

Friendscript

Imagine This

Dean John Wilkin proposes the next big step in Library development

Hold a conversation very long with Dean John Wilkin, and you'll notice how often the word "imagine" filters its way into the discussion.

Good thing, too, because imagination will prove the driving force as the Library steps boldly into the next phase of its future.

What Wilkin envisions is a complete reconceptualization of Library space—establishing a research hub around collections for the social sciences, the arts, and humanities, as well as setting up a permanent home for special collections.

Along the way, undergraduates will be given new quarters and new opportunities to work alongside graduate students and members of the faculty.

"Our Library has an incredible history of engagement," Wilkin says, "and this new proposal is really the next chapter that takes us forward."

"Imagine this continuum of experiences."

Yes, imagine a research pillar on the University of Illinois campus devoted to interdisciplinary collaboration among the arts, humanities, and behavioral and social sciences—serving these fields in much the same way as the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology engage the sciences.

Imagine a modern, conveniently accessible setting for the Library's special collections, including the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the Archives, the Map Library, and the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections.

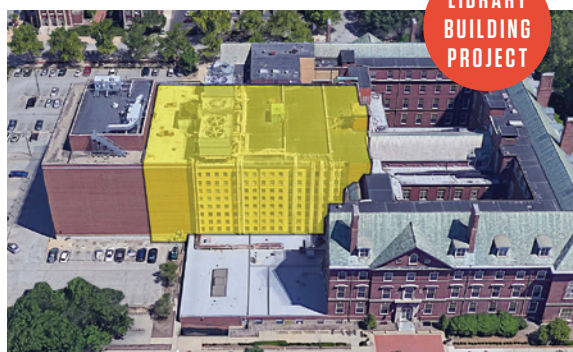
Imagine 100,000 square feet of space opened up in the Main Library building—once the oldest part of the stacks undergoes reconfiguration—to accommodate an interchange at the highest levels of liberal-arts-related research, and provide a gathering space for students at all stages of the learning and research process.

Yes, just imagine.

Grappling with grand challenges

"Since the founding of our great University, the Library has been a catalyst for University of Illinois scholarship and innovation," Wilkin says of the campus's illustrious past and burgeoning future. "Now Illinois has a unique opportunity to create a new model of the research library."

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The highlighted area in this aerial view represents the space envisioned for a new research hub with lecture rooms, collaboration space, and services to enrich the learning experience of students.

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The Office of Library Advancement garners interest and secures external funds from Illinois alumni and friends, provides visibility for the Library through its programs and events, and promotes the Library within the Illinois campus and the community-at-large.

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Imagine This, *continued from page 1*

Wilkin foresees a vital, interdisciplinary collaboration among scholars and students of the humanities and social sciences, corralling their expertise to grapple with grand challenges of our times. A liberal-arts brain trust of sorts, the endeavor will examine critical topics like poverty, health, technology and society, performance as a vehicle of communication, and postcolonialism.

“If you take poverty as a theme,” Wilkin explains, “to which discipline does this belong?” He suggests the impossibility of pigeonholing such subjects in a single category; rather, he believes, they are better understood and solved when various branches of knowledge weigh in—from history to economics to sociology. Through transcending disciplinary boundaries and gathering scholars together—literally side by side—Wilkin anticipates that linking the Library’s considerable resources to an energetic hub of scholarly investigation will propel the University to an exciting future.

“We need to renew our commitment to our magnificent but aging Library so that it can serve new purposes as well as continuing ones. This plan restarts a critical discussion: how can we help the Library continue to be a place that brings people together in ways that only a library can: around collections, across disciplines, and in touch with techniques and technologies that help us create and understand.”

—JOHN RANDOLPH, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND
DIRECTOR OF THE RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN CENTER

And Wilkin’s concepts have captured the imagination of the faculty. “To have a central space would bolster the intellectual bridges being built to other disciplines around campus,” says psychology professor Brent W. Roberts, director of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Initiative on campus.

Such a plan “would foster self-organized investigation of all sorts,” adds Sharon Irish, a project coordinator at the Center for Digital Inclusion at Illinois’ School of Information Sciences, “a place of percolating problems and improvisational encounters.

