**Exhibits**

**Perkins Gallery**

**April/July**

**Botanical Treasures from Duke’s Hidden Library**

This exhibit explores the beauty and importance of herbaria in furthering our understanding of the natural world and highlights our own “hidden library” of plants right here on campus—the Duke Herbarium. The Duke Herbarium is one of the largest herbaria in the United States and the second largest at a private U.S. university (after Harvard). With more than 800,000 specimens of vascular plants, bryophytes, algae, lichens, and fungi, it is a unique and irreplaceable resource used by local, national, and international scientific communities. The exhibit examines how herbaria work, explains how plant specimens are collected, and highlights some surprising stories from the field, like how Duke biologists recently named a newly discovered genus of ferns after Lady Gaga.

**July/October**

**Welcome to the Anthropocene?**

An•thro•po•cene / n. A proposed term for the present epoch during which humanity impacts and shapes the earth on par with existing geological forces.

In an instant of geologic time, humans have exploded into a global geologic force, significantly altering the planet’s oceans and fresh waters, atmosphere, soils, plants, and animals. By 2016, geologists will decide whether or not to rename our geologic epoch the Anthropocene. This exhibit, assembled by an interdisciplinary group of Duke faculty and graduate students, showcases an array of research, historical objects, and visualizations to explore four ways of telling the story of the Anthropocene and how humans are affecting the future of our planet.

**Perkins Library Student Wall**

**May/September**

**Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict**

This photographic exhibition, which grew out of a DukeEngage trip in 2012, brings together many views and experiences of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. The exhibit reveals both unique and everyday stories through a range of ordinary objects, with captions written in the words of those who own them. The stories behind these objects not only offer a glimpse into the everyday lives and memories of individuals, communities, and organizations involved in “The Troubles,” but also help visitors explore the nature, causes, and effects of conflict. Duke undergraduate Beth Blackwood T’14 helped prepare the original exhibition in Belfast and organized this adapted version in the library.

**Notes**

View the Libraries’ exhibits online at library.duke.edu/exhibits

Generally, the Perkins Gallery is open Monday-Saturday, 9am–7pm, and 10am–7pm on Sunday. Visit library.duke.edu/exhibits for more information, or call (919) 684-3009 to confirm hours.

We’re One of America’s “Most Beautiful College Libraries”

Travel and Leisure Magazine recently featured the Karl and Mary Ellen von der Heyden Pavilion in a feature on seventeen of academia’s most inspiring libraries. Part of the West campus library complex, the glass-enclosed von der Heyden Pavilion was designed by Boston-based Shepley Bulfinch, the same architectural firm that designed Bostock Library and the soon-to-be-renovated Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Spring School Librarian Retreat

In April, twenty-five librarians from five local school districts convened in Perkins Library to discuss common themes and issues they face in their own libraries and to share ideas. The retreat was organized by Dottie Black, coordinator of the Duke University Libraries PepsiCo K-12 Technology Mentor Program; Sandra-Hughes Hassell from the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill; and Pauletta Bracy from North Carolina Central University’s School of Library and Information Sciences. Topics included the role of librarians in the new Common Core standards that have been adopted by 45 states, and meeting the needs of a diverse student population in the school library. Connections were made, solutions proposed, and participants came away with ideas they could implement back in their school libraries. The PepsiCo K-12 Technology Mentor Program was created out of a desire by Duke University Libraries to provide better access to, support for, and integration of technology in Durham public school classrooms.
Learn About MOOCs at DukeForward in D.C.

On June 1, the Duke Forward campaign will host its next regional event in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the recent launch of the university’s $3.25 billion campaign and what it means for Duke’s future. One of the sessions at the D.C. event will focus on Duke’s recent foray into massive open online courses, or MOOCs. The session will be led by Lynne O’Brien, director of the Duke University Libraries’ Center for Instructional Technology, and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Chauncey Stillman Professor of Practical Ethics in the department of philosophy. Professor Sinnott-Armstrong co-teaches one of Duke’s most popular MOOCs, “Think Again: How to Reason and Argue.” This year, Duke offered eleven MOOCs—from neuroscience to astronomy—in partnership with Coursera, and the Libraries’ Center for Instructional Technology has played a leading role in supporting faculty with expertise and resources ranging from course design to online teaching strategies. The D.C. event is part of the campaign’s “On the Road” series celebrating the Duke community and showcasing outstanding student experiences, classes, research, and faculty. Other stops have included Atlanta, San Francisco, and New York, with an event in London scheduled for later in June.

