantastic' SCRC Process

The time she spent examining materials and working with staff at SCRC "was a fantastic process all around," White says. "Sometimes, an artifact had very little to do with what I was interested in—Syracuse University's role in deinstitutionalization, inclusive education and disability activism—but there were many 'aha' moments that sent me down rabbit holes and that was a lot of fun. The discovery of so many amazing contributions of folks affiliated with the University was the best part of this fellowship. And the staff were phenomenal; they had great insights. I came into this knowing little about archival work and hadn't done any myself, but they were so gracious and so helpful."

SCRC staff were also readily available to the graduate students, discussing their readings, helping them categorize materials and offering advice on how to formulate the exhibit, White says. **Jana Rosinski**, instruction and education librarian, was involved with the class almost every time they met. **Patrick Williams**, humanities librarian and digital and open scholarship lead, helped them create the digital exhibit.

Gratifying for Students

The experience of using primary source documents and finding so much relevant information to work with was gratifying for the students, two of the class members say.

Sierra Eastman '20, G'25 teaches math to seventh- and eighth-grade students in the Syracuse City School District. Her review

of archive materials helped her gain a better understanding of the perspectives of people with disabilities, Eastman says. "I have students with various disabilities in my classes and I wanted to get an understanding of them that I didn't have as an able-bodied person. We tried to put ourselves in their shoes and see how we could make sense of how this [institutionalism] happened, how they were personally impacted and the larger societal reasons that it occurred."

Kionna Morrison G'24 is an algebraic reasoning teacher in the Syracuse City School District who completes the inclusive special education (grades 7-12) program this year as a [Project IMPRESS](#) scholar. She wanted to understand the experiences that people of color, especially Black children, had in institutions for the intellectually disabled. "I could see how disability, institutionalization and racism can be traced to the pre-Civil War and Reconstruction eras. I gained insight on how certain bodies have been consistently institutionalized. Now, I want to continue to learn about the intersectionality between race and special education and how people from multiple marginalized communities navigate their experiences with disability," she says.

White believes there has been a significant change in the public's views on disability, and particularly on intellectual disability, in recent years. "The U.S. has much farther to go in terms of changing society's perception of disability, intellectual disability and breaking down barriers for any group of marginalized people," she says. "We need to recognize how far we've come in changing attitudes in society, making places accessible, and providing higher education opportunities for disabled people, such as Syracuse University's InclusiveU program. That's a good start to thinking differently. Although attitudes are something that we still have to change, the civil and human rights of people with intellectual disabilities are routinely denied in the U.S. and worldwide, and I hope that this project helps shed some light on the history of the continuing fight for disability rights."

Introducing Artificial Intelligence Resources to Support the University Community

While artificial intelligence (AI) has been around for decades, generative AI to create new content like text, audio, images, music and video has disrupted many scholarly activities in higher education, including research, citation, instruction, copyright and publishing since ChatGPT was introduced to the public in November 2022. Syracuse University Libraries is supporting the University community in understanding and effectively utilizing generative AI in several ways, including:

- > Development of an [Artificial Intelligence Research Guide](#) that helps users understand some of the challenges that AI presents, offers resources to learn more about these issues and tools, and shows where to turn for additional guidance and support. It also discusses the use of AI tools as it relates to academic integrity and citations for students, how faculty can detect and use AI for teaching and instruction, copyright and intellectual property considerations, and other ethical and practical concerns around AI.
- > Hosting workshops and presentations on campus, with more being planned, to introduce generative AI, considerations around using AI for literature reviews and dissertations, and AI tools for PhD students to consider.
- > Serving on panel discussions around the impact of AI in Libraries. For example, **John Stawarz**, the Libraries' Online Learning Librarian, served on panels for both Central New York Library Resources Council's Annual Conference and the Distance and Online Learning Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), and **Juan Denzer**, Engineering and Computer Science Librarian, presented at the Eastern NY Chapter of ACRL Conference on "Librarians, the Original Prompt Engineers."
- > Participation in discussions exploring AI across campus, including the potential of offering an AI micro-credential.
- > Actively engaging with service providers, professional organizations, and peers to explore ways that technical services staff might use AI to create efficiencies in descriptive workflows and practices that enhance both the accessibility and discoverability of digital assets and collections data.
- > Launching a pilot project in Fall 2024 that is funded by the Central New York Library Resources Council to examine the feasibility of using AI tools to transcribe handwritten text and extract metadata from tabular source material.

- > Support for Writing 205 instructors focusing on AI for library instruction sessions.
- > Securing rights to use Libraries' licensed collections in AI research and showing how the digital content can be repurposed for training non-commercial large language models.
- > Exploring integrated AI tools in resources licensed by the Libraries on behalf of the University and providing feedback on the development of these tools to improve the research process.
- > Collaborating between SU Press and University Counsel to determine how best to work with prospective authors whose submissions may include AI generated content, including updating contract language. The Press is also drafting policies for the use of AI by staff members, peer reviewers, editorial board members and vendors to enhance the publication process while protecting the legal and privacy rights of all parties. In consultation with the Association of University Presses, SU Press is evaluating the allowable downstream re-use of published works by AI services and large language models.

While our work around generative AI is still in early stages, we are well-poised to monitor developments that will impact our users, and we will continue to convene, collaborate and connect campus and community partners with resources and information.



Students working in Bird Library.



Students in Blackstone LaunchPad

The Enduring Legacy of Hunter Brooks Watson

Blackstone LaunchPad Watson Scholars, the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards and Hunter's Fund Grants

Since 2018, Syracuse University Libraries' Blackstone LaunchPad has selected one student per academic year to serve in the prestigious role of LaunchPad Watson Scholar. Permanently endowed through a generous gift to the Libraries from the Watson family, the Watson Scholar honors the life, passion and entrepreneurial spirit of **Hunter Brooks Watson**. In 2016, Hunter was a rising junior at the university when his life was tragically cut short as a passenger in a distracted driving accident. An enthusiastic entrepreneur, Hunter was actively engaged in music, sports and technology entrepreneurship. He was especially interested in the emerging field of big data and had been working on new ventures related to predictive data.

After his death, his family honored Hunter's memory by articulating and sharing his spirit, passions and accomplishments. The family did this in several ways: through the establishment of the endowed Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar program at Syracuse University Libraries; a generous gift to the Syracuse University School of Information Studies (iSchool), where Hunter had been a student, to create the annual Hunter Brooks Watson Spirit of Entrepreneurship competition administered by SU Libraries; and the establishment of Hunter's Fund, a grant program open to young people from around the country.

Watson Scholars work with the LaunchPad throughout the year to help make programs and events a success and to build a pipeline of engaged student innovators who exemplify Hunter Watson's spirit of entrepreneurship. They mentor student entrepreneurs along their journey to prepare and participate in the annual Hunter Brooks Watson Spirit of Entrepreneurship competition. They work with the LaunchPad to promote the competition and work directly with the Watson Fund to help coordinate judges and judging logistics. They share Hunter's story and each year produce a short video telling what being the Hunter Watson Scholar has meant to them. The program was inspired by Syracuse University's Remembrance Scholar program to honor the spirit and lives of those lost in the Pan Am Flight 103 disaster.

The Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund, or Hunter's Fund, sponsors the Hunter Brooks Watson Spirit of Entrepreneurship competition each spring, in conjunction with the School of Information Studies' annual **Raymond Von Dran** iPrize. Four Syracuse students are selected by judges each year as recipients of \$2,500 awards to help advance their entrepreneurial ideas. Judges include former Watson Scholars, Syracuse alumni who were Hunter's

friends and classmates and others who share Hunter's Fund's mission. The Watson Scholar at the LaunchPad runs the competition.

The Watson family, along with friends of Hunter's and private donors, also established [Hunter's Fund](#), a national nonprofit organization which supports people ages 16-25 who demonstrate potential through their talents, experiences and passions. The Fund focuses on young people pursuing careers in music, performing arts, computer science and entrepreneurship. The organization hosts two highly competitive national application rounds each year, and a number of Syracuse University students have been fortunate to have been selected as Hunter's Fund recipients. Hunter's Fund also works with colleges and universities, including Syracuse, on [educational initiatives](#) designed to end distracted driving.

