Always Forward: As He Retires, Vice Provost Ed Van Gemert Reflects on His Time at UW

Sound of Music: Exploring the Rich Musical History of Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest

#StainsAlive: Lifting the Mystery from Dirty Old Books Through Multispectral Imaging
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On the Cover
UW–Madison Librarians pose with the Well Red statue in Alumni Park after knitting a giant scarf at the request of the Alumni Association (sculpture by Douwe Blumberg).

Photos
Left to right: Geography Library Student Employee Emmon Rogers decorates a world cookie. Ed Van Gemert in the 1980s. Fiddles, image from Mills Music Library.
Drawing a long, rewarding professional career to a close can be a sentimental time. I’ve been blessed with mentors who’ve given generously of their time and talents, colleagues who’ve made challenging work enjoyable, and a loving family that’s always there for me. Retiring from the University is, however, bittersweet, with fond memories of great friends and accomplishments along with all the uncertainties of retirement and possible next chapters in the story.

I recall being introduced to the South Asian bibliographer during one of my first visits to Memorial Library as an undergraduate. I was a political science major with a focus on the politics of South Asia, and I had a lot to learn! I was fortunate to have Professor Henry Hart as my major professor in the Department of Political Science. At that time, Memorial Library required undergraduates to place a request to have books brought to them. It was a hallmark of 20th century North American research university libraries to open their book stacks to all those who ventured in.

Since those days, much has changed. The technologies have changed many times over, the work in libraries has changed, and yet people keep coming to the library! We see over 3 million visitors per year in UW–Madison Libraries with many millions more using electronic resources remotely. There are scholarly disciplines that rely principally upon the availability of print, some that rely solely on electronic and digital content, and many that use each and every format available to them to accomplish their research and scholarship. Libraries and librarians today are in the business of information management.

Space will always be important in libraries. There was a time when the library was practically the only location on campus where a student could find a quiet place to study or write a paper. Today there is more competition on campus for such spaces. What differentiates the library from other spaces is the type of service and the expertise provided by professional library staff. It is critically important to test new concepts of space usage in planning for the future of library facilities.
Research and scholarship are becoming more multidisciplinary. Scholars today use a variety of resources for their research, teaching, and learning. It’s not print or electronic, but rather print and electronic—and much more! The work in libraries has become more collaborative over the years out of necessity. Research libraries now work with one another to share in the costs of acquiring, developing, and managing print and digital collections. Libraries coordinate their work to provide greater access to more resources and to reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of managing large print collections. Amassing large local print collections no longer makes sense when material can be effectively discovered, easily shared, and delivered.

Acquiring and providing access to scholarly resources and providing modern learning spaces that make librarian expertise available are foundational services in the academic research library. The community that results is the glue that holds it all together. People—students, faculty, staff, community members—all working together with adjacent collections, spaces, and librarians. That’s how the magic happens!

Support received from campus administration, students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, donors, Friends of the Libraries, and the wider community sustains one of the best academic research library systems in the country. My hope is that you continue to test the boundaries of creativity and innovation in providing support for research, teaching, and learning.

I leave my position feeling grateful for that eye-opening and life-changing liberal arts education I received, for the amazing opportunities made available to me over the course of my career, and for the lifelong friendships I’ve made.

I offer my support and best wishes to the next Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and I urge you to give that person your full support as well.

Libraries are special places in our society, close to the heart of the democracy. Let’s commit to continue to use and support libraries to the best of our abilities.

Thank you and best wishes.
On Wisconsin!

Ed Van Gemert
Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Over the years, the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s library collection has benefitted from the generosity of donors who have given both books and financial contributions. One such donor is James W. Jones. Dr. Jones earned his Ph.D. in German from UW–Madison. He went on to have a long career as a professor at Central Michigan University (CMU). At CMU, Dr. Jones taught German language, literature, and cultural history courses and served as chair of both the Academic Senate and the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures over the course of his career. Dr. Jones’ scholarship focused on LGBTQ+ cultural history and AIDS discourses in both Germany and the United States. Those scholarly interests are reflected in the collection of more than 2,500 monograph and serial volumes he donated to the Libraries. Many of the books are mysteries and detective fiction that feature gay protagonists and storylines. The donation also includes German language books and some non-fiction titles, many of which are focused on the AIDS crisis. Because the collection spans decades, it offers a broad and unique look into the evolution of gay literature and culture over time. Dr. Jones’ dedication to examining the LGBTQ+ experience led to a collection that will have a great impact on students and researchers for years to come.

Dr. Jones retired from CMU in 2017, and sadly passed away later that year. His legacy lives on however, through his book collection, which will benefit future generations of scholars and students, as well as through a planned financial gift that he made to the Libraries. This gift established an endowment that supports the James W. Jones Collection of Gay and Lesbian Literature, which will build upon Dr. Jones’ original collection. The endowment supports the acquisition of books, as well as the processing and preservation of the collection. Together with the Bemis/Flaherty Collection of Gay Poetry, the Jones Collection has added tremendous value to LGBTQ+ scholarship at the UW. The Libraries continue to add holdings in this area, including subscriptions to databases of primary resources, such as LGBT Thought and Culture, LGBT Life with Full Text, and Archives of Sexuality and Gender: LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940.

If you are interested in contributing to the Libraries’ efforts to build unique and distinct collections, please contact the Libraries’ Director of Development, Ben Strand at Ben.Strand@supportuw.org.
A Unique Opportunity to Give

Reserve Your Memorial Library Card Catalog Drawer Today!

- Personalize a drawer with your name, the name of a loved one, or a special message.
- Each drawer has three lines of text, 22 characters each, for your message.
- Drawers require a gift of $1,000 (in full or over a three-year pledge of $334, $333, and $333).

Visit library.wisc.edu/giving/campaign to get started today!
The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries unveiled a long-term facilities master plan this spring, laying the groundwork to begin looking at the future of their physical spaces on campus. After consideration of everything from the historic and iconic importance of libraries to ever-growing technology and space demands, the recommendations were developed to serve as a jumping-off point for discussing and planning for the long-term future of the campus libraries through a nearly three-decade, phased approach.