Southern Poverty Law Center Donates Extremist Literature Collection

The Southern Poverty Law Center’s Intelligence Project has donated its extensive collection of materials documenting extremist and hate groups in the U.S. to the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The collection includes nearly 90 boxes of periodicals, pamphlets, flyers and other documents intended for distribution to group members and recruits over the past thirty years. At the Rubenstein Library, the collection will allow researchers to examine the histories of hate groups and efforts to monitor and infiltrate them. The collection adds to the Library’s Human Rights Archive, its rich collections for social movements in the United States, and its large existing collection of materials documenting the Ku Klux Klan from the 1860s to the present day. The collection will be made available to researchers after being prepared for use by the Rubenstein Library staff.
In Memoriam: Florence Blakely
On April 16, 2013, the Duke University Libraries lost a longtime friend and cherished colleague. Florence Ella Blakely (born September 3, 1923, in Clinton, South Carolina) spent thirty-eight years of her professional life at Duke, starting out as a reference librarian in 1948. She became the head of the reference department in 1956. Among her responsibilities was building a reference collection adequate to the needs of a top academic research library. Her knowledge of the collections and the interests of Duke faculty led to her promotion to the head of Collection Development in 1979. In January 1985, while a search for a new University Librarian was going on, she was appointed as Acting University Librarian and ably served in that position for six months. She retired in 1986. Not only was Florence highly regarded at Duke, but she was active in the American Library Association, the Southeastern Library Association, and the North Carolina Library Association. She was known and loved by many and always loved serving others. The Florence Blakely Award, the highest staff honor conferred by the Duke University Libraries, is named in her honor. She leaves behind many friends in Durham, at Duke, and throughout the library world.

Rubenstein Library Renovation Begins
The renovation of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library is now under way. The renovation encompasses the entire 1928 library building—West Campus’s original library—and its 1944 addition, including the iconic Gothic Reading Room and Biddle Rare Book Room. Those portions of the building will be closed to the public this May as construction work begins. The building will reopen in the summer of 2015 as the brand-new Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Meanwhile, Rubenstein Library staff, collections, and services have relocated to a temporary home on the third floor of Perkins Library and will remain open for students, visitors, and researchers throughout the duration of the project. We invite you to learn more, follow our progress, and participate in this historic transformation. For more information, including a timeline, FAQs, images, and floor plans, visit the Rubenstein Library Renovation website: blogs.library.duke.edu/renovation.

Notes

Students Leave Their Mark on the Library
Every year, about fifty library student workers graduate from Duke. Many of them have worked for the Libraries their entire four years here and have made indispensable contributions. In April, University Librarian Deborah Jakubs thanked them by hosting a reception in their honor. Because the Rubenstein Library will soon undergo a complete renovation, students were encouraged to write farewell messages on the wall outside the Gothic Reading Room. Many of them bid farewell to their department. Some wrote notes of appreciation for their supervisors. Throughout the end of the spring semester, all Duke students were encouraged to add a comment on the wall as a way of leaving their mark on a library that has left a mark on them.

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Student Bibliophiles Show Off Their Book Collections
On February 21, 2013, Duke undergraduate and graduate students gathered in Perkins Library to show off their personal book collections for the Andrew T. Nadell Book Collectors Contest. Since 1947, the Friends of Duke University Libraries have presented the contest in alternate years to promote reading for enjoyment and the development of students’ personal libraries. The 2013 contest is named for Dr. Andrew T. Nadell M’74, an avid collector in the areas of Gothic revival, doctors of medicine, and learned professions and occupations. Eighteen students participated in this year’s contest—a record turnout! To see a video of our student bibliophiles discussing the books they love best, visit youtube.com/dukeuniversitylibraries.