"I see Hunter's name and photograph on a wall plaque in the LaunchPad in Bird Library and it reminds me that we are fortunate to be able to work with **Jerry and Judy Watson** to remember Hunter Brooks Watson and celebrate his life and legacy," said **David Seaman**, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. "These initiatives are an investment in our current students, furthering their ideas and encouraging them on their entrepreneurship journey, wherever it takes them."

Previous Syracuse University student recipients of the LaunchPad Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar role include:

- > 2018-2019: **Kayla Simon** '19 (College of Engineering and Computer Science and College of Arts and Sciences)
- > 2019-2020: **Emma Rothman** '21 (Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics)
- > 2020-2021: **Audrey J. Miller** '20 (College of Arts and Sciences and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs)
- > 2021-2022: **Jack Adler** '23 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management)
- > 2022-2023: **John (Jack) Ramza** '22 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications), **G'23** (Martin J. Whitman School of Management)
- > 2023-2024: **John (Jack) Rose** '24 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management)
- > 2024-2025: **Aidan R. Turner** '25 (School of Architecture)

Previous Syracuse University student recipients of Hunter's Fund grants include:

- > **Taylor Lotte**
- > **Nicholas Barba**
- > **Justin Gluska**
- > **Natasha Brao**
- > **Thomas Monfort**



Adam Fazackerley '96 and Amy Fazackerley, Co-Chairs of Libraries Advisory Board, on 'Why We Give'

"When we asked Syracuse University how we could help, we never thought our journey would have started in Bird Library. From our initial interactions with students from the Blackstone LaunchPad and the leadership at Syracuse University Libraries, we knew we found a home. Young entrepreneurs from every school within the University were collaborating with the resources necessary to develop their ideas. Our decision to donate was entirely inspired by this forward-thinking vision.

Supporting the Blackstone LaunchPad and its community at Syracuse University is our way of nurturing the next generation of innovators, creators and entrepreneurs. By mentoring students, acting as a sounding board and investing in program development, we are committed to shaping the future of the library and empowering future leaders. The next decade will redefine what a library can be, and we are excited to see Syracuse University lead this global transformation."

International Fulbright Scholars Participate in Pre-Academic Program

For the past ten summers, the [College of Professional Studies' English Language Institute \(ELI\)](#) has hosted international Fulbright scholars for a pre-academic, 4-week program to help them prepare for graduate school and research opportunities across universities in the United States. This prestigious preparatory program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as part of its Fulbright Program. This summer a cohort of 44 master's and Ph.D. Fulbright Scholars visited Syracuse from 20 countries and brought with them a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share.

As part of the program, ELI offers English courses and lessons, including how to write a research paper as a graduate student.

Michelle Mitchell, Reference and Instruction Librarian and liaison to ELI, supports the students in the program by providing research instruction sessions. In the afternoons, cultural presentations and workshops are offered by Syracuse faculty and staff. The program culminates for the scholars in a poster presentation session held at Bird Library, where students present their graduate research focus, enabling them to put into practice what they learn during the pre-academic program as a springboard to the research they will conduct for their capstone project.

"In order to provide a smooth and seamless experience for the group, the College of Professional Studies relies on the collective expertise and generosity of multiple departments from across the University, including Syracuse University Libraries," said **David Lind**, Director of International Programs in the College of Professional Studies.

"I learned a lot from the Fulbright Scholars themselves," said Mitchell. "My favorite part of working with them was hearing about how their research is connected to some of their real-life experiences and how they're using this research to go back to their home regions and help better their communities or make an impact in an area that's really important to them."

"From how we should be writing up our research and our bibliographies to what it means to do research as a graduate student in the United States, I've been really happy with all of the information I've learned that helps us adapt to the educational system here," says **Budoor Alsaadi**, a native of Iraq who is pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering with a focus in environmental engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. [Taken from [episode 166 of the "Cuse Conversations"](#)]

A couple of weeks after the poster presentation, the Libraries' SURFACE team puts those [poster presentations online](#). "SURFACE, the Syracuse University Institutional Repository, provides Fulbright graduate students with real-time data on their downloads, where people are downloading across the world, and how their work is being shared on social media," said **Dylan Mohr**, Open Scholarship Librarian. "Providing the scholars' research open access is important for a number of reasons," said Mohr. "First, making sure the incredible knowledge and work produced by these students can circulate in the world without barriers to access is what expands the scholarly conversation. Open access publishing supports a more equitable scholarly communication ecosystem—one that drastically reduces barriers to researchers."

"It's crucial that students see that their voice matters, that their ideas and research can make a difference," said Mohr. "If you simply hand your final project to a professor or advisor at the end of a semester, then you never get to see how your work is valuable beyond the classroom. Open access publishing opens the door to new conversations, new debates and new ideas. You never know who might be reading."



Fulbright scholars pose during poster session in Bird Library.

Recent Additions to SU Libraries' Collections

January 2024-June 2024

Databases and Digital Archives

- > Access World News 2024 collection, 869 new newspaper and web-only news titles, such as *National Indigenous Times* (Australia), *Veja Saude* (Brazil), *The Jewish Chronicle* (United Kingdom), *Krishni Jagran* (India), *Islamic Republic News Agency* (Iran), *Naija News* (Nigeria) and *Crypto Daily* (Singapore).
- > [Colonial Policy and Global Development, 1896-1993](#), a new module in *Environmental History*: Personal papers of environmentalists and records of United States and United Kingdom government agencies covering the history of land rights, resource usage, environmental protections, disaster response strategies and international trade rules.
- > [South Asian History and Culture](#), a new module in *South Asia Commons*: Books, journals and documents from across the Indian subcontinent from 1700 to 1953, originally collected by the South Asian Research Foundation (SARF), covering India, Pakistan, Burma, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Documents included in the archive are written in English, Bengali, Sanskrit and more.

Journals

- > Springer Nature research journals, 51 new titles in [health sciences](#), [biological sciences](#), and [chemistry](#), such as *Cell Research*, *Drug Safety*, *Gene Therapy*, *Journal of Human Genetics*, *PharmacoEconomics*, *Polymer Journal* and *Reactions Weekly*.
- > Palgrave Macmillan research journals, 39 new titles in [social sciences](#) and [business and management](#), such as *Asian Business and Management*, *BioSocieties*, *Digital War*, *Higher Education Policy*, *Journal of Brand Management*, *Journal of Public Health Policy* and *Urban Design International*.
- > [Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas](#), 2015 to present
- > [Journal of Historical Political Economy](#), 2024 to present
- > [Libraries: Culture, History, and Society](#), 2017 to present
- > [Music Week](#), 2019 to present
- > [Res Philosophica](#), 2013 to present
- > [The Strad](#), 2014 to present

eBooks and reports:

- > 2024 eBook collections from science and engineering professional societies, including American Astronomic Society (AAS), American Chemical Society (ACS), IEEE, Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), Institute of Physics (IOP), Royal Society of Chemistry(RSC) and SPIE.
- > Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics manuals: [Nutrition Care Manual](#); [Pediatric Nutrition Care Manual](#); [Sports Nutrition Care Manual](#).
- > Oxford Handbooks Online 2024 and Oxford Scholarship Online 2024, in [Oxford Academic](#), covering [humanities](#), [social sciences](#), [sciences](#), [medicine](#), [technology](#) and [law](#).
- > Sage 2024 academic and reference books in [Sage Knowledge](#), covering [social sciences including business](#), [education](#), [media](#), [public health](#) and [more](#).

Open Access (OA) Support and Publishing Agreements

- > Springer Nature OA publishing fees covered by the Libraries for SU authors.
- > Royal Society of Chemistry OA publishing fees covered by the Libraries for SU authors.
- > Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)) [Community Support member](#).
- > [University of Michigan Press 2024](#) Fund to Mission open access eBook program.
- > MIT 2024 [Direct to Open](#) eBook program.



