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This June, I was privileged to attend the public launch of *Making History: The Campaign for GW* at George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. The energy of our university leaders and the excitement amongst our donors was inspiring. It is clear that this $1 billion comprehensive fundraising campaign, the largest in the university’s history, will lead to incredible changes for every facet of GW, including the Libraries, and will catapult us into a top-tier research institution.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunities that this campaign will offer the Libraries over the next four years to sustain and expand our intellectual partnership with the greater GW community. Our vision is to establish the GW Libraries as a true interdisciplinary hub for the university and a catalyst for generating new ideas and new possibilities. As George Washington himself wrote in 1771, “I conceive a knowledge of books is the basis upon which other knowledge is to be built.” In an increasingly complex, interconnected world, cross-disciplinary approaches to global problems offer the greatest promise.

As centers of information, and the busiest facilities on campus, the Libraries have extraordinary potential to bring together students, scholars, and faculty from across the university to identify new methodologies and to conduct groundbreaking research.

As you read through this issue of *Vision: GW Libraries*, you will see some of the great work that the Libraries already do, from interdisciplinary academic collaborations to fostering undergraduate student research to the acquisition of Special Collections found nowhere else in the world. More can and will be done to evolve the GW Libraries to meet the increasing demands of our students and faculty. The university is at a turning point and I invite you to join us in our journey. As part of the larger university, we are a nexus where exciting things happen, where change happens, where growth happens. To learn more about the key role that the GW Libraries play in advancing the university, and about how you can support our initiatives, please visit [campaign.gwu.edu/priorities/libraries](http://campaign.gwu.edu/priorities/libraries).

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**Geneva Henry**  
Vice Provost for Libraries at the George Washington University

"We are a nexus where exciting things happen, where change happens, where growth happens."
The Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library’s new Learning Commons will be named in honor of George W.G. Stoner, a loyal donor and dedicated staffer who served the university for 45 years. He is credited with bolstering recruitment of students, both nationally and internationally, and helping to develop several key programs, including Colonial Challenge and Alumni Admissions, during his nearly 36 years as director of admissions at GW.

The new George W.G. Stoner Learning Commons provides an updated space for students and librarians to interact, study, and conduct research. Mr. Stoner, who passed away in December 2010 at age 84, made over 300 outright gifts to GW during his lifetime, most of them supporting Gelman Library. He also designated GW as a beneficiary of his estate, resulting in a $1.875 million gift to support the University Librarian’s Discretionary Fund.

“Many GW alumni had the great pleasure of meeting with Mr. Stoner while we were prospective students,” says Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs Peter Konwerski, BA ’91, MA ’94, PhD ’97. “But as the man who signed all of our admissions letters for more than 30 years, that letter and his very signature symbolized the official start of the GW experience for generations of new students. It’s most fitting that a space serving current and future GW students on a daily basis should bear his name.”

The new George W.G. Stoner Learning Commons is a state-of-the-art cooperative learning space that integrates current technology with design elements requested directly by students. It includes a combination of 60 iMacs and PC virtual desktops with production, specialized statistical, and design software. It also features flatbed scanners, USB charging locations, and a multitude of outlets.

On Wednesday, January 29, the George Washington University honored Teamsters’ General President James P. Hoffa with the President’s Medal in a ceremony at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Labor History Research Center inside Gelman Library.

“George Washington is proud to honor Jim Hoffa as a passionate advocate for social justice and the labor movement, as one of the foremost experts on labor issues, and also as a dedicated partner and friend of this university,” GW President Steven Knapp said. “I’m especially pleased we’re able to hold the ceremony here. This center is a tangible result of our shared commitment with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to preserve the heritage of America’s labor movement.”

GW and the Teamsters launched a joint initiative in 2008 to build an educational and research environment to explore the roles the American labor movement and the Teamsters in particular have played in the development of the United States.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Labor History Research Center opened in 2010 and includes photos, historical documents, memorabilia, books, ledgers, tools, and archival materials dating to the Teamsters’ founding in 1903.

