

# BINDINGS

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES MAGAZINE

## WINTER 2021

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**BINDINGS** is the University of Iowa Libraries' magazine, published twice annually to highlight the efforts of its librarians who work to support the successes of students, faculty, and community members.



**ON THE COVER:** Tom Phillips. Marvin and Ruth Sackner Archive of Concrete & Visual Poetry. London, 1983. This painting was commissioned by Ruth & Marvin Sackner. It consists of 90 small paintings on masonite assembled as a grid within a single frame. It includes several personal jokes and aphorisms known to the Sackners and Phillips.

See page 25 for a special message from the artist about this piece, written especially for this edition of **BINDINGS**.

Photo credit: Barry Phipps.

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The pages of a book are held together by its binding. Sewn together, one after another, each page adds to the book. **BINDINGS** represents the continuing relationship between the University of Iowa Libraries and those who use, benefit from, and support it.

## BINDINGS

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# Sparkling positive change

IN CHALLENGING TIMES



JOHN CULSHAW

It was a different atmosphere on campus this fall, with the pandemic remaining in full swing. However, at the UI Libraries, we have seen that the pressure of challenging circumstances can herald opportunities for collaboration and positive change. This issue of **BINDINGS** highlights those efforts.

Libraries **staff worked hard to open our facilities safely** for the fall semester. The gate counts have been lower than usual, but that was by design given our mandate to reduce occupancy. Traffic in our facilities increased over the course of the semester, and our scholars continue to access our resources, services, and expertise online. For details about the semester, see page 16.

Even though we are still living in a COVID-19 environment, the work of the Libraries continues, and we continually scan our operations for

opportunities to improve. Every seven years, the Libraries engages in a program review.

This semester, we've been working on our **self study**, identifying areas of strength as well as areas for potential change or refinement.

The detailed work of our self study has been complemented by the broad overview I am gaining as **president of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)**. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this role, and I'm finding it to be gratifying work. I value the opportunity to interact with peers at a different level, working with research libraries across the US and Canada to ensure the association is well positioned to aid member libraries through this time of change. In my role as ARL president, I am also learning more about the work of research libraries around the globe thanks to regular ARL interaction with international partners such as CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries), CAUL (Council of Australian University Libraries), LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche – Association of European Research Libraries) and RLUK (Research Libraries UK).



Higher ed is at a turning point; ARL provides its members with tools and resources to succeed in these uncharted waters through vital initiatives such as support for open science (open access and open data), copyright and public policy, social justice, and antiracism.

While collaboration is key at the national and international levels, it's also necessary locally. The UI Libraries, in conjunction with the Stanley Museum of Art, Pentacrest Museums, and Office of the State Archeologist, won a **grant for \$222,327 through the CARES Act** (see page 18). This grant will allow an expansion of the Stanley Museum of Art's [Senior Living Communities Program](#), which brings art programming and interactive activities to seniors in long-term care facilities in Iowa.

The UI Libraries continues to work toward **eliminating systemic racism** through our anti-racism guide (see page 32), as well as through reinvigorated efforts to transform libraries and librarianship through the creation of a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) Council—a staff-led group empowered to make positive DEAI changes throughout our organization.

Supporting local events also continues, even as those events turn virtual. In October, the Libraries sponsored **Witching Hour**, a community forum presenting the work of artists of color (see page 34).

This fall, our **Main Library Gallery presented *Sackner Archive***, an exhibition celebrating the Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry—the life-long passion of Ruth and Marvin Sackner. This world-class collection now resides at the University of Iowa Libraries' Special Collections & University Archives, and the Libraries was pleased to make the exhibition available as an in-person experience through small, socially distanced tours for students and community members. The UI Libraries was to have hosted Dr. Marvin Sackner last spring—plans that were interrupted by the pandemic. We are deeply saddened by Dr. Sackner's death due to causes unrelated to COVID. The Libraries honors his memory with *Sackner Archive*. A virtual tour of the exhibit will remain available online (see page 20).

**As I say often, our staff are our best asset.** We are pleased to recognize the good work of our librarians, including Kim Bloedel, winner of the Benton Award (see page 12), and David McCartney, who won the Regent's Staff Excellence Award (see page 14). This fall, we also welcomed Damien Ihrig as curator for the John Martin Rare Book Room in the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences (see page 28).

To ensure the ongoing vitality of the UI Libraries, we have organized a **new Advancement Council** (see page 36), which met online for the first time in November. The Libraries thanks each council member for accepting our invitation to serve this organization; we are grateful for their service and dedication to our mission.

As we look toward the spring semester, the UI Libraries is mindful of our mission to serve campus and community with research resources and expert librarianship. We're able to continue this work because of your support. Thank you!