“Our goal is to develop this plan to best address the ways in which library spaces facilitate use of our services, technology, collections, and the expertise of library staff,” said Carrie Kruse, Director of College Library and Facilities Master Plan project manager. “We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we are committed to collaborating with our campus partners on the next steps toward an exciting future.”

The libraries facilities master plan was initiated by a recommendation from the Associate Vice Chancellor at Facilities Planning & Management. A comprehensive unit plan and the ability to share a vision with the giving community are required for the libraries to receive approvals and funding for facilities projects.

The facilities master plan is not an architectural plan. Rather, it articulates the quantity and the quality of the libraries’ current spaces and anticipates space needs. As the UW–Madison Libraries develop the recommendations over the coming years, they will continuing to seek input from a broad range of stakeholders, including the University Library Committee, faculty, students, staff, and various research community representatives. Each phase in the plan serves as its own project, and each requires significant participation and feedback from the campus community.

“We will need the help of our campus partners for years to come as we look at how these recommendations should be realized,” said Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian Ed Van Gemert.

Van Gemert noted that in addition to reaching out to the campus community in general for input, relying on the expertise of library staff is a key component to ensuring the libraries move into the future meeting the needs of the community in the most responsive way possible.

“Our staff provide an invaluable service to the campus,” said Van Gemert. “They bring a level of expertise to the table that ensure the libraries not only function, but thrive. Their work helps the faculty, students, and staff flourish in their research and educational careers. Our librarians’ knowledge truly makes an impact on campus.”

To learn more about the libraries entire facilities master plan process, read the consultants’ full report and recommendations, and provide comments and feedback, please visit Go.Wisc.Edu/LibraryMasterPlan.
In 2014, Dario Salvi, musical director at the Imperial Vienna Orchestra in the United Kingdom, contacted Mills Music Library to say the Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain was looking to produce Franz von Suppé’s 1883 operetta Die Afrikareise (A Trip To Africa) in 2016. They were in need of orchestral parts, scores, promptbooks, and dialogue books, all of which Mills had in our Tams-Witmark Wisconsin Collection. Salvi said they had not been able to locate these materials anywhere else in the world, despite having “contacts everywhere.” Thus began the correspondence that led to digitizing materials necessary for the production. Those are now also available online via the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections.

In 2016, a concert-performance occurred at the Maddermarket Theatre in Norwich, England, with Salvi conducting the Imperial Vienna Orchestra, joined by the Octagon singers, soloists, and a cast of eight principals, as previewed in an Eastern Daily Press article. Additionally, Salvi and his wife, Hannah, published A Trip to Africa: A Comic Opera by Franz von Suppé, a book of their compiled research, which includes the libretto in English, German, and Italian, as well as an appendix of historical reviews. In his preface, Salvi thanks “the amazing staff” at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries.

Mills Music Library staff are glad to know materials from one of our special collections helped Salvi realize his vision of reviving this long dormant operetta.

Throughout the process of providing Salvi with the materials he needed, the Libraries and Salvi coordinated to have the entire process filmed: from pulling the materials out of boxes in Mills Music Library, scanning them at UW–Madison, Salvi receiving and reworking the materials, to rehearsals, and finally the full public performance of the operetta. We thank the Imperial Vienna Orchestra, Salvi, and our librarians for providing the opportunity to share a perfect example of the Wisconsin Idea, gone international!
A glimpse of the rich musical heritage of Wisconsin, coming soon to a device near you!

UW-Madison’s Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Culture and Mills Music Library have been hard at work capturing metadata and digitally transferring the sounds of over 25 cultural traditions of Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.

Now in the second year of a $250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Local Centers, Global Sounds (uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/localcenters) went live in September 2017 with the first of fourteen digital collections.

These images are taken from some of the fabulous and rare material, dating from 1900 to the 1980s, which will be freely available through the UW Digital Collections. Presented together in an innovative manner, the audio, photos, and field notes from field recordings, home recordings, and early commercial recordings are linked by names, places, recording session, languages, types of music, and cultures.

Image:
Otto and Iva Rindlisbacher, 1930s, Rice Lake, WI.
Images clockwise:
Polish Sweethearts (Maroszek sisters), Ken Funmaker Sr. and Sons/ Ho Chunk, 1891 violin, Otto Rindlisbacher at the wheel with Iva Rindlisbacher and the Lumberjacks 1930s, Fiddles. All images from UW–Madison Libraries.
The Information Specialist Internship Program (ISIP) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is unlike anything else offered on campus. The two-year program provides second-year and third-year undergraduates with opportunities to obtain knowledge and hands-on experience in the library and information professions.

ISIP, created in 2006, works to give students a well-rounded education in all aspects of librarianship and information science. According to Carrie Kruse, Director of College Library and one of the founders of the program, ISIP was established to bring more diversity to librarianship by introducing students from under-represented groups to the varied roles and work areas in the field. “We hope that the interns might consider an information career in the future. Regardless of their eventual path in life, ISIP interns learn skills that are useful in a variety of careers, and they can be effective advocates for libraries in their communities with a broader understanding of the work of information professionals,” said Kruse.

So where exactly do interns end up after they finish the program? We caught up with a few of them for updates!

Jhani Miller is working as a library information supervisor for the Brooklyn Public Ulmer Park Branch in New York City.

Keisha Baker now works as a real estate appraiser for Los Angeles County, helping to assess different types of property in Los Angeles for tax purposes. She is also the author of two published young adult novels.

Courtney Cottrell recently completed her Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Michigan, focusing on ethnographic museums, and is now working for the University of Illinois American Indian Studies Department doing archival work. This is a perfect example of someone being an “information specialist” in the broad sense of ISIP’s mission.

Genesha Murray is currently working close to home at the University of Wisconsin Foundation. Her last module through ISIP was focused on library communications, fundraising, and development, and through that work she was able to make a connection with a UW Foundation employee that set her on this career pathway.

