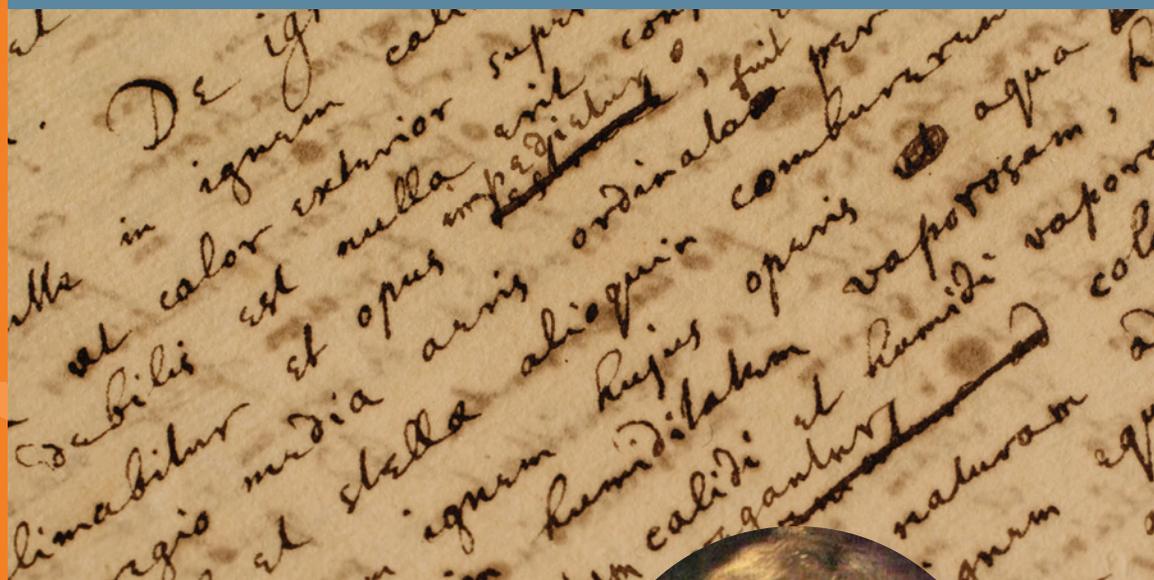


# Friends Uncover and Discover



L. Brian Stauffer

## Library Acquires 17th Century Sir Isaac Newton Manuscript



Wikimedia Commons



**T**hrough the generosity of Library Friends Jim and Lionelle Elsesser of Saint Louis, Missouri, the University Library now holds a treasured manuscript by one of the most influential scientists of all time—Sir Isaac Newton. *Opus Galli Anonymi* (*Work of an Anonymous Frenchman*), penned in the 1690s, is Newton’s unpublished Latin translation of French instructions for making the philosopher’s stone, including his own notes. The philosopher’s stone is believed to turn ordinary metals into gold or silver, and legend has it allied with the “elixir of life.”

Bonhams, the auction house which listed the document, described it as “the largest and most substantial scientific manuscript by Newton in private hands.” The description goes on to read: “This outstanding manuscript declares that it reveals ‘The Secret of Secrets,’ and the directions are remarkable for the clarity of instruction.”

The manuscript arrived on campus on April 25, 2018. Lynne M. Thomas, head of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, had the honor of opening up the wooden crate the manuscript arrived in. The four folded sheets (8 leaves) were impressively packaged, encased in layer upon layer of bubble wrap and foam cushioning.

Scott Koeneman, assistant dean of libraries for advancement, was on hand as Thomas carefully extracted the document. “To find myself linked through time to Sir Isaac Newton by this manuscript was an incredible experience,” he said.

From the news release courtesy of the Illinois News Bureau:

*The couple said the University Library was an important factor in their education and careers. Jim Elsesser received degrees in business at the U. of I., and Lionelle Elsesser received hers in library and information sciences.*

*continued on page 6*

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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](mailto: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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Help the University Library reduce its carbon footprint. Contact Heather Murphy if you are interested in receiving future issues of *Friendscript* by e-mail.