—*John Culshaw*, Jack B. King university librarian



# 2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYEES OF THE LIBRARIES



**LOUIS BARKER**

Music major, focused on violin and chamber music  
Shubert, NE



**MEGAN CHRISTIANSON**

International Relations major  
Carthage, MO

**Louis Barker** is the recipient of a Benton Family Music Library Student Employee Scholarship. Louis works in the Rita Benton Music Library.

“Working in the Libraries has helped me learn how to better interact with people and problem solve, both of which are very important in chamber music.

This work has helped me to grow my ‘people skills’ significantly in both in-person and virtual formats. It has been wonderful to learn how to interact with relative strangers in a meaningful and helpful way.

I am continually surprised by how open my supervisors are to creating meaningful change. Libraries have always been a great example in my mind of accessibility, and I am very grateful to have supervisors who are excited to make that even more true.

This scholarship will help me to fund the last semester of my undergraduate education. It also serves as a nice reminder of the importance of the equity work I get to do through the libraries.”

**Megan Christianson** is the recipient of a UI Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. She works in Cataloging & Metadata at the Main Library.

“My work at the UI Libraries has given me the opportunity to practice time management, interpersonal communication, and use of workplace technologies. These skills are transferable to almost any future workplace.

Throughout my employment at the Libraries, the most important thing I have learned about myself is how much I value certain intangible aspects of the places I am employed, particularly the workplace’s culture, opportunity to develop skills, and compatibility with my goals for the present and future. I’ve ended up helping with many more projects and odd jobs than I was originally hired for—it has been fascinating to see the range of work that is done in the Libraries!

Earning this scholarship has allowed me keep my focus on my academics, rather than worrying about financial stress brought on by COVID-19.”





### JENNIFER DEL GIUDICE

Actuarial Science and Mathematics double major  
Naperville, IL

**Jennifer Del Giudice** is the recipient of a UI Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. She works in Acquisitions at the Main Library.

“My job at the Libraries has helped my communication, time management, and multi-tasking skills. It has also given me experience in Excel. Because I did my library work from home during the pandemic, I learned to work efficiently online. In July, I had an internship with an insurance company, and the entire program was online. Something that is important, especially with working online, is communicating with your team. That came easy to me because of my work at the library.

I feel comfortable and confident while reaching out to and communicating with others, which is something that cannot be learned in school. I applied this skill and networked with many different people during my internship to set myself up for success in the actuarial field.

This scholarship will help me lessen my student loans for the upcoming semester.”



### ANJAH DROE

Anthropology major, minor in Religious Studies  
Cedar Falls, IA

**Anjah Droë** is the recipient of a Dale M. and Mary Gail Bentz Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. Anjah works in the Pomerantz Business Library.

“Working for the Libraries helped me figure out what I wanted to study. The Business Library is located just across a courtyard from Gilmore Hall, which houses, among others, the Department of Religious Studies. Many of their graduate students order books for pick-up at the Business Library, and some of these books caught my attention.

One evening, I plucked up the courage to ask a graduate student about her studies. I was fascinated by her stories about Islam, Arabic literacy, and state-sanctioned violence. This simple act of talking to the patrons at the library about the books they were checking out, what they studied, and what excited them had a profound effect on my studies, and I ended up settling on environmental anthropology with a minor in religious studies. Working at the Business Library introduced me to the possibilities that led me to where I am now.”

—Continued on page 8



## 2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYEES OF THE LIBRARIES



#### TEAGAN HAMMONTREE

Finance, Risk Management & Insurance certificate  
Palatine, IL



#### KOURTANY KATZEN

Graphic Design major  
Aurora, IL

**Teagan Hammontree** is the recipient of a UI Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. She works in the Lichtenberger Engineering Library.

“Working at the library has helped me develop better communication and problem-solving skills. I know these two skills will be beneficial in my future career; I will be able to communicate thoroughly and well with my future employers, coworkers, and clients, as well as creatively and strategically solve any problems I might face.

I was surprised to realize how much I enjoy interacting and conversing with strangers. Most of the patrons that I help are complete strangers to me, and I really enjoy when we end up having a conversation, whether it's thirty seconds or five minutes.

This scholarship is going to help me greatly by taking care of a large sum of my tuition. Paying full out-of-state tuition was never an option for me, which is why I worked very hard my freshman year to establish residency and get in-state tuition. This scholarship is only going to help more!”

**Kourtany Katzen** is the recipient of a Dale M. and Mary Gail Bentz Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. She works in the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences.

“Looking at who I was when I started my job at the Libraries, I'm definitely more organized, driven, and confident. My coworkers frequently build me up, recommend opportunities, and encourage me to push myself not only as an employee, but as a student, too. When I applied for this job I wasn't sure what to expect. I was surprised with how much I've actually gotten out of it; I've found opportunities through this job to grow myself as a graphic designer and actually build a network. It's the people and the energy of the place that have been sources of inspiration for me.

