From the Librarian

Celebrating the Completion of the Lutnick Library Project

BY TERRY SNYDER

Over the last 18 months, much of this column has reported on progress related to the planning, renovation, and construction of a new building—the Alison and Howard Lutnick Library. With great excitement, we announce the completion of that work! The building will support the richness of our intellectual program and enable us to advance the College’s commitment to academic excellence. The Lutnick Library features the Quaker & Special Collections; the Digital Scholarship Commons; an instruction and events space; a video viewing room; significantly improved and actively used classrooms; preservation of the heritage spaces; a café; a main gallery and several exhibition spaces; easily navigable and accessible collections; and a range of beautiful spaces for research, study, and collaboration.

At our dedication on October 26, we were able to celebrate the contributions of Perry Dean Rogers Partners (our architects), Whiting Turner (our construction management firm), Northstar (our owner’s representative), and those of the entire College community—students, faculty, staff, administration, board members, alumni, and donors. As part of the dedication ceremony, the community had a chance, first-hand, to see an array of programmatic highlights while taking in our beautiful building. The day’s offerings included:

• “Who Created the New and Copied the Old:” Printed Books of the Fifteenth Century, an exhibition (featuring the David Wertheimer, Class of 1977, Collection of Early Printed Books) in the Rebecca and Rick White Gallery. Alexandra Stern ’20 curated the exhibition. The exhibit catalog features her

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Each year, Haverford College selects approximately 15 first-year students to participate in the John P. Chesick Scholars Program. These outstanding students from under-represented or under-resourced backgrounds receive mentoring, gain leadership skills, and become part of a community that supports them academically throughout their four years at Haverford.

Libraries are naturally a part of the academic support system at any college. As such, it is no surprise that the Chesick Scholars have extensive engagement with the Libraries here at Haverford. Chesick Scholars are introduced to the program by taking credit-bearing courses the summer prior to their first year. These courses are designed to give them the skills necessary to succeed academically. One way that Chesick Scholars engage with the Libraries is by way of subject librarians, who provide group library instruction for these classes. The instruction gives the students a head start in how to do subject-specific and interdisciplinary information research for class assignments. Instruction builds critical thinking skills, such as how to refine a research question; how to develop a search strategy; how to search databases and evaluate results; and how to discern between primary and secondary sources. Librarians also invite Chesick Scholars to come for individual research help any time they need it.

In addition to receiving group and individual instruction, Chesick Scholars engage with the Libraries through employment opportunities. Chesick Scholars have worked for library departments including Access Services, Special Collections, Research and Instruction, and Digital Scholarship. They have performed a multitude of tasks, from creating exhibits and websites, to answering patron research questions and facilitating the movement of materials within the Tri-College community.

I spoke with two Chesick Scholars about their work on library projects:

Tania Ortega ’19 worked with the Digital Scholarship department on the GAM Digital Archive Project. She worked primarily on the case of an 18-year-old male who disappeared from Guatemala, analyzing personal letters his mother wrote on his behalf. Through her work on historical events, Tania says she learned to historicize and contextualize current events. For example, she looks at current family separations at the U.S. border through a different lens after working on the GAM project. She also has a deeper understanding of the causes of migration.

Matthew Ridley ’19 worked for the Special Collections department on committee archives of the Philadelphia Yearly Committee. He received folders of documents, organized them by date, and created new folders and boxes for them. He also created brief, informative descriptions, called research aids, of each box. Matthew says the most valuable takeaways from his work were learning the process of archival work; learning library terminology for organizing materials; learning how to take detailed notes and organize things efficiently; and learning project management skills.

It is heartening to hear the testimonies of these Chesick Scholars in support of their engagement with the Libraries. More importantly, the library staff are fortunate to work with this exceptional group of students.

-Carol Howe is science librarian
The David Wertheimer '77 Collection of Early Printed Books

BY ALEXANDRA STERN '20

*It takes a lot to move a hundred-odd* rare books across the country. During my time last summer working for the Library, I got a firsthand glimpse into what goes into a move of such magnitude. I was lucky enough to work with the David Wertheimer '77 Collection of Early Printed Books, a remarkable group of books printed in the first fifty years after the invention of the movable-type printing press, around 1450. With the help of a dedicated team of Haverford faculty, staff, and alumni, we transported the collection of books from coast to coast, and also built an exhibit to celebrate them. The exhibit, “Who Created the New and Copied the Old:” *Printed Books of the Fifteenth Century*, opened in October in the Rebecca & Rick White Gallery in Lutnick Library.

I served as the student curator for the exhibit. From June to August, it was my job to construct a narrative storyline around the collection. I had the pleasure of immersing myself in academic publications about early printing, and then composing all the labels, layouts, and literature for the exhibit. As part of the Lutnick Library dedication ceremony on October 26, I had the opportunity to give a curatorial lecture on early printing and the Wertheimer '77 Collection to an audience of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. Each of these elements of the project—the research over the summer, the construction of the thematic program of the exhibit, the composition of narrative text, and, finally, the opportunity to present my argument as a formal talk—was an invaluable opportunity to put the theory I have learned in the classroom about exhibit strategy and design into practice. Quite frankly, it is difficult to put into words just how much I enjoyed working on this project.