Established in 1988, the George Washington University President’s Medal is bestowed by the president of the university to recognize individuals who have exhibited courage, character, and leadership in their chosen fields and who exemplify the ability of all human beings to improve the lives of others.
**Architect Chosen for NATIONAL CHURCHILL LIBRARY AND CENTER**

After a competitive bidding process, world-class architecture firm Ayers Saint Gross has been selected to design the planned National Churchill Library and Center at GW’s Gelman Library. The firm’s previous projects include the National Library for the Study of George Washington at the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens in Mount Vernon, Virginia, and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation’s Monticello Visitor and Education Center in Charlottesville, Virginia. Ayers Saint Gross come to GW having completed an impressive list of previous projects with universities, and university libraries in particular, around the country.

“We’re so excited to be part of this major project at the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library,” said Jason Wilcoxon, associate principal of Ayers Saint Gross and lead architect on the National Churchill Library and Center design project. “Winston Churchill was a hero at a time when the world was looking to him for leadership. We hope to bring him to life and infuse his personality and character into the design of this space, while staying modern in our aesthetic and meeting the needs of the researchers who will frequent the National Churchill Library and Center.”

GW’s partner in this endeavor is the Chicago-based Churchill Centre, a membership organization established in 1994 as a successor to the International Churchill Society of the United States to keep alive the memory of Winston Churchill. The Churchill Centre’s Executive Director Lee Pollock said, “The Churchill Centre has dreamed of a world-class Washington, D.C.-based Churchill Library and Center such as this for many years, and it is exciting that we are now moving forward!”

Visit go.gwu.edu/gwchurchill to support the creation of the National Churchill Library and Center today.

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**Supporting LGBT STUDIES AT GW**

In October 1971, a small group of students founded the GW Gay Liberation Alliance (GLA), which eventually became GW Pride. With an open membership for all DC-area colleges and universities and a higher level of official acceptance than at other area schools, GW Pride provided community and security for gay and lesbian students in the region.

Today, the records of GW Pride, as well as newspaper articles, photos, and memoranda about GW’s nondiscrimination policy are preserved in the Special Collections Research Center at Gelman Library. These records allow scholars to study LGBT student activism in its early stages. Gelman Library also houses the papers of Washington Blade reporter Lou Chibbaro, Jr. and the records of the Gay’s Men Chorus of Washington, D.C.
FACILITATING DIALOGUE
Across Disciplines

How can we protect ourselves against security threats on the Internet? What are the genetic factors in autism spectrum disorders, and how do they compare with the social and cultural factors? What strategies are most successful in stemming the tide of AIDS and HIV? These are some of the questions GW faculty, students, and alumni are pursuing through study and dialogue across the lines of traditional academic disciplines. A special series at the George Washington University is providing an inside look at the process behind publishing interdisciplinary research.

“Strategies for Interdisciplinary Publishing Success” features scholars working at the crossroads of important topics that touch science, policy, education, business, and culture. Developed by the GW Libraries in partnership with GW’s Office of the Vice President for Research, the series explores the challenges researchers face in writing, researching, and publishing rather than focusing on the outcome of their work.

Panelists have addressed questions fundamental to scholarly communication: How do scholars straddling more than one discipline communicate with their colleagues in each field? What makes an effective interdisciplinary team? How can one publicize one’s work beyond the pages of peer-reviewed journals? How does one find the data one needs for analysis?

The series has included featured panels on cybersecurity, biomedicine, autism, and “team” science, drawing from disciplines as diverse as engineering, international relations, anthropology, and medicine. The program expanded this fall to include panels on LGBT issues, HIV/AIDS, and more. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the GW Libraries plan to offer a series of more intensive workshops for graduate students and junior faculty, giving new authors a chance to connect with journal editors and established researchers and receive feedback on their works in progress.

Information about future events, as well as videos of past panels, can be found at go.gwu.edu/sips

Gelman librarian Tolonda Henderson assists current students by bringing the best practices of library science to the fledgling library of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center. Working with Timothy Kane, director of the LGBT Resource Center, Henderson guided their decision to focus on collecting popular contemporary books and movies that would complement the more academic LGBT resources available through the GW Libraries. Henderson also provided advice on ways to organize and circulate the collection, specifically identifying and utilizing a classification system designed for LGBT collections. This system categorizes various perspectives on—and works created by—lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and communities in a way that supports browsing and discovery.