“A commons creates uncommon experiences and exceptional education when such vitality is nurtured.”

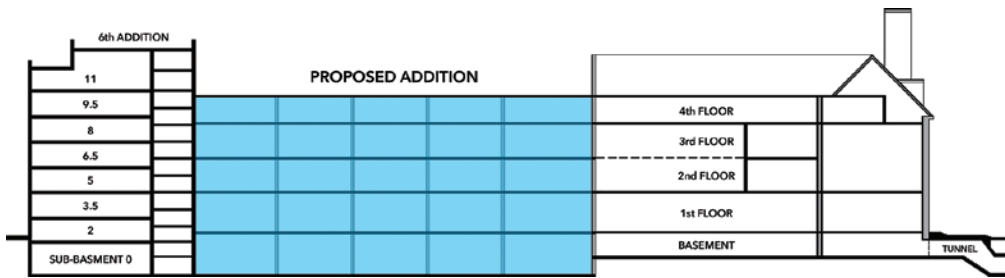
Fostering physical spaces

But where will this research hub take root? The plan involves reorganizing some well-known spaces and razing part of the stacks—but not the destruction of books.

“This plan won’t provide spaces to users at the cost of collections,” Wilkin emphasizes. “This is about the programming around collections. They will remain roughly the same size—only more focused.”

To create a research hub, the five oldest Main Library stacks will be converted into 100,000 square feet of space—five floors (from basement on up) that will host lecture rooms, collaboration space, and services to enrich the learning experiences of students. The volumes held there will complement the scholarship being tackled.





The oldest five sections of the stacks are highlighted in this side view of the Main Library.

“Imagine that remaining sixth stack range,” Wilkin says, “holding two-and-a-half-million volumes that are particularly relevant to the social sciences and humanities, a broad swath of materials. Then additional stacks in the new part of the building too that are more focused—when we have those themes represented—more specifically in the roughly half-million volumes of capacity that we have there.”

Undergraduates, meanwhile, will move from their underground quarters to the Main Library, taking the best of the UGL with them (see *Undergraduates on the Move*, page 4). As the undergraduates fold themselves into the resources available in the Main Library, their former space will become the new, climate-controlled home for the University’s array of special collections (see *A Home for Special Collections*, page 5).

The contents in the oldest five sections of the stacks—the earliest one having been built in 1925—will be moved to either the sixth stacks section or in the Library’s Oak Street High Density Storage Facility.

Something old, something new

Like the time-honored tradition of “something old, something new,” the proposed reconfiguring of library space will both honor the past and welcome the future.

“This is just as much an embrace of the past as it is a foundation for the future,” Wilkin says. “When we finish this, what will be in the Main Library will be humanities and social sciences collections that are really relevant to the disciplines we’re serving in the Main Library.”

He is adamant that the new plan remain collection-centered. “Departmental libraries will continue to play their role as the point of first contact for disciplines,” the dean says. “The main part of the Library, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will stay.”

The proposal—estimated to cost approximately \$54 million—will be fleshed out via discussions with key stakeholders over the next year, with an anticipated completion date of 2024.

“It does feel like now is the time,” Wilkin says of the bold, new vision. “The University is embracing this notion of the totality of who we are,” which includes not only its reputation in engineering, genomics, and information

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“I came to Illinois decades ago in large part because of the Library. Its holdings in the American 19th century were a huge attraction. All these years, the Library has been my laboratory, letting me pursue new lines of inquiry using its vast print, manuscript, and digital collections. Taking these explorations in a collaborative direction is an obvious next step. Many colleagues in the humanities are ready to do the same. We’re fortunate that the Library is poised to take this step with us. Fortunate, too, is the next generation of humanities scholars the Library will help us bring to Illinois.”

—PETER MORTENSEN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH



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Undergraduates on the Move

LIBRARY
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The promising rethink of the Library of the future will bring Illinois undergraduates back to their roots—positioned invitingly within the Main Library building.

Originally located on that structure's first floor, the Undergraduate Library found its own home in 1969 when it opened underground right next door. With plans to recommission that space for the University's rare book and archival collections, undergraduate library services will be integrated into a newly re-envisioned Main Library.

