

Friendscript

Two Firms to Design Archives, Special Collections Home

Library selects teams to reconceptualize UGL space

Two firms will lead the way in designing the new archives and special collections building, a decision that kicks off the first phase of the Library’s transformational, multi-stage Building Project.

“This news should delight all Library Friends,” said Douglas Fitzgerald, ’76 BUS, who serves on the Library Board of Advocates. “It ensures responsible stewardship of the treasures that are housed in archives and special collections.”

Added Andreas Cangellaris, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois’ Urbana-Champaign campus, “This is a vital first step forward to ensure that

our University Library continues to provide the vibrant heartbeat our university needs to continue to be one of the most influential universities in the world.”

Champaign-based RATIO Architects and Boston-based Shepley Bulfinch will take the space currently occupied by the Undergraduate Library and reshape it into a home for Archives, the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, and the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The two national firms were specifically

selected for their experience in designing and renovating facilities intended to house special collections materials, and for their appreciation for the input of preservation consultants. Read more about their work at library.illinois.edu/specialcollectionsbuilding.

Of 25 proposals received after requests opened last fall, seven were selected to give presentations.

“The RATIO/Shepley Bulfinch proposal rose to the top,” said Thomas Teper, associate university librarian for collections and technical services, and project director of the Library Building Project. “The evaluation team was particularly impressed by the comprehensive expertise of the successful bidders.”

The Undergraduate Library has been a campus fixture since 1969, but 40 years later, plans began circulating to reconstitute it as an ideal site for archives and special

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Artist’s concept of the renovation

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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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Two Firms to Design Archives, Special Collections Home, *continued from page 1*

collections. Delayed by the ensuing nationwide recession, those plans resurfaced in 2018. Following extensive campus consultations, discussions, town halls, committee work, and other feedback, the two architectural and engineering firms were selected for the renovation. Broad consultations will continue as part of the ongoing process, culminating in a 2024 opening.

The enterprise hosts a \$46 million budget, of which approximately \$40 million has been secured so far. The transformation of the Undergraduate Library space comprises the first part of the visionary Library Building Project, which will redevelop the century-old Main Library into a rich hub of research and learning for the humanities and social sciences.

“Our extraordinary rare and archival collections have long deserved a home commensurate with their quality,” said John P. Wilkin, the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. “The completion of this work will allow us to make them available and preserve them for future generations of scholars.”

Not to mention the sheer delight the renovation will generate among its users. “I just wish someone in the physics department would get busy and bend time so I could be an undergrad again when it is all finished,” Fitzgerald said.

For more information on the selected firms, visit ratiodesign.com and shepleybulfinch.com.

“This news should delight all Library Friends. It is collection-centric, it puts the library firmly on the path toward realizing the innovative plan that will benefit all users, and it ensures responsible stewardship of the treasures that are housed in archives and special collections.”

—DOUG FITZGERALD, LIBRARY BOARD OF ADVOCATES MEMBER

The University Library is 93% to its \$46 million project budget goal. All gifts are essential to reaching this. Support the campaign to transform the University Library. Visit library.illinois.edu/specialcollectionsbuilding.



Oram Gift Honors Family Connections

Reading room to benefit new Archives and Special Collections facility

A gift from Richard '73 LAS and Conna Oram '72 LAS says much about their personal generosity but also speaks loudly of their ties to each other and to the University of Illinois campus.

Their \$500,000 donation to help create a new home to house archives and special collections will name a space that pays homage to their families—The Oram and Judy Families Reading Room.

To understand the family connections, rewind a bit to the days when Richard's parents, Robert W. Oram, MS '50 LIS, and Virginia White Oram, MA '50 LAS, were graduate students on the Urbana campus. Robert would go on to a career in libraries, including as associate university librarian for public services, as well as acting dean of the Library, at Illinois. Both of Conna's parents—Helen E. Conaway Judy '33 MEDIA and Bronze Tablet recipient William H. Judy '35 MEDIA—earned undergraduate degrees in journalism. And although Helen yearned to study librarianship, she downsized that dream, like many women in those days, when family arrived. Instead, she served many years at the Main Library's circulation desk, where her boss was Robert Oram.

"All four parents were alums," Richard said. "That's one reason why [this] gift is so appropriate."

As a child, Conna became very familiar with the Library, as her mother would often bring her to work. "She loved working there, so the Library was a big part of my life," Conna said. "I know now that she did it on purpose to give me a love for learning and books."