I'm so thankful to receive this award. College is a huge but also very rewarding expense, and any form of help in paying for it takes a little weight off my shoulders after graduation. This scholarship will serve as further motivation for me to push myself as a student because I know that I have even more people supporting me.”

**ANNA MAGAÑA**

English/Creative Writing; Latina/o/x Studies & Translation  
Sioux City, IA

**Anna Magaña** is the recipient of a UI Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. She works in Preservation at the Main Library.

“Through my work at the Main Library, I have learned about my own strengths and interests. Working with circulating materials requires attention to detail and patience; these skills will prove valuable. The library was my first exposure to having a job I am truly passionate about. I enjoy the work I do, and I plan to carry that into my future choices.

When I first started working in the library, I was surprised by how many steps there are to each process! I was never aware of just how many hands a book passed through before it got to me. Being part of the process has given me a new appreciation for the immense organizational structure of the library.

This award will provide some peace of mind this semester. I am grateful for the ability to do remote work at a time when so many cannot, but it can be hard to juggle. This scholarship can serve as a financial cushion, allowing me to focus on the work I need to do, both in and out of the library.”

**ANDREW MARESCA**

Public Health major  
Johnston, IA

**Andrew Maresca** is the recipient of a Dale M. and Mary Gail Bentz Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. He works in Access Services at the Main Library.

“The library has helped me immensely with developing my communication and problem-solving skills due to the various circumstances that can arise. These skills will certainly be helpful in my future career.

Working at the library sparked so many new interests. Seeing the wide range of books people check out has made me curious about new topics I had never considered before. I really enjoy learning about different experiences and cultures, and the library has exposed me to so many more than before.

This scholarship will help bring me some relief during such a hectic time in the world. Paying for education can be stressful, and this award will allow me to worry less about that and really focus on my studying and getting involved in my community.”

—Continued on page 10



## 2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYEES OF THE LIBRARIES



**VANESSA PEREZ**

Studio Art major, minor in Latina/o/x Studies  
Sioux City, IA



**LILLIANNA SCOTT**

Environmental Policy & Planning, certificate in Sustainability  
Fort Madison, IA

**Vanessa Perez** is the recipient of the Judy and Mike Greer Scholarship in Memory of Mary E. Greer. She works in Preservation at the Main Library.

“Working at the Main Library has definitely improved my skills in communication with teammates, as well as my attention to detail. When marking books, it is important to make sure each step is finished correctly. Working haphazardly causes small mistakes that are easily remedied by taking just a little bit more time and care to finish the task. Each book I mark makes me better; likewise, as an artist, every cup, bowl, or vase I throw on the pottery wheel means that the next one will be improved.

I continue to be surprised with how much I continue to learn and grow because of my job. From learning about bookbinding to recovering flood damaged materials to digital preservation, I didn't understand how vast the scope of library science truly is.

I think this scholarship will help me feel more secure in my education moving forward. This year has been very strange for the entire world, and a sense of security in a time like this is extremely welcome.”

**Lillianna Scott** is the recipient of a Dale M. and Mary Gail Bentz Libraries Student Employee Scholarship. She works in Preservation at the Main Library.

“I have experienced a lot of personal growth from my job. I feel empowered to know I am trusted to handle valuable materials from the Libraries' collections. I have gained a strong sense of confidence that has changed how I carry myself in professional settings. This, along with the special attention to detail that I have gained, will be important skills to utilize in my future career.

In the beginning, I was afraid my lack of knowledge would prevent me from connecting with others, but that could not be farther from the truth. I can always find a helping hand from others, and seeing their work has sparked my interest in book conservation and preservation. I have loved seeing the library's behind-the-scenes action and playing my own part in it.

Like others dealing with the pandemic, this has been a difficult year for me and my family. This scholarship will take financial burdens off our shoulders. I am so grateful to be able to continue my education with the help of this scholarship.”

# ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The UI Libraries offers four types of scholarships for undergraduate student employees. The Libraries employs 160 students annually. Since 2016, the Libraries has awarded 46 undergraduate scholarships totalling \$87,500. We are grateful to our donors, including many Libraries staff members, for their generous support for this program.

The UI Libraries' staff established the **UI Libraries Student Employee Scholarship**, supported by numerous friends as a way to recognize, support, and motivate students in their scholarship, research, and creative work at the University. Student employees at the University Libraries provide critical staffing and services that benefit the entire UI community. Generally, four scholarships of \$1,500 are available each year.