When I look back at my summer, however, I find myself coming back to the day that the books arrived. After their long journey from the West Coast, the collection finally arrived, snugly packed into boxes the size of a refrigerator. For an entire afternoon, I unwrapped book after book, opening each one like a present. There is something so special about holding a piece of history in your hands, especially pieces that you have been studying in depth and waiting to see. I think this is part of what makes the Haverford Libraries so special. Even as an undergraduate, I was trusted to handle these priceless objects. Despite my relative lack of training, I was invited to engage with the primary materials at a level unparalleled outside of a museum. This opportunity won't just end with me—these books will form the basis of projects, papers, and theses for generations of undergraduate students to come.

It’s something special to work with primary materials, but it’s also something special to work with the kind of people like the Libraries’ staff. Unpacking can be tedious, and even when the materials to be unpacked are exciting, the sheer volume of material to process can dull even the brightest enthusiasm. This day of unpacking books, however, was fun, and I think that can only be attributed to the humor and goodwill of Terry Snyder, Margaret Schaus, Bruce Bumbarger, Sarah Horowitz, and everyone else at the Libraries.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to have worked on this project with such a wonderful group of people,
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interpretive essay and one by David Wertheimer ’77, collector, donor, and Board member. Several smaller, student-curated exhibitions were located throughout the library: *Special Collections Across the Disciplines*, curated by Hannah Kolzer ’22; *The Life and Objects of Rufus Jones*, curated by Lily Sweeney ’23; and *Greek Vases from the Allen Collection*, based on the work of Jenna McKinley ’15.

• Visitors could handle and engage with additional rare materials in the William Marsden 1978 Quaker & Special Collections & Digital Scholarship Classroom as well as in the Frank & Serena Kafker Quaker & Special Collections Reading Room.

• In the J. Morris & Anne T. Evans Digital & Scholarly Communications Area, guests saw presentations on our ARTstor digital image repository; student textbook initiative; a new books display; and a geographic mapping of our library material purchases.

• Faculty publications, both print and those in our *Haverford Scholarship* repository, were presented by Kimberly Aguero ’22.

• Visitors to the Conservation Lab printed a broadside commemorating scholarship and the library’s dedication.

• In the Nan and Bill Harris Digital Scholarship Commons, guests explored digital scholarship projects; saw rare materials and imagined ways of exploring them through digital tools; experimented

Haverford community listening to President Wendy Raymond’s opening remarks at the dedication ceremony

Heritage reading room

Alex Stern ’20 presenting a curatorial talk

President Raymond & her husband, Dave Backus ’82, viewing a rare book from the Wertheimer Collection in the Rebecca & Rick White Gallery

President Raymond and Howard and Alison Lutnick at the dedication ceremony
with our Google Jamboards; and learned, through some fun and interactive exercises, how we build exciting projects.

- In the reference area of the library, guests explored physical copies of recent senior theses along with the digital thesis archive; they browsed outstanding titles added to the collections; and they engaged with librarians’ research in a range of subject areas through their publications.
- In the video viewing room, students from across the disciplines described their capstone experiences in streaming film clips from the Two Minute Thesis series.
- Guests also explored our RFID technology and came to appreciate how sources are made available through reserves and inter-library loan.
- We located useful, topically-related swag throughout the library as mementos for folks to take away and use.

The day closed with the dedication of a portrait of Rufus Jones followed by a reception and curator and collector’s talk. It was an exciting day! And the excitement continues—our gate count is triple that of our former library! In this issue, packed with photographs documenting the new space and dedication day, you will see for yourselves why we are all so excited about the future. We thank you for your support and good cheer throughout the project. Please come by for a visit!

-Terry Snyder is librarian of the College
A Look Inside the Lutnick Library

Magill heritage wing

New reading room and reference collection

Ramp entry and public computing area

Nan & Bill Harris Digital Scholarship Commons

Frank & Serena Kafker Quaker & Special Collections Reading Room
Community members engaging with Quaker & Special Collections materials used in teaching

Howard Lutnick speaking to the community

New reading room looking east

Café
Mike Zarafonetis, coordinator for digital scholarship & research services, in the Nan & Bill Harris Digital Scholarship Commons discussing the intersection of technology and texts

Roger Lane, emeritus professor of history, and Howard Lutnick sharing memories

Jolie Jaycobs ’20 at the environmental studies poster session

Bruce Bumbarger, library conservator, overseeing guests while they print a keepsake from the dedication ceremony
Lily Bennett ‘20 discussing her research on environmental studies

Terry Snyder, librarian of the College, thanking the community

Members of the Rufus Jones Society unveiling a portrait of Jones and announcing their support of a summer internship

Mallory Kastner ‘21 speaking with Bill Harris ‘47 at the poster session. Bill and his wife, Nan, endowed the environmental studies program for the College, and funded the Digital Scholarship Commons in the new library.
Mary Crauderueff, curator of Quaker Collections, has been invited to serve as the visiting Quaker archivist for the Africa Quaker Archives at Friends Theological College, Kaimosi, Kenya. The role is a collaborative project of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative and Friends Theological College. She visited the college in January to guide the first cataloging of materials, train individuals, and write a proposal for the next steps of the project. Mary is grateful to her colleagues for their support of this project, which will entail her being overseas for a month.

