

## Two Archivists and a Professor Emeritus Honored in Sesquicentennial Year



L. Brian Stauffer

From left to right: Winton Solberg, Maynard Brichford, and William Maher

In a year in which the University of Illinois gave a nod to history, it also heralded its historians. In June, as part of its Sesquicentennial Celebration, the campus accorded its highest honor—the Chancellor’s Medallion—to three men critical to safeguarding the university’s heritage.

Awarded just six times before in its 18-year history, the recognition marks outstanding service on behalf of the campus. Noted for their work were Maynard Brichford, the university’s first archivist; William Maher, current head archivist; and Winton Solberg, professor emeritus of history.

“In this year when we begin our sesquicentennial celebration, it has become clear the most valuable and lasting legacy we have built as a university is our story,” said Chancellor Robert Jones. “All of our great accomplishments, ideas, and innovations trace back to the men and women who have been a part of this institution over the past 150 years.

“Across their respective careers, these three have gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure that those voices will not be lost or forgotten. They’ve been the unwavering guardians of our history.”

It was another historical landmark—the campus’s centennial in 1967—that prompted the hiring of Brichford in 1963. The university’s first archivist “built the Archives from the ground up,” according to Ellen Swain, the Stewart S. Howe Student Life and Culture archivist, “transforming it into a nationally-renowned program.” Brichford painstakingly collected annual records from college departments to form the basis of university history and went on to install key advances in Archives operations, such as indexing and computer technology to

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Friends of the University of Illinois Library  
Uncover and Discover



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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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## Two Archivists and a Professor Emeritus Honored, continued from page 1

make searching easier. In addition, he created the only historical repository in the nation dedicated to chronicling everyday student life.

Upon Brichford's retirement in 1995, Maher—who had joined the Archives in 1977—took over as leader. An expert in copyright law, he grew the scope, staff size, and professional stature of the unit, as well as upgraded its facilities to its current location on the main floor of the Main Library building.

Solberg—considered *the* authority on university history—has written two books on campus and one on the creation of the Big Ten. He is currently at work on a manuscript about Edmund J. James, the first UI president. Known as the Archives' most beloved user, Solberg has assiduously avoided being named "official historian" in order to maintain his independence in compiling a historical record.

And that independent scrutiny of Illinois history—both the successes and failures—is important in moving forward. "You have to understand the past to know who you are and where you're going," Swain said. "Our role in the Archives is to provide information to students and researchers so they understand what they're part of, and what our struggles have been, and where we've fallen short, and where we've done great."

As part of that search, thousands of users visit the Archives each year—more than half of them from the general public—to make use of the unit's vast resources. That includes 32,000 cubic feet of material, such as newspapers, photographs, letters, and other documents, as well as 20 terabytes of digital records.

In thanking the trio of 2017 Medallion recipients, Jones said, "It is no exaggeration to say that much of our understanding of the values and standards of Illinois has come about because of their work."

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library has a new director. Lynne M. Thomas began her new appointment on September 1. Thomas assumes the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Rare Book & Manuscript Library Professorship, a tribute to Library Friends Robert and Juanita Simpson, who generously supported the University Library for more than 20 years.

Thomas, a four-time Hugo Award winner, served as curator of rare books and special collections at Northern Illinois University since 2004, and as head of distinctive collections there since 2014.

Read more about Thomas at [news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/535069](http://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/535069).



Photo courtesy of NIU Media Services

# Haven of Solitude or Social-service Engine?

## *A library offers different strokes for different folks*



Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell

**A**s a University of Illinois graduate student, Carla Barnwell had her own study carrel in the Main Library stacks—and she relished the environment.

“I loved being surrounded by books,” the retired biology teacher said. “It’s an environment that’s really unique, and I have a great appreciation for it. I am all about learning and knowledge.”

For Eileen Gebbie, the library encounter is entirely different. Rather than classic solitude, she gravitates to the interactive nature of library resources. In her view, a library has evolved into a “de facto community center,” its power more social service- than research-oriented. It’s a setting, said the ordained minister, that can teach us that ours is not “the only story.”

