CONTENTS

WELCOME
Message from the Vice Provost for Libraries 5

COVER STORY
GELMAN TRANSFORMS
Renovations conclude on state-of-the-art student-oriented entrance floor 6

(RE)BORN DIGITAL
Bringing GW Libraries’ Special Collections into the digital age 10

COMING SOON:
WINSTON CHURCHILL
Major research center planned for Gelman Library 13

LEAVING A LEGACY
Professor James King talks life, education, and philanthropy 14

TEAMSTERS HISTORY MEMORIALIZED
Historical collection tells the story of one of the largest labor unions in North American history 15

TAIWAN PARTNERS STRENGTHEN THEIR SUPPORT
International alumni group and Ministry of Education support Global Resources Center at Gelman Library 19

NEWS ROUNDDUP
A Lucky Child: The Journey of Thomas Buergenthal
A Window into the Watergate
The Gift of Books: Oliver Reading Room
Library Spotlight: The Gibson Papers 16
Sitting at the crossroads of the campus, students, faculty, researchers and the community can come together in the library to collaborate and form partnerships that can change lives and change the world.

—Geneva Henry
There has never been a more exciting time to be working with information! The 21st century has ushered in transformations that enable more information to be created and discovered than ever before. I hope you enjoy learning about how we are contributing and responding to this information transformation in the following pages of this inaugural issue of Vision: GW Libraries.

Libraries have always had the mission to preserve the human record, ensuring that documented knowledge, regardless of its format or means of delivery, is not lost and will be available well into the future. While the initial transition from manuscripts to modern print took almost a century to become well established, the transition to digital information is occurring at a much quicker pace, presenting both challenges and tremendous opportunities for libraries. Information is rich, varied, and complex, and multimedia and digital tools allow for more effective communication. See page 10 for more on how the George Washington University Libraries incorporate more digital processes into the day-to-day operations.

As the GW Libraries embrace information in all its forms, we remain focused on building the best collections possible to serve our community, be they digital or hard copies, and providing services our users need to discover information and create new knowledge. The research libraries of the 21st century will be known more for the special collections and customized services they provide rather than for the number of book volumes occupying the shelves. These rich collections are at the core of research, teaching, and learning, providing not only our community of scholars, students, and others with valuable resources, but also the world through the digital form. Today, unique scholarly assets include not only older manuscripts and print works, but also born-digital collections such as videos of oral histories, documentaries, films, soundtracks, digital art, research data sets, and much more. The libraries must possess the know-how to ensure these resources are discoverable and preserved, just as the print resources have been.

During this information transition, libraries and librarians are critical in helping patrons navigate through information in all its forms. From discovering information in print books that sit on a shelf to finding patterns in text and structured data sets that are much too large for a human to sift through manually, librarians are indispensible partners in the research, teaching, and learning process. The modern library is a common hub for the full university community. We aspire to provide shared information lab environments such as visualization walls, geographic information systems software, video creation and editing tools, CAD-CAM tools, and 3-D printers that help people create new knowledge and explore existing digital resources. The philanthropic partnership of our friends and supporters will help us achieve this vision more quickly and allow us to evolve more rapidly in response to the changing needs of our faculty and students.

Sitting at the crossroads of the campus, the library is where students, faculty, researchers and the community can come together to collaborate and form partnerships that can change lives and the world. When students walk into the library to study, they might observe some interesting research underway in one of our learning labs, engaging them more deeply in a project that would otherwise be learned only theoretically in the classroom. Faculty from different schools can have meaningful encounters that help in discovering knowledge that wouldn’t be unearthed if each was working in only their respective disciplines. Librarians can serve as catalysts for forming partnerships, sparking new interests, and discovering information that would otherwise remain invisible.

The GW Libraries are aligning to support the types of information services and facilities that will help the community reach its research, teaching, and learning goals, which are articulated in the university’s strategic plan. The resources the libraries need to achieve these aspirations can only be realized with help from others who share this vision of creating new knowledge and understand what it takes to enable the exchange of information in our modern world.

Philanthropic investment by our friends, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and partners is vital to our transformation. I invite you to join us on this journey to realizing an information environment that is core to helping our community change the world!

Geneva Henry
Vice Provost for Libraries at the George Washington University
The transformation of the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library’s second floor into an attractive, state-of-the-art, student-oriented entrance floor began in early 2011 when student groups were invited to provide input for a concept study on renovation options.