The family of Arthur and Rita Benton established the **Benton Family Music Library Student Employee Scholarship**, awarded to University Libraries' student employees who work in the Rita Benton Music Library. Hired in 1952 to catalog music holdings, Rita Benton was head of the Music Library from 1957 until her death in 1980. Later that year, the UI dedicated the Rita Benton Music Library in recognition of her service to the University and her contributions to music librarianship and musicology. Two scholarships of \$2,500 are available each year to qualified applicants.

The children of Dale M. and Mary Gail Bentz established the **Dale M. and Mary Gail Bentz Libraries Student Employee Scholarship** in memory of their parents. Dale came to Iowa in 1953 and served the UI Libraries for 36 years. From 1981 until his retirement in 1986, Dale led the organization as University Librarian. Active in his profession, Dale made numerous contributions to the librarianship over his 45-year career. Four scholarships of \$2,500 are available each year.

Judy and Mike Greer established the **Judy and Mike Greer Scholarship in Memory of Mary E. Greer** to honor the memory of Mike's mother, who worked for 25 years in the Main Library Circulation Department. The scholarship is awarded to University Libraries' student employees who work in the Main Library. One scholarship of \$2,500 is available each year.



**SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**  
[givetoioowa.org/libraries](http://givetoioowa.org/libraries)





From left: Willow Fuchs, business reference and instruction librarian; Kim Bloedel, head of Pomerantz Business Library; Todd DeGraff, library assistant III, and Ryan Greenough, student employee at the Business Library and two-time winner of a Libraries student employee scholarship.

# Arthur Benton Award

## BLOEDEL WINS LIBRARIES' TOP HONOR

BY JENNIFER MASADA,  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION MANAGER

**K**im Bloedel, head of the Marvin A. Pomerantz Business Library, is the winner of the 2019 Arthur Benton University Librarian's Award for Excellence. She accepted the award at a reception held in her honor last spring, shortly before the impact of COVID-19.

The Arthur Benton University Librarian's Award for Excellence recognizes a member of the UI Libraries' professional staff who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and leadership in furthering the Libraries' mission to serve the university community. The honor

includes a \$1,500 award for professional development that will support the recipient's research projects or publications related to library services.

The late Dr. Arthur Benton, professor of psychology and neurology at the University of Iowa and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, established the endowment to make this annual award possible.

Based on letters from faculty nominators, the selection committee noted Bloedel's significant contributions to teaching and research at the Tippie College of Business.

According to Thomas A. Rietz, Soumyo Sarkar professor of finance and departmental executive officer in the department of finance, Bloedel has played an active role in the Biz Hub renovation project, demonstrating an innovative approach to transforming building spaces and services to enhance student learning. “Kim has been instrumental in managing the library’s transition into the [Biz] Hub, truly a center for learning for modern students. It changes the culture of learning in this building,” says Rietz.

Faculty have recognized Bloedel for her work in helping the college during its budget re-alignment process, citing her transparent, efficient, and effective methods of managing the college’s print resources, electronic journal subscriptions, and databases.

Rietz says Bloedel “helped solve a problem that has vexed us for years: how to budget for and prioritize databases.” Her streamlined solution has had a positive impact on the research, operations, and budget of the College of Business.

Rietz explains, “Before Kim stepped up, acquiring databases, budgeting for them, and managing them was a patched together, haphazard process. Kim put together the first comprehensive list of our databases, who’s using them, and who’s paying for them. With this information, Kim centralized the budgeting, acquisition, and management of databases. This is one of the best things we’ve done lately to promote research in the college. She works with faculty members to find the best solution for their needs. She avoids duplication. She connects faculty who work on similar topics. She finds funds and works with departments to share costs. This is where her skills, knowledge, and demeanor make the biggest difference.”

Faculty and students also laud Bloedel’s efforts to create teaching guides, such as the [Financial Knowledge Center](#). Working with faculty and staff, she transformed this resource—originally a tool for MBA students—into a “multi-faceted resource for students at all levels. It

has become an incredible resource for our students and faculty, who rave about what a great resource this has become and how much Kim has done to realize its full potential. I couldn’t agree more,” says Rietz.

Bloedel worked with the Tippie College’s undergraduate professional development director to develop the [Finance Major Toolkit](#), a guide designed to help students learn about finance and then find finance careers. The toolkit not only includes library resources but also adds links for alumni, an events calendar, job postings, descriptions of career paths, and jobs in various areas of finance.

Bloedel has also identified and prioritized the need for research data and works to provide access. Daniel W. Collins, chair of accounting, says, “Kim has played a key role in sharing information about what data are available and useful across departments. Kim is a good steward of university resources, while at the same time being conscious of the data needs for teaching and research across the college.”

Both students and faculty at the Tippie College of Business benefit from Bloedel’s work. Amy Kristof-Brown, newly appointed dean, sums up Bloedel’s contributions:

“Through her efforts, we have saved thousands of dollars, produced hundreds of research papers, and educated countless students in the classroom and on research projects. As the use of big data across all fields becomes a norm rather than an exception, the need to manage these large databases only grows. I cannot think of a better person to be leading our journey than Kim.”