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

*Printed with UV ink on recycled paper.*

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Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

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## DID YOU KNOW?

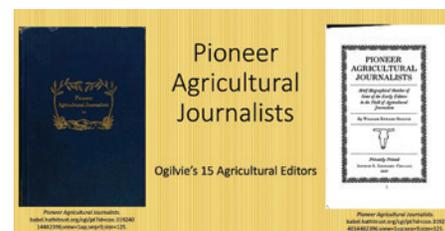
A new digital exhibit this spring honors pioneer agricultural journalists in the United States. View “Pioneer Agricultural Journalists” on the Agricultural Communications Documentation Center (ACDC) website at [www.library.illinois.edu/funkaces/acdc](http://www.library.illinois.edu/funkaces/acdc) under “Digital Exhibits” or visit [go.library.illinois.edu/agjournalist](http://go.library.illinois.edu/agjournalist).

ACDC graduate assistant Hailley Shaw created this 18-slide digital exhibit. It features a sampling of early editors of farm papers and magazines, which were among the earliest means by which farm families gathered news and information. It focuses on 15 journalists William Edward Ogilvie wrote about in his 1927 book, *Pioneering Agricultural Journalists: Brief Biographical Sketches of Some of the Early Editors in the Field of Agricultural Journalism*. These pioneers used their periodicals to disseminate agrarian and farming knowledge and to expand the field, beginning in 1819 with John S. Skinner’s *The American Farmer*.

This spring the ACDC also showcased Ogilvie’s “Pioneering Agricultural Journalists” in a display at Funk ACES Library through June 1.

Holdings in the ACDC collection now include nearly 1,200 books, articles, dissertations, reports, and other items about the history of farm journals. Publication dates range from 1842 to 2008. These materials include a unique collection of more than 800 Volume 1 Number 1 and special-edition issues of agricultural journals and other serials.

Interested Library Friends can visit the ACDC by appointment to get an up-close look at some of these early journals mentioned in the exhibit, and in the Volume 1 Number 1 Collection. Also, the Center staff would like to hear from Friends who may have related materials to contribute, or interest in learning more about this specialized resource. Those who wish to visit about joining the volunteer team are invited to get in touch with emerita professor Joyce Wright at [jcwright@illinois.edu](mailto:jcwright@illinois.edu).



Pioneering Agricultural Journalists display in Funk ACES Library



L. Brian Stauffer

# Library Celebrates Investiture of Rare Book & Manuscript Library Director

## Simpson Gift Continues to Fuel Faculty Research

*"I am deeply grateful to the Simpson family for choosing to support the Library, and endow this position in particular."*

— LYNNE M. THOMAS

**O**n April 6, the Library celebrated the investiture of Lynne M. Thomas, who joined the Library as the head of its esteemed Rare Book & Manuscript Library on September 1, 2017. She now holds the title of Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Rare Book & Manuscript Professor.

Endowed chairs are the highest honor the university can bestow on faculty members. Named positions like this enhance the Library's services, programs, and reputation by recognizing and fostering the considerable research contributions of its faculty.

Given that the goal of the professorship is to enhance the scholarly research of faculty by providing them with additional resources, it was appropriate to have Paul Ellinger, associate chancellor and vice provost for budget and resource planning, as a special guest at Professor Thomas's investiture.

Another special guest included Professor Thomas's mentor and former colleague, Barbara M. Jones, who served as head librarian of rare book and special collections at Illinois from 1996–2003. Dr. Jones hired Thomas as a graduate assistant during her tenure. Dr. Jones's dedication inspired the gift which endowed her position in 2002 which, at the time, was the Library's first faculty chair.

"I return to a Rare Book and Manuscript Library that has flourished and grown in the twenty years since I first left its ranks, through the careful stewardship of the former faculty, staff, and students who served these collections, this campus, and our wider community admirably over that time," said Professor Thomas. "I promise to repay that work to the best of my ability as I continue that tradition."