“Working with the LGBT Resource Center library has allowed me to make connections with students and staff while extending my professional knowledge into communities at the university that need it,” said Henderson.

Q: What made you choose to work in archives as a career?  
A: As a history student at the University of Massachusetts, I had one of those magical connections with a faculty member that introduced me to a whole world I didn’t know existed. I was working with an anthropologist researching trains and canals in history. My job was to search major rare book collections and I was reading works no one had ever seen before; some of the pages were uncut. It was an exciting way to interact with history.

Q: As co-author of the forthcoming *Oxford Guide to Archival Research*, what advice do you have for students starting out with archival research?  
A: Start by talking to the collection librarian or archivist. They are the expert on that collection and are your best resource to get started. Archivists and librarians can help you to define your research topic and find sources that are local and available to you.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in your role at the GW Libraries?  
A: What first impressed me with GW Libraries is the sense of excitement here. It feels like an institution with a real mission to grow and expand, and it’s thrilling to be part of that. There is a lot of potential in GW’s specialized collections; I’m really looking forward to increasing access to the rich materials housed at GW and collaborating with collections around the city and the world.

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**THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE MODEL FOR INFORMATION SERVICES**

Elisabeth (Beth) Kaplan joined the GW Libraries this summer as the new associate university librarian for special collections, archives, and the Global Resources Center. A Distinguished Fellow with the Society of American Archivists, Beth brings extensive experience in university archives and special collections as well as a passion for bringing history alive through primary sources. A prolific author, Beth has published numerous articles on topics such as visual literacy in cross-disciplinary work that push boundaries and open up new opportunities. “Centers of excellence’ offered a possible approach for our study.”

The team of seven researchers identified numerous institutions that fit the criteria for a “center of excellence” and conducted interviews with 19 center directors and seven funders. The research revealed interesting relationships between libraries and centers supporting humanities scholarship. Models where these groups worked closely revealed a path for advancing scholarly momentum and success. They determined that when this type of interdisciplinary work takes place within libraries, it sends a broader message of institutional cohesion and support for a wide spectrum of research, innovation, and entrepreneurial possibilities.

The desire to create collaborative spaces for research and technology was a common theme found in the study, but the ability to sustain centers long-term emerged as a challenge. While “centers of excellence” help with sharing technology and ideas, the research team concluded that building networks between institutions for sharing knowledge and establishing expertise that becomes part of the organization’s normal structure is a more sustainable approach.
Last fall, the GW Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center staff partnered with the university’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion to establish the University Archives Diversity Research Fellows program. Four students—Eden Orelove, Tasha Dorsey, Dominic Amaral, and Isabel Garcia—received funding to research the histories of diverse populations at GW. By utilizing materials from the University Archives, the Fellows were able to work on year-long projects that uncovered new information about nonacademic staff, women, veterans, and international students at GW.

Developed to offer the campus community an opportunity to delve into the history of the university, the fellowship program allowed researchers to use the GW Hatchet, the Office of the President Records, the Board of Trustees Minutes, Office of the Provost Records, and other University Archives materials as primary sources under the guidance of faculty advisors.

Graduate student Tasha Dorsey chose to research the history of nonacademic staff members at GW in order to pay homage to her grandmother’s work as a custodian. She examined issues of the Foggy Bottom News and the GW Hatchet, which provided her with a history of working class and immigrant communities in Foggy Bottom, as well as life stories of policemen, firefighters, small business owners, and postal workers. A 1904 issue of the Cherry Tree yearbook was one of the only publications that included photos of GW’s janitors.

Veteran Dominic Amaral, BA ’14 researched the history of GW veterans from 1900-1950. By using photographs, articles from The Hatchet, rosters of military names and inventories, and fraternity rosters, Amaral compiled a detailed timeline of GW’s military history. He also analyzed how war had an impact on the makeup of the student body, military student organizations, racial tensions, campus support for GW veterans, and the effects on the university over time.

Graduate student Eden Orelove opted to focus her work on women at GW. During her research, she found that the student organization Columbian Women raised money to purchase a gram of radium for Marie Curie. She used student publications, the GW Encyclopedia, student organization membership records, and firsthand accounts from participants in the Original Thirteen, the organization that became the Columbian Women. Her research also drew on the writing of suffragists and proponents of coeducation.

