

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Support University Libraries' Collections, Services, and Programs

Financial donations by the Friends of Bracken Library to existing Ball State University Foundation accounts supporting University Libraries are always greatly appreciated, and we would like to thank all of our Friends. The following donors made contributions of \$100 or more in fiscal year 2023-2024.

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FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDER M. BRACKEN LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER 2024



INTRODUCING UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES STUDENT AMBASSADORS GROUP

New this year, University Libraries has organized a group of student ambassadors to help bridge the gap between Ball State students' needs and University Libraries' services. The group is comprised of a diverse pool of majors from many of the schools across campus. The charter of the Student Ambassadors group states that the purpose of the team is to "...create student ambassadors for the Ball State University Libraries, empowering student voices in the informed decision-making and outreach to university libraries on their programs, services, resources, spaces, and outreach. Ambassadors will also promote University Libraries among their peers and serve as a liaison to the colleges they represent, and will be invited to play a role in outreach and service opportunities."

Chair: Conor Dailey, Geology and Natural Resources and Public Administration Graduate Student

Vice Chair: Noah Clark, Criminal Justice Undergraduate Student

Communication Chair: Allison Dubbeld, Exploratory Studies Undergraduate Student

Morale Chair: Gavin Helton, Anthropology Undergraduate Student

Members:

Lindsey Lidy, Architecture Undergraduate Student

Ava Monroe, Media Design and Development Undergraduate Student

Alejandro Palenske, Exploratory Studies Undergraduate Student

Ananya Sharma, Computer Science Undergraduate Student

Kyle Wickizer, Human Resources Management Undergraduate Student

There are plans in the works to have this group collaborate with the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library Board to advance the groups' impact.

Q&A WITH LEO GILLIS

Ball State University Libraries' New Head of Archives & Special Collections

Q: How long have you been an archivist and what got you into the profession?

I got my MLIS from Wayne State in 2011. They're one of the oldest graduate archival programs in the country, and they were celebrating their 50th anniversary that year. The Archivist of the United States came to talk at graduation, and that was a big thrill. It made it seem more historic, which is precisely the reason I got into the profession in the first place. Previously I had worked as a recording engineer, and a fellow came into the studio and wanted this old reel-to-reel tape transferred to a CD. He said he

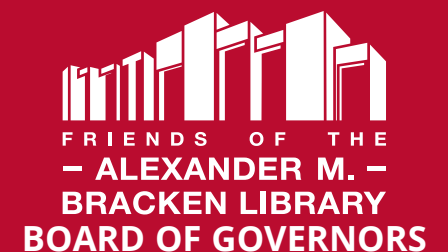
didn't know what was on the tape, but it was important to his mother, so he wanted to hear what it was. Well, it turned out to be a radio broadcast that had snippets of 'man on the street' interviews. A woman had gone around with a portable cassette recorder and talked to people. That woman was his mother. And she was at the Selma March! I got goosebumps when I heard this woman talking to Dr. King and others and at that moment I thought "There must be thousands of tapes like this in closets all over America. They need to be preserved. So that's what I want to do - I want to archive historical audio recordings".

Q: What is your most memorable experience working in this field?

Since I have just become a Cardinal, I'll tell a story about another one. I did some processing of items from the papers of the late John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, and it included some items from the conclaves of 1978. There were two papal elections that year, and both of the booklets he took into conclave were in the collection. They were red leather and included the instructions in Latin to dress properly, assemble for the procession, sing a hymn to the Holy Spirit and enter the Sistine Chapel. Also included were a couple blank ballots, with a place for writing in the name of the person you were voting for. I don't know if he voted for John Paul I and II, but if he did, he would have used the same ballots. So, I was holding an interesting piece of papal history that very few people get to see.

Q. What are your hopes and plans for the Archives and Special Collections going forward?

I hope that everybody feels welcome to visit the Archives. The only reason we're here is to share these resources with others. And I plan on making the collections as much fun as possible. There are so many interesting materials in the Archives, and so many creative ways they can be used. I look forward to Special Collections and the Seager Archives of the Built Environment being a catalyst for creativity.



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BALL STATE
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University Libraries

A MESSAGE FROM ACTING DEAN of BALL STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

It is an exciting time to serve as the Acting Dean of University Libraries at Ball State, and I am pleased to share some key milestones that highlight our Libraries' expanding impact and future trajectory. Over the past academic year, the Libraries experienced a 16% increase in instructional sessions offered, supporting students as they develop essential information literacy skills. These sessions equip students not only for academic success but also to become lifelong learners, ready to navigate the evolving demands of today's workforce. Remarkably, eight out of ten students completing library instruction sessions demonstrate proficiency in effectively locating and evaluating information—skills that are essential for their future endeavors.

Additionally, our Libraries have amplified efforts to expand the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and licensed library materials in classrooms, aiming to make learning more affordable. This past year, the number of course sections utilizing Reading Lists—a tool that offers accessible, low-cost resources—grew by 15%. As a result, we estimate a cost savings to students of over \$800,000. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to removing financial barriers and enhancing academic access for all.

