Celebrating Drew’s 150-Year History
By Matthew Beland, University Archivist

As the celebration nears for Drew’s sesquicentennial, it’s rewarding, albeit somewhat daunting, trying to take stock of the many milestones marking the past century and a half. Tucked in among the high points are, well, a few challenges, obstacles overcome that have contributed to the overall character and endurance of The Forest. We can take pride in that, especially when we delve into why these events occurred and how Drew managed to resolve them successfully. Being the repository of this institution’s collective history, the University Archives is well suited for exactly this kind of retrospective.

One such challenge took place in 1868 when the university, then known as Drew Theological Seminary, was still in its infancy. Financier and railroad tycoon Daniel Drew purchased the school grounds and endowed the seminary, which was to receive quarterly cash payments of 7 percent interest based on his $250,000 investment in the stock market. He provided the main, if not sole, financial support for the school. Unfortunately, that support gave way in late 1876 when the robber baron, who’d made upwards of $13 million on the stock exchange, lost it all. Overnight, the seminary’s endowment evaporated, and the school could no longer produce any substantive income.

Fond Farewells
In June, Drew Library bid farewell to a pair of longtime staffers and friends.

By Kathy Juliano, Interim University Librarian
Reference Associate Bruce Lancaster has been a presence in the library since 1972, when he was a student assistant while working on a Bachelor of Divinity degree. When he realized that a B.D. would lead to a job that required writing weekly papers (aka sermons), a permanent role in the library started looking better and better to Bruce. After several years working in the library’s Circulation Department, Bruce moved over to the Reference Department in 1998, where his knowledge, humor and patience proved to be great attributes, especially with students and their queries—he’s fielded everything from “Where are the nonfiction books?” to “Does the sun rise in the east or...

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When a great book turns 150, it inevitably manifests some signs of age: frayed pages, a worn spine, a binding that’s grown a bit loose. The content, though, still shines through, no matter how dog-eared its shell. A great university is no different. As Drew celebrates its sesquicentennial, we’re happy to say that the university and its venerable library remain remarkably strong and vibrant institutions.

Since June 2014, the library has undergone three changes in leadership, as well as a reworking of its physical space, notably the new Academic Commons on the main level, and changes to its staff, including the appointment of new Librarians and the retirements of longtime staffers Deborah Strong and Bruce Lancaster. I was asked by Drew Provost Debra Liebowitz to lead the library as interim university librarian upon the departure of Chris Anderson, our former associate dean of libraries. A search is now underway for a new university librarian, a job title that’s also a departure from our previous library leadership. This new position fits appropriately into the restructuring of the academic administration of the three schools of Drew University and appointment of the provost.

This is an exciting time for the university and our library, and we look forward to more interesting changes as we welcome a new leader. I’m grateful to the library staff for their dedication and willingness to embrace change in pursuit of our goal: “To support and advance the educational mission of the university by facilitating access to scholarly collections and information resources.”

Kathy Juliano
Interim University Librarian
and Electronic Resources and Serials Management Librarian

FOND FAREWELLS
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west?” When not helping patrons, Bruce was often charming co-workers with tales of his colorful life, be it about odd pets (he once owned a coatimundi), his world travels or the unusual ensemble of tchotchkes gracing his somewhat disheveled office shelves. It’s hard to imagine life at Drew without Debby Strong. As administrator for the library, Debby has done her best to make our workplace feel like a home away from home. Her talents are many: managing our budget, planning events from fundraising galas to office parties, recruiting student staffers, solving paycheck issues, nurturing the library’s thriving greenery and being the go-to person when something breaks, leaks or runs out of ink. She’s the engine that’s kept our library running—and running smoothly. After starting in 1993 as part-timer in Circulation, working until midnight once a week, Debby went full-time and was promoted to her current job in 1999. Over the past two decades she’s welcomed five directors to the library, providing guidance and a steady, seasoned hand during times of transition.

We wish Debby and Bruce all the best in their retirement and future endeavors, and we hope that they come back periodically to say hello to their family at Drew. We’ll miss them much.
Elias Ortega-Aponte on Poets, Page-Turners and Dinner Guests

By Dr. Jesse Mann, Theological Librarian

What are you reading currently?
I am usually reading several books at once. Right now, The Three-Body Problem by the Chinese writer Liu Cixin; Isaiah Berlin’s The Crooked Timber of Humanity: Chapters in the History of Ideas; Teaching Critical Thinking by bell hooks; What Algorithms Want: Imagination in the Age of Computing by Ed Finn; and Directed by Desire: the Collected Poems of June Jordan.