In addition, the space showcases flatbed scanners, a combination of iMacs and PC desktops with specialized software, and USB-charging locations.

The Data Visualization Room, designed by Academic Technologies, features a 4K 3-D display screen, a newly released 3-D ceiling camera, and a THX-certified 7.1 surround sound audio system with a 3-D capable Blu-ray player. The room stands at the forefront of emerging technologies, employing the newest 3-D equipment to enrich the learning experience at GW. It allows instructors to teach using materials in an unprecedented way. For example, faculty in the art history, geography, and

GELMAN TRANSFORMS

The renovated entrance floor is now a cutting-edge cooperative learning space that integrates current technology with design elements requested directly by students. The collaborative space hosts services, including the Help Desk, Check Out Desk, five technology-enabled group study rooms, and the GW Writing Center.
film studies departments can display their high-resolution graphics in native resolution, allowing their students to more fully experience the details of class material. Mechanical engineering students are also able to view models in 3-D, increasing the possibilities for imagining and creating new designs.

The Data Visualization Room is a service unique to the GW community, and its place on Gelman’s entrance floor cements the entire space as a center of academic enterprise and innovation. It gives GW faculty and students a chance to build digital media literacies into their curriculum, and the multiple study rooms extend the support for technology-enhanced group study.

The floor demonstrates excellence through collaboration and innovation. It was designed and successfully launched through the teamwork of several different GW departments, including the GW Libraries, Academic Technologies, the Division of Development and Alumni Relations, the Division of IT, and University Facilities. The union of multiple services, spaces, and technology in the Gelman Library creates an unparalleled experience for GW students, faculty, staff, and friends.

GW students make their way to the new entrance during Librarypalooza, a library orientation and celebration for all students held on the first day of classes.

Gelman Library Renovation Timeline

February 2011: Student groups invited to provide input for a concept study for how the entrance level of the Gelman Library might be renovated.

May 2011: GW Board of Trustees approves FY 2012 budget, including funding for renovations.

January 2012: GW community discusses design with architects.

Summer 2012: Construction activities begin.

August 2013: New entrance floor completed.
Gelman Library Entrance Floor

Services

Help Desk
A starting point for reference and technology assistance.

Check Out Desk
Check out and retrieve materials here, including Consortium and Interlibrary Loan, and Course Reserves.

GW Writing Center
Where students can receive dedicated attention to their writing and research projects.

Spaces

Reservable Group Study Rooms
Students can share their personal laptop screens on a high-definition LCD monitor to facilitate technology-enabled group projects.

Multipurpose Rooms
Reservable meeting rooms to provide more collaborative space for our academic partners across the university. Available for student use when not reserved.

Reading Terrace
An outdoor reading space for students to study, collaborate, and relax.

Snack Lounge
Features include a laptop bar, vending machines, plentiful seating, and a TV monitor/display screen with updated library information.

Technology

Data Visualization Room
A space to help users see data in another light. Features a 4K 3-D display screen, a newly released 3-D ceiling camera, and a THX certified 7.1 surround sound audio system with a 3-D capable Blu-ray player. The room stands at the forefront of emerging technologies, employing the newest 3-D equipment to enrich the learning experience at GW.

Learning Commons
A combination of iMacs and PC desktops loaded with specialized software, including SPSS, Studio, Gimp, Handbrake, Audacity, and more. QGIS10 flatbed scanners are found throughout the space, as well as USB-charging locations and a multitude of outlets.

The Lab
A MacPro lab filled with specialized software enables students and faculty to work on multimedia projects. During select hours, students can borrow equipment, including cameras, tripods, and recorders.

- MacPro with attached headphones
Community Philanthropy
High 5 Raises $13,539

Fundraising is critical in supporting the purchase of software and hardware for the new multimedia lab and to empower students to participate in data-driven projects.

In support of this goal, the GW Libraries successfully raised $13,539 through the recent GW High 5 campaign. Utilizing social media and electronic communications, the GW High 5 campaign invited students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends to determine the top five universitywide initiatives from among 23 possible choices this past spring. Once the top five were identified, these members of the greater GW community were encouraged to cast their votes by making donations to the initiative of their choosing. Cash prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place winners. The GW Libraries placed second during this phase, raising $3,539 from 83 individual donors, many of them current students.