From left: Kristof-Brown and Bloedel.



# McCartney wins Regents' recognition

## STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2020

BY JENNIFER MASADA,  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION MANAGER

**T**he University of Iowa Board of Regents has awarded David McCartney, university archivist in the Libraries' department of Special Collections & Archives, its annual Staff Excellence Award for 2020.

The Board of Regents created the award in 1993 to recognize staff members from across Iowa's Regents institutions. Awardees' accomplishments significantly benefit the university, bring honor and recognition to the university, and make a positive impact on the state of Iowa. Each award recipient receives a \$1,000 prize.

McCartney received three nominations for the award, from colleagues with whom he has worked during his nearly 20 years with the University Libraries: Margaret Gamm, head of Special Collections & University Archives at the UI Libraries; Erik Moore, head of University Archives and co-director of University Digital Conservancy at the University of Minnesota Libraries; and Mary Rettig, assistant university librarian for advancement at the UI Libraries.

Each nominator noted the breadth and depth of McCartney's work as an archivist and his commitment to ensuring current and future generations of Iowans gain a sense of place and opportunities to learn from thorough and accurately recorded histories of the state.

Gamm remarks on McCartney's broad contributions as an archivist. "When I was considering what aspects to highlight of David's impressive career and impact on the state, what kept coming to mind was not a single project. It was his overall approach to the archival profession his dedication to enhancing public access to history, his devotion to ensuring access for the greatest number of people, his attentiveness to the core values of archivists, and his ever-present respect for those who work with him at Iowa and beyond," she says. "David is committed to ensuring that university history is remembered and highlighted before a broad audience, and to ensuring that voices underrepresented in the archives, especially those underrepresented in archives in Iowa, sing louder."

McCartney is devoted to advancing the profession and improving archives across Iowa beyond the confines of the University of Iowa, though this work is always tied to the university by virtue of his role as University Archivist. "David's reputation as University Archivist and de facto university historian is so well-established," Gamm says. "He has served as a consultant for many smaller archives and libraries in Iowa and spends a significant amount of time volunteering in support of the work done by smaller nonprofits."



“His dedication to this place and his contributions to it, many of which are not sung loudly enough due to his modesty, are truly extraordinary.”



**DOCUMENTING IOWA'S HISTORY**  
Read McCartney's column, "Old Gold."

David McCartney in the Old Capitol on the UI Pentacrest.

His many positions in the Midwestern Archives Conference and the leading role he plays in that organization, including his recent presidency, have distinguished his career. McCartney is active in the Consortium of Iowa Archivists as well as in the Big Ten Academic Alliances' university archivists group, for which he served as chair from 2008–2014.

Moore echoes Gamm's assessment, pointing to McCartney's work to document the life of a University of Iowa student, Stephen Lynn Smith, a young man from a small town in Iowa who was a civil rights activist in the 1960s. "While these events are of historical interest, Mr. McCartney sought to preserve Smith's legacy and to connect it with Iowa's history. He met with Smith's widow. He spoke with his children, his classmates, witnesses, and friends Smith made while advocating for a better world," says Moore.

"It was not just documentation Mr. McCartney was after; it was the ability to tell Smith's story in the context of others who shared similar paths and rallied against inequality," says Moore. By organizing the Historical Iowa Civil Rights Network, McCartney amplifies the efforts of those who push back against racism and injustice, bringing together repositories and collections to share stories like Stephen Smith's from across the

state. "For Mr. McCartney," says Moore, "it is not just what we keep in the archives that is important; it is how it affects our lives and raises our humanity."

McCartney's expertise is sought across the university. "[Old Gold](#)," his column in *IOWA Magazine*, has a wide readership and receives regular praise, as do the professional publications to which he contributes. His writings focus on the history of the University of Iowa, and by extension, on the history of the state.

Rettig comments on the positive impact not only of McCartney's writing but also his way of engaging with people in the course of his research and outreach work. "He has consistently demonstrated his knowledge and respect for the university by accurately capturing and recording its history and then sharing that history in an engaging and thoughtful manner that beckons the audience's interest to continue learning," she says.

McCartney's career serves as quiet inspiration for those interested in preserving the history of the UI. In summary, Gamm says, "David is the consummate archivist and a critical member of the University of Iowa community. His dedication to this place and his contributions to it, many of which are not sung loudly enough due to his modesty, are truly extraordinary."



# Serving in COVID times

**A**fter closing our facilities in March 2020, the University Libraries engaged in careful planning to reopen with the guidance of the university's central administration, county and state health officials, and experts at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the College of Public Health. In preparation for the fall semester, Libraries staff implemented key changes in our operations to create safe spaces, continue high levels of service, and ensure access to resources. Our campus libraries reopened on August 17.