Mad Men Mondays
The sixth season of AMC’s hit TV series Mad Men debuted in April. Hoping to have some fun and also provide historical context for the show, the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History, part of the Rubenstein Library, launched a series of weekly blog posts called “Mad Men Mondays.” The posts feature actual historical advertisements that relate to the brands and products mentioned in the previous night’s episode. The Hartman Center is an international resource for all things advertising-related and has often consulted with Mad Men’s producers on period details and historical facts about the advertising industry. The “Mad Men Mondays” blog series was recently picked up by WUNC Public Radio and now also appears on their website every Monday. To check out the posts and learn more about advertising in the 1960s, visit the blog of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library: blogs.library.duke.edu/rubenstein. “Mad Men Mondays” will continue throughout the rest of the show’s season.
It’s a gorgeous April morning at Duke, and a tour group of high school students and their parents file through Perkins Library. “If you come to Duke,” their guide tells them, “the library is going to be your second home.”

Meanwhile, in the von der Heyden Pavilion, the line for coffee is starting to stack up during a break between morning classes.

Across town on East Campus, a sophomore history major is working in Lilly Library’s Multimedia Project Studio on a website for a class project.

And in an office in Smith Warehouse, Nancy Gibbs, Head of the Acquisitions Department, is testing a batch of Amazon Kindles that were just loaded with bestselling titles for library users to check out.

In this issue of the magazine, we wanted to capture a snapshot of the people, places, and everyday moments that comprise a typical day in one of the top research library systems in the country. The Duke University Libraries employ some 250 people full-time and around 200 part-time student workers and interns. Some serve on the front lines, others behind the scenes. But they all work together to meet the teaching and research needs of the entire Duke community, day in and day out.

University Librarian’s Office: Robert Byrd, Associate University Librarian for Collections and User Services (left), meets with Deborah Jakubs, Rita DiGiallonardo Holleyway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs, to discuss a planning study for a proposed Research Commons area in Bostock Library.

Library Service Center: Daniel Walker, Library Assistant, uses a special lift to retrieve and shelve items at Duke’s high-density, off-site repository. Each of the facility’s massive shelves is three stories tall and almost a football field long. The air inside is kept at a constant 50 degrees Fahrenheit with 30 percent humidity, ideal conditions for preserving books and paper. At full capacity, the Library Service Center could accommodate nearly nine million volumes—more than all the materials in Duke’s ten libraries combined.

Van der Heyden Pavilion: Students line up between classes to get their caffeine and sugar fix at Saladelia @ the Perk. Situated in the heart of campus, it is consistently one of the busiest and highest-grossing coffee shops in Durham. A popular study and hangout spot, it’s also known among Duke undergraduates as a place to see and be seen.

Lilly Library: Lee Sorensen (right), Librarian for Visual Studies and Dance, consults with a student on a research project.

Text by Aaron Welborn
Photographs by Mark Zupan
Shipping and Receiving Department, Perkins Library: David Burroughs, Material Control Supervisor, packs up interlibrary loan materials to be shipped to other libraries around the country where patrons have requested them. Every year, the Duke University Libraries borrow 27,000 items from other academic libraries and lend 23,000 from our own collections.

Smith Warehouse: Lynnda Baptist (left), Head of Holdings Management, and Lois Schultz, Catalog Librarian for Monographic Resources, work their way through books and periodicals originally cataloged in the Dewey Decimal system that need to be updated and reclassified in the Library of Congress system. The reclassification of the Libraries’ holdings began in 2004. Of the several million volumes that had to be reclassified, only a few thousand remain, representing the most intricate and time-consuming items to catalog.

The Link, Perkins Library: The Link is home to the main IT help desk for the university. Link staff field thousands of tech support requests every year covering a wide variety of computer questions and problems. Students and faculty can also check out multimedia equipment from the Link, including video cameras, iPads and iPods, webcams, and headsets.