The professorship was established through a significant estate gift from longtime Library Friends Robert Simpson and his wife, Juanita. Robert was a University of Illinois alumnus with a BA in English Literature, who went on to a successful sales and manufacturing career in Ohio. The endowment—a permanent trust invested to provide a long-term source of funding—will continue to be used to finance the perpetual needs of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

"I am deeply grateful to the Simpson family for choosing to support the Library, and endow this position in particular. Their investment in the work that I do here in the RBML, and the generations of stewardship for these publicly-available collections that it represents, is a charge that I will work every day to continue to be worthy of," said Thomas. "It's good to be home."



Juanita and Robert Simpson in 2009

Thompson McClellan



Lynne M. Thomas with Michael Damian Thomas, her husband and co-editor-in-chief of *Uncanny Magazine*

In April, Thomas was nominated for three Hugo Awards, science fiction's most prestigious award, for Best Editor, Short Form; Best Semiprozine (a non-professional periodical publication) for *Uncanny Magazine*; and Best Fancast for the *Verity! Podcast*. Thomas is already a five-time Hugo Award winner. Winners will be announced at the World Science Fiction Convention in August. To read more, visit [go.library.illinois.edu/3hugonoms](http://go.library.illinois.edu/3hugonoms).

# Math Librarian Receives Professorship in Interdisciplinary Research

## Avner Gift Fuels Faculty Research

The Library has named Timothy W. Cole, head of the Mathematics Library, for the Elaine and Allen Avner Professorship in Interdisciplinary Research. Cole holds this honor as of April 16, 2018, continuing for five years.

The professorship was established with a gift from longtime Library Friend Allen Avner in November 2017 (see “New Professorship to Aid Interdisciplinary Research” in the Winter 2017–18 issue of *Friendscript*). Cole will carry out research in fields connected to the application of information technologies in interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary fields of research.

“Elaine and Allen Avner were pioneers in the application of computer technologies to learning systems,” said William Mischo, head of the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center. “I’ve had several wonderful conversations with Allen over the enhanced role that information and digital library technologies play in the research and instructional mission of the University of Illinois. Tim’s work exemplifies the role of the library as a major player in emergent and interdisciplinary research and, through Allen’s generosity, this professorship will provide resources to expand these conversations.”

“It will be a singular honor to serve as the inaugural Allen and Elaine Avner Professor in Interdisciplinary Librarianship, and I am most appreciative of this opportunity to further my research into the novel ways libraries can apply technologies to better support interdisciplinary scholarship and pedagogy. This professorship recognizes the importance of multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary approaches and will facilitate new and ongoing national and international collaborations, not only with library colleagues, but also with domain scholars in an array of disciplines. Looking beyond the parochial engenders more effective research and leads to outcomes that benefit not only our Library alone but also this campus and other research libraries and institutions more broadly,” said Cole. He added, “Truly an exciting opportunity!”

The appointment was open to any Library faculty member at the associate professor or professor rank.

“Tim was selected in a highly competitive process,” said John P. Wilkin, dean of libraries and university librarian. “Throughout his 25-year career, Tim has consistently demonstrated a singular vision for the role of information technologies in academic library services; the external reviewers were full of praise for Tim’s scholarship and contributions to the profession.”

