On the cover: Detail from Theodor de Bry’s *Historia Americae* (1634), a gift from Michael R. Stone T’84. For more, see the article on p. 10.

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library.duke.edu/magazine
Notes

How the Libraries Moved Duke Forward

A Sound Mind in a Sound Body
Exhibit Explores Health Advice for Scholars and Students

Literature as Life
An Excerpt from Speaking of Duke

One for the Books
National Library Week 2017

Endnote
Above: A weevil (family Curculionidae), one of many insects on display as part of the new Incredible Insects exhibit.

Below: Group portrait with Samuel Bourne and the Raja of Chamba and his retainers, date unknown.

June 15 – October 15

_Incredible Insects: A Celebration of Insect Biology_

Insects are the most numerous and diverse animals on earth. They can be found in almost every environment. Because of their tremendous diversity, they play many important roles in nature, as well as in human society—enchanting us with their beauty, unsettling us with their strangeness. Whether revered or reviled, these fascinating and ubiquitous organisms can truly be said to have conquered the planet. This exhibit offers a glimpse into the multifaceted world of insects, including research on insects conducted here at Duke.

Mary Duke Biddle Room

April 5 – July 22

_Royal India and the British: The Photography of Samuel Bourne and Raja Lala Deen Dayal_

The leading photographers of nineteenth-century South Asia were an Englishman, Samuel Bourne, and an Indian, Raja Lala Deen Dayal. This selection from their enormous bodies of work focuses on portraits of Maharajahs and their retinues and on the architecture of the Mughal emperors. The exhibit highlights images of wealth and power and captures a niche of luxury in India under the Raj.
July 25 – November 6
“I sing the body electric”: Walt Whitman and the Body
This exhibition of manuscripts, photographs, and printed works showcases Walt Whitman’s musings about the human body in the context of his life and the world he lived in. Whitman’s poetry frequently examined the connection of the physical and spiritual, and he often used physical descriptions of himself as part of his own mythologizing. The exhibit examines Whitman’s interest in health theories and fads and how he was influenced by the time he spent comforting Civil War soldiers in hospitals.

Stone Family Gallery
Ongoing
Newly Acquired and Newly Accessible: Selections from the Rubenstein Library
The Stone Gallery features an ongoing display of materials that demonstrate the breadth of collections in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, including some of our newest acquisitions and initiatives. Materials on display change throughout the year. The Stone Gallery also features the writing desk of author Virginia Woolf, acquired and put on permanent display as part of the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection.

Trent History of Medicine Room
March 28 – July 22
A Sound Mind in a Sound Body: Health Advice for Scholars and Students
The items in this exhibit trace the history of medical advice written specifically for scholars and students and reflect the wide range of approaches to scholarly health. For more, see the article on p. 22.

Rubenstein Library Photography Gallery
March 3 – July 9
There’s Content: Five Years of the Master of Fine Arts in Experimental & Documentary Arts
In collaboration with the MFA program’s Power Plant Gallery, Duke’s MFA program in Experimental & Documentary Arts celebrates its fifth anniversary with the presentation of a joint exhibition. The exhibit features pieces from the Archive of Documentary Arts’ collection of alumni thesis work as snapshots of the accomplishments of the program’s beginning years. Likewise, the Power Plant exhibit showcases new works by alumni.

July 14 – November 5
Dream of a House: The Passions and Preoccupations of Reynolds Price
Reynolds Price (1933–2011), who taught at Duke for more than five decades, was one of America’s most notable writers of the past half-century. Confined to a wheelchair for the last twenty-seven years of his life, Price surrounded himself at home with art and objects that he loved. Through his home, Price conveyed his interior life in a way that few were able to experience—until now. After Price died, Alex Harris, Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Documentary Studies at Duke, was asked by the Price family to document the house before it was sold and the art collection disassembled. In this exhibit, carefully selected excerpts from Price’s writings are interwoven with Harris’s photographs, taking the viewer on a guided tour of the author’s private world.