Senior and international student Isabel Garcia studied the development of English as a Foreign Language and changes in GW’s approach to creating a community for international students. She located brochures dating back to 1978 that were aimed at recruiting international students, and photographs and certificates further allowed Garcia to highlight the work of English as a Foreign Language Professor Emeritus Christine Meloni.

A $7,500 grant from GW’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion is funding the program for the 2014-15 academic year and will enable three students to develop research projects of their own design in the University Archives, culminating in a public event in May 2015.

“This project validated our belief that there are stories in the archives waiting to be discovered, and students can help us find and share them with GW,” said former Public Services and Outreach Librarian for Special Collections Jennifer Kinniff. “We look forward to the prospect of light being shed on more untold stories.”
and break new ground through enhanced facilities and interdisciplinary research.

“The public launch of Making History: The Campaign for GW marks an exciting time in the university’s history,” said Geneva Henry, Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian. “The GW Libraries play a significant role in the academic enterprise. Funds raised in support of the Libraries during this campaign will enable the libraries to help the GW community to explore, create, and discover information in new ways through tools, spaces, consultations, collaboration, and special collections.”

The quality and capacity of the GW Libraries are key to fulfilling the university’s ambitions. Our resources support each of GW’s 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students, all faculty members, and every academic program across GW’s campuses, providing a genuine interdisciplinary research center for the university. To expand our ability to meet this growing need, the GW Libraries have an ambitious fundraising goal during the Campaign: $35 million in new funding to secure resources for scholarship, facilitate discovery and dissemination, and create a learning environment for the 21st century.
Secure Resources for Scholarship

As the university advances its interdisciplinary research agenda, the GW Libraries must respond to the changing landscape of information, being sensitive to both traditional and emergent modes of communication. The university’s recent agreement with the Corcoran College of Art + Design, for example, creates an immediate need to enhance our holdings in the fine arts to better support a range of new programs, including photography, graphic design, and arts education.

As the official opening of the new Science and Engineering Hall in 2015 approaches, increased access to technical and research journals becomes ever more essential to foster collaboration between disciplines. In addition, the acquisition of special collections, containing rare and unique materials, enables the GW Libraries to build archival collections that exist nowhere else. Organization, preservation, and digitization of these research materials is necessary to ensure that users can find what they need, but the process is time-intensive and requires specialized expertise. Continuing to secure new resources for scholarship is fundamental to the university’s academic enterprise.

Facilitate Discovery and Dissemination

In today’s technology-enhanced world, facilitating the discovery of valid and reliable information, as well as disseminating academic resources to the GW community, is crucial. The GW Libraries must recruit and retain the best talent to assist students and collaborate with faculty in research, as well as use their specialized expertise to uncover information that might otherwise remain invisible or inaccessible. Rapidly-evolving technology creates an additional need for equipment, software, and training so that the library can nimbly respond to the growing demands of our world-class students and faculty.

Information Systems (GIS) software, 3-D printers, and data visualization walls assist researchers in developing a deeper understanding of the world around them and help them to build connections between disciplines.

Creating a Learning Environment for the 21st Century

The GW Libraries are continually evolving our physical spaces to better meet the needs of our students and faculty. The popularity of the renovated entrance floor at Gelman Library, which opened last year, shows the impact that modernization and advanced technology has on library users. Additional renovations to create new collaborative and individual study spaces, including technology-enhanced group study rooms, are necessary in Gelman Library, Eckles Library on the Mount Vernon Campus, and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus Library. Updating the functionality and aesthetics of the university’s library facilities will elevate the GW Libraries to modern standards and enable us to compete more effectively with other universities for the best students.

The intellectual powerhouse of a great university is its libraries. Through your support of the GW Libraries, you can have an impact on every student, researcher, and faculty member at the George Washington University. Join us on our journey to fulfill our strategic goals and the university’s vision to become a top-tier, world-class research institution.

For more information about how you can help advance the GW Libraries’ initiatives as part of Making History: The Campaign for GW, please contact Jennifer Broome, Senior Executive Director of Development at the GW Libraries, at 202-994-1154 or jbroome@gwu.edu.
BRIGHT IDEAS

A Scholar’s Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research

By Dolsy Smith, Humanities Librarian
“Academic research is less like a Google search than a social network,” explains Bill Gillis. “ Scholars need to discover the conversations that have been going on about a particular topic as a first step in figuring out how to contribute to them.”