These former interns have varying responses as to why they were interested in joining the ISIP program. Some had little knowledge of the librarianship and information science field, while others knew it would help them pursue their careers. We asked each of them why they were drawn to the program. Keisha told us, “I chose to join the program because I always enjoyed libraries and reading, but I actually had no idea what the library science profession consisted of. Once I learned more about it, I considered it as a possible career path.” Courtney explained, “I chose to join the program because I was interested in archival work. I really enjoyed working in museums and wanted to continue to do similar things through ISIP.” Jhani told us, “At a librarian’s retirement event, I met a librarian that was instrumental in
helping me choose to join the ISIP program and guiding my career path: Roy Brooks.” Genesha said, “I was tired of working at the dining hall. I was looking for a new opportunity to explore, and ISIP seemed like a great fit. I wanted to learn, work, and be connected to a network. I was really interested in learning more about what a librarian was. I was excited to debunk the librarian stereotype I had in my mind.”

In order to gain a breadth of experience, the interns are rotated through modules that allow them to see librarianship from many different perspectives. The modules include public services, collection management, information technology, and discipline-specific activities. The final modules are ones of their choosing, specific to the intern’s interests and career goals. Mentors guide the interns through their assigned modules and provide additional context on what the work is, and how it fits into the bigger picture of libraries. We asked Keisha Baker what she thought of the module-style rotation. “I loved that I was able to do different modules every so often,” she said. “I felt that I got to learn all aspects of library science and it kept the program fresh and exciting.”

We also asked the interns how the program helped them prepare for the careers they are pursuing today. Courtney said, “ISIP forced me to experience different areas in archive work, which I am currently doing in my career. It helped me market myself to be able to do multiple jobs in a museum.”

Keisha said, “During the interview for my current position, they actually were concerned that I was a science major. Even though my math skills were strong for this job, they were worried that because the work would be more financial and business-related I wouldn’t be able to adapt. I was able to speak at length about the years I spent in ISIP, and I think it really showed that I am capable of working and succeeding outside the science realm.” Genesha told us, “It helped me understand data management, which is a huge part of my job today. It helped me network to build lasting relationships, which is important both personally and professionally. I learned so much about data systems, customer services, understanding moving pieces, and becoming constantly intellectually curious.”

Said Kelli Hughes, a public services librarian and chair of the ISIP steering committee, “We are incredibly proud of our interns and graduates. They are largely responsible for the success of this program. We are fortunate to have recruited students with a wide range of academic and career interests, and it’s a pleasure to see ISIP help to further define and shape these goals.” Kelli continued, “While many of our students have gone on to pursue advanced degrees in library or information studies, we know many others will not. However, we hear all the time that ISIP had a lasting impact on them, their career trajectory, and their perception of libraries and library work as a whole.” All of the members of the ISIP community are excited to expand these opportunities to more undergraduate students year after year.
Almost exactly fifty years ago, in the fall of 1967, I washed up on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison as a graduate student in African history. I had spent the previous eight years well outside academia and was hating it. One of the reasons for this dissatisfaction was my inability to secure a broad range of materials from the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library (TPL). I was familiar with TPL largely because I had worked there from 1953 to 1956 as a high-school and college student. A fine WPA-funded library, it no doubt served its core clientele—but me, not so much.

No surprise then that the very first place on campus I scoped out was Memorial Library, whose formidable bulk was less formidable than it was to become during the next twenty years, but still leap-years better than TPL. The resources of Memorial—and the numerous specialized libraries on campus—dwarfed those of TPL. Moreover, Memorial’s cavernous stacks were more redolent of the stereotypical library, with aisle after endless aisle of choc-a-bloc with rows of books with plenty of dust on them, virtually no natural lighting, execrable study carrels, and mediocre ventilation. I loved it all and managed to visit there almost every weekday. At the time, entry to the stacks was by way of a single portal and available only to graduate students, allowing us to feel ever so slightly superior to the rest of the student population, who were forced to turn in written requests for all materials in Memorial’s stacks.

My first visit was to ILL, which at the time was housed in quite a small office attached to the General Reference Department. I was immediately made to feel at home by the librarian and half assigned to ordering materials, mostly for in-house use. Several years later the General Reference Department moved to newer and larger quarters, and I tagged along. My first and lasting impression was the empathetic interest shown by the ILL staff. They taught users how to make best use of such finding tools as the Pre-1956 Imprints, through which ILL patrons became indoctrinated on bibliographic usages just in time for them all to change...

At first requests were limited to four per week, and I was soon up to speed. Given the numbers of real and potential users, this must have been a heavy load for the librarian and the student helpers. It was also fairly difficult to order materials, since users were requested to provide a citation, preferably from some canonical index or another, to ensure that the item requested did actually exist and in findable shape (corporate entities, pseudonyms, particular editions, and the like). Users tended to learn from their mistakes!
I estimate that, in the fifty years since those early days of learning (library) right from (library) wrong, I have ordered (note present-perfect ending) more than 10,000 items through ILL, a number facilitated by the removal of the four-per-week limitations not so long after I arrived. While these items were normally related to my research, there were some bonus opportunities as well. As a fan of the British golden-age mystery genre, I eventually read most that the UW had in this respect—and it has one of the better collections of the country, since the selectors of modern fiction during my incumbency also had the habit. At some point I learned about a British effort to preserve these hundreds and hundreds—and hundreds—of titles. Named the Metropolitan Joint Fiction Reserve, it divided these materials alphabetically and distributed them among the numerous libraries in and around London. At my request, ILL checked to see whether these titles could be borrowed. Mirabile dictu, the answer was yes, and for several years we had a procedure in place by which I would order five to ten titles at a time and return them en gros, paying the postage both ways. What a deal! Even though ILL was not out of pocket monetarily, its willingness to act as legitimizing broker made it all possible. I am eternally grateful to ILL not only for doing this, but for being willing to do it.

In the course of research, it is sometimes expedient to borrow an item for no loftier purpose than to check the accuracy of a citation/quotation or inclusive page numbers. Since this might require only a few moments to do, it might well be regarded as an unnecessarily expensive luxury, but if such a feeling exists at any of the UW ILL departments, it was never imparted to me.