The move brings with it a new set of opportunities. "We go into this with the expectation that we'll have room to create spaces for undergraduates that are like the spaces in the Undergraduate Library *and* [with] the next generation of tools and services they're going to need," says Dean John Wilkin of the proposal.

That's because 100,000 square feet will become available when a large section of the stacks are repurposed to provide, in part, areas and services targeted specifically at undergraduates (see *Imagine This*, page 1).

According to Wilkin, the area will house many of the activities now found in the Undergraduate Library, including instructional sessions on library use, as well as the popular Media Commons, where students experiment with emerging technologies and learn how to best use tools for media creation.

But Wilkin points out that the present mode of separating undergraduate services from those available to graduate students and faculty isn't common on most university campuses and "doesn't necessarily serve us well." To remedy that, the proposal relocates undergraduate services to the Main Library, where an exciting opportunity awaits: the chance to work with graduate students and faculty in a newly created research hub. Dedicated to solving societal challenges—from poverty to health to technology—the center will marshal the power of collaborative study. From the start, undergraduates will be invited into this third pillar of interdisciplinary research—akin to the campus's Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and the Carl R.

Woese Institute for Genomic Biology—albeit with a heretofore unavailable liberal-arts focus.

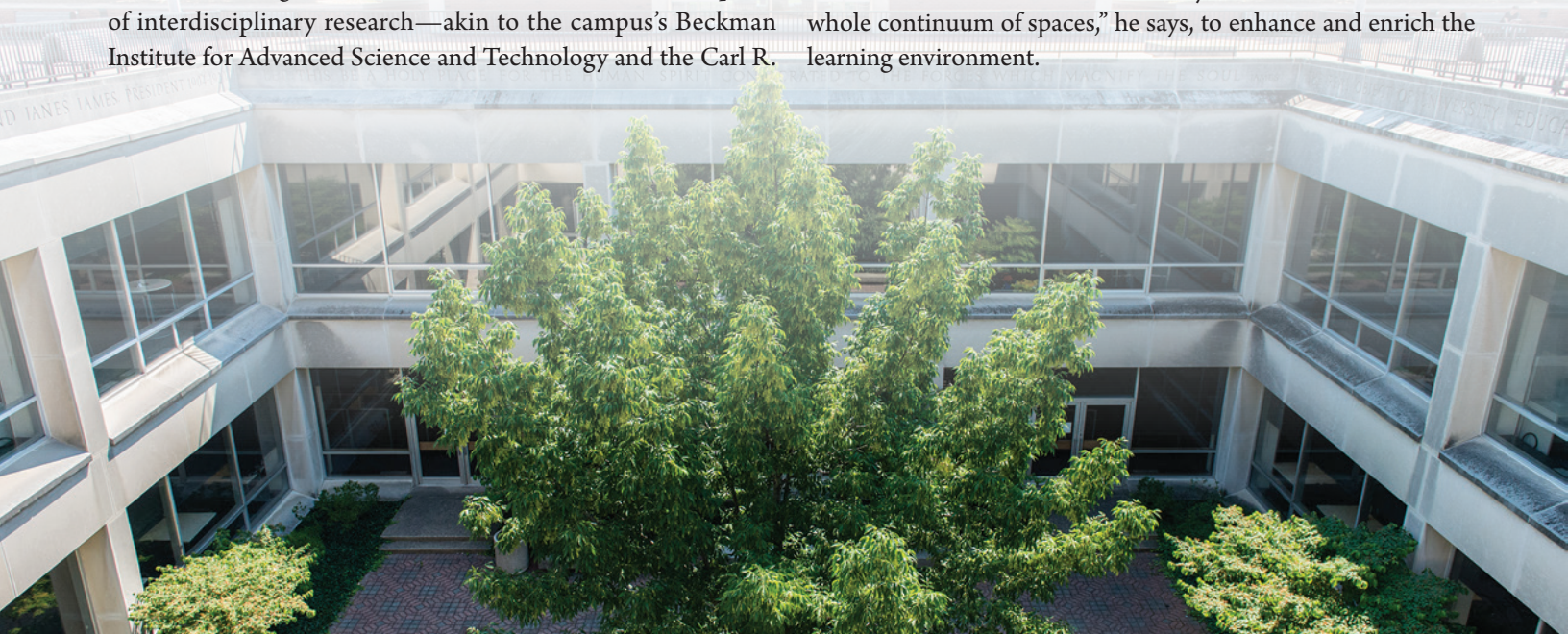
"We're not going to dispense with what we've been doing in the Undergraduate Library," Wilkin says. "There'll be fun things for the students to do in this space; there'll be areas where they can come together." He envisions, however, that opportunities will abound, not unlike the current SourceLab, where undergraduates can learn the craft of historical research through working with online documents and receive "a hands-on experience as undergraduates of what it means to be an historian."