Rubenstein Library: Will Hansen, Assistant Curator of Collections in the Rubenstein Library, tries to hunt down the answer to a reference question in the papers of Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Samuelson. Samuelson’s papers are part of the Economists’ Papers Project at Duke, the largest collection of modern economists papers in the world. The collection offers a valuable resource to researchers in the history of economic thought.

Multimedia Project Studio, Lilly Library: Students edit a video they made in the Multimedia Project Studio, or MPS. The MPS has two locations, one in Lilly Library and the newly opened West Campus location in the lower level of Bostock Library. Both labs feature high-end hardware and software for creating and editing graphics, web pages, audio, and video. As more faculty incorporate multimedia projects into their courses, the demand for graphic and video resources has dramatically increased.

Perkins Library Conference Room: Library staff line up for cake and refreshments at the Florence Blakely Awards Ceremony. The Blakely Award is the highest annual honor the Libraries confer to library staff. It is named for the late Florence Blakely, a 38-year Duke librarian who received national recognition for her outstanding service. This year’s Blakely Award recipient was Molly Bragg, Collection Move Coordinator in the Rubenstein Library. She was recognized for managing the complicated task of relocating 35,000 linear feet of rare books and archival materials to make way for the upcoming library renovation.

International and Area Studies, Bostock Library: Jörg-Hendrik Sohst (left) and his wife Julia pose in the office of Western European Studies Librarian Heidi Madden (right). Sohst is a senior lecturer in the Duke in Berlin Program. He is also an avid book collector and frequently donates items he finds to the Duke University Libraries. Here he presents Madden with a rare and specially bound facsimile of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s doctoral dissertation (1771), written in the form the 56 theses which Goethe was required to defend in public.
Server Closet, Perkins Library: Brad Williams (left), Head of Core Services, and Erick Larson, Senior System Administrator, check on the servers that power the Libraries’ rapidly expanding digital infrastructure.

Outside Bostock Library: Graduate student workers Drew Monger (left) and Matthias Kimmel collect books from one of the bookdrops outside Perkins and Bostock Libraries. The Libraries employ around 200 student workers each year. From checking out books to scanning documents, troubleshooting computers, shelving journals, and answering patron questions, students assist in almost every aspect of the Libraries’ day-to-day operations.

West Campus Quad: A school group stops in front of the Rubenstein Library during a campus tour. Hundreds of tours come through the main West Campus Library complex every year.

Smith Warehouse, Rubenstein Library Technical Services: Paula Mangiafico, Senior Processing Archivist in Rubenstein Library Technical Services, photographs an eighteenth-century paper doll self-portrait by Hermanus van Kleef, a Dutchman who died in 1775 at the age of 104. The item was an unexpected find while Mangiafico was processing materials in the History of Medicine Collections. Such curious discoveries are one of the daily joys of being an archivist.

Music Library: Old technology meets new. A student listens to a 1978 recording on vinyl and works on rhythm exercises on an iMac.

Tarasoff Meeting Room, Perkins Library: Collections and User Services staff meet to review mockups for an upcoming redesign of the Duke University Libraries website. The new website will be launched in October 2013.

Music Library: Old technology meets new. A student listens to a 1978 recording on vinyl and works on rhythm exercises on an iMac.

Perkins Library Gallery: Meg Brown, Exhibits Librarian, installs a new exhibit in the Perkins Library Gallery. Every year, the Libraries mount over a dozen exhibits in the Perkins Gallery, the Rubenstein Library Photography Gallery, the Rare Book Room cases, the Student Wall in Perkins Library, and other locations. The exhibits program highlights library collections, showcases student and faculty work, and fosters conversation between the academic community and the general public.

Perkins Library Shelving Department: Shawn Elder, Stacks Maintenance Specialist, interfiles a box of microfiche. The Stacks Maintenance staff shelf and relocate almost 5,000 items each week and keep library materials in order so that they’re easy for library users to find.

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Verne and Tanya Roberts Conservation Lab: Tedd Anderson, Conservation Technician, builds a custom enclosure for a nineteenth-century patent model for a cigarette rolling machine. It’s just one example of the many kinds of non-book materials the Libraries collect. Over the last year, the Conservation Services Department has made or fitted some 8,500 custom enclosures for materials that had to be moved for the Rubenstein Library renovation.