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

Newly Digitized Collections on Slavery, Abolition, and British Methodism
Recently, we published several new digitized collections, including American Slavery Documents, which contains hundreds of items documenting the sales, escapes, and emancipations of slaves from colonial times through the Civil War. Other recently digitized collections include the Frank Baker Collection of Wesleyana and British Methodism, containing correspondence of Methodist founders John and Charles Wesley, and a collection of hundreds of papers about the British politician and social reformer William Wilberforce (1759–1833) who was a leader in the movement to abolish slavery. All of these collections are available to adopt through our new Adopt a Digital Collections Program.

New Saturday Hours for Rubenstein Library Exhibits
As of earlier this spring, the Rubenstein Library exhibit suite (Mary Duke Biddle Room, Stone Family Gallery, and Trent History of Medicine Room) will be open for limited hours on the weekend. Now library visitors will have even more opportunities to see Virginia Woolf’s writing desk, our double-elephant folios of Audubon’s Birds of America, and many other treasures from the Rubenstein Library. The new hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
K-12 Teachers Use SNCC Digital Gateway to Develop Lessons on Civil Rights Movement

This summer, Mississippi’s Tougaloo College will host a one-week institute for up to fifteen Mississippi teachers to develop K-12 lessons on the Civil Rights Movement, drawing on the new SNCC Digital Gateway developed collaboratively by the Duke University Libraries, Center for Documentary Studies, and the SNCC Legacy Project. Teacher participants will learn from and collaborate with scholars and movement veterans to develop their lesson plans, which will draw heavily on digital archival content. Tougaloo College is leading the initiative, in partnership with Teaching for Change, a leading organization in Civil Rights pedagogy. Made possible by the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the SNCC Digital Gateway tells the story of how young activists in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee united with local people in the Deep South to build a grassroots movement for change that empowered the black community and transformed the nation. Learn more at snccdigital.org

Rascoff Named Associate VP for Digital Education and Innovation

Earlier this year, Matthew Rascoff, who oversaw the development and support for online and technology-enhanced learning in the University of North Carolina system, was named Duke’s Associate Vice Provost for Digital Education and Innovation. In this role, Rascoff succeeds Lynne O’Brien, who retired last fall after eighteen years at Duke. Rascoff has primary responsibility for setting Duke’s digital education strategies, in collaboration with the provost, faculty leaders, and Duke administration. He also oversees the Center for Instructional Technology (CIT), a unit housed within the Duke University Libraries, providing overall direction for CIT to meet the needs of faculty.

Rubenstein Library Books Part of NC Museum of Art Exhibit on Venice

A recent exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of Art included some beautiful examples of early printed books from the Rubenstein Library. The exhibit, titled The Glory of Venice: Renaissance Painting 1470–1520, explores the city’s artistic and cultural evolution from the second half of the 1400s to the early 1500s as it developed into an internationally recognized center of pictorial excellence—including printing excellence. Henry Hebert, Conservator for Special Collections (pictured at left), visited the museum to personally install the Rubenstein volumes, which included a rare 1493 copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle, an edition of Dante’s Divine Comedy printed by Venice’s famous Aldine Press, and several other works. The exhibit was on display March 4 – June 18.
Congratulations to the 2017 Nadell Book Collectors Contest Winners

Students have always been heavy readers, but there are some students who go the next step and start collecting. Book collecting is inherently personal, expressing the student’s interest in reading for enjoyment. To encourage student book collectors, the Friends of the Duke University Libraries present the Nadell Book Collectors contest in alternate years. The contest, which is named after Dr. Andrew T. Nadell M’74, is open to undergraduates and graduate students. Winners receive a cash award. This year’s undergraduate winners include Jessica Lee (first prize) and Caroline del Real (second prize). Graduate students Colin O’Leary and Jason Todd tied for first prize, with second prize going to Brent Caldwell.