You’ve ordered some interesting books for classes you’ve recently taught. How do you select the books you order?
I order books with an eye toward providing a guide for student research and toward expanding the library’s collection.

Where and when do you read best?
I don’t have a dedicated reading chair. I read my Kindle in bed. I read all over the place.

What book has had the greatest impact on you?
Although I am not a Kantian, Kant’s First Critique (The Critique of Pure Reason). After that, everything became easier to read. And Lucille Clifton’s poetry—it formed my ethics.

If you could require Theo students to read one book, which book would it be?
David Whyte’s Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity.

And if you could require the Drew faculty to read one book, which book would that be?
Claudia Rankine’s Citizen: An American Lyric. It’s a complex exposition of racism in the USA.

Does format (i.e., print vs. digital) affect the kind of reading you do, and if so, how?
Format doesn’t have much impact on my reading. I do read poetry in print. Ebooks afford portability (and thus variety).

Which book do you feel most guilty about not having read?
I asked for and received Spivak’s A Critique of Postcolonial Reason as a Christmas present, but it defeated me.

I know you read a lot of poetry. Is there a poet you would especially recommend and why?
Just one poet? That’s too limiting. Some I’ve already mentioned: Walcott, Rankine, Clifton. I’d add Mary Karr (Sinners Welcome), Ross Gay (Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude) and Naomi Shihab Nye.

As professor of Latino/a Studies, you may have special interest in the library’s Spanish-language holdings. How would you assess those holdings?
There are some real gaps, mainly in literature. I’d like to see greater range. But I am sometimes surprised by what we do have. For example, José Martí. I’d like to have more Spanish-language history and philosophy. Mostly I use these materials for my own research, not so much for my teaching.

If you were hosting a dinner party and could invite three authors (living or dead), whom would you invite?
Hunter S. Thompson, Mayra Santos-Febres and Canada’s former poet laureate Dionne Brand.

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At Drew University Library, our academic librarians are tuned in to the needs of 2017’s students, using our multitalented skills on a regular basis. More than just savvy researchers, we can be amateur actors, MacGyver-like repair people and ambassadors of goodwill. No matter the challenge, we stand ready to play the right role for patrons in need.

Need a walk-on for an on-location film shoot? Drew’s pros can provide the gravitas necessary to accurately portray professional librarians, taking their screen time as seriously as De Niro or Streep. Dr. Rick Mikulski, Drew Library’s systems administrator and liaison to the Music Department, was able to purchase a collection of more than two dozen rock-and-roll books, including historical tomes and biographies of such musical icons as Keith Richards, Jimmy Page, Neil Young and—of course—The Boss. As a passionate Springsteen fan, Anne met her husband Jeff, now a Drew trustee, when they were both university undergrads. She joined the library staff in 1989, earned a masters in library science and joined Reference in 1999, becoming the library’s first web manager.

Thanks to a recent donation from the Noss family, Guy Dobson, Drew Library’s systems administrator and liaison to the Music Department, was able to purchase a collection of more than two dozen rock-and-roll books, including historical tomes and biographies of such musical icons as Keith Richards, Jimmy Page, Neil Young and—of course—The Boss. As a passionate Springsteen fan, Anne attended concerts regularly (both stateside and overseas) and founded and organized the Friends of Bruce Springsteen Archive, a major part of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, now housed at Monmouth University.

We appreciate Anne and Jeff Noss (C’75—the same year that Springsteen made the covers of both Time and Newsweek) for their generosity and unflagging rock-and-roll spirit.

Is it serious training and practice or simply innate skills that equip Drew librarians with their ingenious problem-solving abilities? A bit of both, probably. Regardless, the word is out: Drew librarians stand ready to help, be it in academics (yes, research) or a wardrobe malfunction.
Student Snapshots

The staff of the library and Instructional Technology Department rely on the dedication of over 60 student staffers to keep our operations running smoothly. Here are snapshots of four of our wonderful students.

Ryan Cassidy
Studying: Public Health and Environmental Science/Sustainability
Year: Sophomore
Job title: Information Technology Student Assistant

- Duties: Computer software/hardware troubleshooting; Duo Security enrollment and troubleshooting; directing incoming calls to departments across campus.
- Most satisfying part of the job: Teaching others about technology, from learning how to access email on a phone to using software to transfer spreadsheets for a statistics class.
- Skills learned: How to utilize interpersonal skills and use software programs that I’d never come across before, such as Duo Security and SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).
- In-house getaway: There are two comfy chairs overlooking Mead Hall's lawn that I love to relax in.
- Notable checkout: I’ve never actually checked anything out of the library.
- Post-Drew goals: A master’s in public health and a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology. My ultimate goal is to become a field epidemiologist with Doctors Without Borders.