The Barnwell-Gebbie experiences point to the steady—yet organic—nature of what a great library offers. At the University of Illinois, its renowned resources have been carefully nurtured through 150 years of stewardship—from the donation of 644 books from its first regent, John Gregory, through the

You may want to consider making a planned gift to the University Library, which can offer financial benefits through income and estate tax savings and arrangements that provide lifetime income. Planned gifts include assets, bequests in a will, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, retirement plans, and life insurance policies. For additional information about planned giving, visit the University of Illinois Foundation website at [uif.giftplans.org](http://uif.giftplans.org).

1-million-books-or-bust vision of University President Edmund J. James in the early 1900s, to the personal support from individual alumni.

A number of libraries surface in Carla’s memories of campus, a time when backdrops of books captivated her imagination. “I loved walking through the Library,” she said of her undergraduate days, “like passing by the Classics Library, and knowing what’s in there and that people care about preserving it.” Now a resident of Boone, Iowa, Carla received a bachelor’s degree in biology (1978) and a master’s degree in accountancy (1985). “Knowing that knowledge is preserved . . . that’s important to me,” she said. “I’m old-fashioned. I believe in knowledge for knowledge’s sake.”

Carla, who later taught biology in the 1990s at what was then known as the UI School of Life Sciences, said she “lived in the biology library” as an undergraduate but also served as a desk clerk in the library science library. There, LIS students from a wide range of academic backgrounds enlivened her work hours.

While earning a master’s degree in sociology (2000), Eileen helped undergraduates discern the validity of online resources. But as valuable as libraries are for research, she said, “the sociologist and pastor in me hopes that they become places that teach us how to be in community together across all of our divisive differences,” places with “deep wells of story” that broaden individuals’ perceptions. And when Eileen learned more about Illinois’ Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, she became even more passionate about the Library’s mission.

For Carla and Eileen—married since 2006—nothing even came close to the Library when they considered options in their estate planning. “A big part of my job . . . is to connect people to good resources for community organizing and understanding successes of the past,” said Eileen. “And we need libraries so badly for all of that.”

Added Carla: “The Library is the thing that’s so vitally important to what the University is all about. It’s an incredibly valuable asset. And we love knowing we will be part of sustaining that.”



**It truly is a small world. This photo from the Library’s Instagram account prompted Eileen Gebbie to connect with the Library asking about images of Helen and Elizabeth Longbons. The Student Life and Culture Archivist provided photos from the *Illio* yearbook (1923 and 1927), as well as a *Daily Illini* mention. It turns out Eileen’s partner, Carla Barnwell, knew all the Longbons sisters (there were three). In fact, Helen Longbons taught Carla piano growing up.**

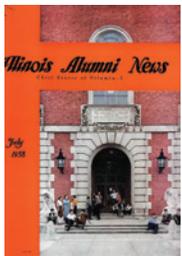
# Archives, Alumni Association Make Tracks Together

Like two hustling trains on parallel tracks, the University Archives and the University of Illinois Alumni Association have pursued their destinations side by side.

Now, a new agreement will put the two entities on the same line in complementary missions to preserve and extol the history of the University of Illinois.

What spurred the coupling of these two powerful engines? The new outlook was precipitated by the University of Illinois Welcome Center, set to open in May 2018, featuring a sprawling, interactive exhibit of photographs, videos, artifacts, oral histories, and more chronicling of the student experience. To stock the enterprise, located at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center—and to produce a rotation of new displays—involves a tremendous amount of historical material.

While the Archives serves to assemble the history of campus, it's not the only entity which has recorded its heritage. Calling the Alumni Association's holdings "a real treasure trove," Student Life and Culture



Archivist Ellen Swain notes "that the Association has written continuously about University events and alumni since 1907, starting with *The Alumni Quarterly and Fortnightly News* and evolving to the present-day *Illinois Alumni* magazine. In addition to its news archives, the Alumni Association possesses literally thousands of hard-copy photographs (mostly used in conjunction with its publications). These are the materials the University Archives—established in 1963—is interested in adding to its collection; conversely, the Alumni Association is eager to tap into Archives documents and expertise.