As a librarian at the Eckles Library on GW’s Mount Vernon Campus (MVC), Gillis contributes a lot to the student conversations that become a part of research at GW. Working closely with MVC’s first-year learning communities—the University Writing program, the University Honors Program, and the Women’s Leadership Program—Gillis helps usher students into the university’s intellectual life.

Friendly and approachable, Gillis is a familiar face in the tight-knit community on MVC. Students and faculty greet him by name as he crosses the quad, on his way to discuss a student’s research project over coffee. For Gillis, the key is to help students establish “a relationship to the Libraries that they can carry with them” for the rest of their academic career. He shows them that good research starts “with wonder and curiosity.” For scholars, no conversation is ever finished; there are always other voices, new ideas, fresh evidence, unfamiliar texts.

For the past two summers, Gillis has travelled with summer study-abroad courses—Professor Kathy Larsen’s “Fan Pilgrimage & Media Tourism” in England and Professor Mary Buckley’s “Paris: Modernism and the Arts, Then and Now”—helping students frame research questions as they learn to “read a city” through its architecture, performances, tourist sites, and public spaces. His participation in these courses opens a new chapter in the history of close collaboration among GW faculty, librarians, and students.

“Liz is every professor’s dream student,” remarks Professor Larsen, “someone who is enthusiastic and engaged and whose engagement in turn makes you see things in new ways.”

Back stateside, Liz developed “We’re Here, We’re Queer, and a Little Unclear: Pride as Pilgrimage, Protest, and Performance,” into a presentation for GW’s Research Days, an annual event where students present poster sessions to an audience of faculty and peers. She then retooled it...
into a professional conference talk for her PCA Annual Conference presentation.

Presenting at a professional conference is a major accomplishment for undergraduate students, and Liz credits Bill Gillis and Professor Larsen for showing her how to make a “meaningful contribution to the field.” She also attributes her success to her time spent in GW’s University Writing program. In her section of the course—Professor Troutman’s “Serious Comics”—Liz learned how to read academic sources and borrow their ideas and methodologies, a skill that she’s found makes interdisciplinary research that much stronger.

“Interdisciplinary” truly describes Liz’s academic career. A double major in Women’s Studies and Classical Studies, she is writing papers on feminism in Jane Eyre and learning Latin, charting the territory that she began exploring in high school. When she took her first Women’s Studies class at GW, she realized that scholars had already put a name to what she had been thinking and feeling and writing about.

This serious fan-girl enjoys studying Classics because “everything that you would imagine, or that you wouldn’t, has some sort of connection to the ancient world.” While Latin poetry might seem far flung from Hollywood, to this young scholar’s imagination, they occupy the same continuum. From imperial Rome to the movie Mean Girls, the work of the scholar is the same: “to challenge what we think we know about something and to put a new lens out there,” says Liz.

Liz’s work combining both Classics and Women’s Studies includes a paper on the conflicts between women in Virgil’s Aeneid, which she presented at the Undergraduate Classics Conference at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. This type of interdisciplinary coursework has provided her a dynamic, global perspective.

“You learn so much but feel like you know nothing,” Liz says. “It’s the most challenging thing to sit through a class and read all this material and realize that there are so many systems at play and so
many institutions that are larger than we can imagine. And every time you think you have a sense of how something is operating, it’s always changing.”

Sitting in the sunlit and studious quiet of the Oliver Reading Room—one of Liz’s favorite places in Gelman Library—she talks about her desire to “get people excited about research. Meeting them with something they love, and having them push that thinking further into something academic, is an awesome, awesome experience.”

This enthusiasm is what the GW Libraries aims to foster for all students.

This year, Liz is working as an editorial assistant for Professor Larsen’s Journal of Fandom Studies, learning the ropes of academic publishing. She is also a research assistant to a Classics professor at the University of Maryland and working at Gelman Library. As student assistant to the GW Libraries’ Director of Communications, Liz highlighted the excitement of research and helped curious minds encounter the texts that have recorded and shaped the world as we know it in order to help shape the world to come.