New and Notable SCRC Acquisitions

When adding new collection material to its world-renowned holdings, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) acquisitions team applies a reparative framework where all potential acquisitions are assessed with priority to collect, preserve and provide access to materials from historically underrepresented groups. Staff consider purchases and donations in terms of relevance for research; the University's colleges and curricula; and how new acquisitions will fill gaps in representation within SCRC's varied collection areas. Here are highlights:

Marvin Worth Collection Related to Malcolm X Film

Purchased with Special Collections Research Center Collection Fund and the Adah C. Blackman Endowed Fund

This collection of materials from American film writer, producer and actor **Marvin Worth** (1925-1998) documents the process of adapting **Malcolm X** and **Alex Haley's** *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* to film. It provides insights into the confluence of artistic expression and progressive ideologies in 20th century social movements, particularly the civil rights movement, and complements the wealth of documentation in SCRC's Grove Press Records pertaining to the book's original publication. Worth acquired the rights to *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* in 1967 and initially commissioned a dramatic screenplay adaptation from **James Baldwin** and **Arnold Perl**. While the screenplay was being developed, the project transitioned into the documentary *Malcolm X* (1972) and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Baldwin and Perl's original screenplay would later be adapted by **Spike Lee** into *Malcolm X* (1992), also produced by Worth. The contents of this small collection provide first-hand insight into one of the earliest efforts by the film and media industry to memorialize Malcolm X and his role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Beth Ann Johnson Family Papers addition

Gift of the Johnson Family

Among the victims of the December 21, 1988, terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland was 21-year-old **Beth Ann Johnson**. A senior majoring in psychology at Seton Hill College, Beth Ann was returning home from a semester abroad at Regent's College in London, England. Following the loss of their daughter, Beth Ann's parents, **Glenn and Carole Johnson**, became heavily involved with Pan Am 103 victims' groups and worked for improvements to civilian aviation security at the national level. In recognition of the work of the Johnsons and fellow Pan Am 103 families in advocating for the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990, Representative **John P. Murtha** presented Glenn and Carole with the pen President **George H.W. Bush** used to sign this important piece of legislation. The pen and accompanying documentation speak to the role of victim communities in advocating for social and political change.

Raffaello Gualterotti, Feste nelle nozze del serenissimo don Francesco Medici gran duca di Toscana; et della sereniss. sua consorte la sig. Bianca Cappello (Florence: Stamperia de' Giunti, 1579)

Purchased with Special Collections Research Center Collection Fund

Commissioned by the Medici family, this festival book recounts in detail the sumptuous celebrations organized in Florence for the wedding of **Bianca Cappello to Francesco de' Medici**, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, in October 1579. The festivities took place over the course of more than ten days and consisted of numerous events staged across Florence, including a procession, a coronation, theatrical performances, a tournament and a hunt.

The book is accompanied by sixteen plates engraved by **Accursio Baldi** and **Sebastiano Marsili** depicting allegorical chariots, floats and other ephemeral structures constructed for the events. This printed and illustrated account complements Ranke MS 429, a manuscript description of the wedding, held by the SCRC.



Letter from President George H.W. Bush accompanied by bill-signing pen, November 29, 1990.
Beth Ann Johnson Family Papers, Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives,
Special Collections Research Center



Raffaello Gualterotti, *Feste nelle nozze del serenissimo don Francesco Medici gran duca di Toscana; et della sereniss. sua consorte la sig. Bianca Cappello* (Florence: Stamperia de' Giunti, 1579), Rare Book and Printed Materials Collection, Special Collections Research Center



A selection of Mattachine Society publications, Rare Book and Printed Materials Collections, Special Collections Research Center.

Hildegard von Bingen, *Physica S. Hildegardis* (Strasbourg: Johannes Schott, [1533]) [bound with] Theodorus Priscianus, *Octavii Horatiani Rerum medicarum lib. quatuor* (Strasbourg: Johannes Schott, [1532])

Purchased with Special Collections Research Center Collection Fund

This remarkable volume includes two bound seminal works. The first is the edition princeps of *Physica*, a major treatise on natural philosophy by **Hildegard of Bingen**, a twelfth-century German abbess, writer, poet, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, medical practitioner and saint. The second is the first printed edition of a medical treatise by **Theodorus Priscianus**, a fourth-century Byzantine physician. His work is accompanied by three chapters from *The Method of Medicine* by **Abū al-Qāsim Khalaf ibn al-'Abbās al-Zahrāwī al-Ansari** (known as Albucasis in the West). Born in Muslim Spain in 936, al-Zahrawi was the most quoted surgical authority throughout the Middle Ages and has been called “the father of surgery.” The treatise contains woodcut illustrations depicting surgeries and surgical instruments.

Walter Friedman Photographs

Purchased with Special Collections Research Center Collection Fund

Consisting of approximately 1,200 silver gelatin prints by **Walter Friedman** depicting everyday life on the margins of New York City during the 1960s and 1970s, this collection is a significant addition to collections pertaining to AIDS activism ephemera in the 1980s and 1990s. Friedman was a largely unknown and unrecognized New York City street photographer who lost his life to the AIDS epidemic. His work provides a highly visual depiction of the people and places of the movement that complements SCRC's other recent acquisitions of posters, handbills, pamphlets and ephemeral objects. Friedman's voice—like so many others impacted by the AIDS virus—remains underrepresented in the historical record.

Various publications from The Mattachine Society, spanning 1957-1979, including *Mattachine Review*, *New York Mattachine Times*, *The Fifth Freedom* and *The Homosexual Citizen*

Purchased with Special Collections Research Center Collection Fund

Founded in Los Angeles in 1950, the Mattachine Society was a secret organization and prominent group critical in disseminating information during the “Homophile Movement,” a period of early LGBTQ+ activism in the American post-World War II era. With national headquarters, independent chapters and offices across the U.S., the Mattachine Society published the national *Mattachine Review* starting in 1955, while chapter offices published newsletters and periodicals independently, such as the New York City chapter's *Mattachine Times* and Buffalo's *Fifth Freedom*. The SCRC recently acquired seventy-four Mattachine Society publications from multiple chapters, including New York City, Buffalo and Washington, D.C., as well as several *Mattachine Review* issues, which feature articles, opinions, resources, poetry, fiction and more. At the time of their release, these publications served as a vital information network for the Society's sections and members nationwide. Today, these publications serve as critical primary sources for learning more about this period in LGBTQ+ history.

Making Collections Discoverable



SCRC Finding Aids (findingaids.syr.edu) help researchers on campus and around the globe discover rare and distinctive archival, manuscript and primary source collections only available within the Syracuse University Libraries' SCRC. Here are a few highlights of notable collection material processed this past semester:

The distinction between "global" and "local" temperature is a distinction between two physically distinct thermodynamic potentials. Methods for measuring both differ from each other. In contrast the quest for transformation laws is the search for the relationship between measurements of different observers who use the same instructions for measurement, but with respect to their distinct frames of reference.

Manuscript notes. Peter G. Bergmann Papers, University Archives, Special Collections Research Center

Activism and Social Reform

- > [AIDS Activism Ephemera Collection](#), 4.5 ln. ft.
- > [Attica Prison Uprising Collection](#), 1.5 ln. ft.
- > [The Feminists Collection](#), 0.1 ln. ft.
- > [Sir Lady Java Collection](#), 1.5 ln. ft.

Architecture and Industrial Design

- > [Research and Design Institute \(RDI\) Records](#), 100 ln. ft.
- > [Ralph T. Walker Papers](#), 75 ln. ft. reprocessed

Artists, Painters, and Sculptors

- > [Francesco Saporì Papers](#), 26 ln. ft.

Broadcasting History

- > [Arthur Unger Audio Interview Collection](#), 2,042 audio cassettes
- > [Marvin Worth Collection Related to Malcolm X Film](#), 0.5 ln. ft.

Business and Industry

- > [McDonald's Franchise Collection](#), 6 ln. ft.