Librarians Crosstrain as Copyright Consultants

A group of eleven Duke library staff recently finished an intense two-week course on copyright law and how it applies in libraries and universities. The course was led by David Hansen, Director of Copyright and Scholarly Communications in the Libraries, and was designed to help librarians develop a better understanding of copyright law and what it protects. Libraries and archives collect and manage more copyrighted works than any other group of institutions in the world. However, library users don’t always know what types of uses are permissible and how exceptions such as fair use apply. The Copyright Consultants program is designed to give librarians the expertise needed to field copyright questions themselves and understand when complex issues require further referral.
Trent Fund Supports Library Projects with Global Focus

The Josiah Charles Trent Memorial Foundation Endowment Fund provides modest grants to Duke faculty and staff members for projects that might not otherwise be funded. Two library projects were recently awarded Trent Fund grants. The first is a weeklong series of events around immigration in the Mediterranean, organized by Patrick Stawski, Human Rights Archivist, and Holly Ackerman, Librarian for Latin American, Iberian and Latino Studies. The key guest will be Malta-based photojournalist and humanitarian Darrin Zammit Lupi. The second grant, awarded to Sean Swanick, Librarian for Middle East and Islamic Studies, will support an exhibit and conference this November on Turkish political cartoons and satirical magazines from the 1800s to the present. The exhibit and conference are being co-organized by Duke professors Erdal Göknar and Didem Haviğlu. The Libraries are grateful to the Trent Fund for their support.

Inconceivable! Lilly Library Celebrates 30,000 DVDs with Princess Bride Screening

This spring, Lilly Library celebrated a milestone when its DVD collection soared past 30,000 titles. The 30,000th addition was a new copy of The Princess Bride, the much-beloved fairy tale comedy from 1987 that blends romance and adventure. The film was suggested by members of the First-Year Library Advisory Board, who proposed selecting a fun film from thirty years ago. Library staff celebrated the benchmark with a DVD-shaped cake and a free public screening of the film at the East Campus Union. The first DVD acquired by Lilly Library was the French film, The Last Metro, and it marked the beginning of a highly regarded collection brimming with classic films, international and global films, serious documentaries and ever popular animated films.

See blogs.library.duke.edu for more library news
In September 2012, Duke University launched Duke Forward, the most significant fundraising campaign in its history. The comprehensive $3.25 billion campaign supported strategic priorities across the university, with a goal of raising $45 million for the Duke University Libraries.

Generous hearts and minds responded to the call to make Duke's Libraries the best they could be. Thanks to the support of our donors, we have raised (as of the time of this publication) over $63 million during the campaign—over 140 percent of our goal—a success that belongs to everyone who treasures and remains bonded to a great library at the heart of a great university.

As the pages in this publication show, Duke Forward is already making an impact across every one of our strategic priorities, and its reverberations will continue to be felt for years to come. Across two campuses and the Duke Marine Lab, students and faculty gather in our libraries to exchange ideas, explore our collections, participate in cultural events, and experiment with innovative tools that enrich teaching and learning. Each one of them is part of the legacy of this campaign.

We are proud of the progress we have made over the last five years. We hope you will be inspired by a few of the outcomes highlighted here. But this isn’t simply the culmination of a years-long effort. It is a jumping-off point for even greater things we can accomplish together.
Few parts of Duke have been transformed so completely in recent years as its libraries. During the Duke Forward campaign, we completed two major renovations and expansions that have greatly enhanced the research support and gathering space we provide for today’s students and scholars. Thanks to careful planning, the experience of every library user who walks through our doors has been enhanced by these state-of-the-art facilities that are designed with both form and function in mind.

Example of Impact

Rubenstein Renovation Completes Perkins Project

On the first day of fall semester classes in August 2015, the doors of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library opened to the public, after nearly three years of careful renovation. It represented a crowning finish to the Perkins Project, an ambitious fifteen-year-long initiative to renovate and expand Duke’s West Campus libraries that began in the year 2000.

The total cost of the Rubenstein renovation was close to $60 million, but it was David M. Rubenstein’s historic $13.6 million gift that enabled us to get started on creating a model special collections library. The renovation transformed one of the university’s oldest and most iconic buildings into a state-of-the-art research facility, expanded our onsite collection capacity, more than doubled classroom and exhibition space, refreshed three historic rooms, and turned the library into one of the most popular event venues on West Campus. The library’s main entrance was also redesigned to give the entire library complex a more unified and welcoming presence on the historic Abele Quad.

