In honor of Gwendolyn Brooks, favored Illinois daughter and former poet laureate, the state is throwing a year-long party known as **Gwendolyn Brooks @ 100**. To join the celebration, the University Libraries invited DeKalb Public Library to co-host several events featuring student work from four different departments, Music, History, Art, and English.

The first and longest event housed on the second and fourth floors of Founders Memorial Library is an exhibit, **“Because the world is at the window”: A Century of Gwendolyn Brooks, a Century of Chicago** that includes an overview of Brooks' life and writing within the context of the South Side of Chicago, where she spent her life. The exhibit traces her neighborhood, known as the Black Belt or Bronzeville, from the year of her birth—1917—through her death in 2000, and includes its history and its major institutions. Highlighted are the Great Migration, *The Chicago Defender*, the WPA, the Black Chicago Renaissance, and the Civil Rights Movement. The fourth floor exhibit opened at the beginning of October and will conclude at the end of the month. The smaller, second floor exhibit continues through March.

As complement and supplement to the exhibit, on October 6, 2017, the NIU Libraries and DeKalb Public Library co-hosted **“The Scenes and Sounds of Gwendolyn Brooks,”** featuring NIU student jazz group, the Jazztet, which played a selection of pieces that traced the musical development of Black Chicago over the decades. This music was interspersed with a lecture on the history of Bronzeville and an overview of Brooks’ life provided by Chicago labor historian, Edward Byrd—PhD Candidate in NIU’s History Department.

Several events are centered around the art exhibit from students in Jessica Labatte’s ARTD 419 titled, **“Pictures to be read, Poetry to be seen: Inspired by the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks.”** This exhibit is being displayed at both the DeKalb Public Library and the University Libraries from the beginning of November to the beginning of December. An opening reception will be held at DeKalb Public on November 7 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Yusunas and Zimmerman Meeting Rooms. In addition to introducing the art and artists, the reception will also feature readings of Brooks’ poetry by members of NIU’s Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the **International English Honor Society**. The closing ceremony will be held Thursday, December 7 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm on the first floor of Founders Memorial Library.

Please join us at one of these several events to celebrate Gwendolyn Brooks and the cultural universe that gave birth to her poetry.
A Letter From the Dean of Libraries

As the newest member of the University Libraries, I am proud to welcome you to this issue of the *Founders Type*. Since joining NIU I have received a warm welcome to the Huskie family and have also enjoyed getting to know the community in DeKalb and beyond. A little background about myself: I’ve been in libraries one way or the other my entire life, from a child devouring books in the Allen County Public Library, to checking out and shelving books in the same library, to working at my college library at Indiana University, to attending library school at IU SLIS. In the many years since then I’ve enjoyed teaching a variety of students and working in many different library settings, from law libraries to university libraries to learning commons, all of which have deepened my love for the library.

Since my arrival at NIU I’ve had fun exploring and learning about the treasures that make the NIU Libraries valuable to our community. Whether it is the rich trove in the library’s collections, or the dedicated faculty and staff working in the library itself, we have a wealth of resources for every patron. I have no doubt you will also be impressed with the collections and programs featured in this issue of *Founders Type*, from celebrating the life of Gwendolyn Brooks, to digitizing rare 19th century dime novels, to curating South East Asian materials. I also hope you will enjoy learning more about the many exceptional people who make these programs and collections, and many more besides, possible.

I wish you all the best for the coming holiday season and 2018!

Fred Barnhart

What’s New in the Regional History Center

The Regional History Center actively collects historical material from the eighteen northernmost counties of Illinois, with the exception of Cook. The Center is a multifaceted research facility containing three related sets of historical records available to researchers: University Archives, Regional Collections, and Local Government Records.

NIU experienced an increase in retirements over the past years and the University Archives benefited from some wonderful faculty papers donated by the retirees. Professor Ron Modell, hired by NIU in 1969 to create a jazz program and teach trumpet, retired in 1997. Modell and the jazz program reached international acclaim and received multiple awards. Professor Modell’s Faculty Papers include sound recordings, albums, correspondence, photographs, awards, and Jazz Ensemble scrapbooks.

NIU hired Dr. Winifred Creamer in 1990 as an Associate Professor of Anthropology and the Executive Director of NIU’s Anthropology Museum. In addition to teaching at NIU, Dr. Creamer took part in several archaeological expeditions in Central America, the American Southwest, and Peru.
She received Fulbright post-doctoral fellowships to Honduras and Peru. Creamer retired in 2013. Her papers document her research and professional activities from 1970 to 2013 and include field notes, teaching materials, and publications.