Cartoons and Cartoonists

- > [Arthur B. Poinier Cartoons](#), 1,448 cartoons added

Children's Literature

- > [L. Frank Baum Collection](#), 10 ln. ft. added

Illustration, Printing, and Publishing

- > [Manuscript Waste Fragments](#), 0.1 ln. ft.

New York State History and Ephemera

- > [Central New York Cultural Ephemera Collection](#), 3.5 ln. ft. added
- > [Walter H. Emery Photographic Journal](#), 0.25 ln. ft.
- > [J. Elet Milton Collection](#), 1.75 ln. ft.
- > [Partnership for Onondaga Creek Records](#), 2.5 ln. ft.

Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster

- > [Derek H. Rayner Papers](#), 0.1 ln. ft.

Photography and Photojournalism

- > [Walter Friedman Photography Archive](#), 1.75 ln. ft.

Plastics

> [Dave Creaden Papers](#), 2.5 In. ft.

Politics and Government

> [Madrid \(Spain\) Collection](#), 0.25 In. ft.

Radicalism in the Arts

> [Creative Film Foundation Records](#), 1.25 In. ft.

Recorded Sound and Music

> [Disney Music Collection](#), 2 In. ft.

> [Louis Krasner Papers](#), 181 discs + 8 tapes added

> [Melodeon Collection](#), 0.25 In. ft.

Religious and Utopian Communities

> [Bethlehemite Order Handbook](#), 0.25 In. ft.

> [Oneida Community Collection](#), 15 In. ft. added

> [Oneida Community Secondary Literature Collection](#), 6 In. ft.

Syracuse University History

> [Peter G. Bergmann Papers](#), 30.25 In. ft.

> [Preston E. James Papers](#), 35.75 In. ft.

> [Margaret Lay-Dopyera Papers](#), 1.75 In. ft.

> [Charles Noble Slides](#), 0.5 In. ft.

> [Janet Schmitt Scrapbook](#), 1.4 In. ft.

> [Syracuse University Student Photograph Collection](#), 16 In. ft.

Research Guides for Your Use



Explore Research Guides curated by the Libraries at researchguides.library.syr.edu.

With over 300 guides for various courses and partnerships across the University, Research Guides provide the perfect starting point for your research and academic needs.

> [ADV 604: Seminar in Advertising Practice and Leadership \(Fall 2024\)](#)

> [ADV 208: The Big Idea in Advertising \(Fall 2024\)](#)

> [ArcGIS Software Access](#)

> [IST 414: Data Driven Inquiry](#)

> [IST 613: Library Planning, Marketing, and Assessment](#)

> [IST 635: Collection Development and Access](#)

> [LIN 208 / NAT 208: Indigenous Languages: Their Past, Present, and Future \(Spring 2024\)](#)

> [Standards](#)

> [Visual Communications](#)



Joan Breier Brodsky (right) receiving honorary degree from Chancellor Syverud.

Brodsky Honorary Degrees

Congratulations to **William “Bill” Brodsky** '65, L'68, H'24 and **Joan Breier Brodsky** '67, G'68, H'24 on being recognized with honorary degrees from Syracuse University at the 2024 Commencement. Joan sits on the Libraries' Advisory Board and the couple sponsors the Brodsky Series for Advancement of Library Conservation, promoting and advancing knowledge of library conservation theory, practice and application among wide audiences, both on campus, in the region and online. In addition, the Brodskys funded the Conservation Lab in the Special Collections Research Center in Bird Library and the Joan Breier Brodsky Media Preservation Vault in the Libraries' offsite storage Facility.



Chancellor Syverud poses with Bill Brodsky (right) receiving honorary degree.



"Superception" illustration printed in Forecast, 1961, Hugo Gernsback Papers, Special Collections Research Center

Fall 2024 SCRC Exhibition

Destroy All Monsters: Developments in Fandom and Participatory Culture

Fans have changed radically over the past century from mere consumers of media to active participants in media creation. Following the emergence of science fiction as a literary genre, fans increasingly sought to connect, not only with texts, but with each other. The founding of fan clubs, emergence of underground publications known as "fanzines," and the rise of fan conventions within the science fiction community during the first half of the 20th century put fans in direct contact and created forums for discussion, debate and camaraderie that spanned international borders. These structures were soon adopted by devotees of other media, including comics, music, film, television, sports and many more.

Destroy All Monsters shares its title with a 1968 Godzilla film and with a zine-making, anti-rock band from Detroit. While the phrase may bring to mind violence for some, Destroy All Monsters seeks to portray not literal but creative acts of destruction and reimagination. The exhibition highlights some of the ways in which enthusiasts

engage with the object of their fandom by copying it, remixing it or dismantling it altogether to make something new. These creative acts are not only statements of admiration but representations and assertions of individuality and solidarity with others in common cause. This complex history of creative expression and engagement among fan bases is manifested in materials ranging from fan letters to punk fanzines to images of cosplayers and conventioners. Acknowledging the various genres to which the term "fan" applies, the exhibition highlights materials held by the Special Collections Research Center in the areas of science fiction, fantasy, horror and music. While by no means a comprehensive history of fandom, the objects displayed here illustrate the legacy of fan participation broadly and recognize the contributions of the individual fan.

Curated by **Daniel Sarmiento**, Curator of 20th Century to Present, the exhibition will be on view at the Special Collections Research Center, Bird Library, 6th floor gallery.

Undergraduate Students Find Themselves in the Special Collections Research Center Archives

In the Spring of 2024, the SOURCE (The Syracuse Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement) piloted a new research opportunity, SOURCE Explore, for students in their first or second year with no prior research experience. The SOURCE, under Director **Kate Hanson** and Assistant Director **Odette Rodriguez**, offers a variety of research fellowships, grants and mentorship to foster, support and expand diverse undergraduate participation in faculty-guided scholarly research and creative inquiry. The SOURCE Explore program was open to all early undergraduate students curious to learn more about research methodology through direct engagement. By doing it, participating students learned the ins and outs of research processes in a particular field of study.

In this inaugural edition, both SCRC and Community Geography partnered with the SOURCE Explore program to provide students with a unique experience. In SCRC's program, Finding Yourself in the Archives with Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), a cohort of eleven students from colleges across campus worked with SCRC Instruction and Education Librarian **Jana Rosinski** and SCRC Reference and Access Services Librarian **Amy McDonald** in a one-month research residency. Over four weeks of hands-on archival training workshops and one-on-one meetings, the students learned about special collections and archives; how to find, analyze and contextualize primary sources; and how to design and create unique creative critical thinking projects that explored an SCRC collection of their choosing with a topic of interest to them. Of the experience, one student shared that they learned "how to be more open-minded and adaptable when doing research," including "how to navigate looking at archival, first-hand sources." The student explained, "I didn't have much experience with this prior, as I mainly used online databases and second-hand sources to complete projects...This led me to a third skill that I developed, which was how to narrow down my search and ask relevant questions."

Librarian Jana Rosinski explained that "in designing the program, it was really important to help students understand that research doesn't look one particular way or follow steps in a particular order; researching is a very individualized process that depends on many intersecting and shifting factors, including changes in what you're curious about or questioning, the form (medium or genre) the project will take, who will engage with the research and in what context, as well as complex negotiations of contextualizing these primary source materials that were created in a different period of time for a completely different purpose than encountering them in the present moment in a university library. Activating primary source materials requires a lot of sense-



The SCRC SOURCE Explore cohort poses for a group photo after their research fair presentations.



Student presenting their work at SCRC SOURCE Explore

making work to understand the unique perspectives in their creation, as well as what, as a researcher, you're hoping to make understandable or relatable by using the material mindfully."

At the end of the residency, students presented their work and their experience to a small audience of faculty, staff and fellow students at a research fair, along with the concurrent program and cohort working with faculty in the Geography Department, Mapping Stories, Making Change with Syracuse Community Geography. The [SCRC student cohort's presentations of research can be viewed within SURFACE](#), Syracuse University's digital repository, an open access resource that provides long-term preservation to a wide range of scholarship created by University students, faculty and staff including articles, books, journals, videos and more.