And what lies ahead? After graduating from GW this May, perhaps a Master of Library Science degree, in order to “combine my love of information with my love of people,” she says. “To keep researching and writing; that’s the goal.”

It is heartening to hear that this scholar’s journey is only beginning.

A Scholar’s GIFT

A sunny space with books lining three walls in Gelman Library, the Oliver Reading Room is home to the Andrew Oliver Book Collection for Classical and Near Eastern Studies, a generous donation to the GW Libraries made by Development Advisory Council member Andrew Oliver in memory of his late wife, the noted archaeologist Diana Buitron-Oliver. Together, the Olivers collected the nearly 8,000 volumes in support of their own research, writing, and curatorial work. Featuring everything from works of recent scholarship to rare editions of important texts, the collection covers the fields of archaeology, art history, ancient history, and philology.

With its emphasis on Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern material, the Oliver Collection complements perfectly one of the strengths of GW’s Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies: the interconnections among those parts of the ancient world. The Oliver Reading Room also realizes Mr. Oliver’s vision that his gift remain a working collection for scholars.

In addition to making the volumes browsable, the reading room serves as a seminar space for students in Classical Studies, ancient art, and archaeology courses. A large high-definition screen displays crisp images, crucial for art history classes, and a document camera lets instructors show both books and objects to the whole class.

“The Oliver Room acts as a hub, enabling high-tech teaching within arm’s reach of related publications,” Assistant Professor of Classics and Art History Elise Friedland remarks. “It is also an invaluable study space and gathering point for our students.”
Beyond The LIBRARY

The modern academic library doesn’t just exist inside one building—it’s in a smartphone, a residence hall, or even a Starbucks thanks to Wi-Fi internet connections. Moving outside the library’s physical structure allows librarians to meet users at the point of need and to fully become a part of student learning and research.

For a decade, GW’s education and instruction librarians have taught sessions on information literacy and research skills for academic programs across all of GW’s schools and colleges. When the university began to expand its academic offerings and classroom spaces on GW’s Mount Vernon Campus (MVC), it became clear that library instruction needed expanded space as well.

A space in the newly renovated Ames Hall—a central hub for activity on the MVC—became available, and through a partnership with GW’s Academic Technologies, the dream of a dedicated, active-learning classroom became a reality on GW’s Mount Vernon Campus.

Whether for graduate students in sciences or freshmen in the arts, a broad range of library instruction has already enriched students in the Ames library classroom. Professor Mary Buckley’s students from the Women’s Leadership Program have greatly benefited from classes in the space.

“Each cohort meets in that space with a librarian at the beginning of their first semester,” says Professor Buckley. The flexibility and technological capacity of the classroom design supports great interactive work.”

ECKLES LIBRARY

Jewel of the MOUNT VERNON Campus

Despite the relaxed environs of GW’s Mount Vernon Campus (MVC), nestled in D.C.’s Foxhall neighborhood, Eckles Library is a busy hive of academic life. Walk into Eckles during the semester, and you’ll find students studying in the open and airy atrium and reading in one of the library’s cozy alcoves. Other students are hard at work in the computer labs, going over papers with consultants from the GW Writing Center, or talking with discipline-specific tutors.

But the importance of Eckles to students on the MVC goes beyond just studying.

The ever-growing Eckles Flix collection has close to a thousand titles featuring films selected each year by student vote. The library is also a natural place for congregating on the MVC—from Foreign Language Café conversations to receptions and student group events, Eckles is a buzz with student academic and extracurricular activity.

Rotating exhibits in the library showcase student works, including photographs from GW Alternative Spring Break trips, art projects from students in the Women’s Leadership Program, or lamps made by Interior Design majors. And during finals, the library’s small but dedicated staff keeps Eckles running 24-7, offering late-night popcorn and sandwiches to fuel hungry studiers.

Eckles Library is also home to a devoted coterie of student employees—who hone their research and public service skills, mentoring each other and helping their peers—and the Eckles Prize, which recognizes students for outstanding research during their freshman year.

Highlighting their use of library resources, the Eckles Prize culminates in a public presentation by the winners. Always stimulating, the event showcases how undergraduates, even during their first year, can produce sophisticated scholarship.