The proposal resonates with Doug Fitzgerald, who earned a marketing degree from Illinois in 1976 and now serves on the Library Board of Advocates. "The Undergrad Library has always been special in our U of I family's memories of life on campus," he says. "Any plan involving changing it would have to be great. This vision for creating an entirely new environment out of the outdated stacks and bringing the special collections together is right on target."

Library Friend and fellow board advocate Jim Fessler agrees. "The idea of offering undergraduates the opportunity to be integrated into multidisciplinary research done by graduate students and faculty is one I wish had been around when I was an undergrad," says Fessler, who received his bachelor's degree in speech communication from Illinois in 1985. "This can only elevate the quality of undergraduate education and research at Illinois."

"We can't wait to see it completed," Fitzgerald adds, "and will be delighted that the next generation of students will be able to take full advantage of this superb resource."

Looking to avoid a "monochromatic" student experience, Wilkin favors instead one that comprises varying shades of depth and complexity. He thinks that will happen with this new arrangement that better marries form with function. From technology experimentation in the Media Commons to high-level research interactions with faculty members "there'll be this whole continuum of spaces," he says, to enhance and enrich the learning environment.



A Home for Special Collections

LIBRARY
BUILDING
PROJECT

The Library's special collections—including maps, rare books, archives, and historical music instruments—distinguish Illinois from every other Library in the world and are used by people from all walks of life.

Whether it is a best-selling author digging through handwritten letters, a new student examining a rare book, an experienced professor diving into a music score, a curious steelworker exploring the fliers of her predecessors, or a high school band playing Civil War-era saxhorns—everyone is welcome to explore these many treasures.

Now situated in various venues, these collections are envisioned to move into a permanent site in the very heart of campus—a proposal that will preserve their condition, increase their accessibility to students and scholars, and expose the general public to their value.

“There is a pressing need for a dedicated home for the collections and those who use them,” says Dean John Wilkin.

His plan calls for many of these jewels to reside in one spot—the current quarters of the Undergraduate Library, whose services will then transfer into the Main Library building (see *Undergraduates on the Move*, page 4). The new location—which would provide climate control, as well as easy access via tunnel for researchers at the Main Library—would include:

- **The Rare Book & Manuscript Library**, established in 1936, which holds more than 600,000 volumes and several kilometers of manuscript material. Renowned for its outstanding collections of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, this enterprise also holds the literary papers of notable figures such as Marcel Proust, Carl Sandburg, H.G. Wells, William Maxwell, Gwendolyn Brooks, Shana Alexander, and W.S. Merwin.
- **The University Archives**, an international research destination, which preserves and makes accessible more than 12 kilometers of personal archives and University and system office records. It also includes the Student Life and Culture Archives, the only such facility in the nation, and the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music, which brings the country's music and culture to life.
- **The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections**, whose 34,000+ catalogued print volumes and 1,000+ manuscript and archival collections help tell the story of Illinois, as well as the life and legacy of its most famous resident.
- **The Map Library**, housing more than 630,000 maps and air photographs from around the world and across the centuries. It also includes an impressive collection of world and national atlases.
- **Other rare book collections** now held in a variety of campus libraries.