## **Increased virtual services and shortened open hours**

We opted to increase our virtual services through online consultations and instruction, extended hours for chat and email assistance, and Zoom workshops. Some units, such as the Main Library Gallery and Special Collections, created ways for users to make an appointment to see exhibitions and collections in person. These efforts have allowed us to reduce exposure risks for both staff and library users. Although our open hours were shorter, we remained flexible in order to meet student needs, adjusting hours based on careful analysis of occupancy counts.

**Physical safety measures** All libraries added plexiglass at service desks and other points of contact. We also provided cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer throughout our facilities for patron use. We reduced seating to allow for social distancing and closed some spaces where social distancing is not feasible. We allowed food and drink only in designated areas where social distancing is possible.

**Signage** To help our users navigate the changes in our facilities, the Libraries installed signs with clear instructions for users about a wide variety of safety measures, such as reduced seating, cleaning computer work

stations after use, mask requirements, limited capacity for elevators, traffic direction in stairwells and hallways, and proper handwashing in bathrooms.

**Closed book stacks** With safety in mind, the University Libraries closed book stacks in all library locations on campus. The Libraries applied for and received emergency access to e-book versions of nearly 50% of our physical book holdings through [HathiTrust](#).

## **Home, office, and curbside delivery and pickup services**

All campus library locations provided robust pickup or delivery services, which required inventing new work processes and implementing behind-the-scenes changes on our web sites.

## **Increased scanning and interlibrary loan services**

Throughout the pandemic, all campus libraries have increased efforts to scan book chapters and articles. Our interlibrary loan services have also seen a marked increase, providing book chapters, articles, and items from our electronic collections.

**Moved many course reserve materials online** The Libraries provided access to e-textbooks, purchased many e-books, and provided access through course web pages.

## **Increased access to virtual materials for course reserve**

In addition to providing access to databases and streaming videos, librarians purchased and converted many DVDs to make the content available for students online.

**Increased acquisitions of e-books** The high demand for e-books, especially requests from faculty for course reserve materials students can access online, has resulted in expanded responsibilities for our acquisitions staff.

**Face mask compliance project** The Libraries launched a project to find ways to help our users remember to wear their face masks. As a result, we have posted additional signage, increased our communication efforts through email and social media, and increased monitoring of our facilities. At the Main Library, we have hired student employees to assist in handing out masks to users and gathering data on occupancy and mask compliance in each part of the facility. With this data in hand, the Libraries can move forward with confidence to implement safety plans as conditions continue to shift.

In addition to these Libraries-wide efforts, staff have implemented special projects as a result of the pandemic.

- **Business Library** Staff now meet online daily for morning coffee. These meetings are meant to share work updates and also to have “water cooler” conversations. Staff also arranged online yoga classes for the College of Business faculty and staff.
- **Hardin Library** With some staff working onsite and others working from home, Hardin's all-staff meetings are now weekly rather than monthly. This has been a key measure, enabling staff to continue to provide high-quality services. Hardin has continued to fill interlibrary loan and document delivery requests. Knowing that patient care and research, particularly for coronavirus, would be increasing, the staff decided to keep this service going. At one point, Hardin was one of just a handful of health sciences libraries in the country still filling requests, which went to users on every continent but Antarctica when even the National Library of Medicine had stopped filling requests.
- **Engineering Library** Staff sent student employees care packages during Student Employee Appreciation Week.
- **Main Library** Access Services staff spearheaded a project to coordinate a nationwide return of materials by partnering with local public, Iowa Library Association/Association of College & Research Libraries, and Big Ten Libraries. Special Collections and University Archives partnered with the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio to create a [repository of stories](#) from community members about their experiences during the pandemic.
- **Music Library** Librarians have worked closely with the School of Music to aid efforts to share student and faculty performances online while adhering to copyright and licensing rules.
- **Sciences Library** Staff have held virtual community trivia nights to boost students' mental well-being and community engagement.



Student employee care packages from the Engineering Library.

## COMMENTS FROM LIBRARY USERS DURING COVID OPERATIONS

*“Thank you for the efforts you're making to get resources into people's hands during this ridiculous and terrible time. It makes a difference for the scholarship that can happen and it's a useful reminder about how indispensable libraries are.”* —Riley, SLIS Graduate Student

*“Home delivery during COVID. The U of Iowa librarians are AMAZING!!”* —Mary, associate professor, University of Iowa

*“Oh my goodness! This is REMARKABLE and I could hardly be more grateful!”* —Linda, professor emeritus at the University of Iowa, after receiving an at-home delivery.