Library Administration Office: Administrative Office Staff Assistant Lynell Wiggins (left) and Jameca Dupree, Financial Analyst in the Business Office, track recent travel and business expenses and keep an eye on the Libraries’ budget.

Rubenstein Library: Daniel Strunk, a junior political science and economics double-major, looks at comic books from the Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. He’s working on a research paper about the Justice League of America series for Dean Gerald Wilson’s seminar, “Leadership in American History.” The Rubenstein Library is home to one of the largest archival comics collections in the world.

Electrical Closet, Perkins Library: Desktop Support Analyst Paul Wilshire works on the Ethernet circuits that provide wired and wireless internet access throughout Perkins and Bostock Libraries.

The Link: At night, Perkins and Bostock Libraries come alive. Students make use of white board walls in the Link as they work on end-of-the-semester projects and prepare for final exams.

Rubenstein Library: Workers set up scaffolding to remove a tapestry in the tower staircase of the Rubenstein Library. The tapestry is being removed in preparation for the upcoming library renovation. It has been on loan to the Libraries since 1986 from the Nasher Museum and will return to its proper home.

Services Desk, Perkins Library: Tzvetan Benov supervises the Perkins Library Service Desk in the evening. Library users check out more than 619,000 books and other items from the Libraries every year.

Library Administration Office: Administrative Office Staff Assistant Lynell Wiggins (left) and Jameca Dupree, Financial Analyst in the Business Office, track recent travel and business expenses and keep an eye on the Libraries’ budget.

Music Library: Music Librarian Laura Williams (right) and musicology Ph.D. candidate Samantha Aron examine a recently acquired facsimile of the Squarcialupi Codex (c. 1410), a lavishly illuminated manuscript of fourteenth-century Italian music.

Rubenstein Library, Outside Rare Book Room: Robert Astor, a seasoned locksmith who works in the Facilities Management Key and Lock Shop, punes to look at an exhibit on broadsides from the Rubenstein Library. Astor is in charge of keeping doors and locks in working order all over campus, including card readers, vault locks, the cabinets, building keys, and other secure access points throughout the Libraries.

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And it all happens in the course of another beautiful day at Duke!

Perkins Library: Who says print is dead? Students take advantage of free printing in the Libraries through ePrint, a popular campus-wide service.

Verne and Tanya Roberts Conservation Lab: Senior psychology major and work-study student Kaiti Dunlap builds custom enclosures for the Rubenstein Library’s fragile historical newspaper collection.

Smith Warehouse: Yonko Iliev, Order and Receipts Specialist for Japanese Language Materials, catalogs newly purchased Korean titles. Her computer is equipped with a special stylus and pad that allows her to write in Japanese or Korean script, which the computer can read.

Pearse Memorial Library, Duke Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC: Janil Miller, Librarian at the Duke Marine Lab, has just picked up some new books to put on reserve for a course on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. The course includes a field expedition to Puerto Rico to study the turtles in their natural habitat. The only Duke library with an ocean view, the Marine Lab Library primarily collects books, scholarly periodicals, and other resources focused on the marine environment.

The Link: The Link Media Wall features innovative multimedia projects by Duke students and faculty, like this one on gothic architecture.

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Smith Warehouse: Shelia Webb, Accounting Invoice Specialist in Acquisitions, shows what $16 million in invoices looks like. That’s approximately how much the Libraries spend each year to purchase collection materials. The money comes from university-allocated funds, endowments, grants, and gifts.

Von der Heyden Pavilion: Saladelia staff dish up coffee and tasty treats to an average 2,000 customers a day.


Her computer is equipped with a special stylus and pad that allows her to write in Japanese or Korean script, which the computer can read.

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This infographic summarizes key findings of the 2012 Duke Intellectual Climate Committee report. The report was commissioned by Duke’s student government in the wake of several media controversies to gain an understanding of what, if anything, should be improved about the university’s intellectual climate.