The GW Libraries considered this a great accomplishment, finishing second only to the Power & Promise Campaign, the university’s student scholarship support fund and top fundraising priority across the campus. Finishing a strong second was a vote of confidence in the GW Libraries and an endorsement of the important role the library and librarians play in the life of the university. This success garnered us an additional $10,000 in challenge funding, generously put forth by GW Board of Trustee member Steve Ross, GWSB BBA ’81, thereby raising our total to $13,539.

Class of 2010

$31,000 of the funds students raised for the Senior Class Gift in 2010 were designated to the Gelman Library. Students took to Facebook to rally support for new library space, and student association leaders declared that advocating for more library funds would be their top priority. This generous gift will be recognized with a special plaque, to be installed soon on the new entrance floor.

Individual Donors

264 individuals have given to the Entrance Floor Fund since 2010. This support has been crucial to the success of Gelman Library’s entrance floor renovation project. Thank you!
Beyond the books and the excitement of the renovated entrance floor, the Special Collections Research Center’s (SCRC) archival staff and Scholarly Technology Group members are busy, quietly changing the way we look at history through digitization.

Today, students have access to a vast array of digitized documents, manuscripts, paintings, and books. Going forward, the George Washington University hopes to make rare books and text more accessible for patrons of the library as well as researchers around the world.

As the SCRC archivists assess, collect, and organize material often provided by library donors, differences exist in how varied material formats are handled. Collection material is either paper based or in a digital format, also known as “born-digital.” “Born-digital content is processed using the same archival principles,” said Jennifer King, interim director of special collections, “but with very different tools that will provide enhanced access, such as optical character recognition and data mining.” The most obvious differences between traditional and digital content is in how it is stored, handled, described,
We remain focused on building the best collections possible to serve our community, regardless of format, and providing the services our users need to discover information and create new knowledge.

- Geneva Henry

and used by researchers. With digital collections, the SCRC is able to publicize and provide access to materials to a much broader audience. Digital content also makes the materials more discoverable via web browsers. Karim Boughida, associate university librarian for digital initiatives and content management, shares a reminder that digitizing materials comes at a cost. “It is expensive, but a valuable means to an end—scholarship. We want to increase access for both faculty and students. We want to give them the ability to data mine, to analyze text, and more.”

THE ARCHIVAL PROCESS

With the integration of newly digitized and born-digital material into the archives, the archival process and the role of the archivist are also changing. “When acquiring born-digital material, archivists must work with individuals and organizations to help them identify which of their digital files should be preserved so that systems are in place to make sure files are not deleted and that the relationships between the files are clear before they come to the archives,” explained Jenny Kinniff, outreach librarian for the SCRC. “Archives also need to have systems in place for storing digital files in various formats and ensuring that they remain accessible and uncorrupted over time. Finally, researchers need a way to access both the files and information that explains how and when they were created, so that they can understand the individual item and how it fits within a larger digital collection.”

RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

Digitization is also changing the research that is conducted at the libraries. “Digitizing analog content provides enhanced discoverability and access to materials only found in special collections,” stated King. “It also enables archivists to preserve content that exists on unstable media, including reel-to-reel audiotape and paper. These types of media may be deteriorating, so digitizing it before it is unusable not only preserves the information, but also provides access to multiple users at the same time.”

For as much as they differ, digital and traditional collections are both archived under the guiding principles of provenance and original order. King describes provenance as “the principle that knowledge of the origin of records is essential to allow researchers to confirm authenticity and use records authoritatively.” Original order is the principle in which materials are maintained in the order received at the archives. This process ensures the creator’s intent and purpose is preserved so that researchers can understand the information within its original context. Digital and traditional content also require the same understanding from staff of the long-term custodial obligation necessary for any format.

Digitization—the method of converting analog information such as books, pictures, manuscripts, and other texts—transforms physical documents to a format that can be accessed on computers or other electronic devices such as smartphones and tablets. In 2009, the GW Libraries received a $400,000 grant to conduct a cost analysis of the process, using materials predominantly about the Middle East and North Africa.

With the help of Kirtas Technologies’ Kabis III and the SkyView Flatbed Imaging System, the GW Libraries and Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) partners managed to greatly expand their digital collections. These materials are now available online at library.gwu.edu/collections/digitize.
STAFFING AND EXPERTISE

As more and more of the library’s content becomes available electronically, technical skill and cross-department collaboration become necessary to make these projects a success.