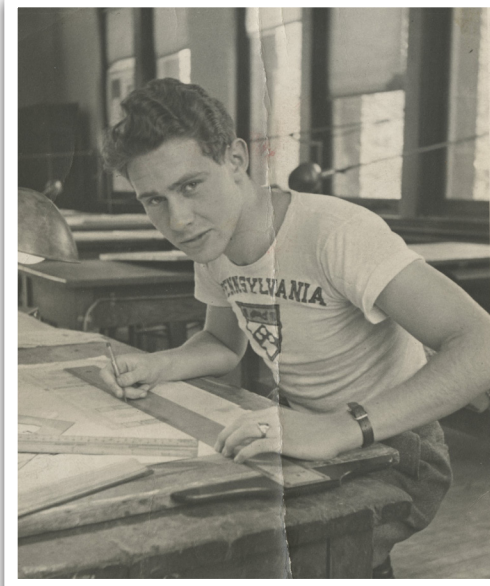
is structured to support their learning. Moments like these, when students realize they can find well-curated information on their topics in a dedicated area of the library, underscore the importance of helping students understand how accessible, high-quality information is organized.

In addition to in-person engagement, our social media campaigns have helped students grasp the full breadth of library services and resources available to them. We've also expanded our Welcome Week and freshman orientation activities, now including sessions on copyright and plagiarism, providing a strong foundation in academic integrity from the start of their journey.

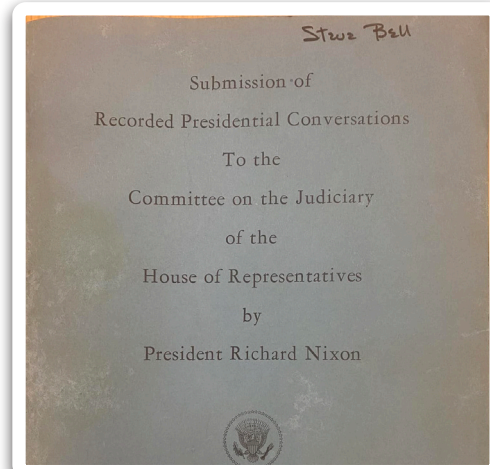
The success of these initiatives is grounded in the unwavering support we receive from university administration and our Friends of the Library. We are also fortunate to have dedicated staff who continue to work tirelessly, even as we manage staffing transitions due to retirements and other departures. In response, we're actively recruiting and using insights from the Gallup Engagement Survey to foster an engaging and supportive environment for our staff. Our Archives team will soon be fully staffed, and we are delighted to introduce our new Director of Archives, Leo Gillis, and our new Associate Dean for Research, Access, and Open Education, Lisa Jarrell.

We hope you find inspiration in these updates. Thank you to our Friends of the Library for your continued guidance, encouragement, and partnership as we advance our Libraries' mission to create transformative experiences for diverse communities of learners through excellent resources, expert research assistance, dedicated study and learning spaces, and innovative services and technologies for knowledge discovery and dissemination, lifetime learning, and community engagement.

Thank you,
Amy Petts
Acting Dean of University Libraries



Donna Barnard Ari donated materials documenting the life and design career of Ewing H. Miller, II. This included drawings from Mr. Miller's early career as a student at the University of Pennsylvania, his professional writings on behavioral research, and a portrait by photographer, Joyce Tenneson.



Allison Bell donated an 8 cu. ft. addition to the Steve Bell papers and audio-visual records collection. The collection documents Steve Bell's prolific career in journalism and telecommunications, including his time as a Vietnam War correspondent.

Allen Bernard donated approximately 279 maps, art prints, and art/photography books/catalogs, some of which are reprints that are pre-19th century or were published in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

GIFTS-IN-KIND Support Learning, Teaching, and Research

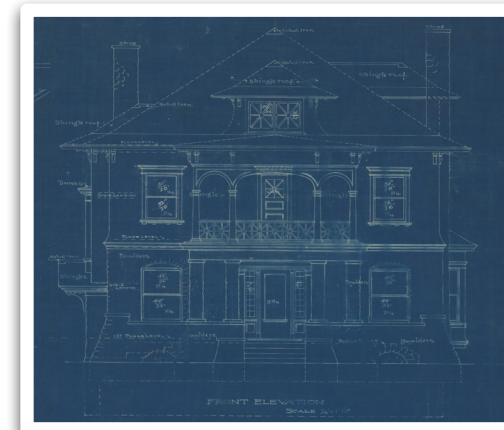
Brenda Brumfield donated an addition to the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce records, including numerous promotional items and functional documents for the Chamber.



CERES records, documenting the functions of the Center for Energy Research Education Service of Ball State University, a department dedicated to energy and resource preservation and usage. The donation includes VHS tapes, planning documents, promotional materials, and photographs.



The Delaware County Historical Society donated a collection of drawings collected by the late Michael Mavis of Muncie, Indiana. A lifelong advocate for historic preservation and local history, Mr. Mavis' collection included architectural drawings for Muncie's Marsh residence, among other local structures.



Beth Kroehler donated additional materials to the Altrusa Club of Muncie records. It documents Style Shows organized by Altrusa Muncie, and contains various other materials, including Garden Tour planning materials, budget reports, and other materials.

Ashley Nagel donated over 1,000 items related to music theory and composition, including 451 Jamar Press music scores, seven folders and five bound materials of Jody Nagel's academic papers, correspondence, articles, and 350 more scores composed by Jody Nagel.



Ben Ross donated an addition to the RATIO Architects collection. This included drawings relating to the construction of Circle Centre Mall in Indianapolis, Indiana, among other architectural projects.

Andrew Seager donated the Sharon Haunum Seager papers, documenting the personal and professional life of Sharon Seager, a longtime teacher and community activist, as well as books published in the 19th century related to United States history.

Charles Sursa donated materials pertinent to the David and Mary Jane Sursa papers and the Industrial Trust and Savings Bank records. David Sursa was president of the Industrial Trust and Savings Bank, and much of the materials are pertinent to his career.



April Westcott donated certificates, recognitions, and awards from the design career of Claire Bennett. Bennett was one of the first women in the United States to open her own landscape architectural practice.