*“I want to say how much I appreciate what your staff and you do. As almost everything else seems to be in decline, the service provided by Interlibrary Loan just keeps getting better. Things that are quite obscure have somehow been located and obtained. Don't know how you do it, but I am very appreciative.”* —John, professor emeritus, University of Iowa



# Connected for life

## COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROGRAM BENEFITS SENIOR CITIZENS

A \$222,327 grant to the University of Iowa's museums and libraries will allow an expansion of the Stanley Museum of Art's [Senior Living Communities Program](#), which brings art programming and interactive activities to seniors in long-term care facilities in Iowa.

The grant is part of \$13.8 million in funding under the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act Grants for Museums and Libraries](#) by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to support the role of museums and libraries in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. The program was extremely competitive; only sixty-eight museum and library service projects were selected from among 1,701 applications.

The UI project, titled “Connected for Life: Object-based Digital Programming to Foster Active Minds for Senior Living Communities,” will be jointly administered

by the Stanley Museum of Art, Office of the State Archaeologist, UI Pentacrest Museums, and University Libraries.

“Our goal is to provide synchronous, virtual outreach programs for underserved Iowa populations who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19,” says the director of the UI Stanley Museum of Art, Lauren Lessing. “We want to increase participants' sense of connection and well-being and help them feel less isolated.”

Jack B. King university librarian John Culshaw emphasizes the importance of integrating the work of museums and libraries. “In communities across the country, citizens look to museums and libraries to access cultural and creative works. This is true now more than ever,” he says. “Our work with colleagues at the Pentacrest Museums, Stanley Museum of Art, and Office of the State Archaeologist will be increasingly integrated as we seek to serve in these challenging times.”



Residents at Melrose Meadows in Iowa City enjoying an arts activity through the Senior Living Communities Program. The photo was taken before the pandemic.

The project team will develop a web portal that offers synchronous virtual programs for underserved populations, especially those vulnerable to COVID-19.

Themed online modules will include scheduled live-streamed interactive video presentations, a library of pre-recorded videos, high-resolution images, collection guides, and activities for users to explore. Program topics will highlight art, archaeology, natural history, history, and archives from the university's library and museum collections.

State archaeologist John Doershuk notes, "We're incredibly excited about this partnership and looking forward to expanding the Office of the State Archaeologist's reach to include senior living communities while also increasing our capacity to do digital outreach."

The university will also preserve salaries for project staff whose jobs have been jeopardized by the pandemic.

"In addition to the impact this grant will have on Iowans, this grant represents a unique collaboration between cultural organizations across the University of Iowa," says Pentacrest Museums director Liz Crooks. "Despite physical displacement, four UI museums and repositories are combining resources for the betterment of our state's seniors."

"As pillars of our communities, libraries and museums bring people together by providing important programs, services, and collections. These institutions are trusted spaces where people can learn, explore, and grow," says IMLS director Crosby Kemper. "IMLS is proud to support their initiatives through our grants as they educate and enhance their communities."



# Sackner Archive

FALL 2020 EXHIBITION—MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY

**T**his fall, the Main Library Gallery presented *Sackner Archive*, an exhibition featuring select pieces from the Ruth and Marvin Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry. The Sackners founded the archive in 1979 in Miami Beach, Florida. The archive currently holds the world's largest collection of concrete and visual poetry—more than 75,000 works. In 2019, the [Sackners chose the University of Iowa Libraries as the archive's new home.](#)

Since then, curators at the University Libraries have begun creating detailed catalog records for each item in the archive. These records will allow students and faculty to search, access, and learn from this important collection that lies at the intersection of visual art, literature, performance, social activism, and cross-cultural communication.

While the Sackner Archive collection is not yet open for in-person research, curators created this exhibition to introduce Iowans and the university community to the archive's vast range of resources

that not only reveal the history and diversity of concrete poetry but also provide a lens for reflection on the current climate of worldwide change.

For students, researchers, and community members, the exhibition was a portal to specific curricular strengths at the University of Iowa (such as writing, visual arts, music, and science) as well as the specialized collections in the University Libraries.





Aminah Brenda Lynn Johnson. *Book Walk Series in the Backwoods*. Columbus, Ohio, 1978.  
See page 23 for information about her work.

## WHAT IS CONCRETE POETRY?

The concrete poetry movement emerged in the early 1950s, a time of significant change in the wake of World War II. The movement took flight internationally in the 1960s and continues as an art form today. Born of fused literary and art influences and inspired by expansive mid-century views of experimentation and scientific advancement, concrete poetry defies categorization. Its creators produce visual word art, breaking free of old forms of poetry and making bold social statements through their experiments with letters, colors, typefaces, and a limitless palette of materials. Works include colorful artists' books, sculpture, single sheets of typewriter paper, audio recordings, and performance art.