Two of the Scholarly Technology Group’s full-time employees are busy digitizing for a strategic purpose. Having already completed the yearbooks of every university in the WRLC, including our own, they are currently working on documents from several projects, including digitizing GW Magazine with the SCRC. Provost Steven Lerman has described the electronic version of GW’s history as “a collection that will benefit more than one school.”

The process has even broader implications across the GW campus. To support faculty, GW recently launched the Digital Humanities Institute, spearheaded by tech-savvy English professors Alexander Huang and Jonathan Hsy. Dr. Huang was the first professor to use Gelman’s new data visualization room, which features 3-D technology found only at a limited number of locations across the country.

Current digitization projects in Gelman’s Special Collections Research Center include:

The Mutual Broadcasting System, an American radio network that operated 1934-1999. The network was best known for the programs “Zero Hour,” the “Larry King Show,” the “Jim Bohannon Show,” and “America in the Morning,” all of which the Special Collections team is in the process of digitizing.

“The Poet and the Poem,” a program hosted by local poet Grace Cavalieri. Special Collections staff are working to digitize the archive of these shows, with the dual goals of providing enhanced access to and preserving for future generations this great wealth of D.C. culture and community.

The microfilmed records of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Executive Committee. These records document the internal workings of the American union from the ‘30s to the ‘80s and include correspondence, memos, photographs, and publications.

The Thomas Hahn Chesapeake and Ohio Canal collection. Dr. Hahn was considered one of the world’s foremost experts on the C&O Canal. He was the field archaeologist on two major canal restoration projects: one in Havre de Grace, Md., the other in Alexandria, Va. This project will make Dr. Hahn’s extensive historical photograph collection available to scholars, local citizens, and C&O Canal enthusiasts who wish to learn more about the history of this popular national park and recreation destination. ✍
The George Washington University has formed a philanthropic partnership with the Chicago-based Churchill Centre to establish the National Churchill Library and Center at GW. Housed on the first floor of the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library, this will be the first major research facility in the nation’s capital dedicated to the study of Winston Churchill.

As both scholar and statesman, Winston Churchill is an inspiring figure for his leadership and diplomacy. The new center, through its collections, interdisciplinary academic programs, and educational exhibits, will offer GW students, faculty, researchers, and the public the opportunity to examine the life and legacy of Mr. Churchill.

The Churchill Centre has pledged $8 million to fund:

- Facilities - $2 million (estimate)
- Endowed Professorship of 20th Century British History - $2.5 million
- Endowed Curatorship of the Library and Center - $2.5 million
- Collection and Programming Endowment - $1 million

The National Churchill Library and Center will open in stages between 2014 and 2015.

INTERNATIONAL CHURCHILL CONFERENCE

With support from the university’s Marvin Center, GW is pleased to have partnered with the Churchill Centre to present the 30th International Churchill Conference, which took place October 31-November 2, 2013. This year’s theme was “Churchill: Perspectives on Leadership,” and the event drew more than 350 people from around the world.

To learn more about how to support this important initiative, please contact:

Lee Pollock
Executive Director, The Churchill Centre
312-263-5637

Conceptual renderings of the National Churchill Library and Center, which will have street-front access on H Street.
LEAVING a LEGACY

PROFESSOR JAMES KING TALKS ABOUT HIS LIFE, GW EDUCATION, AND WHY GELMAN HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART

Think about the impact that the George Washington University has had on your life, on the Washington, D.C., community, and on its alumni and friends worldwide. Now imagine what that impact would be like had you been a part of the GW community since the 1940s.

Professor Emeritus of German, GW graduate with bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, and longtime GW Libraries Development Advisory Council member James King certainly can. Not only is he able to tell us what tuition was in 1946, he also provides a glimpse into the process of making a planned gift and how it will continue to make a positive impact at GW for many years to come.

What led you to GW?
From June 1942, after graduation from high school, to November 1943, prior to military induction, I was a federal employee in Washington, D.C. After my discharge from the U.S. Army in April 1946, I returned to this area. Seeking to begin my higher education, I chose George Washington as an academically sound, non-church-related institution and began my studies in September of that year.

Not only did you receive your bachelor’s and master’s degrees at GW, you also earned your doctoral degree here in 1954. Share with us a little about what it is like to witness the changes over the 65 years you have been a part of the GW community.