Manuscript records new to the Regional Collections include the Judy Nelson Mills Papers, the General Electric Company Records, and the Ohave Sholom Synagogue Collection. From 1966 to 1968, Judy Nelson Mills served as a pen pal for the Rockford-area soldiers listed in the local newspaper. Mills wanted the soldiers to know that people back home continued to care for them. She wrote more than 1,500 letters with 257 servicemen responding. The Judy Nelson Mills Papers consist of soldiers’ photographs and correspondence as well as Mill’s book research.

The General Electric Company established a plant in DeKalb, Illinois in 1946. The building was first used for airplane/aircraft wartime material during War World II. The plant produced various house appliances and motors for U.S. consumers. In January 2015 the plant was closed. The General Electric Company Records contain of plant newsletters from 1946 to 2001 which includes information about the employees and their work. The collection also includes photographs and videotapes taken of the plant by Center staff after the plant closed.

Ohave Sholom Synagogue was established in 1911 and served the spiritual, educational, and social mission for Rockford’s conservative Jewish community.

The two Illinois Regional Archives Depository interns working with the local government records came across an interesting find while performing preservation work on the Will County Circuit Court Criminal Case Files. These case files usually contain indictments, lists of witnesses, subpoenas, bench warrants, verdicts, and notifications of arrival of convicts at the state penitentiary. Cases 7302 and 7497 are murder convictions and include a rare artifact: pieces of the rope used to hang the convicted men.

All of these materials and more are available for research in the Regional History Center located in room 400 of Founders Memorial Library. Please check out our website at: https://library.niu.edu/ulib/content/collections/rhc/index.shtml.

Cindy Ditzler
University Archivist Director
If you visited Founders Memorial Library in December 2016 or January 2017, then you may have seen the exhibit of stunning photographs, hand-made monographs, and provocative zines on the first floor. These pieces, created by art students, were part of the “Photography + Research: Context and Inspiration for the Creative Process” exhibit by the School of Art and Design and University Libraries. The showcase of student artwork represented the collaboration between photography professor, Jessica Labatte, and the Information Literacy Librarian/Art Subject Specialist, Larissa Garcia, to integrate research and information literacy into the creative process. For more than two years, these faculty members have partnered to develop research assignments and corresponding library instruction sessions in advanced studio photography classes. Students develop a reading list of sources, from within the discipline and from outside of the art world, related to the themes they explore in their work that they can use to craft the artist’s statements that accompany each project. During library sessions, students not only learn how to navigate library resources but also the significance of research in artistic practice. Through research, artists can better understand the history of ideas and contemporary context with which their work is in dialogue. Information literacy is an important way for artists to develop their artistic vision and discover new and empowering sources of inspiration.

Prompts for the artwork in the exhibit came from four assignments from three instructors. In Labatte’s ARTD 468 Advanced Photographic Media class, students were asked to create a zine (a low-budget, self-published, often political “magazine”) of either propaganda or protest. For another assignment, she required students to make a photobook. These hand bound monographs celebrated photographic portfolios created over the past year.

Instructor Carly Ries’s section of ARTD 468 focused on documentary photography as a way to express new perspectives about the world around us. For the exhibit, each student artist chose a book from the library’s collection that was then placed next to their image. In this way, each artist offered a context for their creative process, directly exemplifying the way research can serve as inspiration and opportunity.

The assignment for Instructor Robert Heishman’s ARTD 469 Problems in Photography course was to consider the impact of an image and the physicality of a photograph. Kinga Wojciarczyk, a junior, represented this class in the exhibition with her images that depict the use of photographs as leverage for social interaction.

The exhibit also provided an opportunity for students to experience firsthand the planning involved when installing an art show. Students viewed the exhibit cases and space prior to installation and were present to help make decisions about how their photographs and other pieces would be displayed.

On Thursday, January 26, a closing reception for the exhibit was held in the library to celebrate the work of these talented student artists.

Larissa Garcia
Think back, for a moment, on your early-career scholarly efforts...perhaps it was a senior capstone project, your thesis, or the final draft of your first published article. Where are these materials saved? Are they on a hard drive of your old computer? Are they languishing on external media, like a flash drive or...dare I say it...a floppy disk? If you dug up one of your early-career works, would you be able to open the file with current software? Is the file format in which it is saved able to be opened and rendered by the programs you have at hand today?