Sarah Horowitz, curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts and head of Quaker & Special Collections, presented on the panel “New Spaces for Old Things: The Realities of Renovations, Before, During, and After” at the Rare Books & Manuscript Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries conference in June. She also represented Haverford at the Lapidus Initiative Digital Collections Fellowship Symposium, where she discussed the Libraries’ “Beyond Penn’s Treaty” project.

Norm Medeiros, associate librarian of the College, and Richard Ball, professor of economics, conducted a faculty development workshop at St. Anne’s College, Oxford, in March 2019. Held in collaboration with the UK Reproducibility Network, the workshop drew 17 attendees from across Europe for the two-day event. 2018-19 TIER Fellow and TIER Executive Committee member Nicole Janz, University of Nottingham, and 2018-19 TIER Fellow Laura Fortunato, University of Oxford, were featured speakers and also helped to coordinate the successful event.

Margaret Schaus, lead research and instruction librarian, spoke at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in May on “Connecting Wider Audiences to Women’s Studies and Gender Scholarship.”

NEW STAFF:

Guillermo Gómez joined the College in July as Music Librarian and Coordinator for User Experience. Guillermo holds a B.M. in music composition from West Chester University and received his M.L.S. from Southern Connecticut State University. After graduation, Guillermo worked for the Theodore Presser Company and J.W. Pepper, where he learned about the music publishing world first hand. Guillermo began his library career 15 years ago at West Chester University’s Presser Music Library and most recently worked at Neumann University Library as acquisitions and reference librarian and at Bala Cynwyd Public Library as a reference librarian. Guillermo is delighted to be part of the Haverford College community and is looking forward to collaborating with the faculty, students, and staff of the Tri-College community. Outside of work, Guillermo enjoys composing and performing live music, reading, watching movies and documentaries, and spending time with family, friends, and his two beloved cats, Mischa and Lizzie.

College archivist & records manager Liz Jones-Minsinger joined the staff in June. Prior to coming to Haverford, she was the multimedia digital archivist at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. She received her M.A. from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and her Ph.D. in the history of American civilization from the University of Delaware. Her research and professional interests include material culture studies, information access, food history, archival description, and the history of gender and capitalism. In her free time, she enjoys playing board games, reading, and discovering new restaurants.

-Mike Persick is head of acquisitions & serials
Managing Electronic Resources Efficiently in the New Tripod

BY JOHANNA RIORDAN

In December 2018, the Tri-College Libraries moved to a new system for our shared library catalog. The new public interface runs on a system named Primo, and the staff module is named Alma. Because these two systems, both created by Ex Libris, were designed to work together, we are able to take advantage of myriad efficiencies and improvements, including providing improved access to and easier discovery of our electronic resources.

Our previous catalog ran on three back-end systems and two public interfaces. In the old Tripod, searches by library users displayed books, DVDs, CDs, and other media in one column, and journal articles in another. To determine if the library provided full-text access to a journal article or e-book, users would then have to click through to a different interface, the ‘FindIt!’ menu. Then they would either be directed to the full text or to request the resource via interlibrary loan. Our new discovery system, Primo, displays all of this information in users’ original search results, making research more efficient and less confusing.

The reduction in the number of back-end systems also means it now takes less time and effort for staff to integrate our systems. After acquiring a new e-journal, for instance, in the old system there could be a delay of up to a week from when staff made it available in the FindIt! menu to when the journal title would appear in Tripod. Now this delay averages fifteen minutes. Similarly, under the old system, only collections of e-journal packages were centrally maintained for subscribers to that package; with Alma, our centrally maintained collections include e-journals, e-books, and streaming video. This means that Tripod now accurately reflects changes in those packages more quickly for our students and faculty.

Finally, each of the Tri-Co libraries now has its own public version of the Tripod catalog, whereas before there was only one shared Tripod interface. With this change, library users can see what they actually have full-text access to based on their campus location. If they don’t have access, links to request the article or book chapter via interlibrary loan make that process much easier than it was under the previous iteration of Tripod.

We hope library users are finding that these changes are making research through Tripod easier and more efficient. Let us know what you think!

-Johanna Riordan is electronic resources librarian
We're open! See more photos of the new Lutnick Library inside.