In partnership with Duke Institutional Research, the Intellectual Climate Committee conducted a student body survey. Committee chair Amanda Peralta then led an effort to analyze the survey results and develop appropriate visual representations.

In addition to providing valuable insights about campus life, the infographic was one of five finalists in our first data visualization contest, organized by the Libraries’ Data and GIS Services department. A panel of five judges from across campus evaluated submissions based on aesthetics and design, technical merit, the ability of the visualization to tell a story and generate insights, and novelty.

The purpose of the contest was to highlight outstanding data visualization work at Duke, and to celebrate recent upgrades to our lab space in Perkins Library, the Brandaleone Family Center for Data and GIS Services. To see more data visualizations by Duke students, visit bit.ly/visgallery. To see the Intellectual Climate Committee report and full set of visualizations, visit bit.ly/dukeicc.
Botanical Treasures from Duke’s Hidden Library

When you hear the word herbarium, you might think herb garden. Not so. Instead, think of an herbarium as a kind of library of preserved plants. But instead of shelves upon shelves of books, an herbarium contains cabinets upon cabinets of dried and labeled plant specimens. Unlike most books in a library, which can be repurchased or duplicated, each herbarium specimen is truly unique. It is a representative of plant biodiversity at a particular place and time in the history of life on earth.

A new exhibit in Perkins Library explores the beauty and importance of herbaria in furthering our understanding of the natural world and highlights our own “hidden library” of plants right here on campus—the Duke Herbarium.

The Duke Herbarium, located in the Biological Sciences Building next to the French Family Science Center, is one of the largest herbaria in the United States and the second largest at a private U.S. university (after Harvard). With more than 800,000 specimens of vascular plants, bryophytes, algae, lichens, and fungi, the Duke Herbarium is a unique and irreplaceable resource used by local, national, and international scientific communities.

The role of herbaria in housing and protecting plant specimens is invaluable. Herbaria are where biologists turn to identify plant species, check the validity of a newly described species, track how a species has changed over time, and even analyze how entire landscapes have been altered.

Herbarium specimens can yield information to help us better protect our plants. This is especially important today, when humans have a greater impact on the environment and plants are exposed to conditions they never would have encountered just a century ago.

Botanical Treasures from Duke’s Hidden Library examines the work of the Duke Herbarium, explains how plant specimens are collected, and highlights some surprising stories from the field, like how Duke biologists recently named a newly discovered genus of ferns after Lady Gaga!

The exhibit was curated by Layne Huiet, Senior Research Scientist and Vascular Plants Collections Manager, Duke Herbarium; Tiffany Shao T’12 (Biology), Associate in Research, Duke Herbarium; Anne Johnson T’13 (Biology); and Kathleen Pryer, Professor of Biology and Director of the Duke Herbarium.

Check Out the Exhibit
April 10 – July 14, 2013
Perkins Library Gallery, Duke West Campus
Public Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am–7pm; Saturday, 8am–7pm; Sunday, 10am–7pm
Hours may vary during the summer. Please check library.duke.edu for the latest information.

Visit Our Exhibit Website: exhibits.library.duke.edu

Opposite: Splachnum rubrum, commonly known as brilliant red dung moss. This page, clockwise from top left: Collecting plants in the wild is the first step in generating herbarium specimens; Trillium sulcatum, or Southern Red Trillium; close-up of the flowers of Physaria, commonly known as twinpod or bladderpod; the Duke Herbarium houses over 800,000 plant specimens.
Duke University Libraries will use new technologies to analyze some of the world’s oldest documents and artifacts through a new Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing (DC3), a unit of the Libraries that will advance scholarship in both classical studies and the digital humanities. Made possible by a $500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the DC3 will be led by a faculty director, Joshua D. Sosin, associate professor of classical studies and history at Duke, who will also assume a joint appointment within the Libraries.

This is the first time a tenured faculty member at Duke has an appointment in both the Libraries and an academic department. Sosin will continue to teach and serve as an active member of the faculty of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, dividing his time between the Department of Classical Studies and the Libraries.