A study space, a workplace, a film library, a research center, a social hub, a quiet place to read, and oh, so much more—it’s easy to see why Eckles Library wins so many fans.
Called “the 411 of African American literature” by The Washington Post, E. Ethelbert Miller has been a pillar of Washington, D.C. poetry since he first moved to the city in 1968 to attend Howard University. He decided early on that “the key to being a successful writer was working with as many people as possible, networking, and staying in touch.” And so as he became the accomplished poet, teacher and literary activist he is today, he amassed a treasure trove of correspondence, fliers, posters, journals, photographs, and articles relating to his career and the D.C. poetry community.

In 1984, recognizing the value in his own meticulously collected papers, Miller and performance artist Chasen Gaver conceived a project to encourage local writers to save manuscript drafts, correspondences, and memorabilia to deposit at a local repository. That project eventually developed into the GW Libraries’ Washington Writers Archive, part of the GW Libraries’ ongoing efforts to document the history, people, and cultural development of Washington, D.C. Through this work and the materials housed there, GW is known as the place for local poets to keep their enduring records.

Today, the papers of E. Ethelbert Miller can be found in GW’s Special Collections Research Center, located on the seventh floor of the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library. Scholars and students can explore the creative process of Miller and other local poets and uncover the intertwining influence of the D.C. poetry community. Miller also currently serves as a member of the GW Libraries Development Advisory Council.

“I’ve always viewed the library as being a sacred place. It’s a space central to the maintaining of community.”

-E. Ethelbert Miller

In addition to holding materials for future research, Special Collections is helping local poets to actively document their community history. Concerned by the loss of history that was occurring with the passing of local poets, community members worked with the GW Libraries to develop the D.C. Poetry Wiki, a website that contains biographical articles for over 500 poets, as well as information on reading series, conferences, and publishing houses in D.C. This living document allows the community to direct the collection of its history by inviting members to share their memories.

As an active partner with the D.C. poetry community, the GW Libraries celebrate this vibrant and enduring community through an ongoing series of events like “A Splendid Wake.” This annual symposium honors poets of the past and helps to preserve the remarkable literary history of Washington poets from 1900 through the present. These discussions by well-known local poets and academics are recorded and then become available for future scholars through the Washington Writers Archive.
How long does it take to move 40,000 books, periodicals, and special works of art from the shelves of one location to an entirely new site, all while being kept perfectly in order? About six days, if you’re the GW Libraries.

When the historic agreements between the Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art and Design, the George Washington University, and the National Gallery of Art were finalized on August 21, the university took responsibility for the Corcoran’s 17th Street building and one of the nation’s leading art schools, which is now known as the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design within GW’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

With the historic Corcoran building slated for renovations this fall, the collections from the Corcoran College Library needed to be relocated to GW’s Gelman Library. Because classes were set to begin just four days after the agreement was finalized, they needed to be moved immediately. Fortunately, a special Corcoran Library Transition Team for the GW Libraries—made up of representatives from building operations, public services, resource description, and collection development—started planning for just this possibility at the beginning of July.

It is no small thing to move a library collection of 3,700 linear feet of shelving space—that’s almost seven times the height of the Washington Monument in books to carefully prepare, pack, and label while also readying a space to house them. But don’t forget the 40,000+ catalog records to be imported into the GW library catalog as well. All of this had to be done with great precision to ensure that these important resources are immediately available to the students and professors who need them; and the need was immediate.

“Even before the physical move began, professors and students were requesting books for their classes,” said Barbra Giorgini, head of the Corcoran Library Transition Team for the GW Libraries. “As soon as the books had been relocated, we were immediately pulling out book requests.”

The Art & Design Collection from the Corcoran is now located on the first floor of Gelman Library, adjacent to computers and student study space. Rare or fragile works are being managed in the Special Collections Research Center, where they can be maintained in a controlled environment to support their long term preservation. This art and design collection is being kept together rather than integrated with GW’s collections to maintain its unique character.

Materials are accessible during normal Gelman Library hours, and now that this collection is at GW, it is open to students and faculty of all nine of the university’s partner schools in the Washington Research Library Consortium.

The new Art and Design Collection is already being heavily used, as are the red Herman Miller chairs beloved by Corcoran students and faculty, which were relocated with the collection.