“Bringing these extraordinary resources together in a single location will enable us to provide superior spaces to serve our students and faculty, to support instruction, [and] to mount exhibits,” Wilkin says, as well as present a robust schedule of public events and workshops. In addition, security, climate control, conservation, and digital support efforts would be improved.

SAVE AN “ENDANGERED SPECIES”



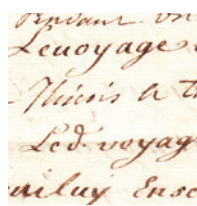
The following item is in need of conservation to ensure its longevity and availability for future generations. To save endangered items, please call (217) 333-5682 or e-mail klsimmns@illinois.edu.

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is hoping to conserve a rare survival from the early printing history of Illinois. The Alton Telegraph Printer's Scrapbook, compiled in the first half of the 19th century in a newspaper printing office in Alton, Illinois, contains over one thousand examples of posters, invitations, product labels, ballots, advertisements, trade cards, and other ephemeral, everyday items that were often discarded after their use. A selection of these items was displayed in an exhibit earlier this year celebrating the state bicentennial.

A gift of \$5,000 would ensure that future generations of students and scholars can better access and handle these items, which are currently in a fragile state.

Library Is Looking For

To fund one of these items or to ask for additional titles in an area of interest, call (217) 333-5682 or email klsimmns@illinois.edu. A listing of items in need is located online at library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for.



\$500 for a 1732 voyageur's contract regarding a fur trader's trip from Montreal, Canada, to Illinois by canoe. If acquired, the item would be the earliest original manuscript document in the **Illinois History and Lincoln Collections** and illustrates an era when "Illinois Country" was a part of the French colony of Louisiana.

\$750 for Andy Warhol: Catalogue Raisonné, Volume 5, Paintings 1976-1978, a long-awaited continuation of the series documenting one of the most beguiling artists of the 20th century. Scheduled to be published in September 2018, the fifth volume continues to serve as a record of paintings, sculptures, and drawings

by the iconic Warhol. The book, sought by the **Ricker Library of Architecture and Art**, also includes rarely published source material.



\$750 for Europe's Future Map: Buy Liberty Bonds! (1917 or 1918), an example of how American propaganda—directed at Americans—depicted Germany's war aims and a possible German empire. The poster—with propagandic maps in both German and English—promotes the purchase of Liberty Bonds and reveals how those at home were solicited to join the war effort. The unusual perspective would augment the **Map Library's** collection of World War I-era maps and graphics.



\$950 for German Jigsaw (1944), a postwar look at how a defeated Germany might be divided. An enlarged version of a map originally issued in a 1944 issue of *Time* magazine, the "puzzle"—held by only three other libraries—would add to the **Map Library's** trove of World War II maps. A curious aspect of its vision is that its predictions do not indicate Soviet participation—perhaps because *Time* publisher Henry Luce was a staunch anti-Communist.



\$1,300 for Atlas of the British Empire (1928), reproduced from the original made for Her Majesty Queen Mary's Doll's House. Indulge your secret Anglophile with this remarkable item! As part of the dollhouse library that holds 200 miniaturized books of actual publications, the atlas's maps—though minuscule—provide accurate representations of the British Empire (and the rest of the world). Built between 1921 and 1924, the dollhouse is an exquisite example of the finest British craftsmanship of the time; the atlas would complement the **Map Library's** collection of maps of empire, as well as the assemblage of miniature books in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library.



\$1,500 for Philips Radio (ca. 1935), a pictorial map showing activities and cultures from early in the history of popular shortwave radio use. Offering at times a stereotypical look into how Europeans and Americans viewed non-Europeans prior to World War II, the document also lists radio stations with their call sign and frequency. This item is sought by the **Map Library**.



\$1,500 for Philips Radio: The World of Entertainment (1940s), a shortwave radio map showing a world with no borders. Instead, the representation uses entertainment as a unifying theme and includes illustrations of ballet, theater, music, sports, and indigenous dance. The extensively decorated piece, requested by the **Map Library**, also locates radio stations with call sign and frequency.



\$1,750 for Map of concentration camps in Soviet Russia (ca. 1940s), the first such depiction from the Cold War era detailing locations of Soviet gulags. Edged with images of camp documents, industries, and activities, the item would augment the holdings of the **Map Library**; the Library also owns two books—*Sprawiedliwość Sowiecka* and *La Justice Soviétique*—which the map originally accompanied.