“There is no precedent for what we’re doing,” said Deborah Jakubs, Rita DiGiulianardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs. “Librarians have been ‘embedded’ in various departments on campus for years, but we’ve never had a faculty member embedded in our work like this. This hybrid appointment will be a major step forward in establishing new roles and relationships among faculty and libraries that are the foundation for advancing scholarship.”

Classics was one of the first disciplines in the humanities to embrace digitization and computational analysis, and Duke has long been one of the leading institutions in the field. In the 1980s, the late Duke professors of Classical Studies William H. Willis and John F. Oates launched the Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri, which featured digital transcriptions of Greek and Latin texts written on ancient wooden tablets, papyri, and pottery. Some of these transcriptions come from Duke’s own collection of papyri, part of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The database now includes some 60,000 published Latin and Greek texts preserved at Duke and many other institutions around the world.

In 1996, Duke was among the first universities to digitize its papyri collection and make it freely available online, and the first to allow crowd-sourced editing of digitized texts by anyone in the service of scholarly knowledge. The online collection is widely used today by ancient historians, archaeologists, biblical scholars, classicists, Egyptologists and students of literature.

“The library is one of the few academic organizations with a core mandate to embrace both past and future,” said Sosin. “That’s heaven for an ancient historian, whose focus is ancient documents and the modern technologies we bring to bear on them. I’ve been collaborating with library colleagues for years, at Duke and elsewhere, and I’m thrilled now to be joining their team.”

Sosin now co-directs the Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri and serves on the executive committee of the Advanced Papyrological Information System, a consortium of papyri-holding institutions working to digitize and integrate their papyri collections online. He is also associate editor of the online open-access journal Greek, Roman & Byzantine Studies.

Sosin’s research focuses on the intersection of law, religion, and the economy in ancient Greece and Rome as preserved in papyri and ancient inscriptions. But he has also been actively involved for years in the development of digital infrastructures for humanities research.

Sosin has led an international team of classicists, programmers, and information scientists in another Mellon-sponsored project to bring four major digital resources in papyrology under a common technical framework (papyri.info) and open them up to crowd-based, peer-reviewed editing.

As faculty director of the DC3, Sosin will lead a team of two full-time programmers to enhance Duke’s existing digital papyrology projects and design new technological experiments with broad applicability within and beyond the field of classics. The DC3 will act as an incubator for innovative humanities scholarship and complement Duke’s other initiatives to re-imagine the role of the humanities in higher education, including the Franklin Humanities Institute’s humanities laboratories and the five-year Humanities Writ Large initiative in undergraduate education (also supported by the Mellon Foundation). Duke President Richard Brodhead has praised the humanities as “the fire that never goes out.” Interdisciplinary research is one of the priorities of Duke Forward, the $3.25 billion university-wide fundraising campaign launched in September.

The DC3 will officially launch in July 2013 and will be housed in Duke’s Perkins Library. Its first major initiative, according to Sosin, will likely involve Greek and Latin epigraphy, the world of public documents inscribed in stone that have survived from antiquity.

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Top: Joshua D. Sosin, Associate Professor of Classical Studies and History, and Director of the Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing.

Bottom: Papyri fragment from Duke’s collection. Duke was one of the first universities to digitize its papyri collection and make it freely available online.
Dumbwaiters, Tubes and Library Innovations 1940s-Style

Libraries have always been early and enthusiastic adopters of technology. But it’s easy to forget how the latest innovations can quickly come to seem outdated and quaint.

As we gear up for the renovation of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, we pause to remember a time not so long ago when the state-of-the-art in library science wasn’t digitized books and mobile apps, but dumbwaiters and pneumatic tubes.

Today, when you need a book from Perkins Library, you simply check the online catalog and head to the stacks to retrieve it. But if you were a Duke student in the 1940s and 1950s, you followed a very different procedure. First, you consulted the card catalog and wrote the call number on a slip of paper. Then you handed that to a staff member at the Circulation Desk, where it finally found its way into your hands. Presto! What could be more modern and convenient?