Visiting other research libraries here and abroad, I noticed that many of them have closed doors with slits in them or boxes positioned near them, thereby interdicting any possibly useful give-and-take. This was true at Memorial Library for only a brief period. For most of my time there, ILL was in its own office, a counter-like arrangement that one merely needed to walk up to and start conversing. Even now, although relegated to the basement, the doors are open for anyone willing to walk through them.

For my part, I (hope) I have never failed to acknowledge my appreciation in books and other places. My experience has been that librarians are generally forgotten at thank-you time. Maybe sometimes this is warranted. Or perhaps these authors have simply not availed themselves of the multitudinous universe of resources—much to their disadvantage, I would think.

Of course, over the last half-century, ILL has transformed itself—or been transformed—at least as much as other library functions. It is a far cry from the days of the handwritten order forms to speed-of-light delivery via the internet. And the onset of new bibliographic databases makes it simple to find more and more about more and more. But, in my experience anyway, the commitment of librarians to provide the best possible service, whatever the environment, remains undiminished.

In the IT environment of today, I often receive copies of articles within minutes (sic) of placing the order—not much longer that it would take me to walk from my office to the appropriate stack of shelves if it were there. Not only is everything faster, but the hit-rate continues to increase. Fifty years ago, perhaps one half of my orders were unsuccessful, whether due to defective matter on the order, to a failure locate a willing lender, or to a number of other vicissitudes. It has been a long time since that was true.

I probably won’t be ordering much through ILL any more—although four items arrived only last week—but I continue to remain grateful for the roughly 10,000 times ILL and I have interacted. The benefit balance is very much on my side.
For more than 30 years, Julie Chen has been unlocking a world of imagination through her artists’ books, giving readers an experience that is artistic and playful and at the same time very intentional.

“I use the analogy of a pocket calculator to help explain the relationship of a normal book to an artist’s book. Almost anyone can use a pocket calculator to do simple calculations just as almost anyone can read a book,” said Chen. “But a mathematician can take the same pocket calculator and unleash a huge amount of power that a typical person has no idea how to unlock and probably doesn’t even realize is in there. This is what a book artist does with the book form. There is a huge amount of power inherent in the book form vis-a-vis the reading experience that can be unlocked once an artist starts to work with it in an intentional way.”

Chen, who started the Flying Fish Press in 1987, got her first start with artist books at Mills College during her graduate career. After receiving her undergraduate degree in studio art from UC Berkeley, she headed to Mills College, where she now teaches, and was instantly captivated by one program in particular: Book Arts.

“When I went in for a studio visit, I was hooked from the moment I walked through the door,” remembered Chen. “I can’t really explain it, since I had no idea what any of the equipment was for, but it just felt right to me.”

Now, decades later, the student who had no idea how to correctly fold paper or sew a book has become an internationally known master, sought after for her meticulous three-dimensional, movable books, and letterpress printed works. Her books often take months, a year, or even longer to create.

“Each new book starts to take on a life of its own after a while and it’s my job as the artist to honor the direction that the book wants to go in,” explained Chen.

On March 20, 2018, Chen was welcomed to the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus as the guest lecturer for the fourth annual Bernstein Books Arts Lecture, where she
gave the talk, *Every Moment of a Book: Three Decades of Work by Julie Chen*. Additionally, she helped lead a workshop for Professor Jim Escalante’s Book Arts and Letterpress class.

“I was deeply honored to welcome Julie Chen to campus to give the Bernstein Book Arts Lecture and to showcase her work in a captivating exhibit at the Kohler Art Library,” said Lyn Korenic, Kohler Art Library Director. “Her nearly 60 limited edition masterful works explore the reading experience and the materiality of the book. Using inventive book forms and personal narrative to comment on the human condition and the environment, Chen creates book art that is nonpareil.”

Students who took the art librarianship class through the iSchool during the 2018 spring semester curated an exhibition of Julie Chen’s work in the Kohler Art Library. *The Reimagined Book: Julie Chen & Flying Fish Press* was on view from March 14–June 8, 2018.

Chen said she was excited about the opportunity to share how her work comes together, and to watch others experience her art.

“My motto is to make work about what you know, and even though my pieces have pretty intricate structures, I hope that a certain level of universality in the messages within my books comes through,” said Chen.

Previous Bernstein Book Arts lectures were given by Maureen Cummins (2015), Gaylord Schanilec (2016), and Diane Fine (2017).

The lecture is funded by the Leonora G. Bernstein Artists’ Book Endowment and sponsored by Kohler Art Library /UW–Madison Libraries.

For a full Q&A with Julie Chen, visit our Libraries News page, www.library.wisc.edu/news.
Multispectral Imaging: Unlocking the Mystery of Medieval Manuscripts

Who hasn’t spilled something on a book or project that they’ve been using? Imagine what your books will reveal about you 100, 200, 1,000 years from now.

Water stains. Coffee stains. Ink stains. What is that? Stains. The Library of Stains project, also known as Labeculae Vitae, is lifting the mystery of stains in manuscripts from around the world and looking beneath the surface to see what stories those marks may tell.

The project aims to gather scientific data from the process of multispectral imaging, drawing from stains found on parchment, paper, and bindings in medieval manuscripts. The data from these images could offer a new way for researchers, conservators, librarians, and the public to access information about both the material makeup and use of medieval manuscripts, as well as new approaches for modern manuscript studies.

“Multispectral imaging is being used to study the degradation of parchment and pigments,” said Heather Wacha, Ph.D., Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Curation for Medieval Studies. “But to harness this technology to identify a dataset of stains in this manner has never before been explored.”

The Library of Stains project will focus on “dirty old books,” literally. It will look at the stains and dirt residues that have traditionally been overlooked when studying these types of artifacts.

On December 13, 2017, a special public lecture and multispectral imaging demonstration was held in the Department of Special Collections giving the public a first-hand glimpse of the project and its process.

Some examples of stains team members hope to find include medicinal spills, blood, and even ingredients from alchemical recipes. The folios that have been chosen to image and analyze include stains of interesting shapes, colors and placement. For example, a medium-sized stain that begins on the edge of a page and washes across the bottom right corner may indicate spilled wine or another liquid; whereas a small irregular-looking dark stain placed in the middle of a page may be the remnants of an insect accidentally crushed when the book was closed.