"It's really a symbiotic relationship," said Ryan Ross, who coordinates the Alumni Association's history and traditions programs and is supervising the Welcome Center's genesis. "The Archives is preserving and making accessible the heritage of the university to researchers, and we are preserving and making accessible the university's heritage to a wide audience. So we really complement what each of us is doing."

As Welcome Center exhibits are refreshed several times a year, Archives and the Alumni Association will



A rendering of the future gallery and cafe in the Welcome Center within the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

work together in reaching out to university units and alumni to collect additional materials. And while the Center's displays may pique the initial interest of its visitors—from prospective students and faculty to current students, alumni, and campus and community groups—they can also reference campus sites where further information is available.

The collaboration offers the Center the opportunity to use items on loan from the Archives, as well as fill gaps in Archives holdings. The Archives, in turn, benefits as repository and permanent home for newly-collected materials, and lends gravitas to the Welcome Center initiative. "Given the long history of classroom, scholarly, and public user research in the Archives' holdings of records created by the Alumni Association, we are excited about this new collaboration," University Archivist William Maher said.

"As long as we have a Welcome Center on campus, the Archives is going to be a vital part of making it successful," Ross said. "We'll always be in need of new materials to put on display to tell those stories, which is why this relationship that we've formed with Archives is so important."

Important indeed. Welcome aboard.

Interested in this project?  
Visit [illinoisalumni.org/2016/01/06/visitors-welcome](http://illinoisalumni.org/2016/01/06/visitors-welcome) to learn more about the Welcome Center, and read "The Library Is Looking For" on page 5.

# Upcoming Events

## **Coveting Nature: Art, Collecting, and Natural History in Early Modern Europe**

*Coveting Nature* explores the ways in which botanists and entomologists worked in tandem with artists to record and disseminate knowledge in the early modern period (1500–1800).

- ◆ August 31–December 22
- ◆ Krannert Art Museum, Contemporary Gallery, Main Level, 500 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign
- ◆ Visit [kam.illinois.edu](http://kam.illinois.edu) for more information

## **Matter in the Margins: Gwendolyn Brooks at 100**

This exhibition at Illinois showcases the literary archives of Gwendolyn E. Brooks (1917–2000), Illinois Poet Laureate and the first black winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Brooks's papers include youthful poetry and prose, scrapbooks of pieces she published as a young woman, extensive correspondence with a significant roster of other writers, and manuscript drafts and proofs, especially after she left mainstream commercial publishing to produce her works with black-owned presses.

- ◆ September 20–December 20
- ◆ Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Ellen and Nirmal Chatterjee Exhibition Gallery, Main Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://library.illinois.edu/rbx) for more information

## **Honoring Kenneth Bailey: Medal of Honor Recipient Exhibit**

Bailey was a student at the University of Illinois who was a member of ROTC, the Pershing Rifles, and the Cavalry Club. Upon graduation, he joined the U.S. Marines where he fought and died leading his men at Guadalcanal in 1942. He is the only Medal of Honor recipient from the state of Illinois who is also a U of I alumnus.

- ◆ October 1–31
- ◆ October 27, 4:00 p.m., Ceremony to Honor Bailey
- ◆ Marshall Gallery, Main Library

## **Annual Library Friends Reception**

Includes exhibits on various aspects of the Library, a panel discussion on the role of the Library in the university's history led by Frederick E. Hoxie (editor of *The University of Illinois: Engine of Innovation*), and refreshments.

- ◆ October 6, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- ◆ Second Floor, Main Library
- ◆ RSVP at (217) 333-5682 or [friends@library.illinois.edu](mailto:friends@library.illinois.edu)

## **Public Lecture Series: Picturing the Law: Illustrated Law Books**

Mike Widener, Rare Book Librarian and lecturer in legal research at the Lillian Goldman Law Library at Yale Law School, will discuss illustrated law books. Widener has been the Rare Book Librarian at the Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School, since 2006. He is also on the faculty of the Rare Book School, University of Virginia, where he has taught the course "Law Books: History and Connoisseurship" since 2010.