As academic careers progress, managing one’s scholarly output becomes increasingly difficult. Computers are upgraded, software becomes obsolete, and the amount of one’s publications, presentations, artistic works, research data, etc. grows. These, among other factors, make wrangling the corpus of an academic career difficult. The challenge is magnified when the efforts are directed at the institutional level, with hundreds of scholars across multiple disciplines.

At the NIU Library, we are committed to capturing, preserving, and making available the scholarly and creative record of the faculty, students, and organizations associated with Northern Illinois University. Peer-reviewed journal articles authored by faculty, Capstones created by honors students, URAD (Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day) posters, and deliverables associated with academic symposiums taking place on campus are among the many materials that document NIU’s scholarly footprint. These materials are a major part of what defines us as an institution of higher learning and sets us apart from our peers.

Huskie Commons is Northern Illinois University’s institutional repository. It is a secure virtual space that allows us to digitally showcase the scholarly and artistic work of faculty, staff, and students from NIU, while preserving it for generations to come. The materials deposited into Huskie Commons are curated by Library staff who provide permanent links to them, maintain backups, and migrate the files forward as formats become obsolete. The materials in Huskie Commons are indexed by major scholarly search engines (like Google Scholar) as well as specialty academic search engines (like WorldCat and OAIster) allowing scholarship produced at NIU to be more easily discovered and cited.

Huskie Commons is a simple, web-based solution that allows individual scholars to safely preserve their academic materials produced throughout their tenure at NIU, while providing NIU the opportunity to capture and showcase contributions at a higher level. To learn more about depositing your scholarly works into Huskie Commons, please contact Jaime Schumacher at jschumacher@niu.edu.

Jaime Schumacher
Digital Collections @ NIU Libraries
https://commons.lib.niu.edu/

Member Benefits:

Receive a 10% discount on merchandise at the following stores:
- Ed Ripp Fine Art Books, Chicago

Friends tote bags! (Contact Angie Schroeder at aschroeder@niu.edu or 815-753-8091 for details.)
Meet Sarah Cain, Interim Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections

In 2015, I was hired as the Curator of Manuscripts in the Regional History Center and University Archives, a position I still hold. Prior to coming to NIU, I was the Subject Specialist for Rare Books and Special Collections at the St. Louis Public Library. I attended library school at UIUC where I earned my Special Collections Certificate in conjunction with my MLIS. I also hold an MPA with a concentration in Museum Administration from SIUC. Most recently, I earned my Digital Archives Specialist Certificate through the Society of American Archivists which has provided me with invaluable training for overseeing digital records and web content preservation for the Distinctive Collections at NIU.

I was appointed Interim Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at the beginning of September, and I am in the RBSC office two mornings a week. My responsibilities as the Interim Curator include bibliographic instruction, collection development, reference services, donor relations, evaluating and implementing policies, serving on committees, grant development, and supervising staff and student workers. My new responsibilities have rekindled my love for rare books and provides me with opportunities to share my passions with others. It is particularly rewarding to connect with students and share in their delight as they handle centuries-old materials. Preparing for classes is also a chance for me to work with the collections and learn more about them as it is a treat to get to explore the stacks and study items of interest.

RBSC has a variety of wonderful materials and I was curious of whether fore-edge paintings were held in the collection as they are some favorite items to showcase. Fore-edge paintings are scenes painted on the edges of book pages. Most fore-edge paintings are invisible when the book is closed and are only revealed when the pages of the book are fanned. Some examples exist where the painting is applied directly to the edges, in lieu of gilt or marbling that serves to obscure the more commonly applied decorations. Fore-edge paintings were quite popular during the late-18th and 19th centuries in England. Currently, RBSC holds a handful of exquisite examples of this craft like the one below illustrating a cityscape hidden under gilt.

Sarah Cain

*The Office and Work of the Holy Spirit* (Edinburgh: J. Johnstone, 1842)
I have worked in the Government Publications unit of the University Libraries at NIU for 28 years. Over the years I was promoted through both of the other operating staff positions in our unit to my present position as Senior Library Specialist & Depository Coordinator.