Anthony J. Thomas '24 in front of the Blackstone LaunchPad, Bird Library

Blackstone LaunchPad Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Inclusion Scholars

Todd B. Rubin '04 (School of Architecture), Minister of Evolution and President of The Republic of Tea and a member of the Libraries Advisory Board, made an impact on Syracuse University Libraries' Blackstone LaunchPad with a five-year personal commitment to support two student entrepreneurs annually from diverse backgrounds. Since 2020, the Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Inclusion Scholars have been working to broaden diversity and inclusion outreach and programming, expand participation in entrepreneurship by underrepresented groups and support the University's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Over the past five years, Todd's gift to the LaunchPad has supported the following students:

- > 2020: **Gabriela Holliman-Lopez** '22 (College of Visual and Performing Arts) and **Tyra Jean** '20 (College of Arts and Sciences), G'21 (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs)
- > 2021: **Natalie Lui (Thazin Min Htet)** '22 (College of Visual and Performing Arts) and **Ze Zeng** '22 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management)
- > 2022: **Andrew Kim** '24 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management) and **Ethan Tyo** '17 (School of Information Studies), G'23 (Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics)
- > 2024: **Motolani Oladitan** '24 (College of Arts and Sciences) and **Brandon Henry** '24 (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs) / **Ud Joseph** '25 (School of Information Studies)
- > 2025: **Anthony J. Thomas** G'24 (School of Information Studies) and **Fatim Cisse** G'25 (Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics)

"Diversity and inclusion are the driving forces behind creativity and progress, and the journey of each Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Inclusion Scholar is a testament to the strength that comes from embracing our differences," said Todd. "The Blackstone LaunchPad at Syracuse University serves as more than just a hub for entrepreneurship and ideas—it's a catalyst for change, empowering students to turn their unique talents into lasting impact."

Highlights of former Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Inclusion Scholars' contributions include:

Gabriela Holliman-Lopez is a freelance contributor at Book Riot and a User Experience Researcher at Duolingo. She won Syracuse University's 2022 Mary E. Earle Prize for Undergraduate Research, then went on to complete a master's degree in information sciences at the University of Michigan. She is also a published author on augmented reality.

Tyra Jean became a data insights analyst, founder and CEO of Naturally Verified Co., a market research, website building and creative entrepreneurship company. She is also a published author and podcaster who has been featured in Ebony Magazine, Homeland Security Digital Library, Getty Images, Our Stories Belong in History, GFN-TV and more. She is a business insights analyst and engineering consultant for the Kubrick Group in Manhattan and has achieved prominence in the national black founder tech community.

Natalie Lui worked closely with students with physical and intellectual disabilities through Syracuse University Libraries Intelligence ++ program, a partnership with the School of Education's InclusiveU and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. She went on to become a paralegal with a law firm in Houston, TX after working in Syracuse with the Legal Aid Society, in the nonprofit sector with diverse clientele with special needs and as a Leadership Intern with the **Mary Anne Shaw** Center at Syracuse University. She continues to volunteer and work with populations who have physical and intellectual disabilities and other special needs in Texas.

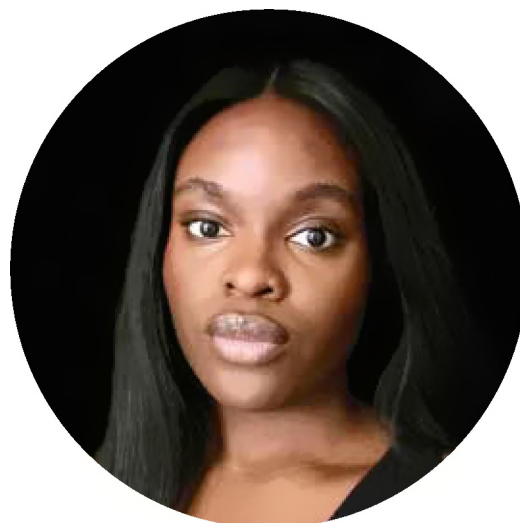
Ze Zeng was the co-founder of WeMedia Lab at Syracuse, where he developed a communications platform that engaged 20,000 Asian students and alumni in diverse programming. Zeng helped create extensive programming for international students, particularly around the challenges of entrepreneurship and business formation on a F-1 student education visa. He created successful and well attended events featuring visiting Asian alumni entrepreneurs who shared their journeys. Zeng received the Orange Circle Award for his work. During Covid and a period of anti-Asian incidents, he organized a "Hands for Wuhan" campaign that successfully raised \$70,000 to purchase personal protective equipment to support five hospitals in China and New York State.

Ethan Tyo presented his graduate practicum in 2021 by bringing back the ancestral seeds of the Three Sisters (corn, squash and beans) of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to their land that Syracuse University now occupies. Tyo was featured in *The New York Times* and *Seattle Times* as he grows The AlterNative Project, an initiative to restore food sovereignty to the tribal nations, inspired by the knowledge of Indigenous cultural practices Tyo learned while studying at Syracuse.

Motolani Oladitan worked closely with the LaunchPad to start her venture, Beautie, an e-commerce and virtual marketplace that connects authentic African beauty and wellness products to international markets and the global diaspora. She also spearheaded the LaunchPad's Afropreneurship program in 2024 as part of Black History Month.

Posse Scholar Ud Joseph was born in Haiti and raised in Miami in a family of immigrants. Living in a lower-income neighborhood, Joseph

witnessed other young immigrants fall victim to rampant drug abuse and violence. At Syracuse University, he pursued a degree in the field of cyber security and technology. Through the LaunchPad, Joseph found a collaborative and encouraging community. Joseph served as a panelist for GenZSpeaks, where he and other college students discussed with executive leaders and recruiters diversity and inclusion within the current job atmosphere. Reflecting on his time growing up, Joseph realized that positive role models and supportive mentors are essential to success. "Being a first-generation college student, I always felt lost and didn't have anyone to turn to," reflected Joseph. "I knew I needed a program that aligned with my passions. I am happy the iSchool and Blackstone LaunchPad helped me find that avenue." Joseph created his own nonprofit organization that mentors children and teens of immigrants.



“The Library became a second home for me through my work at the Blackstone LaunchPad as a Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Inclusion Scholar,” said Oladitan. “It’s where I discovered my passion for entrepreneurship, forged longtime friendships and found invaluable mentors. That incredible experience not only enriched my academics at Syracuse University but also empowered me to promote diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship.” - Motolani Oladitan

Read and Publish Agreements and the Impact of OPEN SCHOLARSHIP



Julia Zeh



Edward (Cole) Fluker



Jae C. Oh



Kylie K. Harmon

Syracuse University Libraries have pursued innovative partnerships with publishers to make more University-authored journal articles freely available without publishing charges to individual authors. The Libraries now have twelve [Read and Publish open access agreements](#), enabling all SU-affiliated authors to publish their articles openly in the journals that are covered by each agreement. Open access allows for anyone to then access these scholarly works, free of charge.

The combination of these Read and Publish Agreements with SURFACE, the University's open access institutional repository, is helping the University publish groundbreaking research sustainably while ensuring that researchers meet a growing cadre of funders' public access requirements. Notably, the federal government has mandated that by December 31, 2025, all federal agencies must update their policies to ensure publications and supporting data that arise from [federally funded research is publicly available without embargo](#).

Developing economic models to sustain open publishing have resulted in many publishers shifting the cost associated with publishing from the reader to the author via Article Processing Charges (APC), with costs typically ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 or more per article depending on the journal and publisher. For most Syracuse University authors, that cost

is prohibitive. Fortunately, the Libraries' Read and Publish agreements cover the cost for affiliated scholars to access or read the content, and the APC costs for affiliated authors to publish.