Leif McLellan
Studying: Master of Divinity
Year: Second
Job title: Reference and Research Student Assistant

- Duties: Helping patrons find library books and access online resources for projects and papers and doing special cataloging projects.
- Most satisfying part of the job: Getting to know the staff and students, especially those whom I see sprouting roots in particular places around the library.
- Skills learned: Navigating the online resources the library provides and accessing them to help students and community members with their work.
- In-house getaway: I love the squishy chairs near the microfiche on level A, as well as the Kean Room with its lovely polished tables and quiet atmosphere.
- Notable checkout: Many commentaries on The Book of Ruth (for my “Ruth” class) in order to develop a personal, useful bibliography for further study of that book.
- Post-Drew goals: I hope to go on to a Lutheran parish ministry.

Noelle Spitz
Studying: Biological Anthropology
Year: Sophomore
Job title: Circulation Student Assistant

- Duties: Checking out books and reserve materials; shelving and shelf reading—checking that call numbers on a particular set of shelved books are all in order.
- Most satisfying part of the job: I really love shelving. It’s peaceful, and I get to look at different books and maybe find something interesting.
- Skills learned: Using the Library of Congress filing system.
- In-house getaway: If I have a lot of work to do I go to the F level. If I want to read or relax between classes I like the armchairs on level E.
- Notable checkout: A 1988 Oak Leaves, the Drew yearbook—I was curious to see what my high school Latin teacher looked like in his senior year at Drew.
- Post-Drew goals: A doctoral degree, then work in forensics with a museum or even a research program helping to identify bones.

Samantha Depierro
Studying: Theatre and Computer Science
Year: Junior
Job title: Special Collections Student Assistant

- Duties: Processing the David Johnson Collection of Science Fiction and Popular Culture, and working on the Governor Thomas H. Kean Papers.
- Most satisfying part of the job: I love organizing the collections I’m working on and finding cool things within each of them.
- Skills learned: How to stay organized and focused, as well as a lot about special collections in general.
- In-house getaway: The Wilson Reading Room in the Archives Building—it’s usually very quiet, which makes it great for studying and focusing.
- Notable checkout: Of Chastity and Power: Elizabethan Literature and the Unmarried Queen. For an essay about Elizabeth I it was exactly the information I needed and an interesting read.
- Post-Drew goals: I hope to find a job that allows me to express my creativity as well as use my analytical side.
Treasurer’s reports from 1876 and 1877 in the archives illustrate this drastic change. The 1876 report proudly records Daniel Drew and his annual investment income of $10,820. Just a year later, though, the eponymous founder is gone from the report, substituted by a smattering of three or four loyal donors who had each made quarterly or semiannual payments of $1,000 at most. Even within the treasurer’s clinically descriptive notations, one can sense a level of desperation.

Once Daniel Drew’s loss became common knowledge, there were some who advocated selling off the school’s assets—its buildings—in order to remain solvent. But Drew President John Fletcher Hurst and the school’s faculty would have none of that. For the next three years, Hurst traveled around the country and abroad in a quest for funding. Hat in hand, he asked for donors to save the seminary. While on the road he once wrote to his wife, “Mine is to be immortality, if any, of making good the money that Wall Street has swallowed up.”

Meanwhile, back on campus, the faculty frequently went without pay, forcing Hurst to dole out some of his paycheck just to keep them afloat. Their perseverance eventually paid off, though. By April 22, 1880, the combined efforts of Hurst, his faculty and their students brought in $311,000 in new endowments—roughly $6.8 million in 2017 dollars. The seminary was safe.

Perhaps the only other event that comes close to the 1876 debacle took place within living memory. On August 24, 1989, a routine maintenance project at Drew went horribly awry. What reportedly began as a “small fire in the wall of Mead Hall” eventually burned for 23 hours. Fire companies from 13 local towns were called in to subdue the flames. The formal announcement of the fire, written by Interim President Scott W. McDonald to the Drew community the following day, is sobering yet uplifting. McDonald wrote his letter both to describe the terrible event and to “reassure you that we expect to carry on with that indomitable Drew community spirit.” Rather than accept defeat, the university leadership instead pushed for an appropriate restoration of the charred building. With the help of donations from the community and, admittedly, an excellent insurance policy, Mead Hall reopened in 1992. Drew could now boast that its most historic building had an interior that matched the elegance of its exterior.