Although the dumbwaiter shafts have long since been walled in and the pneumatic tube system hasn’t been used in over fifty years, some of the terminals and tubes can still be seen in the part of the original 1928 stacks, which meant they were off-limits to most patrons. (Only faculty, graduate students, and some honors seniors were allowed to browse on their own.) Duke called on Lamson to install a tube system to help manage the flow of requests and materials between the original 1928 stacks, the newly constructed 1948 stacks, and the Circulation Desk. Some of Lamson’s tube terminals were ornately decorated with flower and vine motifs, but Duke had basic models with Lamson stamped on the bend and a wire basket underneath the tube opening to catch the canisters.

While such a system was efficient and effective in Macy’s, it proved ill-suited to Duke. A lack of staff meant each page was assigned to at least two floors, which caused delays if a request arrived when the page was deep in the stacks or on his “other” floor (or in the bathroom, for that matter). Although Lamson manufactured “independent terminals” from which messages could be sent and received, the system in Duke’s library only went one way: from the Circulation Desk to the stacks. This meant that the pages could not communicate with the Circulation staff if they had questions, causing further delays.

Eventually, it became clear that it was more efficient simply to keep the pages on duty at the Circulation Desk and send them upstairs with requests than to station them at the tube terminals. The tubes fell out of use by the late 1950s or early 1960s, though the stacks remained closed until the 1970s. Although library pneumatic tube systems were never common, and most fell out of use decades ago, Duke was not the only university to have one. The Bodleian Library at Oxford still used a pneumatic tube system.

Pneumatic tubes had been in use since the nineteenth century in post offices, banks, stores, hotels, offices, and factories to transport messages, orders, money, and even small packages. Such systems could be built over long distances and used even small packages. Each vintage pneumatic tube terminal was able to transport messages, orders, money, and even small packages. Each vintage pneumatic tube terminal was able to transport messages, orders, money, and even small packages. Each vintage pneumatic tube terminal was able to transport messages, orders, money, and even small packages. Each vintage pneumatic tube terminal was able to transport messages, orders, money, and even small packages.
Meg’s Picks
New and Noteworthy Books for the Business-Minded Reader
Reviewed by Meg Trauner, Director of Ford Library at Duke’s Fuqua School of Business

Why I Left Goldman Sachs
By Greg Smith
(Grand Central Publishing, 2012)
Greg Smith begins his career as an idealistic summer intern at Goldman Sachs, where he is surrounded by the best and brightest, all committed to Goldman’s Principle #1: Our clients’ interests always come first. Focused and competitive, Smith is promoted through the ranks to Vice President and head of U.S. equity derivatives in Europe. Yet after a dozen years at the firm, Smith is disillusioned as he learns that Goldman is only interested in facilitating trades between large institutions and generating optimum profits for partners. He resigns his position and publishes the notable op-ed piece in the New York Times titled, “Why I Am Leaving Goldman Sachs” (3/14/2012). Students interested in careers on Wall Street will find the detail about his resignation to be especially useful.

The Hour Between Dog and Wolf
Taking, Gut Feelings and the Biology of Boom and Bust
By John Coates
(Penguin, 2012)
This fascinating book takes a personal and engaging career, finding enduring happiness in relationships with family and close friends, and leading a life of integrity. While this book is written for graduating students, it is recommended for anyone wanting a life with purpose.

CRAZY SMART
Don’t be jealous, but here’s another great thing about being a student at Duke these days.
If a book is out-of-copyright (published pre-1923) and available in the library, you can have it digitized and download it to your Kindle or iPad. No more late fees or recalls, because you never have to return it. And it’s free! We’ll even put it online and share it with the rest of the world.
It’s called digitization-on-demand, and it’s just another way the Duke University Libraries are making a world-class academic experience even better.
That’s not just smart. That’s crazy smart.
Support for the Libraries through the Duke Forward campaign will help us advance the university’s highest academic priorities and prepare today’s forward-thinkers to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Moving Duke Forward

Support for the Libraries through the Duke Forward campaign will help us advance the university’s highest academic priorities and prepare today’s forward-thinkers to make a meaningful difference in the world.

How Far Along Are We?

$31 Million

Goal: $45 Million

How will you move Duke forward?
Visit dukeforward.duke.edu.