- ◆ October 10, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Main Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://library.illinois.edu/rbx) for more information



We encourage you to visit the Library's online calendar at [go.library.illinois.edu/calendar](http://go.library.illinois.edu/calendar) for the most up-to-date information about events happening in and around the libraries at Illinois.

## **University Archives Sesquicentennial Speaker Series: Celebrating An Illini Place: Building the University of Illinois Campus**

Join Lex Tate for an engaging talk on her new book (with co-author John Franch) on the university's built environment. University of Illinois President Emeritus Stanley Ikenberry will introduce the program and provide commentary. Made possible through a gift from Library Friends Brenda and Stephen Pacey, this event is part of a campus-wide kick-off of the university's most ambitious philanthropic campaign to date!

- ◆ October 13, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- ◆ IDEA Lab, Grainger Engineering Library
- ◆ Visit [give.illinois.edu/launchevent/](http://give.illinois.edu/launchevent/) for more information

## **University Archives Sesquicentennial Speaker Series: Gay Liberation to Campus Assimilation**

Patrick Dille discusses his forthcoming book, *Gay Liberation to Campus Assimilation: History of Midwestern Queer Campus Organizing*, with specific focus on the University of Illinois.

- ◆ October 18, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- ◆ University Archives, Main Library
- ◆ Visit [archives.library.illinois.edu/150](http://archives.library.illinois.edu/150) for more information

## **University Archives Sesquicentennial Speaker Series: Black Power on Campus**

Joy Williamson-Lott shares her insights in researching and writing her seminal work, *Black Power on Campus: The U of I 1965–1975*.

- ◆ October 26, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- ◆ Room 200, Main Library
- ◆ Visit [archives.library.illinois.edu/150](http://archives.library.illinois.edu/150) for more information

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# Library Is Looking For

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



## \$300 for the Library's Scholarly Communications and Publishing Unit to support the Copyright Chat

**Podcast** on those vexing—but oh, so important—issues of copyright. Are you confused about fair use? What exactly is covered in the “public domain”? And what about material on DVDs, CDs, and all things digital? Podcast Host Sara Benson—who holds a master of laws degree and serves as copyright librarian at Illinois—clears up the muddy waters of copyright in this lively monthly podcast that reaches both professionals and the general public. Support for this ongoing project would help provide portable technology for off-site recording locations, as well as cover mailing costs to send and return equipment.

Listen to the Copyright Chat Podcast at [library.illinois.edu/scp/feed/podcast/copyright-chat](http://library.illinois.edu/scp/feed/podcast/copyright-chat).



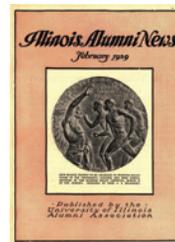
## \$325 for the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections

to support exhibits inside its new reading room. After reconfiguring the space this past summer, the IHLC reading room includes not only more space for researchers but also two exhibit cases. Funding is needed to help IHLC **purchase preservation-quality exhibit supports and supplies** that will allow it to create engaging and informative exhibits featuring print and archival materials from the collections. These supplies will help IHLC promote its collections, increase engagement with Illinois history and primary sources, and commemorate the upcoming bicentennial of Illinois statehood in 2018.

## \$940 for the Oak Street Library Facility

to raise its hospitality factor with the **addition of a third bench** in its foyer outside the Oak Street Reading Room. Currently, visitors seeking access to materials housed in this high-density storage facility must juggle backpacks, purses, umbrellas, and other materials as they enter or exit the building. A place of rest would offer some respite to intrepid researchers at the building, which is seeing more and more use by students, faculty, and the public.

**\$5,000 for the University Archives** to transfer and digitize thousands of hard-copy photographs painstakingly accumulated by the University of Illinois Alumni Association communications department in its 100+ years of coverage of campus, students, and alumni. Containing items not previously seen by Library staff, the collection will find a new home in the Archives, where it will be scanned and tagged for use by students, researchers, and the public. Funding would support additional personnel to digitize materials, create records, and organize metadata. For more context on joint Archives-Alumni Association projects, see page 4.