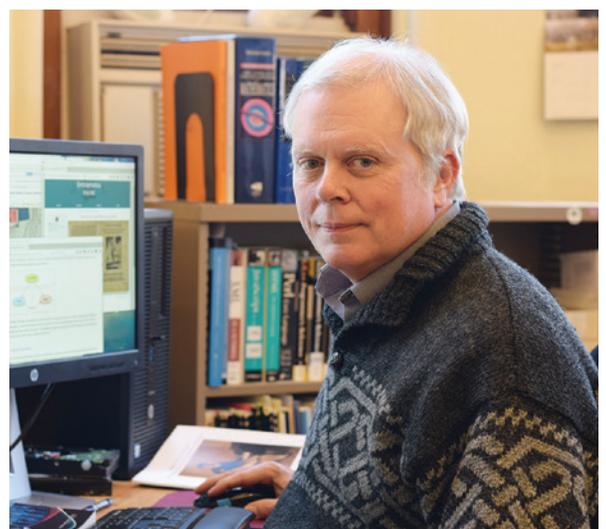
Cole received his BS in aeronautical and astronautical engineering in 1978 and his MS in library and information science in 1989, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At Illinois, he has been on the Library faculty since 1990 and the affiliated faculty in the School of Information Sciences since 2009. From 1978 until 1988, Cole worked as a propulsion systems engineer, including three years at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

In 2017, Cole was honored with the Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology from the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. and the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), a division of the American Library Association.

An investiture for Cole will take place this fall (see page 7).

### Endowed Positions Make a Difference

Attracting and retaining librarians of high caliber is difficult in a competitive job market and an era of constrained funding. The creation of named chairs and professorships will enable the Library faculty to continue to be leaders in research and service, responding to the university’s changing academic needs. With a minimum endowment of \$100,000, donors can fund a named graduate or fellowship with the Library; a named professorship can be created with a \$500,000 gift; and a named chair can be established with a \$1.5 million gift.



# Helping Libraries Recover Post-Hurricane Maria

## Miriam Centeno Brings her Expertise to Puerto Rico

Those who work in libraries do much more than shelve books and shush patrons. One such example is Miriam Centeno. In January, the Library's collections care coordinator traveled to Puerto Rico to help out with disaster recovery after Hurricane Maria. Helping those in her native country is a cause near and dear to Centeno's heart.

Hurricane Maria arrived in Puerto Rico in late September 2017 and is believed to be the worst natural disaster on record in the U.S. territory and Dominica. The Category 5 hurricane caused catastrophic damage, including destruction of Puerto Rico's previously damaged power grid. Libraries and other institutions were left without power—and severely impacted collections.

Prior to her trip, Centeno spent a great deal of time organizing and participating in recovery efforts from afar. Once in Puerto Rico, she led a training workshop at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus (UPRM) which helped its librarians assess and repair damage to collections. Centeno also offered a workshop on preservation basics and disaster preparedness at this campus for local institutions.

Centeno brought with her three kits used to train library staff containing supplies to stabilize the physical condition of materials. The kits were funded by Library Friends at Illinois.

When she's not assisting in hurricane recovery, Centeno has an important responsibility back at the Urbana campus—preserving the print and paper collections at one of the largest public academic libraries in the world. She oversees binding, repairs, and housing of materials, as well as environmental monitoring and climate control, integrated pest management, and disaster preparedness.

Read more at [news.illinois.edu/view/6367/592003](https://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/592003).



Courtesy of Mercy Delgado

**Gift of preservation supplies from Library Friends**  
 From left to right: Hilda Teresa Ayala Gonzalez (UPRM), Miriam Centeno (U of I), Jaquelina Alvarez (UPRM), and Dr. José Sánchez Lugo, Director, School of Library and Information Science, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras (UPRR)

**Satellite image of Hurricane Maria taken September 20, 2017**

Wikimedia Commons

# 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).

**\$5,000 for the International and Area Studies Library** to purchase a **collection of out-of-print Indian comics** being offered for sale by a collector in Bengaluru, India. The collection includes more than 500 individual issues from publishers such as Rani Comics and Diamond comics and includes comics in Tamil, Hindi, and English. Indian comics are undercollected by libraries around the world and the University of Illinois collection provides unique access to and preservation of these important components of India's popular cultural history. Older comics are becoming increasingly hard to find and more expensive and donor support is critical to obtain these types of collections when they become available.