Best of all, since the Rubenstein opened, we’ve welcomed a record-breaking number of visitors to our reading room who are there to consult our rare and unique scholarly materials. More than half of them every year are Duke students.
Example of Impact

The Edge Draws Teams Together

What if you took a bunch of people doing interesting research from across campus, put them in an environment where they could interact and inspire each other, threw in some cool technology for them to experiment with, and watched what happened?

That was the concept behind The Edge: The Ruppert Commons for Research, Technology, and Collaboration—an attractive research incubator space on the first floor of Bostock Library designed to support interdisciplinary, team-based, data-driven research at Duke.

Construction on The Edge started in 2014 and lasted eight months. The space is equipped with tools and workspaces for digital scholarship, reservable rooms for project teams, and expert library staff who can consult on data management, digital project support, and other technology-focused services. Since it opened in January 2015, The Edge has quickly become one of the most popular destinations on campus.
Example of Impact

A Major Acquisition: The Lisa Unger Baskin Collection

In April 2015, the Rubenstein Library acquired one of the largest and most significant private collections of women’s history, documenting the work and intellectual contributions of women from the Renaissance to the modern era.

The Lisa Unger Baskin Collection includes more than 10,000 rare books and thousands of manuscripts, journals, items of ephemera, and artifacts. Among them are many landmarks of women's history and literature, as well as lesser-known works by female scholars, printers, publishers, scientists, artists, and political activists.

Noteworthy acquisitions like the Baskin Collection facilitate archival research, attract visiting scholars and top faculty, and open students’ eyes to first-hand historical realities. “Because of Duke’s powerful commitment to the central role of libraries and to digitization in teaching, it is clear to me that my collection will be an integral part of the university in the coming years and long into the future,” said Baskin when the acquisition was announced.

The work to process this extraordinary collection will take several years. Materials are made available as soon as they have been cataloged. We welcome additional gifts to support cataloging, conservation, and other work that will expand access to the collection.

Example of Impact

Iconic Civil War Photography: Gardner and Barnard’s Photographic Albums

In 2013, the Rubenstein Library’s Archive of Documentary Arts celebrated two noteworthy acquisitions. Alexander Gardner’s *Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War* and George N. Barnard’s *Photographic Views of Sherman’s Campaign*, both published in 1866, contain some of the most iconic—and graphic—images of the American Civil War. Together, they are among the most important pictorial records of the conflict, not to mention outstanding examples of early American photography.

A century and a half later, the images still shock with the raw devastation of war, showing battle locations, encampments, troop headquarters, officers and enlisted men, soldiers in the field under fire, corpses, and the ruins left after Sherman’s famous March to the Sea. But they also preserve fleeting moments of life moving on, leaving researchers with the opportunity to understand the evolution of documentary photography from its earliest inception.

We are grateful to the B. H. Breslauer Foundation for their generous support of the acquisition of Gardner’s *Sketch Book*. 
The Duke Forward campaign also marked a turning point for the Rubenstein Library's collection of rare maps and atlases, thanks to the generosity of collector and Library Advisory Board member Michael R. Stone T'84. Stone donated several spectacular volumes to our collections, including Georg Braun's (1541-1622) *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* (The Cities of the World), the earliest systematic city atlas. Published in six folio volumes between 1572 and 1635, the *Civitates* portrays more than 450 cities across Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America in hand-colored engravings. Another important work is Théodore de Bry's *Historia Americae sive Novi Orbis* (The History of America), published in 1634 in 13 parts, the collection presents more than a century of European effort to take possession of the New World, the earlier systematic city atlas. Published in six folio volumes between 1572 and 1635, the *Civitates* portraits, the “Elenchus,” which was printed separately and gives a comprehensive view of the American voyages and the order in which they should be read. Only six known copies of the “Elenchus” remain. The Rubenstein Library holds all 13 parts, including the “Elenchus,” published during the early golden age of European exploration. The Rubenstein Library holds more than 450 copies across Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. Stone donated several spectacular volumes to our collections, including hand-colored engravings. The backbone of every great library is the strength of its unique collections. Our collections transform disciplines by facilitating archival research and discovery, attracting visiting scholars and top faculty whose work depends on the richness of resources, and establishing the university as a leader in critical fields. Over the past five years, we have added spectacular primary materials to our collections, expanding in important areas that align with Duke's academic and research priorities.
The internet has become the primary way people find and use information. That’s why we’ve been mounting a digital modernization effort that is just as significant as our brick-and-mortar renovations. Investments in our technical infrastructure, developing our digital collections, and expanding staff expertise ensure that the Libraries will continue to attract pre-eminent researchers and teachers for generations to come.