Conna and Richard Oram enjoying a Danube river cruise

Later, Richard and Conna, who both graduated Bronze Tablet at Illinois, would meet as graduate students at Cornell University. Conna became a Latin teacher, while Richard explored library science, ultimately landing as head of library services at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

At Illinois, the Library plans to reconfigure the former Undergraduate Library space into a destination



Bob Oram



Helen Judy

spot for Archives, the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, and the Rare Book & Manuscript

Library. Richard believes a free-standing facility will raise the collections' profile, drawing more users, providing extra room for exhibits, and offering his families' reading room "that will encourage scholars from all over the world to use these vast resources."

The arc of their families' ties to the Library comes full circle in naming the reading room in their honor. And, adds Conna, she believes her mother, who died when Conna was 19, "would have been thrilled that I married Mr. Oram's son."

If you are interested in other naming opportunities in the Archives and Special Collections building, please contact Kathryn R. Heise at krh19@illinois.edu.

Robust Library Operations Resume

This fall, campus life emerged from its COVID cocoon, with health measures and a readiness to pivot in place.

As of press time, in-person instruction is back, buildings are open, and masking is mandatory in indoor facilities. Students, faculty, and staff must either be vaccinated or tested routinely for COVID.

As to the Library, all buildings are open, and nearly all service hours reinstated. It's possible to request print materials, and a suite of resources—including study space, consultations, and stacks browsing—is available.

"When we look back at this period, we'll remember it for the rest of our lives," said Chris Prom, PHD '02 LAS, associate university librarian for digital strategies, who over the past months coordinated efforts to offer Library services in new ways. Although appreciative of the Library's COVID-related flexibility, "people are glad to be back," he said.

"We never really stopped doing what we've always done," Prom said of the Library's mission, "but we're glad to be here and meet the scholars' and students' needs."

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 friends@library.illinois.edu.

\$900 for Saussine Pictorial Broadside Game Board Map of World War I, a board game depicting in lively detail the various battles and armaments of the Great War. Published circa 1916 by the renowned Léon Saussine, founder of Jeux Saussine (Saussine Games) in Paris, the map takes the player through the battlefields of World War I, while also displaying technological advances such as air-to-air combat, submarine warfare, large artillery pieces, and transportation of troops and materiel. Just one other sample of this rare, two-piece item is known to exist; the **Map Library** would love to win the bidding war on the remaining one.

\$950 for an e-DaVinci Book Covering Machine, sought by the **Social Sciences, Health and Education Library** to preserve information contained on the dust jackets of books. The library's extensive youth collection, dating from 1800 to the present, is widely used by students in two programs—teacher education, as well as library and information science—to instruct children how to read or learn how to recommend books to young readers. With more than 3,500 new books added to the library's shelves each year, the device—which adds protective covers—would get plenty of use and help chronicle the evolution of children's literature.



\$950 for Prevaling Religions of the World and Progress of Evangelization, circa 1894, a map which color-codes the world according to religion and plots the course of

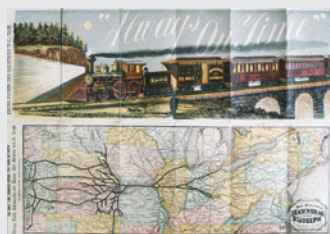
Protestant evangelism. A pyramid key indicates categories of faith practices and numbers of practitioners, including “heathen” and “pagan,” and distinguishes between Protestants and Roman Catholics. The item was used in conjunction with *The New Acts of the Apostles*, the Rev. Arthur Tappan Pierson's work on missionary activity. While eight copies of this map that were printed in New York still exist, the **Map Library** would like this one, the only one available that was published in London.



\$1,250 for The Guide to Toyland, a cover to a Christmas toy catalog that depicts storybook people and places, from Santa to Treasure Island to Ali Baba's cave. The vividly colored pictorial map, created for an Iowa store, also serves as a board game. While the publication date is estimated to be around 1940, the toys advertised in an accompanying sheet point more toward 1928. Please put this very scarce item in the **Map Library's** holiday stocking!



\$1,700 to \$10,200 to replace decades-old chairs in the **Communication Library's** International News Lounge. The library seeks up to six such chairs (at \$1,700 apiece) to expand the inviting atmosphere of the lounge, where students collaborate, study, and watch news feeds from around the world.



\$1,750 for Map of The Old Reliable Hannibal and St. Joseph Short Line-Always On Time, a spectacular timetable promoting the virtues of the H&SJ train. Produced in 1882 in Chicago, the piece is delightfully detailed and brilliantly colored, showing scenes of the train (with a brightly shining “new electric light”) crossing a railroad bridge whilst a dog runs alongside, as well as an inside view of its passenger car, complete with comfortable lounging chairs. The item also includes a timetable and regional map—just the ticket for the **Map Library's** holdings.