The campus was modest in 1946, comprising at most some nine blocks, from 20th to 22nd and G to Eye streets, NW, with the Hall of Government, Lisner Auditorium, and the now-replaced University Hospital at Washington Circle as the most prominent structures. Classrooms were finally air-conditioned in 1955. Not yet independent schools, international affairs and business were programs in a school of government. Most students commuted from home in the absence of adequate residential housing, and there was a large veteran contingent. Can you imagine tuition at $12 an hour?

What do you think are the things that distinguish GW from other universities?
Foremost is the centrality of the arts and sciences, the humanities, and social studies—a firm basis for professional preparation in business, engineering and applied science, education and human development, international affairs, law, and medicine. Internships in government offices and community service afford additional educational experience.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
With a planned gift, you can assist in the George Washington University Libraries’ efforts to provide unique special collections, student- and faculty-oriented research and reference services, technology-enhanced study spaces, and the print and electronic resources that support every academic discipline across the university. There are many ways of creating an important legacy at GW with a planned gift, some of which can even pay you an income in return for your gift. To learn more, visit giving.gwu.edu/planned-giving.

PHOTO BY HAYDEN HILL
Dr. King’s house, donated to GW to support library acquisitions in the arts and sciences.
You donated the official 2 millionth volume to the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library in 2001. You also became a member of the GW Libraries Development Advisory Council at its founding in 2004. What led you to become such an ardent supporter of the library? What has the library meant to you over the years?

Access to library resources has been indispensable to me in my academic development, lecturing, and medieval research. Before Gelman Library, the University Library was housed until 1973 in Lisner Hall at 2023 G Street, NW. Countless are the hours that I have spent at both locations, the Library of Congress, and several libraries in Europe. I champion published material, whether printed and bound, or digital/electronic.

Why did you choose to donate your home to the GW Libraries? Why was it important to you to leave a legacy to the library?

In 1995, I established a library acquisition fund for the purchase of printed books and/or digital/electronic resources in the arts and sciences. Ultimately, the proceeds from four charitable gift annuities and the sale of my residence will contribute to the fund substantially.

Would you recommend this type of giving vehicle to others? How did you find the process?

Once a senior in his or her estate planning has provided adequately for loved ones, any remaining resources should be considered for bequests such as mine. Thanks to the efficient efforts of Jane Kolson, senior planned giving advisor, and Chase Magnuson, director of planned giving for real estate, the process moved flawlessly and took only 65 days.

For anyone who is considering this type of gift, what advice would you give?

The donor should check with his/her attorney and accountant to determine whether to transfer ownership of a primary residence now while retaining a life-estate tenancy or at estate settlement following death.

Thank you, Dr. King.

Please reach out to GW’s planned giving team to learn more about making a gift:

Office of Planned Giving
2100 M Street, NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20052
pgiving1@gwu.edu | 877-498-7590

Collection Highlight

TEAMSTERS HISTORY MEMORIALIZED

HISTORICAL COLLECTION TELLS THE STORY OF ONE OF THE LARGEST LABOR UNIONS IN NORTH AMERICAN HISTORY.

The storied history of the Teamsters is right here at the George Washington University.

The Labor History Research Center (LHRC), located at the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library, acquires, curates, and maintains historic materials and documents that tell the story of the labor movements during the 19th through the 21st centuries. LHRC is home to an extensive collection of International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) documentation, thanks to an initiative launched by GW and the IBT four years ago.

This flagship collection of the LHRC provides a detailed narrative of one of the largest and most occupationally diverse labor unions in North America through IBT publications, convention proceedings, documentary materials from the various IBT departments, trade divisions and area conferences, photographs, films, and video/audio tape reels and cassettes. The center is open to all interested researchers, including IBT members, the GW community, and the general public.

For more information about the LHRC, visit teamstersarchives.gwu.edu.

IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

The Labor History Research Center’s (LHRC) Book Talk events showcase a person or issue important to the labor movement through the eyes of authors, experts, and academics. Here’s a quick look at three recent events:

The Next Emancipation: A. Philip Randolph’s Life in Labor and Civil Rights—Eric Arnesen of the GW Department of History shared research from his forthcoming biography of Philip Randolph, a longtime leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and a tireless fighter for civil rights.

She Was One of Us: Eleanor Roosevelt and the American Worker—Author Brigid O’Farrell reviewed Eleanor Roosevelt’s life, concentrating on how she translated her commitment to the welfare of American workers into action.

Aaron Swartz: Beyond Labels—Participants and speakers led a discourse on the late programmer/activist’s work, life, and the interaction between freedom, democracy, and the Internet.