For several years now I have been responsible for planning projects and coordinating everyday tasks in our unit, so that aspect of my job has not changed. The new responsibilities of my position require me to think in a larger context, and perhaps proceed more cautiously considering the implications of any action, for other units (though I like to think I learned that lesson a long time ago). The most obvious changes are that I must look outside the unit when seeking guidance, and there is no one else to take the blame for my shortcomings. I am fortunate in that Debbi and Bryan are both helpful with suggestions and pointing out aspects of a project or task that I had not considered.

This summer, we switched locations with some of the storage collections of the Regional History Center & University Archives, which was more fun than you might think. Yes, it was sweaty, dusty work, but I love actually handling our collection and seeing that it is taken care of. I also enjoyed working with a team to complete a big project in a reasonably short amount of time.

As one of my favorite series in our collection has always been the Foreign Relations of the United States, I was excited recently to run across a new book from the Office of the Historian of the U.S. State Department, Toward “thorough, accurate, and reliable”: a history of the Foreign Relations of the United States series. This title chronicles the sometimes rocky history of this documentary record of U.S. diplomacy from its inception in 1861 to the 21st century. It is available in print in the Government Publications collection, and as an e-book from the State Department.

Mark Hamilton

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Save These Dates for Special Events!:

**November 6-December 11** at NIU’s Founders Memorial Library; *Pictures to be Read, Poetry to be Seen: Inspired by the Work of Gwendolyn Brooks.*
A student art exhibition by the NIU School of Art and Design. Brought to you by NIU Libraries and the DeKalb Public Library.

**Thursday, December 7, 4:00-5:30pm**, There will be a Closing Reception on at Founders Memorial Library, First Floor.

**2018 Elizabeth Allen Visiting Scholars in Art History**: 5 p.m., Rm. 100 of the Art Building,
Contact info: 815-753-7923.

Thursday, March 1, Allie Terry-Fritsch, “Animal Trials, Humiliation Rituals, and Iconoclastic Justic in Early Modern Europe.”

Wednesday, March 21, John Osborne, “The Vatican Obelisk and other ancient monuments in the medieval Roman imagination.”
Nickels and Dimes

Nickels and Dimes is an online collection of popular fiction published in the United States during the 19th century. In January 2017, the Libraries received a grant for $448,893 from the Council on Library and Information Resources to digitize the Johannsen Collection of Beadle & Adams dime novels over the next 3 years.

Beadle & Adams longest-running and best known story paper, titled variously as the Saturday Journal, Beadle's Weekly, and the Banner Weekly, was published for an unbroken run of 27 years between March 19, 1870 and May 12, 1897, totaling 1,419 issues (with over 77,000,000 words). It featured serialized stories about Western heroes and frontiersmen, like Buffalo Bill; urban detectives and police spies, like Joe Phoenix; and rags-to-riches stories of the Alger type, and romance fiction. Issues also contained poetry, short stories, sketches, biographies, answers to correspondence, and columns about hunting, fishing, and trapping. The series represents an enormous output of fiction, most of which has been out of print for more than a century and only accessible in a handful of Special Collections. Over the last three months, we’ve made 16 volumes freely available online at Nickels and Dimes, with the rest of the volumes queued to appear over the next month. The contents of each issue are currently being indexed by our partners at Villanova University.

We were also recently visited by Field Notes, a notebook brand based in Chicago, who shot a short film about the project, which was released to coincide with their dime novel-themed notebook. The film and notebook can be found here: https://fieldnotesbrand.com/products/dimenovel

Best,
Matt Short
I have been working as the Southeast Asia Curator at Northern Illinois University Libraries for eleven years. Prior to coming to NIU, from 2003 to 2006, I was the librarian for Southeast Asian Studies at University of California, Los Angeles, the school where I also attended for both my undergraduate degree in American literature (1998) and my graduate degree in library science (2000). People often ask me why I moved from sunny California to Illinois. I have two reasons for that. First, because NIU has one of the best Southeast Asia library collections in the country and a very robust Southeast Asian Studies program. Founded in 1963, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at NIU is indeed one of the oldest centers of its kind in America. Second, because I prefer to raise my family, with two young kids, in the amiable environment of a relatively small town rather than the stressful setting of a big city, not to mention that it is also much more affordable to live in the DeKalb area than in Los Angeles.