“This project wants to bring together an audience to explore and study the human experience,” explained Wacha. “Who hasn’t spilled something on a book or project that they’ve been using? Imagine what your books will reveal about you 100, 200, 1,000 years from now. Whether it’s a medieval person’s
relationship to a manuscript or how that information relates to our interactions with books today, this project gives us a new way to experience and understand those who came before us.”

The project was awarded a $10,000 grant from the Mellon foundation that supports innovative projects proposed by CLIR Fellows. Erin Connelly (University of Pennsylvania), Alberto Campagnolo (Library of Congress), and Heather Wacha (University of Wisconsin–Madison), all CLIR Postdoctoral Fellows in Data Curation for Medieval Studies are collaborating with Mike Toth, multispectral imaging expert from R.B. Toth and Associates. The group will image approximately 35-40 manuscripts held in their respective institutions. R.B. Toth Associates, in partnership with Digital Transitions and Phase One A/S have developed a multispectral imaging system for libraries and librarians who desire to conduct their own spectral imaging of important collection objects and cultural heritage artifacts. Results from this project are expected to be released this summer (2018).

For more information, visit the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture.
The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree when it comes to University of Wisconsin–Madison graduate student Emmon Rogers and her mother, UW–Madison alumna Anne Hedrich. They not only mapped their educational paths through Madison . . .

“I was an undergrad here from 1979 to 1985,” explained Hedrich, who returned in the spring of 1986 to take one undergraduate course as a non-degree-earning student. “Then I came back again in 1989 to get my library degree.”

...they have literally been walking the same paths through their time on campus—right through the Geography Building.

“I finished my undergraduate career here, and now I’m getting my library degree as well,” said Rogers.

“I like geography and I was looking for a job on campus,” said Hedrich. “The Geography Library offered me a position and it was just a perfect fit. It was always fun to work here.”

Years later her daughter would find herself in the same role, but for Rogers, the Geography Library has been a part of her life for far longer than just her time on campus.

“My mom actually worked with Geography Librarian Tom Tews! Anytime we would come back to visit Madison, we would come visit Tom,” explained Rogers. “I would always draw on the stories my mom would tell of the fun she had when she was here, so my decision to come to Madison for school was an easy one.”

For Tews, it’s a fun tie that has come full circle.

“It’s neat to see how they’re both interested in the same things,” said Tews. “They have vastly different personalities, but working with both of them through the years has been a lot of fun.”

As Rogers noted, she might have the Geography building to thank, in part, for her existence.

“My mom actually met my dad here,” said Rogers.

“It’s true,” continued Hedrich. “[Paul] was a geography grad student working on his thesis. I helped get him a class reserve reading that he needed one day, and that’s how we met!”

For Rogers, who received a Masters in Library Science in May 2018, the family legacy at UW–Madison is more than just a fun coincidence.

“I’m living and working in the spaces, walking the very floors that helped shaped my parents’ futures, and mine, before I even knew it. It’s a neat experience,” said Rogers.
“Madison, this campus, and this building, [and even some of the very people in this building], have always offered me a sense of home and a place of belonging, from a very young age.”

In December 2017, Hedrich, who now works as a reference & instruction and science librarian at Utah State, made a special trip back to Madison. As the Geography Department and the Libraries prepared to close and renovate the Geography Library space over the coming years, Hedrich returned to work the final desk shift in the library alongside her daughter.

“It’s emotional, for sure,” said Hedrich. “But what an opportunity to have this experience with my daughter, and with Tom as well.”

January 2018 marked the start of a transformation for the Geography Library. Books were moved to other campus libraries or to offsite shelving. The empty stacks will be removed to make way for a new home for the Cartography Lab, with expanded capacity to teach map-making and data visualization, produce high quality maps for the public, and provide creative ‘makerspace’ for the UW community. The removal of books and stacks will also open up a new seminar room overlooking the Memorial Union. Both projects are underway under close supervision of the Geography Department and the Libraries, aiming for completion by the end of this calendar year. Plans are also being made for a second phase to transform the reading room into more flexible and accessible learning and workspace for the University community, while maintaining the lofty beauty of the large space.

As for Rogers, she said she plans to take a slight detour from her mother’s career path in academic librarianship, instead opting for public librarianship. However, this mother-daughter duo note their Badger family roots and Madison will always offer a home away from home.

“It’s a place of great meaning for both of us,” said Hedrich.

“Plus, we have to visit to keep Tom on his toes,” joked Rogers.

Images:
Alum Anne Hedrich stands in the Geography Library with her daughter Emmon Rogers (left) and with Geography Librarian Tom Tews (above). Top of page - Rogers decorates a cookie during fall finals.
A Message from the Friends President

Dear Friends,

As my final term as president of the Friends Board ends, I’ve thought about whether I should look back at the past three years, recap, ponder... write the usual type of remembrance. Then I realized, no—that’s not what the UW Libraries are doing right now! The Libraries are looking ahead in many ways, large and small, and the Friends’ ongoing challenge is to look ahead with them. And so in that spirit, here are a few changes and challenges ahead for the Friends:

One challenge is to keep up with the changing needs of the Libraries, and allocate our grants—made possible by your gifts—accordingly. The things that students and faculty expect from campus libraries have changed dramatically in recent years. Study spaces and technology services, for instance, have become much higher priorities. As longtime print lovers, the Friends have always supported “old media”—and will continue to do so, with investments in Special Collections and other areas. At the same time, the Friends have made an effort to learn and support the current and future needs of the Libraries. We will no doubt accelerate that effort in coming years.

You should know that your gifts to the Friends support future uses of the Libraries, as well as help preserve their collections and their past.

You may already have read about the Libraries’ master plan for the next 25 years. It’s an ambitious multistage plan that will, without fail, change as it moves along—what 25-year plan doesn’t? The plan addresses critical needs not only of the UW–Madison Libraries, but of the campus and broader user community as a whole (for the entire campus, as well as users around the world, rely on the UW–Madison Libraries). The Friends, many of whom have years of experience with campus libraries, are well-placed both to give feedback to library planners, and to help the larger community adapt to change.