\$1,950 for Le Rêve du Fou: The Madman's Dream, a 1914 pictorial map in which Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany is drawn as a Frankenstein-like figure looming over Europe. Blood drips from his hands directly over France, with his boot stepping on French possessions in North Africa; meanwhile, a red-soaked Germany leaks over Russia, Austria-Hungary, Serbia, and

Turkey. No other samples of this French-produced map exist; the **Map Library** would like to get its own hands on this item.



\$2,250 for Great Western Railway Guide Exhibiting All Stations With Distances From Each Other, an 1860 map in its original, stamped, green cloth folder, showing Midwest rail lines and the

distances between stations. Lined with a decorative border, the very unusual guide depicts the area from western New York and Pennsylvania to western Missouri, and from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to Cairo, Illinois. Though displaying a Chicago imprint, the item, sought by the **Map Library**, was published in Cincinnati.

An up-to-date, comprehensive list of items—including many more maps in need for the Map Library—is located at library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for



“Fracas at the Nest” by Nick Antonson, a graduate student in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior, was the First Place winner of the 2021 Image of Research Exhibition.

\$5,000 to support the Image of Research competitions hosted by the Scholarly Commons. The annual multidisciplinary event, open to graduate and undergraduate students, showcases images that represent the entrants’ research in concrete or abstract form. Monies would provide funding for cash prizes and reception costs. All submissions are then archived by the Library for long-term preservation so students can easily reference their contributions to the university’s research mission—please visit blogs.illinois.edu/view/8858 to view stunning imagery from the 2021 Image of Research.

Thank You

The following donors have adopted these items previously featured in *Friendscript*:

- ◆ **Richard Baxendale** for *World at One View* (Phelps, 1847) (Map Library)
- ◆ **Mary Beastall** for *Correct Map of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R. [US Railroads]* (Map Library)
- ◆ **DeLysa Burnier and David Descutner** for the Civilian Conservation Corps Photo Album (Illinois History and Lincoln Collection)
- ◆ **Mary Ellyn Gibbs** toward rotating exhibits (Library) and the Stress Free Finals Week Fund (Communications Library)
- ◆ **Steven Ignots** for *Free!— These Three Great Charts—Free! To All Purchasers of the Latest and Most Complete Book Lindbergh, The Lone Eagle* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Catherine Lemon** for shelving end panels (Uni High Library)
- ◆ **Philip Martin** for 改新世界時局要圖南北アメリカ篇 = *Revised New Map of the World’s Current Political Situation. North and South America [World War II, Japanese perspective]* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Thomas and Gloria Marullo** for *laroslavskie literatory* (The literary figures of Yaroslavl) (International and Area Studies Library)
- ◆ **Gary O.A. and Mary Molyneaux** for *Map of the United States Military Rail Roads, Showing Rail Roads operated during the War from 1862-1866, as Military Lines [US Railroads, Civil War]* (Map Library)
- ◆ **Rachel Scott and Gary Peebles** for *Profit Sharing Investment Bond for the Woman’s Land Syndicate, 1893* (Illinois History and Lincoln Collection)
- ◆ **Rich and Linda Sieracki** for soft seating (Music and Performing Arts Library)
- ◆ **Marjorie Stinespring** for *Map of the Chicago and Alton R.R. and Connecting Lines [US Railroads]* (Map Library)

Library Brings New Faces On Board

Roles include advancement and inclusion



Javonda Pelman '07 LAS calls it “somewhat of a dream come true” to be able to return to her Alma Mater as director of advancement, where she will connect with donors to secure major gifts for the University Library. As an undergraduate majoring in political science, she sowed the seeds of her fundraising career as a student development representative for the University of Illinois Foundation. At Urbana, Pelman played club softball and met her future husband, Trent '07 MEDIA, MBA '13; she also fondly recalls a midnight celebration of her 21st birthday in a campus library, where she and her friends were studying for finals.

Pelman most recently served as the senior development officer at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois; in addition, she held major gifts and fundraising roles at the Cleveland Clinic, the American Heart Association, Northeastern Illinois University, and the American Cancer Society.

“I love building relationships and making connections with people. I’m so excited to be able to help current students and future generations of Illini to come.”