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

**Jonathan Buchbinder** for an exhibit case (Oak Street Library Facility)

**Barbara J. Kuklewicz** for *Le Corbusier* (Ricker Library of Architecture and Art)

**Marjorie Stinespring** for *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Etchings by Rembrandt* (Ricker Library of Architecture and Art)

**Tye Family Foundation** for a gift to support oral history interviews with University of Illinois African American alumni, including those who were part of the Project 500 program (Student Life and Culture Archives)

**Thank you to the following Library Friends** for their generous support of a collaborative project with students involving materials salvaged from the original Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (Student Life and Culture Archives):

**Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea**

**David Bechtel**

**Willard Broom**

**Pat Justice** (in memory of Dick Justice)

**Louis Liay**

**William Riley**

**Nancy Rotzoll**

**Helen Satterthwaite**

## Newton Manuscript, *continued from page 1*

*"The Library is one of the jewels in the crown for the university," said Lionelle Elsesser. "When you are in school, you kind of take it for granted. It's when you leave—for us, anyway—you realize, 'Wow, that was some library.' It's really magnificent."*

*The Elsessers made a \$500,000 donation to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library to be used for materials for special collections. The library has not yet determined what to acquire with the remaining amount of the donation. Thomas said the Elsesser's donation allowed the RBML to consider items that are not usually within its price range to acquire.*

*"It's fantastic to have the freedom to leap on this wonderful thing and get it for the collection," Thomas said. "It's both wonderful and daunting simultaneously, because you want to do right by the donors and make sure they're happy with the choice we've made, and you want to get something that's a good, strong addition to the collection and makes sense in the context of what we do."*

*"We are deeply grateful to the Elsessers for their gift," she said. "They made it possible for us to return an important scientific document to the public domain. They have benefited the public through their generosity."*

Read more at [news.illinois.edu/view/6367/645240](http://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/645240).



Library Friends Jim and Lionelle Elsesser



**The 13th Annual Edible Book Festival** took place on April 7, 2018. "Brambly Hedge" by Anneka Vetter won the People's Choice Award. Vetter works in the conservation department at the Oak Street Library Facility. She currently works on general collections which involves taking apart and repairing various kinds of damaged books so that they can be used for years to come.

"Brambly Hedge was a favorite series of mine when I was growing up; I always loved the stories and amount of detail in the illustrations," said Vetter. "I decided that it would be a whimsical subject to make cakes out of and an opportunity to try new skills on. I hadn't worked with modeling chocolate before and thought making the mouse figurines, flowers, and various decorations would be a good challenge, and luckily it turned out well!"

To see all of this year's entries, visit the Festival's Facebook page at [facebook.com/CUEdibleBooks](https://www.facebook.com/CUEdibleBooks).

## Upcoming Events

### Investiture of Timothy W. Cole

Join the Library as it honors Mathematics Librarian Tim Cole as the holder of the Elaine and Allen Avner Professorship in Interdisciplinary Research.

- ◆ September 7, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- ◆ IDEA Lab, Grainger Engineering Library Information Center

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Homecoming Parade Watch

- ◆ October 12
- ◆ Main Library

#### Annual Library Friends Reception

- ◆ October 26 (time forthcoming)
- ◆ Main Library

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



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](mailto: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 (11332260)**.

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Name of Library Is Looking For Gift (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

Office of Advancement  
1408 W. Gregory Drive, Room 227  
Urbana, Illinois 61801  
(217) 333-5682

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an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.*

## Quackenbush Starts a New Chapter

Jason Quackenbush's last day with the Library's Office of Advancement was May 11, 2018.

Jason was hired in 2008 and served as the associate director of stewardship and donor relations. In addition to the many successful solicitations Jason crafted over the years, he helped the Library faculty and staff with questions about gift funds, helped manage countless gifts-in-kind, and began outreach to former student employees of the Library. Jason also managed a growing portfolio of special events geared at thanking and cultivating Library donors and friends, from millionth-volume celebrations, to the annual Homecoming parade tent party, to the investiture ceremonies of several faculty.

Jason remains on campus. He is the associate director of annual giving communications in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement (OVCIA).



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### The Library is Social

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

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