I expect that we will be involved in that task, in concert with Ed Van Gemert’s successor. (And in passing, I’d like to thank Ed on behalf of the entire board for his support of the Friends, as well as his deep care for, and commitment to, the UW Libraries).

I’ll allow myself a backward glance before ending, to answer the old question, “what have I learned?” Well, when I joined the Friends board years ago, and even more as board president, I learned what most library professionals know well—that libraries, certainly including the UW–Madison Libraries, are not the static, unchanging entities that they can appear from the outside. (You may have known this already, and be smiling at my ignorance). They are one of the most dynamic places on any campus, and certainly that’s true at the UW–Madison. I’ll continue to support them and to watch every move with interest, and I hope you will too.

With gratitude,
Michael Chaim
It's impossible to spend an hour in the company of Mary Rouse without feeling the world is full of possibilities. She's made a career of connecting with others, setting an example herself and helping others to find their place in their communities. I spent just such an hour with her recently. I came out smiling.

**JF:** When did you come to Wisconsin?

**MR:** We came from Michigan in 1967. My husband Ken was a graduate student in the German department. I had a baby and was looking for work and started out as an admissions counselor at the UW.

**JF:** I read an interview you did with the *Capital Times* a few years ago in which you said, “I connect people with people who have shared interests.” It sounds so simple and obvious that it takes a moment to realize how much of a challenge that can be. How do you do it?

**MR:** I consider myself a communitarian. It means knowing lots of people in your community, remembering what they're interested in, and when you come across other people with like interests you simply make the connection.

**JF:** You've worked on bringing people together in each of the positions you've held at the University. You worked directly with students in the admissions office, and as dean of students. Later you did the same as director of the Morgridge Center for Public Service. How did that work?

**MR:** I got the job in admissions as a counselor in 1967. In the spring of that year there was a program that had been started called The Five Year Program of Tutorial and Financial Assistance. It was open to all students, and students of color and low income students were encouraged to apply. The program ensured students would have two extra semesters to graduate, and not be at risk for being drafted. So for that Five Year Program of Tutorial and Financial Assistance, they brought a wonderful man from Milwaukee, Jim Baugh, to head the program in 1968. He wanted one person in admissions to do recruiting and admission and to work with the students and their families and one person from financial aid. I was the person in admissions and I had the time of...
my life. I went to Chicago. I went to the Indian reservations. I went to Milwaukee, to Racine, to Beloit. I went to visit these students in their homes and met their families and then subsequently admitted them and quite frequently had to pick them up from the bus station and help them get organized and oriented. And they really taught me how students of color saw our university, and it wasn’t pretty. I soon realized that the more diverse the student body, faculty and staff were, the better an education all of us would have in today’s world. From there I think I’ve developed a commitment to try to do everything I could to make the university a more inclusive space and to learn more from students from all different kinds of backgrounds. It certainly was a formative experience. I learned much more from these students and their families and their experiences here than they ever learned from me.

**JF:** Life-changing choice, but a good one.

**MR:** Let me give you an example from outside the university. I’m a regular blood donor. When I was donating blood a few years ago I met a young mother who had just donated and she had her son with her. Her son had severe sickle cell disease. We struck up a conversation. Fast forward to the Morgridge Center where we were celebrating our fifteenth anniversary and looking for special events that we could add. I said, “How about a sickle cell blood drive that focuses on educating people about the disease and encouraging more people, particularly African Americans, to donate blood?” This boy, Isaiah, had 200 blood transfusions. He was a teenager and even my O-negative blood, which is a universal donor, would be rejected because Isaiah needed blood from an African American donor that would have similar markers to his. So we were going to do a sickle cell blood drive for just one year. It was so successful and well-received that we’re still doing it. The best news recently is that the Wisconsin Black Students Union has taken it over. Those Sickle Cell drives allowed us to connect with Mt. Zion, Second Baptist Church, and Fountain of Life and made all these connections in the community plus connections at the university. We have two drives off campus and two on campus. There’s an example of a connection I’m proud to have helped with but the real credit goes to this young mother who taught me about sickle cell.

**JF:** Is that what the Morgridge Center is about to you? Connecting people so they are aware of other people’s needs?

**MR:** The primary reason I tell people working at the Morgridge Center was the best job I ever had at the university was because it is fundamentally about democracy and civic-mindedness. We teach our students to become lifelong civic participants. Whether you think the government should be small and you’re a conservative or you think it ought to be large and you’re a liberal, in fact we have no well-functioning government, that is, society, unless everyone is participating at some level in some kind of public arena, some kind of public works service. That’s the first reason. The second is making connections that can work toward that goal.

**JF:** I’ve forgotten to ask you about the library. You’ve been on the board of the Friends of the Libraries for a decade now?

**MR:** I’m married to a librarian and I studied Latin and Greek so I’ve been around books. I’ve served on the library board for ten years. I love libraries and I think it’s critically important to our research and service and teaching. It’s all connected. Libraries connect us to all kinds of things.

**JF:** So you have a good feeling about the future of libraries?

**MR:** They will always be with us. Certain things change with the advent of information technology. There will always be folks who are interested in history and want to go back into the dusty volumes in the stacks.
**JF:** Were you ever tempted to go elsewhere?

**MR:** No, I tell people I’ve always been a local. I love my local community. I’m very attached to it. I know people. I can make all those connections.

**JF:** Has your life so far turned out the way you expected it to?

**MR:** Not at all. I had no idea there was a career to be had in student services. When I got the job in admissions, I was just so glad to have a job; it was all I cared about. So, I got into this career in student services and there were more and more challenges, and eventually I got the dean’s job, and then I got my dream job as director of the Morgridge Center for Public Service. That was a lot of fun because it was a job that directly relates to democracy and public service, which was why I was studying Greek and Latin in the first place. So, it came around a circuitous route but it came around.