One example of the impact of this is Ph.D. candidate **Julia Zeh's** (College of Arts and Sciences) work in biology that was recently published in [Royal Society Open Science \(journal\)](#). [Zeh conducted a study, along with other members of Syracuse University's Bioacoustics and Behavioral Ecology Lab and collaborators from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Center for Coastal Studies and UC Santa Cruz](#), on the acoustic behavior of whales and communication. Insights from this study are crucial for informing future conservation efforts. "It's exciting to be able to publish our research in impactful, open access journals through the Libraries' open access agreements, like we did with our *Royal Society Open Science* paper. One of the most important ways to make sure that research is impactful is by making it accessible to scientists and other stakeholders around the world. It is great that we can make our research accessible without worrying about the high cost to do so," said Zeh.

[Edward \(Cole\) Fluker '24 \(College of Engineering and Computer Science\)](#) participated in the University's Louis

Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. He worked under **Ian Hosein**, associate professor of biomedical and chemical engineering, analyzing a gel polymer electrolyte system as an alternative to liquid electrolytes in calcium-ion batteries. The research resulted in a published open access paper in the [American Chemical Society's Journal of Physical Chemistry](#), one of the publications under the Libraries' Read and Publish agreements. Fluker was first author of the paper. He then went on to receive a prestigious graduate research fellowship through the National Science Foundation (NSF) to join the Ph.D. program in chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kylie K. Harmon, Assistant Professor, Department of Exercise Science (David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics), was also able to take advantage of the Libraries' Read and Publish Agreements. "My article, "Combined action observation and mental imagery vs. neuromuscular electrical stimulation as novel therapeutics during short-term knee immobilization," was accepted for publication in [Experimental Physiology](#). In this study, we were interested in trying to preserve muscle strength vs. mass during seven days of unilateral knee-joint immobilization. These interventions hadn't previously been directly compared. The results were very exciting, because action observation + mental imagery are accessible, easy to implement interventions that might have real carryover into clinical settings."

According to Harmon, "Everything went very smoothly with the journal's waiver of the Article Publication Charges (APCs). It was simple and straightforward, and it's fantastic that SU Libraries supports this program. I wouldn't have published in this journal otherwise, which would have been a shame since it's a perfect fit. I am so appreciative of the agreements the Libraries have in place." Professor Harmon's article has received a significant amount of attention since publication, and it is in the top 25% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric for the attention it has received.

In FY2024, the Libraries' supported 131 APCs through its Read and Publish Agreements, saving Syracuse University scholars and their respective departments nearly \$500,000. This offset of open access costs to the Libraries means that department funds can be used to help supplement research budgets, invest in graduate students and conference funding, lab equipment and other technologies. "The agreements are also essential for Syracuse to remain competitive," said **Jae C. Oh**, [Acting Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Academic Initiatives in the College of Engineering and Computer Science](#). Additionally, a robust program for supporting faculty publishing helps to improve recruitment and retention.



Above: Julia Zeh and Valeria Perez during a field research trip off the coast of Massachusetts.

Below: A suction cup sound and movement tag being deployed on the back of a humpback whale in Massachusetts. These tags allow researchers to track movement and audio of individual whales.

Photos courtesy of Julia Zeh.

Libraries of Ukraine, Scholars at Risk

Excerpt written by **Dr. Tetiana Hranchak**, member of the Board of the Ukrainian Library Association, D. Sc. in Social Communications, Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs in Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs



Dr. Tetiana Hranchak

Foreword

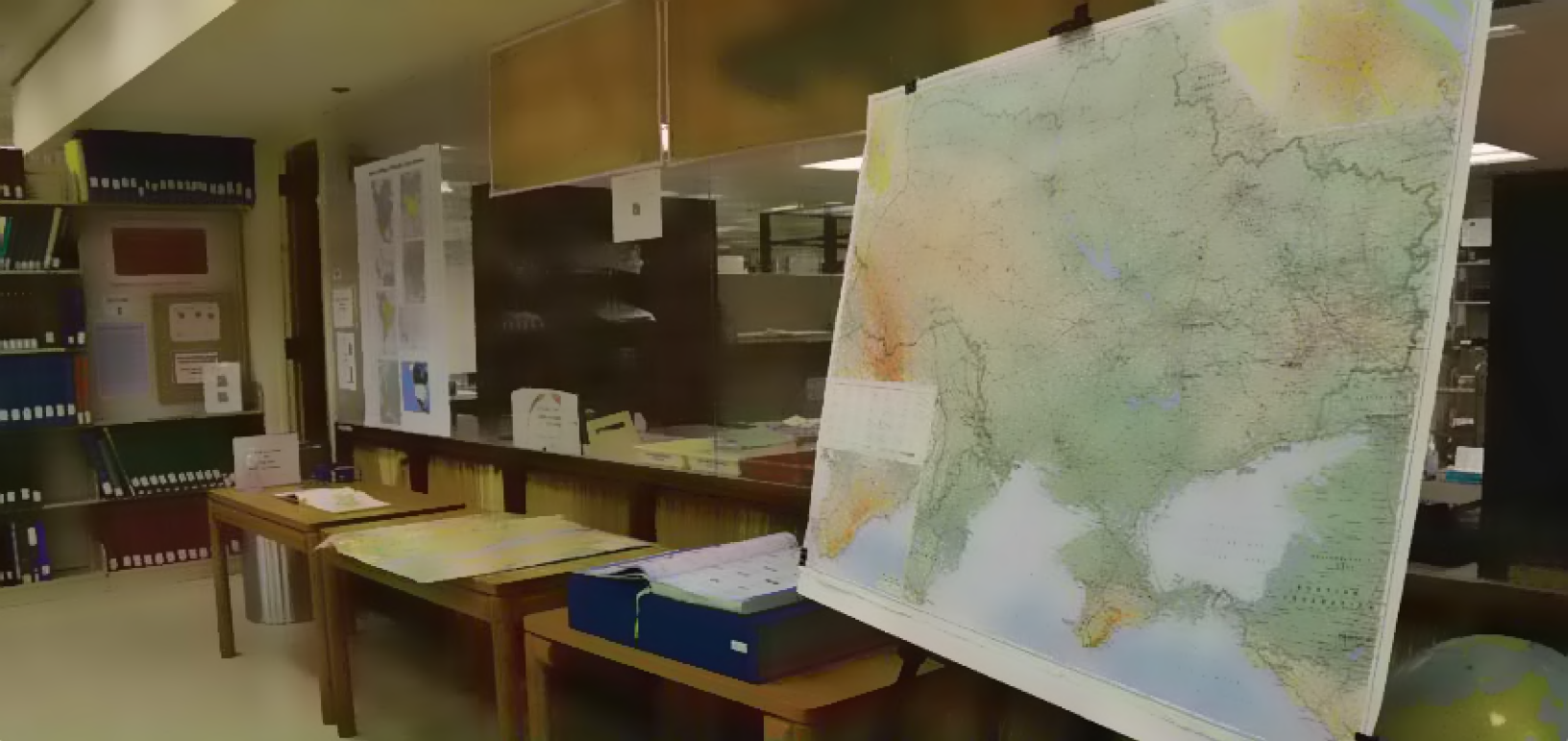
“On March 7, 2024, in a talk on the libraries of Ukraine, Dr. Tetiana Hranchak described the Ukraine libraries community as one that provides a safe place to seek out knowledge and informed conversation, two pillars that form a structure holding up the very soul of what a library is and should be. Preserving and providing access to information and cultural history can help people feel connected to their past, contextualize and value their present, and provide a grounding effect, a foundation, to participate in their own future and the future of humanity. Librarians play a strong role in leading such efforts to safeguard our histories and to provide safe and welcoming communities.”

—**Nicolette A. Dobrowolski**,
Director of Special Collections Research Center,
Syracuse University Libraries

Ukraine is suffering. Our communities are being ruined. Our souls are devastated. But we are alive. On February 24, 2022, the Ukrainians suffered a powerful blow from Russia. Nowadays, the Ukrainian people are facing destruction and heavy losses. Our communities and people's lives are being destroyed, and we need support and protection more than ever. Libraries, created thousands of years ago to support the vitality of communities, nowadays help Ukrainians to survive in war conditions and provide physical, informational, psychological and spiritual protection.