As the Southeast Asia Curator, my job includes the following main duties. I am responsible for collecting Southeast Asia materials, which come through three channels: through a collaborative acquisitions program with the Library of Congress offices located in Southeast Asian countries, through placing orders to book vendors, and through my acquisitions trips. Materials are also donated to the collection by researchers and the public. I provide reference services to students and faculty of Southeast Asian Studies at NIU, and at times to researchers beyond the campus. I am the library liaison to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Center of Burma Studies, working closely with faculty members and staff of the two centers in supporting the Southeast Asia Studies program at NIU. I am also the co-director of the Southeast Asia Digital Library, a special project funded by grants from the US Department of Education, which features tens of thousands of digitized materials from Southeast Asia, http://sea.lib.niu.edu/.

Since September, I have taken the role of Head of the Department of Distinctive Collections, overseeing five distinctive collections in the library: Rare Books and Special Collections, Music Library, Government Publications, Faraday Library, and Southeast Asia Collection.

I actively seek out grants that enable me to carry out library projects and to travel. Over the years, I have received many grants for collection development, acquisitions trips, and professional development. I am particularly interested in grants supporting projects that contribute to the field of Southeast Asian Studies as a whole. I have received three grants from the Endangered Archives Program of the British Library for a preservation project that has digitized 29,500 pages of manuscripts of Cham people, an ethnic group in Vietnam. The project is still ongoing and expected to digitize 20,000 additional pages of manuscripts by the summer of 2018. I also received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to conduct two library workshops in Myanmar in the summer of 2016 and to invite three librarians from Myanmar for training at NIU in 2017.

Established in 1963, the Southeast Asia Collection at NIU today holds an extensive collection of materials, in English and vernacular languages, pertaining to all eleven Southeast Asian countries. The collection is particularly strong in the subjects of Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand; and contains one of the best collections of Burmese manuscripts in the country.

I am fortunate to work at NIU where Southeast Asian Studies is a highlighted program of the university and the Southeast Asia Collection is recognized as an important collection within the library. I especially enjoy working with students and faculty of Southeast Asian Studies at NIU as together we belong to a very supportive community.

Hao Phan
Curator, Southeast Asia
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Dear Friends,

It is a bittersweet moment for me; my time at NIU has ended. My last official day at Northern Illinois University was August 31, 2017.

I began my new role as the Head, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, and Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on September 1, 2017. In my new role, I am the main administrator for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, supervising a team of curators, catalogers, and staff as they work with world-class collections and contribute directly to a world-class university experience. This is a senior administrative appointment with tenure and a named professorship: the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Rare Book and Manuscript Professorship, to be precise. RBML is where I trained as a rare books librarian and curator in library school at UIUC; I served as a graduate assistant there 20 years ago in 1997-1999, working on the Carl Sandburg papers. Champaign-Urbana is where my husband Michael and I met, and we are both pleased to have a chance to move back there.

The Friends Board remains intact, and although I don’t know who will take over as faculty liaison as of this writing, I’m certain that the role will be filled by another excellent person who can keep moving the Friends in the direction of their mission. I will be only a phone call away for the “What WERE you thinking when you decided X” conversations that inevitably happen in these scenarios.

The collections that I’ve built and stewarded will remain here, supported through an interim person taking over as curator (A Curator To Be Named Later, for baseball fans), with a national search to replace me in my role at NIU in the nearish future. I am confident that my successor(s) will be in a good position to keep stewarding these collections in an admirable manner. In the meantime, the rest of the RBSC staff -- including Angie Schroeder and Annie Oelschlager -- remain to keep things running smoothly.

Please rest assured that the team here at NIU will do everything they can to make this transition easy for everyone involved.

I have been very, very happy at NIU, and I am incredibly proud of the work that I’ve accomplished here with the Friends, alongside truly excellent colleagues. It has been a really good place to work, and to raise our daughter, Caitlin. It has been an absolute pleasure working with each and every one of you. Thank you for your contributions to NIU.

Warmly,
Lynne M. Thomas

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Let us know whether you prefer to receive Founders Type in print or e-mail!

Recently the University, as part of cost-cutting efforts and in the interest of greater environmental sustainability, has encouraged all units to switch from paper mailings to e-mailed PDFs, where possible. We also recognize that many Friends may still have a strong preference to continue receiving a print newsletter, rather than an e-mailed PDF. If you would still like to receive a print copy of Founders Type in the mail in the future, please let us know by e-mailing aschroeder@niu.edu or calling us at 815-753-8091. Thank you!
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