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**Under the Board Work**

Your Friends volunteer board does not work “down by the sea,” but we do get to view the shores of Lake Mendota when we meet monthly, most often on the ninth floor of Memorial Library. The ninth floor is home to what some consider the rarified atmosphere of Special Collections. To us, it is another part of the campus library system that we hold in such high regard. The Friends Board attends to monthly business, but we are always mindful of our internal and external roles and how we collaborate with our Library partners. In a review of recent board meeting minutes, some recurring themes are clear.

Revisiting and discussing our mission is a refrain in board meetings. It is within our mission to support, promote, and enhance the many and unique aspects of the Libraries. How we do this changes over time, as does our role. We want to make sure our mission guides what we do today and tomorrow.

Certainly related to mission is how we allocate funds received from our book sales, endowment interest, and your donations. Our Grants Committee is active not only in awarding grants, but also in making sure the grants meet our goals and Library needs. The board is keenly interested in current needs on campus as grants to libraries are approved. The board is also midstream in considerations on how to maximize visibility and impact of our grants to visiting scholars.

Finally, the board addressed and acted on efforts to broaden representation on the board itself, and to use committee volunteerism as a pipeline to board membership. This is ongoing work and is discussed frequently as a reminder to maintain our momentum toward this goal.

Your Friends Board operates with a sense of the larger organization while making smaller month-to-month decisions. The work is stimulating and rewarding as we move forward on behalf of students, researchers, and friends.

—Al Friedman
My name is Erin Faigin and I am a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of History. I study American Jewish history and I am particularly interested in regional Yiddish literature and culture in the American West and Midwest. I started learning Yiddish at Berkeley, and I continued my studies at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts and the Vilnius Yiddish Institute in Lithuania. I have been studying Yiddish for four years and I am just starting to learn Hebrew.

Last year, the Center for Jewish Studies and Memorial Library acquired a significant collection of Yiddish books from Harvard. I work in copy cataloging, checking and improving the records that other catalogers have created, thanks to grant funding cobbled together from various sources including the Friends of the Library. Because there are not many Yiddish catalogers in the country, many of the records are incomplete. I make sure that every record has all the information that a library user would need to find a book—in both Yiddish and English. While it might not seem exciting, I like to think of copy cataloging as a community effort to make knowledge more accessible and our bibliographic records more accurate. If I do my job right, library users will be able to find the sources they need by searching the online database or find their book next to other like books on the shelves in the stacks. We are hoping to have the project completed by spring 2019.

What surprises me most is the geographic diversity of the collection. Many of the books were published in New York, Warsaw, or Buenos Aires, but I have also come across books published in Uruguay, Cuba, Mexico, and Australia. I even encountered a short Yiddish play that was published in Alexandria, Egypt, in the 1920s. These items traveled a long way to end up at UW–Madison, through libraries and Jewish cultural centers. At each location they would be stamped with the imprint of that institution. For instance, Mayn Reyze in Erets Yisroel (My Journey in the Land of Israel) by Dr. B. Hofman was published in Warsaw in 1923 and then passed through the Biblioteca del Centro Israelita de Cuba before making its way to Harvard and finally UW–Madison. In their material form, these books are at once local and global, reflective of the Jewish diaspora in the 20th century.

While I am certain that my own research will benefit from this work—I have already stumbled upon so many exciting projects—I hope that this work will also help other graduate students and professors with an interest in Yiddish. I think these books are so much more than just the text contained within, but objects that tell a global story. Jewish studies at UW–Madison is expanding rapidly, with a new program in Jewish history and a new Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association. This project is one part of that growth. I am grateful the Friends of the Library make it possible for me to work on it.
You know the drill. You hold the book you once loved in your hands, smoothing its cover and remembering its importance to you. Then you take a deep breath and place it in the box marked “Donations for the Friends.” The time has come to let it go and make space on your bookshelves for new literary experiences. But, before you seal up the box, you might take a moment to wonder who will be discovering these volumes that made such an impression on you. Will they get snatched up by a vendor and then mailed across the country, or even the world, to a person who will be excited to receive them? Or, will a Madison student reach for your book, happy to tuck it into his backpack without breaking his budget? When a book is donated to the Friends, it simultaneously provides funds for the library and an opportunity to be valued anew.

As the doors to the Friends semiannual book sales open, scores of treasure-hunters stream toward tables laden with books. Drawn by its reputation for high-quality materials and bargain prices, students, booksellers, community members, faculty, and staff all flow in to peruse the bounty. Among the crowded tables you will probably find Kathy Seeger, homeschooling mother of five. She isn’t a professional vendor, but watching her load up books soon makes it obvious that her purchases extend beyond personal use. Curious, I approached her. That’s when I learned the unique plans she has for the items she selects. They will land on shelves in her home, yes, but she shares them widely. Kathy runs what she calls the Living Education Library, and over the last several years she has amassed a collection of more than 10,000 books for children from preschool age through high school. They include fiction, history, science, biographies, literature, mathematics, art, music, and poetry. The library fills two rooms in her home. Nearly 50 homeschooled children visit once a month to exchange their books for new ones.

What makes her library different from others is her focus on what she calls the Golden Age of Children’s Literature, spanning the decades between 1930 and 1970. Seeking to provide her children with these classics, Kathy discovered that many of them were hard to find. They were frequently unavailable from the public library and often out of print. So, she turned to library sales, thrift sales, used book sales, and online sources. As her collection grew, she realized she could share her treasures with other families, and the Living Education Library was born. As I helped her carry boxes and bags of diverse materials to her car, I asked Kathy how she could possibly sort, shelve, and manage this undertaking by herself. That’s when she laughed, nodded toward her children, and said, “A trip to the library is a shared activity. It is a beautiful thing to connect a child with a book that gives them big ideas and ignites a passion for learning.” Certainly, every shopper scanning the multitude of opportunities on the tables of the Friends used book sale can agree with that.
Monies generated by the used book sales and gifts are always put to good use by the Friends. This year the Friends are distributing more than $60,000 to benefit Library projects that would otherwise go unfunded. Recipients include:

- **The Wisconsin Zoological Museum Research Library**, for the preservation of century-old historic lithographed biological wall charts that were hung in UW biology classrooms at the turn of the 20th century. These charts were acquired by Edward Birge, the curator of the natural history cabinet and eventual president of the university.