\$2,400 for task chairs to accompany new workstations for the **Music and Performing Arts Library** (see item below). Although the arts may transport people beyond the moment, uncomfortable seating may return them to reality sooner than desired. Please help! The Library seeks eight chairs at \$300 apiece.

\$5,000 for two four-person workstations with power to bring the **Music and Performing Arts Library** up to date. The new items would replace the tired furnishings of 1974, allowing students to charge their devices and avail themselves of ample space to spread out and study.

Upcoming Events

Rare Book & Manuscript Library Events

All events in RBML, 346 Main Library, unless otherwise noted.

Dads Weekend Open House

November 2, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Newton Unveiled: From Original to Digital at The Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Illinois Event

November 16, 5:00–7:00 p.m. (program at 5:45 p.m.)

Marcel Proust's WWI Letters Website Launch

November 27, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

No Blue Memories Talk and Reception

November 28, 4:00 p.m.

Main Library Reading Room, 200 Main Library

RBML Holiday Open House

December 13, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Visit library.illinois.edu/rbx for more information.

Scholarly Commons Open House

- ◆ October 9, 4:00–5:30 p.m.
- ◆ 220 Main Library
- ◆ For more information, visit library.illinois.edu/sc

Dream Shot Archives Talk

- ◆ October 11, 4:00–5:30 p.m.
- ◆ 2009 Hopkins Seminar Room, Student Dining and Residential Programs (SDRP) Building, 301 E. Gregory Drive, Champaign
- ◆ For more information, visit archives.library.illinois.edu

Homecoming Parade Watch

Please join us in the Library Friends tent in the NW corner of the Main Library parking lot (E3) for a fantastic view of this year's parade entries—including the Marching Illini—as they



We encourage you to visit the Library's online calendar at go.library.illinois.edu/calendar for the most up-to-date information about events happening in and around the libraries at Illinois.

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Annual gifts strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as one of the world's preeminent public university collections. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library's collections, programs, and services.

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Champaign, IL 61826-9916

Questions? Please call (217) 333-5682 or e-mail friends@library.illinois.edu.



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Imagine This, *story begins on page 1*

sciences but its vast resources and talent pool in the social sciences and humanities. “It’s like a moment of convergence.”

“The way research and education is being conducted is changing dramatically,” says Library Friend Hal Balbach, MS ’61 LAS, PHD ’65 LAS. “The Library continues to adapt to support these new ways of conducting research and teaching. This vision is a proactive step in addressing that need, leading research libraries forward.”

With the reconfiguration of space, “the Main Library will be the newest and most innovative form of institute at Illinois,” Wilkin says. He sees the project as a powerful way of amplifying the Library’s remarkable collections, facilitating transdisciplinary investigations, optimizing experimentation, and addressing urgent questions in ways that align with the University’s storied past and what lies before it.

The excitement comes through as Wilkin describes a vibrant vision of the Library of the future.

“There’d be this whole continuum” working with these ideas, he says, “in that big open space of 100,000 square feet,” from the most basic, undergraduate experience through graduate students and faculty, “all in the same location but differentiated by the knowledge and skills they bring to the problem.

“Imagine this flourishing relationship between faculty and their students.”
Yes, just imagine.

Upcoming Events, *continued*

turn the corner at Sixth and Armory, right in front of the Library. Entertainment and refreshments will be available.

- ◆ October 12, 5:30 p.m. (weather permitting)
- ◆ Main Library’s west parking lot (Sixth and Armory)
- ◆ RSVP to friends@library.illinois.edu or (217) 333-5682

Annual Library Friends Reception

Join us for a celebration of the 14-millionth volume milestone, including a first look at a new permanent exhibit commemorating each of the millionth volumes. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.

- ◆ October 26, 6:30–8:30 p.m. (remarks begin at 7:15 p.m.)
- ◆ Main Library
- ◆ Please RSVP by Friday, October 19 to friends@library.illinois.edu or (217) 333-5682