Example of Impact

The Gift of Digital Preservation: Adopt a Digital Collection

Every year, we digitize thousands of historical documents, images, audio, and video, converting them to new formats that will outlast the originals. Although digitization greatly increases access to such materials, preservation standards require libraries to store multiple copies in multiple locations. That means that a single digitized collection can add up to a truly massive amount of data.

In 2016, Lowell and Eileen Aptman created the Digital Preservation Fund to offset storage costs associated with long-term digital preservation. This generous gift allowed the Libraries to create the Adopt a Digital Collection program, which ensures that our existing digital collections remain on our “digital shelves” for as long as the internet is around. Each time a student or researcher accesses one of our adopted digital collections, they are doing so thanks to the help of our donors.

“We wanted to find a single, well-defined project which would have a positive impact on the Libraries,” said Anne Newton T’73, who adopted the Women’s Travel Diaries collection with her husband Bill. “I’ve always been intrigued by the intimate nature of diaries and was thrilled to think that we could enable the information locked away in these archived volumes to be digitized, preserved, and made more easily accessible. This is a project that Bill and I are both proud to support.”

Thanks to the Aptman family and other digital collections supporters, we can expand our capacity to support long-term preservation of important cultural and scholarly resources, making them accessible for students and scholars far into our future.
Example of Impact

The Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing

Formed in 2013 thanks to a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing (or DC3 for short) uses new technologies to analyze some of the world’s oldest documents and artifacts. The unit is led by Joshua D. Sosin, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, who holds a joint appointment within the Libraries.

Sosin leads 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 acts as an incubator for innovative humanities scholarship and complements Duke’s other initiatives to reimagine the role of the humanities in higher education.

“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.”
Example of Impact

The SNCC Digital Gateway

In the 1960s, young activists from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) united with local communities in the Deep South to build a grassroots movement for change. Fifty years later, the SNCC Legacy Project has come together with the Duke University Libraries and the Center for Documentary Studies to launch two documentary websites that tell the story of these activists.

Thanks to a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, undergraduate and graduate students at Duke, along with archivists, historians, and veterans of SNCC, built the One Person, One Vote website (onevotesncc.org), which launched in March 2016. The site uses the experiences of individuals to tell the story of voting rights, weaving together the accounts of the movement with digitized primary sources.

One Person, One Vote was the pilot initiative of a larger collaboration between Duke University and the SNCC Legacy Project. A new documentary website, the SNCC Digital Gateway (snccdigital.org), takes a detailed look at how SNCC organized African American communities to take control of their political and economic lives.

Courtland Cox, chairman of the SNCC Legacy Project, served as an organizer in Mississippi and Alabama in the 1960s. “Our experiences have created a level of information wealth that we need to pass on to young people,” he said. “This unprecedented collaboration with Duke University hopefully will pilot a way for other academic institutions to re-engage history and those who make it.”

Example of Impact

Behind the Glass: The Duke University Libraries Exhibits Program

Effective exhibits are easy to enjoy and appreciate, but they are anything but easy to produce. A lot of behind-the-scenes work goes into every exhibit you see at the library.

Established in 2010 with support from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Duke University Libraries exhibits program works to reflect the activities, scholarship, ideas, and culture of Duke and display it for the public to share and explore. Exhibits in the Libraries not only showcase materials from our collections, but also offer students the opportunity to learn how to present their own work in interesting and thought-provoking ways.

Meg Brown, the Carpenter Exhibits Librarian, often goes to great lengths to ensure that our exhibits support the work of the Duke community. “Exhibits play an important role in the education and outreach mission of the Libraries,” she says. “They also showcase the breadth and diversity of what a great library system like Duke’s has to offer.”