- **The Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research**, for the preservation of filmed episodes of the 1950s Faye Emerson Show, an influential television talk show that aired on CBS and enjoyed celebrity guests such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Edith Piaf.

- **The Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies**, for preservation of 19th and 20th century publications that provide insights into the ways German-speaking immigrants and their descendants were influenced by and wielded influence on the citizens of Wisconsin. Conserved materials are on exhibit on the fourth floor of the University Club.

- **The Center for Limnology Archives**, for preserving and digitizing the department’s collections to ensure their materials are available and accessible to future generations. Considered the birthplace of limnology in North America, UW–Madison’s holdings are key in providing a coherent understanding of the ecosystems of lakes and inland waters.

- **UW–Madison Libraries Cataloging**, for the hiring of a graduate student fluent in Yiddish to catalog a recent acquisition of more than 16,000 Yiddish items obtained from Harvard University. Once complete, UW–Madison Libraries will have one of the largest collections of Yiddish materials belonging to a public university in the United States.

- **University Archives**, for hire a student to inventory the current film holdings, complete and update descriptive information, and make the items more discoverable and accessible to library students and patrons.

- **College Library**, for hire library graduate students to update research guides used by undergraduates. This grant benefits our iSchool reference assistants with professional learning opportunities, and provides undergraduate students with current research tools to use when they complete their general education requirement courses.

- **Library Technology Group**, for the development of a tool that can be used to inventory and assess the condition of materials across our library collections. The tool will be used on a mobile device in the library stacks to record data about a randomized set of items, record the condition of the items, and verify the status in the catalog.

- **Mills Music Library**, to provide high resolution scanning of historic Paramount Record 78 rpm record labels, including blues and Ethnic-American material. The scanned images can then be added to the collection to enhance descriptive and structural metadata to the existing database records.

- **UW–Madison Libraries Information Specialist Internship Program**, to provide second-and third-year undergraduates at UW–Madison with hands-on experience in the field of information and library services such as collection management, information technology, public services, technical services, and special libraries.

- **Special Collections and Archives**, for the support of the History of Book Arts at UW–Madison: An Oral History Project which is a collaboration between the Kohler Art Library and The UW–Madison Oral History Program. This project seeks to gather and preserve the memories and reflections of faculty, students, and other campus community members who contributed to the rich history of book arts at UW–Madison between the 1970s and the present.

- **UW–Madison Libraries Collections and Research Services**, to support travel to India, Germany, and other international locations by librarian subject specialists and curators to acquire rare and unusual materials, attend book fairs, and meet with publishers and vendors to continue developing our world-class collections.
Meeting Diversity Resident Librarian Kalani Adolpho

Meet Diversity Resident Librarian, Kalani Adolpho. They have a bachelor’s degree in History with a minor in Spanish, as well as a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from UW-Milwaukee. Kalani’s current interests include working in special collections or with archives.

We checked in with Kalani this spring to see how their residency was going. When asked what the best part of the experience was, Kalani noted, “It’s hard to pick just one thing. I will say a number of coworkers at College Library and other campus libraries have really gone above and beyond to help acclimate me to the General Library System, and the profession as a whole, as well as provide support and avenues to further diversity efforts in the libraries. I am also really glad to have space to explore my own interests through the structure of the residency itself, as well as through professional development opportunities.”

The UW–Madison Diversity Resident Librarian Program, established in 2013, provides entry-level librarians from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to develop skills and professional growth in academic librarianship. The three-year program aims to merge professional aspirations of the participants with the service and operational priorities of the library. The residency begins with a year at College Library, followed by a two-year placement in another campus library based on needs and priorities of the libraries, combined with the resident’s interests and goals.

“Librarianship is in desperate need of systemic and structural change in order to ensure that any diversity efforts and initiatives have a lasting impact, or any impact at all,” explained Kalani. “Cataloguing and classification have very obvious problems with perpetuating colonialism and Western-centrism, along with other types of societal-isms and -phobias. Concerns related to diversity spring up when it comes to hiring, retention, workplace culture, collection development, outreach, and basically every other aspect of the profession.”

The challenge of tackling and understanding diversity is never simple. Kalani spoke with us about a struggle they faced as a Diversity Resident Librarian.

“One of the biggest struggles for me so far has been working out what diversity means to me personally, what it seems to mean to the profession as a whole, what it means to other librarians of color, what it means to the UW–Madison Libraries, and how to reconcile all of this in such a way that is productive and beneficial to my future as a librarian,” said Kalani. “On a positive note, I’ve had the opportunity to network with other librarians of color and even attend a workshop on Mukurtu, a content management system which allows users to access digital cultural heritage resources in ethically and culturally relevant ways.”

Kalani explained to that through their experiences as a Diversity Resident Librarian, they’ve aspired to use what they’ve learned through other librarians’ experiences, and more as a way to grow personally while encouraging and inspiring others to do the same.

“It is my hope that this residency and any subsequent positions will provide me with opportunities to use what I’ve learned to help support other trans people and people of color who are interested in librarianship,” noted Kalani. “I also hope it will offer the chance to collaborate with indigenous communities on projects relating to preserving and providing access to cultural heritage materials.”

For more on the Diversity Resident Librarian Program, visit www.library.wisc.edu/about/employment/diversity-resident-lib
Keeping Bucky Warm!

In January, the Wisconsin Alumni Association, the Wisconsin Alumni Student Board, and the Homecoming Committee hosted a special photo event at Alumni Park with the Well Red sculpture (by artist Douwe Blumbgerg). Prior to this event, the organizations approached the libraries with the idea about knitting a giant scarf for the statue. Naturally, ever the helpful and talented group that our librarians are, they were up to the challenge! Just in time for the photo event, the librarians presented the Alumni Association with a scarf worthy of Buckingham Badger. Thanks to all of our librarians who took part!
Save the Date

Go Paperless
View all the Libraries issues electronically at go.wisc.edu/UWLibrariesMagazine or sign up to receive the e-version: uwmadlibrariesnews@library.wisc.edu

Join us May 17, 2018 for an evening with Jim Leary at the Great Libraries of UW–Madison

library.wisc.edu