To learn more about these and other Book Talk events, visit teamstersarchives.gwu.edu/research-center.
A LUCKY CHILD
The Journey of Thomas Buergenthal

On April 9, 2013, the students of Professor Walter Reich’s Holocaust Memory course opened an exhibit in the Dr. Yehuda Nir and Dr. Bonnie Maslin Special Collection Exhibit Hall on the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library’s 7th Floor, illuminating the life and achievements of one of the greatest citizens in Washington, D.C., and beyond. This exhibit was the second in a series, the first of which was Narrative of a Life: The Identities of Yehuda Nir, based on Nir’s memoir The Lost Childhood.

The exhibit—curated by undergraduates at the George Washington University—focuses on Thomas Buergenthal, the Lobingier Professor of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence at GW. The undergraduates chose to highlight Mr. Buergenthal’s life and his important story of the Holocaust.

Mr. Buergenthal was not yet 6 years old when he was forced into a Jewish ghetto in Poland. Four years later, he was sent to Auschwitz. As the Soviets advanced westward, he was put on a death march into Germany. Again and again he survived impossible odds, was liberated, and eventually found by his mother.

Moving to America, Mr. Buergenthal blazed an illustrious career as one of the world’s most distinguished authorities in international and human rights law. In addition to his position at GW, he has served as a judge on the International Court of Justice at The Hague and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and on the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador. He was also the first permanent chairman of the committee on conscience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and the first U.S. member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

As Paul Berman, former dean of the GW Law School, said of him, “Tom is a world-historical figure, someone who, by his life experience and enormous accomplishments, has changed the world…From his eloquent testimony regarding the horrors of the Holocaust to his work essentially inventing the modern field of international human rights law, to his championing the cause of international justice as a judge and scholar—he is the rare thing: a true hero. We are honored to have him on our faculty at the law school.”

The exhibit was based on his powerful memoir, A Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy. American-Jewish short story writer, novelist, and essayist Cynthia Ozick described the memoir as “A work of visionary compassion…In the plainest words and the steadiest tones, Thomas Buergenthal delivers to us the child he once was.”

In creating the exhibit, the students in the Holocaust Memory course offered to teach all who view it about the Holocaust and how this “lucky child” managed to emerge from its horrors totally committed to protecting humanity and defending civilization.

Kerry Stowell, a longtime resident of Watergate East and a past president of the co-op board of the complex, recently donated her papers to the GW Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center.

This collection of newsletters, photographs, correspondence, annual reports, and governing documents forms the basis for what is hoped to be a larger collection regarding the cultural impact of the Watergate complex.

Development staff collaborated closely with Special Collections staff to produce an online exhibit, launched in May 2012, focusing on the Stowell collection. Visit the exhibit at exhibits.gelman.gwu.edu/stowell.

An event celebrating this collection will be held in 2015 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Watergate complex.
THE GIFT OF BOOKS
Oliver Reading Room

Funded by a generous gift of $132,000 from Andrew Oliver, a long-time member of the GW Libraries Development Advisory Council and now its chair, the new Oliver Reading Room on the sixth floor of the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library is now a multipurpose space. Utilized as a classroom, event space, and collaborative study space and reading room for students and researchers, it houses a portion of the Andrew Oliver Book Collection for Classical and Near Eastern Studies. The book collection, valued at $425,000, honors the memory of Mr. Oliver’s wife, Diana Buitron-Oliver, a distinguished archaeologist, and was assembled by the couple to support their own research and writing projects.

The space is already a success. Alex Zafros (CCAS ’13) shared this view of the Oliver Reading Room:

“...I decided to write a paper in a new location - the Oliver Reading room, where we meet regularly for our Latin class. I walked in thinking I would complete my paper and walked out having fallen in love with the incredible collection of classics texts along the walls. From the Loeb series dominating the back wall to even a particular book on Municipal Virtues in Ancient Rome, Mr. Oliver’s collection is a wonderful and hidden gem for all GW Classics majors.”

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

The GW Libraries Acquires the Gibson Papers

Through a fundraising campaign supported by the Black Alumni Philanthropic Society (BAPS), the GW Libraries’ Africana Research Center acquired the Gibson Papers, author Richard T. Gibson’s rare collection of historical documents chronicling the African American experience during his time as an expatriate journalist in 1950s Paris.