“This collection has vastly increased the breadth and depth of our art and design resources,” says Vice Provost for Libraries Geneva Henry. “We are excited to collaborate with the faculty of the Corcoran School to support their diverse programs and highlight this unparalleled collection.”
Dr. Samuel Halperin, a longtime friend and member of the George Washington University Libraries Development Advisory Council, passed away this spring. Dr. Halperin began his relationship with the university in the 1970s, when he led GW’s Institute for Educational Leadership. An avid collector of books and maps, he also became a generous benefactor of the GW Libraries’ Special Collections, including the I. Edward Kiev Judaica Collection.

“In his role as a member of the GW Libraries Development Advisory Council, Dr. Halperin consistently demonstrated his love of learning and his commitment to increasing academic research resources,” said Geneva Henry, university librarian and vice provost for libraries. “His philanthropy, leadership, and tremendous belief in the role of higher education were deeply valued. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.”

Dr. Halperin earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. A respected leader in political science and education policy, he was part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration before serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and director of the U.S. Office of Education’s Office of Congressional Relations. Dr. Halperin was devoted to nonpartisan progress in education and was a key proponent of the Higher Education Acts of 1963 and 1965 and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Following his federal service, Dr. Halperin went on to found the American Youth Policy Forum, a nonpartisan professional development program in Washington, D.C. aimed at those working with federal policy and youth development.

In addition to his work on education policy, Dr. Halperin also made significant contributions to academia. He taught political science at a number of academic institutions—including Wayne State University, American University, Duke University, and Teachers College-Columbia University—and authored dozens of scholarly articles. “The Forgotten Half,” a seminal work, examined the economic impact of young people not attending college on a national scale. Halperin was among the first scholars to study this population, rather than those who are college-bound.

Dr. Halperin left a legacy of advocacy and academic achievement that will be remembered and respected for years to come. During his life, his prominent and impactful career earned Halperin many awards and honors, including the George Washington University President’s Medal, the National Association of State Boards of Education Distinguished Service Award, the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps’ Distinguished Service Award, the American Association of Community Colleges Harry S. Truman Award, the Lewis Hine Award for Service to Children and Youth of the National Child Labor Committee, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare’s Superior Service Award and Distinguished Service Award.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM HALPERIN
BY: GREG LIPSCOMB, CHAIR EMERITUS OF THE GW LIBRARIES DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

I believe libraries are living things, and that when Sam died the GW Libraries let out a great sigh of sadness. They had lost a friend, as we all had, even as his many gifts remained on their shelves and in our hearts.

Sam was a collector, a keeper of neglected things, and in his bibliographic mind there were whole nations, forgotten languages, and maps to lost treasures. Yet he was a private man with a public mind, and fortunately he shared with us all that he knew.

There were many Sams and we each had our own, for he was several and singular. Those of us on the council knew him in his winter, and perhaps for that we got his best. He sat in our meetings like a small sun, with his wise asides and polite skepticisms, and he pushed us to exceed ourselves, to reach the larger questions.

So like the GW Libraries, we sigh, but we celebrate him best by celebrating the libraries he loved so much.
If you have a brokerage account or retirement plan, it's easy to help enhance world-class academic resources for GW's faculty and students. You can name the George Washington University Libraries as a beneficiary of some or all of the funds that may remain in your brokerage or savings account, IRA, 401(k), or other savings plan after your lifetime. Just complete a new beneficiary designation form that includes the GW Libraries and its Tax ID number (53-0196584) and submit it to your plan administrator.

**A few of the benefits:**
- Flexibility to support the GW Libraries program of your choice.
- No change in lifestyle since your gift comes from leftover funds.
- Elimination of income taxes that otherwise would be due.

**We can answer your questions to help make it even easier. Contact us today!**

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**EMAIL:** pgiving1@gwu.edu  
**ONLINE:** go.gwu.edu/plannedgiving

Sam Horowitz, BA ’14

“For four years, GW gave me so much; now I've made the decision to give back. I look forward to my planned gift making a difference for future students and inspiring similar philanthropy.”

Sam is supporting the George Washington University Libraries and the American Studies Program by naming GW as a beneficiary of his brokerage account.