## \$5,000 for the University Archives

to begin **digitizing The Alumni Quarterly and Fortnightly News**, the earliest means of communication of the University of Illinois Alumni Association. Since 1907—long before the Archives was

formally established in 1963—the publication has recorded campus and alumni news, very nearly from the start of the university. Called an “amazing resource” by Archivist Ellen Swain, the news vehicle—presently known as *Illinois Alumni* magazine—has morphed through various iterations and provides close, historical coverage found in few other sources. Funding would go toward hiring of personnel to digitize materials and, eventually, software to search across all issues. For additional information on Archives-Alumni Association joint efforts to preserve university and alumni history, see page 4.

## \$5,000 for the Communications Library

to purchase a **secure charging station/locker** to revitalize devices carried by tech-savvy users. While current students are positively aglow with electric possibility, they do need a boost now and then. “Our students are immersed in the greatest flood of information any generation has ever experienced,” says Head Librarian Lisa Romero, who adds that the library and its staff are “all about service. We try to keep up with all our students’ needs. Every student has mobile devices and laptops that need to be recharged. Making it easier for students to rely on technology is one way the library can contribute to the student experience. The charging station/locker enables us to meet a very real need.”

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

**Richard Allen Avner** for his gift to purchase two benches in memory of Elaine Sweital Avner, one for the Oak Street Library Facility and the other for the Main Library

**Mary F. Bradley** for her gift to support rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

**Jonathan Buchbinder** for his gift to purchase a bench (Oak Street Library Facility)

**Lila Jeanne “Shorty” Eichelberger** for her gift to purchase a set of conference room chairs (Funk ACES Library)

**Angie Gruendl** for *Ed Ruscha: Catalogue Raisonne of the Paintings: Volume Seven: 2004–2011* in honor of Dorfredia Williams and Jane Block (Ricker Library of Architecture and Art)

**Elizabeth H. Hackman** for her gift to support rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

**Bruce C. Johnson** for his gift to purchase an outdoor steel café table (Undergraduate Library)

**Constance and Alan Mitchell** for their gift to support rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

**Lois Pausch** for her gift to support rotating exhibits (Library Exhibitions Committee)

**Richard W. Renner** for his gift to support the Sesquicentennial Lectures Series event, *Sports and Traditions* (University Library and Student Life and Culture Archives)

**The Library is Social**

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



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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Company name \_\_\_\_\_

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

5M5GT

## Upcoming Events *continued from page 5*

### Homecoming Parade Watch

Please join us in the Library Friends tent in the northwest corner of the Main Library parking lot (E3) for a fantastic view of this year's parade entries—including the Marching Illini—as they turn the corner at Sixth and Armory, right in front of the Library. Entertainment and refreshments will be available.

- ◆ October 27, 5:30 p.m. (weather permitting)
- ◆ Main Library's west parking lot (Sixth and Armory)
- ◆ RSVP to [friends@library.illinois.edu](mailto:friends@library.illinois.edu) or (217) 333-5682

### Public Lecture Series: *History of Polar Exploration*

- ◆ November 1, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Rare Book & Manuscript Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://library.illinois.edu/rbx) for more information

### University Archives Sesquicentennial Speaker Series: *Becoming Father & Son: Robert & John Gregg Allerton & Historical Perspectives on Queer Kinship*

Nick Syrett's research focuses on the lives and relationships of Robert and John Allerton, donors of the University of Illinois's Allerton Park.

- ◆ November 1, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- ◆ University Archives, Main Library
- ◆ Visit [archives.library.illinois.edu/150](http://archives.library.illinois.edu/150) for more information

### Stories of Service

This exhibit is the culmination of interviews with veterans largely from Champaign County and including current students about their time in the service. Interviews range from peacetime to combat and highlight the unique experiences that our veterans have both in the military and when they return home.

- ◆ November 1–30
- ◆ 1st Floor Main Hallway, Main Library

### Public Lecture Series: *Holiday Party and Brooks Exhibition Closing*

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library will be displaying some new acquisitions and holiday-related items from the collection. Holiday refreshments will be served.

- ◆ December 13, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Main Library
- ◆ Visit [library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://library.illinois.edu/rbx) for more information