Since the reopening of the Rubenstein Library in 2015, the exhibits program has been able to stretch its wings in the new gallery spaces. About fifty visitors per day stop by the Mary Duke Biddle Room, the Trent History of Medicine Room, and the Michael and Karen Stone Gallery. Hundreds more walk through the Photography Gallery and the Chappell Family Gallery as they enter the Libraries, experiencing whatever is on display. All of our exhibits are free and open to the public.
Example of Impact

Duke University Libraries Present: The Weaver Lecture

William B. Weaver was a 1972 Duke graduate and a founding member of our Library Advisory Board. After Bill died in 2000, his wife Beth endowed the Weaver Memorial Lecture series as a way of keeping his memory alive at the institution he loved. The lecture is hosted every other year, and it brings some of today’s most engaging authors and personalities to campus.

Over the years, Weaver Lecture speakers have included such celebrated authors as Barbara Kingsolver, Oliver Sacks, Dave Eggers, Siddhartha Mukherjee and, most recently, presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, who spoke in a public conversation with David M. Rubenstein, chair of the Duke University Board of Trustees, in 2015.

The next Weaver Lecture will take place in fall 2017.

The Duke University Libraries are the intellectual and social center of the university. Every year, we host dozens of public events, including workshops, exhibits, book talks, film screenings, symposia, music performances, award ceremonies, and other programs that foster conversation between the academic community and the general public. Expanding public programming ensures that the Libraries are not only sanctuaries of quiet study and scholarly discovery, but also places of inspiration, conversation, and delight. Here are just a few highlights of public programs that have been made possible thanks to philanthropic support.
Our librarians and skilled staff provide invaluable service to the Duke community. These are the men and women who work together to meet the teaching and research needs of the entire Duke community, day in and day out. They’re accomplished specialists versed not only in their particular academic fields, but also in how to find, organize, preserve, and share the wealth of material available in today’s information-driven society. Philanthropic investment during the Duke Forward campaign has allowed us to attract and support innovative librarians, technologists, and archivists—such as those highlighted here.

Example of Impact

Endowed Conservator Position Extends Life of Library Holdings

In 2011, the Libraries received a $1.25 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a new senior conservator position to help care for the Libraries’ extensive research collections. An additional $1 million gift from the Carpenter Foundation helped to permanently endow the position.

Beth Doyle is the Leona B. Carpenter Senior Conservator and Head of the Conservation Services Department. She says that the endowment has helped the Libraries address a growing need to preserve and make accessible a wide variety of materials that are currently unavailable to researchers or could be damaged by use because of their fragile condition.

“This endowment not only helps our department fulfill its mission to ensure the use of our collections by current and future patrons, but it demonstrates a long-term and deeply-held commitment to the materials we acquire,” said Doyle. “With proper care and conservation, our collections can continue to be an essential part of research, teaching and scholarly communication at Duke University.”

Duke’s experienced team of library conservation professionals serves as a local and regional resource on a range of conservation-related issues. The demand for skilled conservation professionals has never been higher, as historic library collections age and technology poses new questions about long-term access to information.
Example of Impact

Endowed Directorship Helps Preserve Women’s History

In 2011, journalist, activist, and women’s health care pioneer Merle Hoffman endowed the directorship of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture to ensure sustained leadership of the Center. Hoffman has played a key role in defining and defending women’s human and reproductive rights for over forty years.

“We’re pleased and grateful for this gift because it associates Merle Hoffman’s name with the directorship, creating an enduring connection between the Bingham Center and Hoffman’s outstanding contributions to the health, safety, and empowerment of women,” said current Bingham Center director Laura Micham. “The gift has enabled us to expand our activities and impact, bringing us closer to our goal of building one of the premier research centers for women’s history and culture in the world.”

In 2014, Micham was honored with a career achievement award by the Association of College and Research Libraries Women and Gender Studies Section. The award honors significant long-standing contributions to women’s studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career. The award announcement cites Micham’s expertise, advocacy for archives, leadership, vision, and her proactive work with students.

Laura Micham

Merle Hoffman
“It is an old complaint,” wrote the eighteenth-century Swiss physician Samuel-André-Auguste-David Tissot, “that study, though essentially necessary to the mind, is hurtful to the body.”

Since antiquity, much ink has been spilled on the potential health hazards of a life of sedentary study, which can include loss of vision, cramped posture, consumption, melancholia, bad digestion—even hemorrhoids.

Given the dire nature of these warnings, scholars and students have for centuries turned to medical guides for advice on how best to counteract the effects of “hard study.” While such guides often vary as to specifics, all commend some form of attention to diet, exercise, and regimen as the key to a long and healthy life. The common refrain uniting them all is that ancient ideal—mens sana in corpore sano, a sound mind in a sound body.

A new exhibit in the Trent History of Medicine Room, on display through July 14, traces the history of medical advice written specifically for scholars and students—including Duke students. A few highlights are shown here.


This satirical image by Johann Schellenberg (1740-1806) of a scholar being crushed to death under the weight of his own books is an ironic reminder of the futility of learning and of the scholar’s inevitable fate.
Upon its introduction to Europe in the sixteenth century, tobacco attracted both praise and scorn. Promoters celebrated it as a stimulus for inspiration and thought and touted its supposed medicinal benefits. Others condemned it as an idle vice. Giles Everard, a sixteenth-century Dutch physician, wrote in praise of “this noble Plant.” His *Panacea*, first published in Latin in 1587, was translated into English in 1659. Its frontispiece depicts Everard at his desk, surrounded by scholarly trappings, with a pipe in one hand and an open book in the other. The image establishes a direct link between smoking and scholarship. “Scholars use it much,” writes Everard, “and many grave and great men take Tobacco to make them more serviceable in their callings.”
For nineteenth-century education reformers, the cultivation of the mind went hand-in-hand with the cultivation of the body. Physiology became an increasingly important part of the curriculum, as indicated by the proliferation of textbooks on the subject, such as this one by New Hampshire physician and popular lecturer Calvin Cutter (1807–1873). These “catechisms of health,” as one historian calls them, played an important role in acquainting schoolchildren with the “laws of health.”

The nineteenth century also opened new educational opportunities for women. Physiology, hygiene, and physical education were important parts of the curriculum at American female academies and seminaries. An advocate of women’s education, Catharine Beecher (1800-1878) founded the Harford Female Seminary in 1823 and the Western Female Institute in 1831. After suffering from an illness, Beecher developed a system of calisthenic exercises, popularized in her *Physiology and Calisthenics for Schools and Families* (1856). “When physical education takes the proper place in our schools,” Beecher claimed that “young girls will be trained in the class-rooms to move head, hands and arms gracefully; to sit, to stand, and to walk properly, and to pursue calisthenic exercises for physical development as a regular school duty as much as their studies.”


By the beginning of the twentieth century, physical education had become a staple of most college curricula, even as colleges were beginning to participate in organized sports. Wilbur Wade Card (1873–1948) entered Trinity College (now Duke) in 1895. After graduating, Card left Durham to pursue graduate study in physical education at Harvard. In 1902, President John Carlisle Kilgo invited him to return as the director of Trinity’s new physical education program, a position Card held until his death. For one dollar, Card sold packets of cards like these containing “Health Hints” and instructions for various calisthenic poses.
Richard H. Brodhead was the president of Duke University and William Preston Few Professor of English from 2004 to 2017. During that time, he spoke at numerous university ceremonies, community forums, and faculty meetings, and even appeared on The Colbert Report. His new book, Speaking of Duke: Leading the 21st-Century University, collects more than three dozen of his finest speeches.

The following remarks were given at the induction ceremony of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on October 9, 2004. The academy elects members in five categories, and Brodhead was asked to speak for the humanities and the arts.

It’s an honor to speak for Class Four of new members of the Academy. As students of rapids know, Class Four events are massively energetic and thrilling but typically not life-endangering. That fits the humanities and the arts, and no doubt explains why we were assigned this number. I won’t speak here as a professional humanist, still less as an administrator of the modern home of the humanities, the university. Instead I’ll say a word about the founding need for this form of human practice, and with your permission I’ll make it personal.