Mr. Gibson, a noted journalist and chronicler of anti-imperialist movements in Africa, moved to Paris in the late ’50s, joining a literary circle of other African Americans like Richard Wright and James Baldwin, who looked abroad for social change as Jim Crow laws still mandated segregation at home. In Europe, Mr. Gibson was a friend and correspondent of communists and revolutionaries, and he cofounded grassroots activist group Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

His papers, which include correspondence, clippings, and photographs from more than 50 years of work, document leftist and anti-imperialist movements from an expatriate American perspective.

In celebration of this acquisition, the GW Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) hosted a symposium in March titled “Richard T. Gibson: Literary Contrarian and Cold Warrior” in collaboration with GW’s Center for the Study of Public History and Public Culture.

Panel discussions on post-war Rome, revolutionary Algeria and Cuba, and Mr. Gibson’s written work African Liberation Movements sparked lively discussion and commentary from the audience. Mr. Gibson himself was in attendance, giving attendees a unique opportunity to learn directly from someone who lived through these experiences and helped shape these swirling political and cultural currents.
TAIWAN PARTNERS
**Strengthen their SUPPORT**

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI GROUP AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SUPPORT GLOBAL RESOURCES CENTER AT GELMAN LIBRARY

**TAIWAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATES TO TAIWAN RESOURCE CENTER**

With alumni in more than 150 countries around the world, the GW community is a truly global one. Alumni in one of these countries recently came together to make a gift that will have an impact on students, professors, and researchers here in the heart of Washington, D.C. GW’s Taiwan Alumni Association (TAA) donated $15,000 in support of the Taiwan Resource Center at the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library.

The Taiwan Resource Center (TRC) is a part of the Gelman Library’s Global Resources Center, which collects materials related to the political, socio-economic, historical, and cultural aspects of countries and regions around the globe. The TRC’s collection contains print materials and electronic databases in Chinese, English, and Japanese related to the history, politics, economy, public policy, national security, and foreign relations of Taiwan. During a November trip to the island, university representatives joined members of GW’s TAA, which includes more than 745 GW alumni living in Taiwan, to celebrate their gift. TAA President Alexander Huang, Ph.D. ‘94, who spoke for his fellow alumni during the check presentation ceremony, reinforced the connection among all George Washington alumni around the world, stating that “We are all part of one family!”

The generous donation from the TAA will go directly to support subscriptions for the full-text electronic databases that the Taiwan Resource Center makes available to GW students, faculty, and researchers. Filled with full series of important newspapers, periodicals, documents, and other cultural materials, these databases serve as an important core for the TRC collection, as it is the only location in the United States where students can find these materials in one place.

**TECRO PROVIDES $87,000 OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Delegates from the Taipei Economic & Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), a branch of the Ministry of Education, Republic of China (Taiwan), recently visited the Global Resources Center at the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library. This long-time partner of GW was crucial in establishing both the Sigur Center for Asian Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs (ESIA) and the Taiwan Resource Center at the Gelman Library.

During this visit, these distinguished guests made a new commitment to provide $87,000 over three years to support GW’s Taiwan-related initiatives. A major portion of this generous funding—$60,000—will support the Taiwan Resource Center, one of six centers in the Global Resources Center, housed on the seventh floor of the Gelman Library. An additional $27,000 will fund courses and programming on Taiwan through ESIA’s Sigur Center.

Ta-Tung J. “Jacob” Chang, deputy representative, Republic of China (Taiwan), TECRO Washington, D.C. office; Dr. Michael E. Brown, dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs and professor of international affairs and political science; Steven Lerman, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; Chin-Sheng Chang, director, cultural division, TECRO; Edward A. McCord, associate professor of history and international affairs, director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, and director of the Taiwan Education and Research Program.
If you have a retirement plan, it’s easy to help provide world-class academic resources to GW’s world-class 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 IRA, 401(k), or other plan after your lifetime. Just complete a new beneficiary designation form that includes GW and its Tax ID number (53-0196584) and submit it to your plan administrator.

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

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

CALL: 877-478-7590
EMAIL: pgiving1@gwu.edu
ONLINE: go.gwu.edu/plannedgiving

Shannon’s retirement fund provision will support student aid with a preference for women with financial need.

“*It’s INCREDIBLE that you can TRANSFORM SOMEONE’S LIFE by providing them with opportunities to EXCEL.*” — SHANNON MOULTON, MVC BA ’90