— JAVONDA PELMAN



Victor Jones Jr. '12 LAS joins the Library as its first director of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. At Illinois, he earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology with a concentration in African American Studies; he also holds two master’s degrees—one in college student affairs and another in divinity. Jones previously worked for the School of Information Sciences (iSchool at Illinois) as a recruitment specialist and assistant director of recruitment and diversity initiatives; he also delved into professional wrestling, stand-up comedy, and ministry.

“Promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice rank very high on my list of personal and professional goals. One of the primary reasons I chose a career in higher education was to serve as a catalyst for lasting change,” Jones said.

“In an age where information is comparable to currency, being in a position to provide leadership and advocacy at one of the largest research libraries in the country is a tremendous opportunity.”

—VICTOR JONES JR.

Upcoming Events

Bats & Bobs: Halloween with RBML

RBML curator Dr. Cait Coker will have Halloween-themed items from the collection on hand to discuss live with viewers. Tune in to ask questions about our first edition of *Dracula*, 17th century magical texts, and poetry about bats!

- ◆ October 29, 1:00–2:00
- ◆ Visit library.illinois.edu/rbx for more information

Player Piano Virtual Demonstration

Join the Music & Performing Arts Library for a virtual lunch hour demonstration featuring the Library’s Steinway Duo-Art reproducing piano and collection of piano rolls.

- ◆ November 5, 12:00–1:00
- ◆ Visit library.illinois.edu/mpal for more information

Holiday Cookery with RBML

This pre-recorded video will feature RBML curators recreating historical recipes from our collections in a home kitchen. Feel free to follow along at home!

- ◆ December 9
- ◆ Visit library.illinois.edu/rbx for more information



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.

Gift Reveals ‘Scribbling Women’ of the West

Baym family donates 800-volume collection

There was no slowing down Nina Baym. In her latter years, having forged a formidable reputation as an expert in 19th century American writings and as general editor of The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Baym came to a sweet spot in her life and legacy.

Funded by her prestigious Swanlund Chair, the longtime University of Illinois professor of English trekked to her beloved West, tirelessly perusing out-of-the-way bookstores and libraries to unearth the works of female writers forgotten to time.

It was a modern-day quest that amassed 800 volumes, including hundreds of authors and supplemental materials. Now housed in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, The Nina Baym Western Women Writers

Collection looks both backward in time and forward as a resource for future research.

“She [spent] a lifetime . . . trying to recover the voices of women writers,” said Nancy Baym, MA ’88 LAS, PHD ’94 LAS, of her mother, who died in 2018. Spurred early on by a statement by famed American novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne, who fretted that the output of “a damned mob of scribbling women” was affecting his sales, Nina Baym wondered who these pesky penwomen were that she had never heard of. Eventually, she headed west, chauffeured by her husband, the late professor emeritus Jack Stillinger, to find out who these writers were, and why—though immensely popular in their day—not a whisper of them had made it into the American canon.



L. Brian Stauffer

The personal and intellectual passion of UI English professor Nina Baym, above, resulted in the massive gathering of unheralded works of female authors. The Nina Baym Western Women Writers Collection now resides in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

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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.

Please mail this form with your gift to:

University of Illinois Foundation
P.O. Box 734500
Chicago, IL 60673-4500

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



Yes! I want to help ensure the Library’s excellence with my gift to the:

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- Student Worker Fund (339087) Other _____

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To make a gift with your credit card, please visit go.library.illinois.edu/gift

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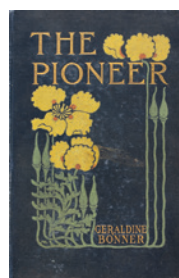
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'Scribbling Women' of the West, *continued from page 7*

While the collection provides a portal into women's lives in a particular era, said Baym's son, Geoffrey, it also offers "an extraordinary window into any question a historian of the American West could possibly be interested in." And it stands as a perfect coda to Baym's career, weaving together what Geoffrey called her "three great intellectual and personal loves"—women's writing, 19th century American writing, and the American West.

The donation also seems perfectly at home on the Urbana campus, where the professor emerita constructed her career and which Stillinger specifically chose as his academic base for its access to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. In addition, as part of the family's support of public education, the gift includes funding for a graduate assistant to catalog the collection and for future maintenance and promotion.

For the collection to remain both intact and at the U of I pleases Baym's children. "I couldn't imagine a more perfect ending to the story," Geoffrey said, "or the beginning of the next one."



Titles from the Nina Baym Western Women Writers Collection

"The point of collecting materials from underrepresented communities is to provide a broader and better and more inclusive understanding of our own collective history."

—LYNNE M. THOMAS, HEAD,
RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY