

John Wilkin Becomes Interim Provost at Illinois

In February, Chancellor Robert Jones named John Wilkin as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost designate at Illinois. Wilkin, who has served as the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian since 2013, began his new role on February 18. Chancellor Jones said, “Dean Wilkin’s seamless combination of a thoughtful, balanced demeanor along with the practical experience and working knowledge of academic operations established him as the right person for the position at this critical time.”

“I’ve been with our Library now for more than three years. I can’t say this enough—I’m extremely proud to be here. It is hard to be in this profession and not have a deep admiration for the Library at Illinois. Students and faculty, the community, and researchers around the world depend on our services and collections. I’ve always been grateful to work alongside you to advance the Library’s mission,” Wilkin expressed to staff. “I am honored to serve the campus in this temporary role, but I made it clear that I intend to return to the Library as soon



L. Brian Stauffer

as the search for a permanent provost is completed and the successful candidate can begin.”

A national search for a permanent provost is underway. Chancellor Jones hopes to select a final candidate this fall. At that time, Wilkin will return to lead the Library.

For more on the announcement, please visit go.library.illinois.edu/wilkinprovost.

William Mischo Serving as University Librarian

Bill Mischo, head of the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center, assumed the position of interim university librarian on February 18. Mischo came highly recommended by Dean Wilkin. Former Provost Edward Feser agreed, saying, “Bill’s many terms as an elected member of the Library’s Executive Committee demonstrate the trust placed in him by his colleagues. His experience working with the associate and assistant deans [within the Library] will ensure a smooth leadership transition during the period Dean Wilkin serves as Interim Provost.”



Mischo has been at Illinois for more than 30 years and has an extraordinary track record of leadership and innovation. He was elected as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow in 2015 and received the Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Science from the American Library Association in 2009. Last year, Mischo was invested as The Berthold Family Professor in Information Access and Discovery; the professorship was established with a gift from Illinois alumnus and Library Friend Carol A. Berthold.

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Friendscript is a publication of the Office of Library Advancement, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Room 227, Urbana, IL 61801. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome and should be submitted to Heather Murphy at hmurphy@illinois.edu or (217) 333-3758.

The Office of Library Advancement garners interest and secures external funds from Illinois alumni and friends, provides visibility for the Library through its programs and events, and promotes the Library within the Illinois campus and the community-at-large.

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This publication is available in an accessible electronic format at www.library.illinois.edu/friends, or you may contact Heather Murphy to request an alternative format of this publication.

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William Mischo

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PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

A gift from Library Friends in Batavia, Illinois, has established the Dennis E. and Margaret L. Schuett Mathematics Library Fund. The couple's generous gift supports the Math Library Conservation Project making it possible to hire a graduate student to take on important and much-needed conservation and preservation work. It is the largest collection maintenance project of its kind that the Math Library has ever undertaken.

"I have always thought that books are an essential part of a great university. I am delighted to be able to help preserve some of them for future generations," said Dennis Schuett.

Graduate Assistant Claire Gianacakos is currently working toward a master's degree in Library and Information Science at Illinois. Since last summer, she has been assessing items in the Math Library's collection and prioritizing those items needing repair soonest based on criteria such as past and anticipated future level of use, rarity, and significance to the collection. One interesting discovery involved Claire finding several volumes of a French journal dating back to the French Revolution that were severely damaged. These were triaged to a special collection conservator who will oversee the repair; the volumes will then be returned to the Math Library's shelves.

When describing her work to date on the project, Claire sums up its purpose perfectly, saying, "The goal of this project is to protect and preserve the Math Library's current collection and to ensure long-term access to those materials and their intellectual content." Dennis and Margie's gift will help ensure this happens.



Jon Salvani

Dennis and Margaret Schuett
Library Friends since 1977
President's Council Members
since 1989

"I have always thought that books are an essential part of a great university."

— DENNIS SCHUETT

The Library is Social

Stay connected for the latest news and events (and photos!) from the University Library.

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 instagram.com/uillinoislibrary

Inaugural Ralph Fisher Library Scholars Celebrated

On April 13, faculty, staff, students, and Library Friends gathered in the International and Area Studies (IAS) Library to celebrate the legacy of Professor Ralph Fisher; Professor Christopher “Kit” Condill and Professor Joseph Lenkart, the very first Ralph Fisher Library Scholars; and the generosity of Professor Emeritus Larry Miller, whose gifts



From left to right: Joseph Lenkart, Larry Miller, Kit Condill, and Steven Witt

have made the Scholars program possible.

Ralph Fisher’s wife, Ruth, and family members were on hand for the afternoon celebration including remarks by notable faculty and staff. Acting Dean of Libraries and University Librarian William Mischo welcomed everyone to the event. John Randolph, associate professor of History in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, spoke of Fisher’s work and accomplishments. An exhibit of Fisher’s papers from the Archives was introduced by University Archivist William Maher. Library Friend Larry Miller recounted his partnership with Fisher and his vision for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian collections and services which inspired his gift in Fisher’s honor. Professor Steven Witt, the head of the IAS Library, talked about Condill’s and Lenkart’s many contributions to the Library and the profession.

Kit Condill is the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Librarian and an assistant professor at the Library. He is a 2004 graduate of the School of

Information Sciences (iSchool) at Illinois, where he teaches a Slavic Bibliography course each fall, and a 1995 graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. He spent seven years as the Central Asian reference specialist for (and then manager of) the Slavic Reference Service. He has directed Slavic collection development since 2011. Condill’s research interests revolve around national bibliography as a tool for assessing and evaluating the publishing output of the non-Slavic peoples of the former Soviet Union, and for assessing the comprehensiveness of U.S. library collections.

Joe Lenkart is the international reference librarian and an assistant professor at the Library. He provides vision and leadership for the Slavic Reference Service in support of Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies scholars at Illinois and affiliated programs from around the world. As international reference librarian, he also extends the model of in-depth reference services across other regional areas of focus in the IAS Library. Lenkart’s research focuses on information systems and print cultures associated with ethnic minorities in the Russian Federation and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. In addition to his reference and research interests, Lenkart is a returned Peace Corps volunteer (Russian Federation, 2000–2002). He holds a master’s degree in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and a Master of Library Science degree, both from Illinois.

Named positions, such as the Ralph Fisher Library Scholars, enhance the Library’s services, programs, and reputation by recognizing and fostering the considerable research contributions of its faculty.



**Ralph Talcott
Fisher, Jr.
(1920–2015)**



Ruth Fisher and Larry Miller greet each other at the celebration.

Grants and Awards Received

The University Library is fortunate to have a talented and knowledgeable staff; many were honored over the past few months. In addition, several large grants with funding were awarded to the Library; these are critical to carrying out the Library's mission as state funding declines.

Awards and Honors

- ▶ Jamie Carlstone, electronic serials bibliographic control specialist, received the 2017 First Step Award (*Association for Library Collections and Technical Services*)
- ▶ Timothy Cole, head of the Mathematics Library, received the 2017 Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology (*Online Computer Library Center and the Library and Information Technology Association*)
- ▶ Lisa Hinchliffe, coordinator for information literacy services and instruction, received the Larry Romans Mentorship Award (*American Library Association (ALA) Government Documents Roundtable and the ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Roundtable*)
- ▶ Lisa Hinchliffe, coordinator for information literacy services and instruction, named editor of *Library Trends* (*School of Information Sciences at Illinois*)
- ▶ William Maher, university archivist, received the Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award (*Office of the Provost at Illinois*)
- ▶ Chris Prom, assistant university archivist and Andrew S. G. Turyn Endowed Professor, named co-chair of the Task Force on Technical Approaches for Email Archives (*Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Digital Preservation Coalition*)
- ▶ Mara Thacker, South Asian studies librarian, named to the 2017 class of Movers & Shakers (*Library Journal*)

Grants

- ▶ University Library and the School of Information Sciences (iSchool)—received a National Leadership Grant for Libraries (*Institute of Museum and Library Services*)
- ▶ University Archives—received a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant (*National Endowment for the Humanities*)
- ▶ Sara Benson, copyright librarian and assistant professor (project leader); Harriett Green, interim head of Scholarly Communications and Publishing and associate professor; Merinda Hensley, digital scholarship liaison and instruction librarian and associate professor; and Janet Swatscheno, visiting digital publishing specialist—received a grant to create an online curriculum focused on policy surrounding library publishing groups (*Institute of Museum and Library Services*)
- ▶ Sarah Lindenbaum, project cataloger, received two grants to help further her work in reconstructing the library of 17th-century book collector Frances Wolfreston: the Houghton Library Visiting

Fellowship (Houghton Library) and a Friends of the Princeton University Library Research Grant (Princeton University Library)

- ▶ David Morris, classics and research and information services librarian, received an International Research Travel Grant (*Illinois International Programs*)

DID YOU KNOW?

The University Archives debuted its online exhibit, *Roger Ebert and the University of Illinois*, at the 19th Annual Roger Ebert's Film Festival. Several items from the Archives' collection were on display for the duration of Ebertfest (April 19–23), including Ebert's first review of the 1961 movie *Parent Trap*. Filmgoers could browse several of the film critic's documents up close and were directed to a comprehensive digital exhibit with more treasures from the collection.

This exhibit reflects the ways in which the University of Illinois Archives and Library preserve and help to tell Roger Ebert's story. The documents come from a special time in his life, from his childhood days to his departure for Chicago and a job at the Sun-Times. They shed new light on the life of a man who became the first to win a Pulitzer Prize for film criticism and who was known as the most influential movie critic in the nation.

The online exhibit is open to all. Visit archives.library.illinois.edu/ebert.



Roger Ebert, September 29, 1972, Daily Illini Negatives File, Record Series 41/8/12, University of Illinois Archives

Library Is Looking For

\$200 for the Library Exhibitions Committee

to sponsor a **rotating exhibit** within the Marshall Gallery and the north-south corridor of the Main Library highlighting the Library's rich and vast collections for one month. Support would cover printing for cases, as well as supply refurbishment in order to ensure that exhibitors can continue to have the preservation-grade materials on hand to safely display collections materials. The Committee is grateful to those who have supported exhibits so far and hopes to find a few more Library Friends to help cover a year's worth of expenses.



\$940 for the Oak Street Library Facility

to purchase a **bench** for the foyer outside the Oak Street Reading Room (a space for patrons to use Library materials housed in high-density storage).

Currently, there isn't a place for students, researchers, or other visitors to sit or set down their items as they enter or prepare to exit the building. There is still an opportunity to purchase a bench (or two!) for the space that welcomes visitors to the Oak Street Library Facility—which is seeing more and more use.



\$1,315 for Funk ACES Library

to purchase a set of five new **conference room chairs**. These would be a great improvement to this important work space. New chairs would allow Library

staff to better interact and engage during meetings, since more people could be better accommodated around the table. This Library's current conference room seating, which includes chairs cobbled together from storage, offices, and even its staff lounge, are bulky and difficult to move. A total of 15 new chairs (\$3,945) are needed. Interested Library Friends may purchase one, or more, sets.



\$1,500 for the Undergraduate Library

to purchase an **outdoor steel café table** with attached steel chairs and an umbrella to extend user space on the plaza

level for its patrons. Six table sets are needed. Imagine all the use this outdoor furniture will get in this well-traveled—and scenic—location!



\$2,000 for the University Library and the Student Life and Culture Archives

to support a **lecture** in a series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the University of Illinois. Lectures will be free and open to both the campus and local community. Lectures in the series which still remain include, *Celebrating Illini Legends, Lists, and Lore*; *Race and Higher Education at the University of Illinois, 1945 to 1955*; *The Soft Power of U.S. Education and the Formation of a Chinese American Intellectual Community in Urbana-Champaign, 1905-1954*; *Queering Couplehood: Robert and John Allerton and Historical Perspectives on Kinship*; and much more. Visit archives.library.illinois.edu/150 for the most up-to-date event information. The Library is looking for sponsors for each lecture; sponsors will be invited to the entire series and recognized for their support.

To fund one of these items or to ask for additional titles in an area of interest, call (217) 333-5682 or email klsimms@illinois.edu. A listing of items in need is located online at library.illinois.edu/friends/library-is-looking-for and is updated regularly.

The following donors have adopted items previously listed in *Friendscript*:

An anonymous **Library Friend** for a gift to support rotating exhibits in memory of Dr. C. Barber Mueller (Library Exhibitions Committee)

Roger C. Clark for his gift (and his employer, Northern Trust, for a matching gift) to support rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

Larry Miller for his gift to purchase a large exhibition case for "Flash Exhibitions" (International and Area Studies Library)

Brenda Pacey for her gift to support the Sesquicentennial Lectures Series event, *An Illini Place* (University Library and Student Life and Culture Archives), the 2017 Sweet Corn Festival's "One Community Together" programming (University Library and Sousa Archives and Center for American Music), and rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

Walter V. Spotte for a gift to purchase technology to upgrade listening and viewing rooms (Music and Performing Arts Library)

William E. Vavrik for his gift to support rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

Upcoming Events

Crimes Against Books

The University Library and the Spurlock Museum are hosting a program and reception in downtown Chicago featuring Travis McDade, interim head of The Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Professor McDade, who has authored three books on crimes against rare books, maps, documents, and other printed cultural heritage resources, will tell the story of Bob Kindred, who successfully stole materials from libraries across the country in the 1970s, and what happened when he made the University of Illinois Library his next victim. Beer, wine, or soda and hors d'oeuvres will be served (\$25 per person).



- ◆ June 8
- ◆ Cocktails, 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Program, 6:45 p.m.
- ◆ The Metropolitan Club, 66th Floor of Willis Tower, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago
- ◆ RSVP at (217) 333-5682 or go.library.illinois.edu/RSVPjune8 by May 31

Matter in the Margins: Gwendolyn Brooks at 100



This exhibition showcases highlights from the literary archives of Gwendolyn E. Brooks, Illinois Poet Laureate and the first black winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Brooks was an inveterate note-taker and self-chronicler, and the collection is filled with Post-Its, hotel stationery, and other scraps of paper on which she recorded her daily life and current events. She sketched out future plans and recorded meaningful memories in the flyleaves of notebooks and on the backs of photographs, and

she interrogated others' ideas and narratives in the margins of letters she received and books she read. Through these marginal jottings, Brooks destabilized the idea of finality: their presence transforms seemingly finished, self-contained documents into ongoing conversations and works in progress. This exhibition highlights the ways in which Brooks' annotations bring attention to the margin as a space that matters. Here, the poet worked out the process of becoming, raising important questions about completion, authority, self-fashioning, and memory.

The archives are now part of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and selections have been loaned to the Poetry Foundation in celebration of Brooks' long relationship with *Poetry* magazine, a history that includes the first publication of *We Real Cool*, *The Bean Eaters*, and *Winnie*, among others.

- ◆ July 16–August 25
- ◆ Poetry Foundation, 61 W. Superior Street, Chicago
- ◆ Visit www.library.illinois.edu/rbx for more information, including the upcoming Brooks@100 celebration at Illinois.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Library Friends Reception

- ◆ October 6 (time forthcoming)
- ◆ Main Library

Homecoming Parade Watch

- ◆ October 27
- ◆ Main Library

Books Served Up at Annual Festival

The Edible Book Festival was held on April 1. The unique intersection of the book arts and cuisine took place on a Saturday this year in a new venue—the Lincoln Square Mall. The new location was selected to make the Festival more accessible to the community, and the Library partnered with Common Ground Co-op introducing a special Co-op Explorers event for kids. This was most likely the event's largest attendance.

Judges included Library Friend Janet LeRoy; Sarah Buckman, outreach coordinator for Common Ground; and Tsega and Dereje Jahiel, local elementary and middle school students.

To view all of this year's entries, visit the Festival's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CUEdibleBooks.



Lime and Punishment by Jody Ford won for "Best Use of Cupcakes."

L. Brian Stauffer

Congratulations to Graduating Student Employees



Jason Quackenbush

Supervisor Jessica LeCrone (second from left, first row) with many of the 16 graduating student workers from the Undergraduate Library



The libraries at Illinois have more than 300 student employees who are imperative to their daily operation. This year, approximately 100 are graduating. To celebrate them and their achievements, the Library's Office of Advancement offered each something unique to remember the Library by—their very own "Library Alumni" t-shirt.

"Oh the places you'll go, Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So . . . get on your way!"

—DR. SEUSS



Annual gifts strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as one of the world's preeminent public university collections. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library's collections, programs, and services.

Please mail this form with your gift to:

University of Illinois Foundation
P.O. Box 3429
Champaign, IL 61826-9916

Questions? Please call (217) 333-5682 or e-mail friends@library.illinois.edu.

Yes!

I want to help ensure the Library's excellence with a gift to the Library Annual Fund.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$50 \$100 \$150 Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to **UIF/Library Annual Fund (332260)**.

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My gift is for the _____ Library.

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VISA Discover/Novus MasterCard American Express

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

My company will match my gift:

Company name _____

Yes, I would like to receive information about planned giving options such as bequests, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, and life estates.

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Love in the Library

Ph.D. students Chaddrick and ArCasia met in the Library . . . and fell in love. On February 3, 2017, Chaddrick proposed to ArCasia in the Main Library at the bottom of the grand staircase. Congratulations to them both as they start this new chapter of their lives.



Communications at the Library



Heather Murphy, who has handled publications and public affairs within the Office of Advancement since 2008, took on a new role at the Library as Chief

Communications Officer in March. Her responsibilities include providing communications support to all of the units within the University Library. She will continue to work closely with advancement staff in this new position.