Here are the many ways libraries support the community:

- > **Libraries are bomb shelters.** From the first days of the war many libraries are providing physical protection. For example, Central City Library for Children in Mykolaiv is a 24/7 bomb shelter that can accommodate up to 180 people at a time.
- > **Libraries are volunteer centers.** Many have become hubs of volunteer activity. Librarians, library patrons and community members are cooking dinners for those who fought and are being treated at local hospitals. Together with volunteer organizations, librarians and community residents collect and make clothes and products for refugees and for the front. In this way, a community of practice is being built - providing new members of the community who left their homes to escape the war with a sense of unity, social integration and security. Along with weaving camouflage nets people are creating social nets in library spaces.
- > **Libraries are territories of goodness.** Since 2014, when the first forced migrants from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea appeared, libraries took a proactive position. The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine adopted an Order to launch a project [that explicitly indicates that] libraries participate in helping those in need, particularly around information, legal and educational work.
- > **Libraries help displaced people.** Cooperating with state authorities, charity foundations, state structures, employment centers, psychological, social and legal services, libraries help displaced people find temporary housing and work, get information about their rights and ways to use them, renew social ties, get access to the Internet and computer equipment to continue studying, attend language courses, improve and acquire IT skills and more.
- > **Libraries are hubs of digital education.** About 6,000 libraries joined the national digital literacy campaign in the Ukraine.



Map room in Bird Library, 3rd floor.

- > **Libraries are media literacy training centers.** An important direction of libraries is to increase the level of media literacy and the formation of critical thinking of the population, essential during this information war era. Many libraries organize lectures, trainings, webinars and participate in media literacy weeks. Libraries joined the nationwide media literacy project from the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine called “Study and distinguish info-media literacy.” One of the latest initiatives supported by the Ukrainian Library Association is the recording of a series of conversations with famous Ukrainians about information hygiene and its role in everyday life through the lens of cultural, historical and personal experience.
- > **Libraries are sites of remembering.** It is where memories of the past are housed. Ukrainian Institute of National Memory noted that this war has brought up issues related to cultural characteristics, spiritual values and ideals, which determine the uniqueness of a community and its identity. Library is a memory institution that collects and preserves documented historical and cultural heritage. As such, libraries are integral to the politics of memory, helping people protect their values and identity.

The libraries help to create a single coherent consensus of historical memory through their attention to both verbal and visual components of information. They use nation-building terminology and motivating symbols, sharing information in a balanced way. Librarians understand that language matters. For example, it was NOT a ‘Civil War’ but a ‘Ukrainian Revolution.’ It was NOT the ‘Great Patriotic’ but the ‘Second World War.’ Libraries have moved beyond the colonization discourse to recall these events using the correct terminology, not from the Russian imperial narrative, but from a life-affirming connotation.

Ideally, libraries’ memorial, socio-political, cultural, educational and other activities must be directed to the formation and establishment of national memory, contribute to information security of the state and help its integration into the world humanitarian space.

In addition to the promotion of Ukrainian books and culture in general, there are numerous events of Ukrainian libraries which commemorate the Holodomor, those who died during the Stalinist repressions and the Chernobyl tragedy. These events combat the myth about the USSR as a country liberator and pre-World War Two as a golden age and restore the truth. Continuing this work requires considerable effort and is part of the reason that libraries are under attack.

Ukrainian culture is under the gun. Many libraries’ funds were lost, and buildings were damaged. 700 public and university libraries are damaged or destroyed and more than 4,000 are under occupation. An important achievement of the Ukrainian Library Association was the establishment of interaction with partners for reconstruction and the preservation of library and information resources, assistance to libraries to maintain service and organization of efforts to restore damaged library buildings and lost library collections. At the same time, the American Library Association, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Library Association, launched the Fund for the Support of Ukrainian Libraries.

I am proud to say that among all the changes, what remains unchangeable is the dedication of librarians to their readers and the library work, the belief in victory and the capacity of the library community.

Student Employees Showcase

The Libraries' Academic Success division, comprised of the Access and Resource Sharing, Information Literacy, and Learning and Academic Engagement departments, hosted its annual Libraries' Student Employees Showcase in April 2024. The event provided students with an opportunity to share their experiences working at the Libraries. Students were encouraged to practice their presentation skills while highlighting what they liked about their jobs, skills they developed that can transfer to other areas of their lives, and how working at the Libraries enhanced their overall academic experience and prepared them for post college or graduate school. It also supports the Libraries' strategic plan initiative to design and implement holistic student employee experiences that build connections between students' library employment and their professional endeavors.



Sophia Fiumano G'25 (School of Information Studies) said, "I talked about the opportunities I had working as an Information Literacy Scholar, with the coolest one being the attendance at LOEX (the library instruction and information literacy conference) this

year! For the conference, I was able to make a Research Guide specific to a database to help students with their research. I added digital learning objects in the form of tutorial videos, including a fun video where I used a green screen. I enjoyed putting this project together." Fiumano's Research Guide was designed to explain how to use Scopus for students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



Kiley Smith '23 (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs), G'25 (School of Information Studies) worked in the Preservation Department and shared her experience updating the Preservation Research Guide, which

is used to share knowledge and information on how to repair and preserve items. Smith's research guide updates provide other Preservation student employees with information on the tools and materials they can use, now organized by tabs to display tools by use or type of tool, along with photos to highlight the tools. This project was a great experience that will help Smith in her professional area of study.



Cole Cassano G'24 (School of Information Studies) shared his experience working as a music cataloging assistant on the Bell Brothers Sound Recordings Collection, which includes over 12,000 10" shellac discs held in the Belfer Audio Archive and Laboratory. The collection, acquired by the Libraries in 1963, includes RCA Victor recordings ranging from 1948 to 1952 from Latin American countries including Mexico, Cuba, Argentina and more. Cassano was responsible for creating Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) records, the international standard cataloging format, for all identifying information of an item. These MARC records provide an access point for research discovery. He also cataloged monograph musical scores. "Working in SU Libraries has opened my eyes to more nuanced understandings of access in libraries, and the ethical questions library workers encounter daily," said Cassano.

2024 Student Award Winners

Syracuse University Libraries recognized its student employees with an awards celebration on April 17, 2024. The Libraries typically employ around 150 undergraduate and graduate students each year to contribute to the safety of our spaces, the quality and repair of our collections, and provide service support to patrons and our student entrepreneurs. Supervisors nominate student employees for awards who have demonstrated dedicated service over time and significant contributions that have made a lasting impact on the Libraries. The Libraries recognize these students through the generous support of **Kathy and Stanley Walters**, the family of **Patricia Kutner Strait** and the many donors to the Libraries Dean's Fund.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Kathy and Stanley Walters Student Employee Scholarship Awards

Nia Bellamy '24 (College of Arts and Sciences),
Access & Resource Sharing

Bellamy worked in the Preservation Lab for three years, including summers. She understood the department's workflow and was trained in many different procedures, including repair of book spines, sewing music scores into pamphlet binders and stiffening books by turning soft covers into hard covers. She was also one of a few students who helped with mylar enclosures of large maps.

Tiffani-Marie Fite '24 (College of Arts and Sciences),
Access & Resource Sharing

Fite worked in Access Services for three years, effectively communicating with patrons at the service desk and completing shelving tasks with accuracy. They regularly covered coworker shifts and worked during Winter and Summer sessions, as well as school breaks. They staffed the third-floor service desk, which includes expanded professional knowledge around document organization and media borrowing. Fite was also able to cover shifts at Carnegie Library. Fite was an incredible resource as their supervisor was training, including answering questions around software, loaner technologies, patron account inquiries and library borrowing policies.

Renee Kurie '25 (S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications),
Blackstone LaunchPad

Kurie exhibited commitment to the success and growth of the LaunchPad. Her multifaceted contributions as the LaunchPad's "historian," photographer and videographer at events and competitions documented and elevated promotion of the LaunchPad. Kurie proactively proposed, developed and executed new events, including organization of a photo shoot to capture professional headshots. She led planning for the Founders Circle dinner and holiday party, wrote creative feature articles and produced content.