A sesquicentennial speaks of resilience. These episodes in Drew’s history confirm it.

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**THE LIBRARY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING GIFTS.**

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**The Doctors Are In**

May 2017 saw the opening of Drew Library’s new Doctoral Student Lounge (aka The Rose Room), designed in part by the same students now enjoying the room’s amenities: tables, easy chairs, fresh paint and carpeting, a full-size refrigerator and single-serve coffee maker. The collaborative project (conceived by library administrators and Caspersen and Theological School students) is available to Drew’s 400-plus doctoral candidates, and funded by the President’s Discretionary Fund, which was generously supported by a gift from Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn.
Reference Librarians Margery Ashmun and Jennifer Heise presented their poster Out of the Box: Expanding Library Outreach to New Campus Groups in April during the 2017 New Jersey Library Association’s Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey.


Johanna Edge, head of circulation, presented a paper at the Eighth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies, held August 3–5, 2017, in Elmira, New York. The theme for this year’s conference was “The Assault of Laughter.” Her paper, “Satire as Subversion: Mark Twain and the Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson,” was part of a discussion of Twain and race.

Rick Mikulski, government documents and reference librarian, was awarded the 2017 Dean Pain Community Service Award by the Graduate Student Association of the Caspersen School. He was also an invited speaker at the Symposium on the Humanities Beyond the Academy (University at Buffalo New York, April 22, 2017). He contributed two articles, “Higher Education” and “Primary and Secondary Education,” to World of Antebellum America: A Daily Life Encyclopedia (edited by Alexandra Kindell, ABC CLIO). He wrote book reviews accepted by College & Research Libraries; The Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era; Journal of Popular Culture; Studies in Popular Culture; and the Journal of Sports History.

Brian Shetler, head of special collections and university archives and Methodist librarian, presented papers at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies in Maryland, the Translation Meets Book History Conference in Ireland and the Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Missouri. In December, he was awarded the Lisa Nocks Student Award and the John R. Mulder Award from Drew’s Caspersen School of Graduate Studies.

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Drew University
Madison, NJ 07940

For more information, please call the library at 973.408.3471. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
Library Events

OUT OF THE VAULT SERIES  Wilson Reading Room, Methodist Center

En Garde! The Art of the Weapon
Tuesday, September 5 | 4 p.m.
This special event will reveal some of the more rarely seen items in the archives: swords, knives, daggers, bullets and other weapon-related materials.

You Have...What?
Oddities in the Archives
Tuesday, October 3 | 4 p.m.
Come explore some truly odd entities within Drew’s archives, including the death mask of John Wesley, a lock of Lord Byron’s hair and a pair of “lightning shoes.”

Out of Sight: Our World through the Lens of Popular Culture
Tuesday, November 7 | 4 p.m.
Explore a potpourri of pop culture and entertainment at this fun and factual event, from science fiction magazines and graphic novels to MAD Magazine and Broadway playbills.

LIBRARY EXHIBIT

150 Years in the Forest:
Drew University 1867–2017
August 21–December 31, 2017
Methodist Center and Main Library
This can’t-miss exhibit, curated by Matthew Beland, will open a fascinating window into the 150-year history of Drew University. Take an illuminating tour of Drew’s past through the records of its three schools, a vibrant student life and its storied athletic program.

CONVERSATIONS ON COLLECTING

Hosted by the Friends of the Library
Methodist Center Lobby

Collecting Drew:
Daniel and the University
September 2017
This sesquicentennial event brings together two archival specialists to discuss collecting at Drew. University Archivist Matthew Beland collects, preserves and showcases Drew University’s past, while Professor Chris Taylor collects documents related to Daniel Drew, the university’s namesake, who contributed to the founding of the school.

LIBRARY CONTACTS.

Call: 973.408.3486
Email: reference@drew.edu
Online: drew.edu/library

SPECIAL EVENTS

Citizen-Archivist Tagathon
Thursday, October 19, 2017 | 4–7 p.m.
Library/Technology Classroom
If you love historical images and want to participate in an exciting digital scholarship initiative, join us as we review and label (i.e., tag) National Archive photos, paintings, advertisements and other images. Drew Library staffers will help you set up an account, provide training, answer questions and supply refreshments.

2017 Leslie Marchand Lecture & Reception
November 2017 | Methodist Center
The Byron Society of America will bring the first annual Leslie Marchand Lecture to Drew University. This new series honors the legacy of Marchand (1900–1999), who wrote the definitive biography of Lord Byron and was the leading authority on the poet. It brings scholars to Drew University to explore themes and topics related to Lord Byron and his work.