I knew poetry from the days of nursery rhymes, but the first time I “got” it was in my fourteenth year. I remember the moment fairly vividly. I was in high school not thirty miles from here and at the low-water mark of self-esteem. Each day, changing classes, my fellows would parade past, every one of them an image of some adequacy I lacked: this one cooler, that one more handsome, this one more popular, that one more athletic. Doing my homework one day, I started into a Shakespeare sonnet where I was met by these lines:

*When in disgrace with Fortune and men’s eyes,*  
*I all alone beweep my outcast state,*  
*And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,*  
*And look upon myself and curse my fate,*  
*Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,*  
*Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,*  
*Desiring that man’s art, or that man’s scope,*  
*With what I most enjoy contented least . . .*  
*(Shakespeare, Sonnet 29)*

That’s me! I could have cried. How did he guess?

This was my first recognition of the power of someone else’s creation to give voice to my experience, an experience self-imprisoned and un-self-knowing until a stranger’s words brought it to expression. But soon thereafter, I learned another primitive power of art. That same spring I read the first poem I ever really loved (I must have been going through a sort of literary puberty), Wordsworth’s “Tintern
Abbey,” which flooded me with nostalgia for the more intense experience lost with my youth. It was some years before I realized that I had not in fact lost my youth at the time when its demise seemed so drenched in pathos. When I recognized this fact, I learned that this poem had not so much voiced my experience as induced a new experience, given me access to a state of feeling that I knew through the poem that I did not yet know from life.

Some time later I learned a further variant in which, art having given me a foretaste of certain forms of experience—let’s call them virtual experiences, experiences imaginatively induced and entertained—I came to know them in reality. My sense was never of the gap between life and art. Rather, I had the sense of learning at last what art’s images had been referring to, with art still providing words for what I now came to know. I knew King Lear’s famous line over the dead Cordelia many years before I ever stood over the body of a loved one of my own. When I did, I felt I grasped at last what Lear (or Shakespeare) meant, but Lear’s line gave me a way to name the tormenting, gratuitous, inexplicable proximity of some things (for no good reason) living to others (for no good reason) dead: “Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life / And thou no life at all?” I had long been struck by Whitman’s empathic identifications with the sufferings of common men in *Leaves of Grass*—not just the runaway slave but, less predictably, a fireman pinned in the rubble of a collapsed building:

I am the mashed fireman with breastbone broken . . . tumbling walls buried me . . . . . in their debris,
Heat and smoke I inspired . . .
I heard the yelling shouts of my comrades,
I heard the distant clicks of their picks and shovels . . .

September 11 supplied a real referent for what had heretofore been an imaginary experience. But in the wake of 9/11, while the rubble was still being sifted and the eventual toll of life not yet known, I felt I could enter into a plight made real by history through the medium of these 150-year-old words.

Strange beasts, we humans, who need not just to live but also to understand our lives; stranger yet that we should know ourselves not directly but through borrowed understandings, through images composed by others’ hands. The officially designated divisions of the humanities will have their ups and downs, but as long as these needs stay in play, the core activity of the humanities will not go away. As Academy member Henry James once wrote, “Till the world is an unpeopled void there will be an image in the mirror.”

Are you one for the books?

That’s what we asked Duke students and faculty this year during National Library Week (April 9–15). We invited them to share their love of libraries by showing us their best bookface. Nearly 200 people across East and West Campus accepted the challenge. We also used the occasion to kick off a new library marketing campaign, reminding people that when they support the Libraries, they are really supporting Duke as a whole. Check out the last page of this magazine to see our first ad in the new series.

You can also watch our “One for the Books” video online and share it to show your appreciation of libraries and librarians.

National Library Week has been sponsored by the American Library Association and observed by libraries around the country since 1958. It’s a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries—school, public, academic, and special—participate.

Watch our “One for the Books” video online and share it to show your appreciation of libraries and librarians:
bit.ly/oneforthebooks
Over the past year, a team of Duke library staff have been investigating the potential research applications of multispectral imaging, which uses a series of light frequencies and filters to illuminate an object. The goal is to reveal information invisible to the human eye, such as palimpsests or the chemical composition of inks and paper. The early results are promising. Shown here is an approximately 1,400-year-old fragment of the Book of Deuteronomy written on gevil, a form of tanned animal hide. The second image shows the same fragment in infrared, revealing the Hebrew text.
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