Alejandro Parra G'24 (David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics), Security & Facilities

During the pandemic, Parra was essential in addressing social distancing and face covering with patrons. As a mature student, Parra was instrumental in training peers and serving as a role model.



Caleb Brown G'24 (School of Information Studies), **Kayleigh Ford G'24** (College of Arts and Sciences), **Michelle Mitchell** (Learning and Academic Librarian), **Bridget Sheridan** (Former Learning and Academic Engagement Supervisor)

Olivia Russo G'24 (School of Information Studies),
Information Literacy

Russo independently led several library instruction sessions for Writing 105 and 205 classes, helped organize the Libraries' Undergrad Nights offerings during finals weeks, collaborated on the creation of several video tutorials and partnered on events such as Learn at Syracuse University Libraries workshops. Russo was one of the leading forces in helping the Libraries to launch a new student-led journal, the Information Literacy Collab, including development of the journal's mission, editorial process and other logistics.

Sasha Solomon G'24 (School of Information Studies),
Special Collections Research Center

Solomon contributed to the University Archives' work to preserve Syracuse University history by researching, arranging and describing archival materials. She processed more than 26 collections, and her projects played a key role in SCRC's reparative archives work. One of the most significant collections Solomon processed was the **H. Daniel Smith Papers**, the only self-identified gay professor represented among the University Archives' faculty papers. One of her smallest collections was just as important: the records of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first Black fraternity at Syracuse University.

Aidan Turner '24 (School of Architecture),

Blackstone LaunchPad

Turner led and organized the LaunchPad Redesign Challenge and the ACC InVenture Prize Competition. He hosted a solo pop-up shop for his clothing brand Grater Things. His success led to him being named the Hunter Brooks Watson Scholar for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Patricia Kutner Strait Student Scholarship Awards

Kayleigh Ford G'24 (College of Arts and Sciences),

Learning & Academic Engagement

Ford worked on the Learning and Academic Engagement team for three years. She was resourceful, mature and genuinely cared for users and colleagues. Ford was eager to hear other ways that colleagues answered patron questions, learning and improving from their experiences.

Isabela Izaguirre '24 (College of Arts and Sciences),

Preservation

Izaguirre stood out as an undergraduate student on a track to pursue conservation graduate studies. Her curiosity and desire to learn more were impressive. Her exemplary attitude allowed her to build upon foundational preservation training to fine-tune repair techniques like lifting outer board cloth, tucking spine cloth into end sheets and repairing brittle, cracked pages.

Andrew M. Kim '24 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management),

Blackstone LaunchPad

Kim oversaw a team of six to plan LaunchPad competitions throughout the year and took the lead role for two of the six competitions: Ideas Fest and Orange Central Student Showcase. He helped the LaunchPad marketing team create graphics and ran the LaunchPad's Instagram account.

Alan Malekar G'24 (School of Information Studies),

Blackstone LaunchPad

Malekar was a welcoming presence in the LaunchPad, inviting newcomers to sit and talk. He spearheaded brainstorming sessions between LaunchPad



Aidan Turner shows his certificate to peer student employees.

and the Robotics Student Organization. He was available in the evenings to provide mentorship on presentation and pitching skills, including mentoring a diverse team on artificial intelligence innovations, and helping others progress from the ideation phase to viable business plans. Malaker helped students navigate challenges in exploring new, non-surface laser technology.

Katelyn Miller G'24 (College of Visual and Performing Arts),

Special Collections Research Center

Miller answered over 600 reference requests across two years and assisted in every step of the reproduction workflows for hundreds of orders, while staffing SCRC's Reading Room desk at least 12 hours per week. Miller has a deep respect for cultural heritage work and can balance providing equitable access to the collections with care for the materials. In addition, Miller began working with the National Veterans Resource Center Gallery in 2023 and served as a liaison for their recent exhibition "Paper Trail," featuring materials from the SCRC.

Zion Smith '24 (College of Visual and Performing Arts),

Security & Facilities

Smith took great pride in helping others through his role as a floor monitor. He answered patron questions patiently and respectfully.

Dean's Commendations Awards

Cole Cassano G'24 (School of Information Studies),

Acquisitions & Cataloging

Cassano is highly driven and extremely attentive to detail, desirable attributes in a student cataloger. Although he did not have prior experience with MARC (machine-readable cataloging) fields or ISBD (International Standards of Bibliographic Description) before starting his current position, he was a quick learner. Within his first month, he contributed bibliographic records for sound recordings in OCLC (the Online Computer Library Center), the Belfer sound recordings and the music scores in SU Libraries' general collections. This enables patrons to access these materials in the Libraries' online catalog.



Public Safety Officer George Wazen poses with several student employees.



“It has been such a pleasure to work for the Blackstone LaunchPad in Bird Library over the past year. There I can combine all my interests in entrepreneurship and design to mentor other students who are looking to start their own venture. Working for the LaunchPad has never felt like burdensome work, I have always looked forward to spending my time planning a pitch competition event or mentoring other students.” —**Aidan Turner**

Maguette Fall '24 (David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics), Security & Facilities

Fall is on track to attend medical school, and the caring and attentive traits she exhibited as a floor monitor indicate that she will be an outstanding leader in her profession.

Dao Ming Lin '24 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management), Security & Facilities

Ming set a great example to other student employees with his work ethic and positive attitude. He was punctual, filled in and worked shifts when others were unavailable and was extremely reliable.

Alexandria Luck G'25 (School of Information Studies), Research & Scholarship

Luck assisted with collection development, library research instruction, research and reference consultations and event planning. She partnered with librarians for instruction sessions, Research Guides and ingestion of content into SURFACE, the University's open access repository. She assisted with faculty research consultations, including tracking down difficult to find video titles. She was also an integral member of the Libraries' user testing team for the new Libraries Search.

Motolani Oladitan '24 (College of Arts and Sciences), Blackstone LaunchPad

Oladitan supported fellow student entrepreneurs in creating compelling slide decks and forming effective pitches. She was a particularly effective mentor for minority, female and international student entrepreneurs. She coordinated the annual Afropreneurship event and served as the Todd B. Rubin Diversity and Inclusion Scholar.

Adira Ramirez '25 (School of Information Studies), Access & Resource Sharing

Ramirez is interested in pursuing a library career and was committed to providing excellent service at the circulation desk, efficiently communicating to patrons with concise and clear language, and exhibiting a deep understanding of library policies and inner workings. Ramirez helped patrons who struggled finding books on the shelves. She searched for missing books and performed small shifts of library materials. She was recently admitted into the Master of Library Information Studies program at SU's School of Information Studies, taking steps toward making library work her career.



Nick Olivieri, Access and Resource Sharing supervisor poses with student employees.

Sarah Schreiber '25 (College of Arts and Sciences), Blackstone LaunchPad

Schreiber accompanied the SU team competing for the Hult Prize in Boston on her own dime to prepare for her role as the lead student planner and coordinator of the Hult Prize Qualifier competitions and the Impact Prize in the Fall of 2023. Her role as Hult Campus ambassador included participating in global campus calls and emails and implementing marketing strategies across campus to increase participation in and awareness of Hult Prize and social entrepreneurship/impact ventures.

In addition to the aforementioned students, several other student employees were recognized with honorable mentions: **Emmanuel Adeniyi '24** (College of Arts and Sciences), **Mariama Barry '24** (School of Information Studies), **Kelvin Boakye '24** (David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics), **Dylan Caskie G'24** (College of Arts and Sciences), **James Harman '25** (School of Information Studies), **Ud Joseph '24** (School of Information Studies), **Bintou Manneh '24** (School of Information Studies), **Rebecca McCall G'24** (School of Information Studies), **Duyen Pham G'24** (College of Visual and Performing Arts) and **Kishan Rathor G'24** (School of Information Studies).

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