While writers of conventional poetry rely on words to convey their message, makers of concrete poetry leverage visual impact to relay meaning. This exhibition offered examples such as John Furnival's [\*The Fall of the Tower of Babel\*](#), which uses words, letters, and numbers to create a visual representation of a tower beginning to topple over.

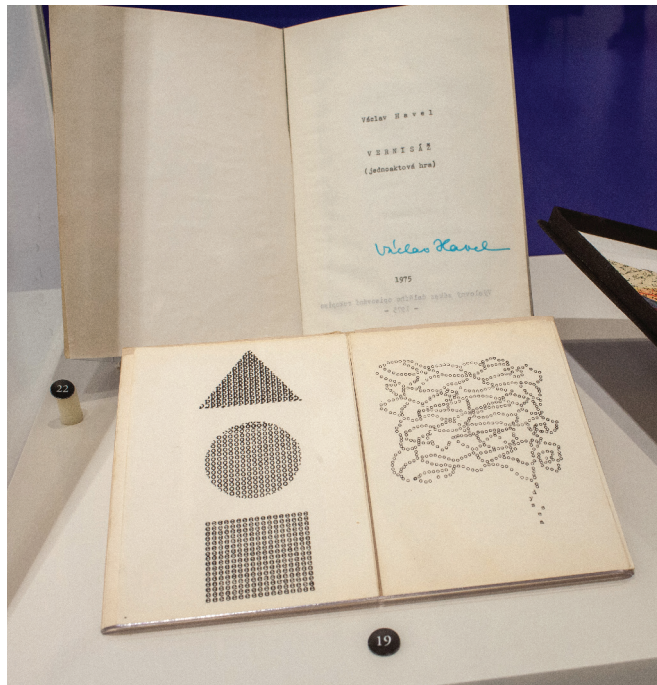
To celebrate the broad international nature of the Sackner Archive, the exhibition included works in various languages. Through concrete poetry's unique marriage of words and images, these works transcend language barriers and open opportunities for all to enjoy the work of poets from around the world.

—Continued on page 22



## THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition was presented in six sections, allowing visitors to experience concrete and visual poetry through a variety of lenses. The following pages present a snapshot of several sections; the text was written by the curators.



### PRECURSORS AND PIONEERS

The precursors of concrete poetry may be traced back as far as ancient pattern poetry. Major early twentieth-century influences included the Futurist and Dada movements.

In former Czechoslovakia, concrete poets used their medium as a form of disguised political protest. **Václav Havel** (1936-2011) was a poet and playwright, some of whose works were circulated as samizdat (illegally reproduced writings); he became the leading Czech dissident in the 1980s and, eventually, president of Czechoslovakia and the independent Czech Republic.

The book in the back is a signed copy of Václav Havel's *Vernisáž*, Prague, 1975.





The British artist **Tom Phillips** (1937-) is perhaps best known for *A Humument*, one of the most renowned of all artists' books. Taking copies of *A Human Monument*, a second-rate Victorian novel by W. H. Mallock, Phillips covered the pages with drawings and collages, leaving portions of the text visible to create an entirely new narrative. The work evolved through many iterations. The Sackners amassed a major collection of works and unpublished papers of Phillips, including many of the original modified pages of Mallock's book that were reproduced to create *A Humument*.



The most pastoral of the classic concrete poets, **Ian Hamilton Finlay's** (1925-2006) work frequently alludes to themes of sailing, gardens, and Classical Greek and Roman monuments. Many of his poems were inscribed in stone, and his five-acre *Little Sparta* near Edinburgh is a literal garden of concrete poetry. The Sackner Archive includes a massive collection of Finlay's publications and papers.

Left item: Ian Hamilton Finlay. *A Rubbing Post for Wild Boar*. Dunsyre Lanark: Wild Hawthorn Press, 1997. Right item: Ian Hamilton Finlay. *A Sailor's Calendar*. New York: Something Else Press, 1971.

**Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson** (1940-2015), an artist from Columbus, Ohio, was a speaker of history via visual images. She worked primarily with homemade paper and “hogmawg,” defined as “a collection of mud, clay, twigs, leaves, lime, animal grease, and glue.” Robinson strongly believed in the importance of history and the African concept of Sankofa, “learning from the past in order to move forward.” Her three unique pieces in the Sackner Archive, two of which were on display in this exhibition, tell elaborate, community-based tales through multi-piece works. See page 21 for an example of her work.

## INSPIRED BY & INSPIRING THE CURRICULUM

The Sackner Archive holds much art with strong or subtle connections to various schools and disciplines at the University of Iowa. The exhibition presented a variety of artworks influenced by and relating to the humanities, science, and business, including a compelling piece by Jenny Holzer (1950-), *Protect Me From What I Want*.

—Continued on page 24

Jenny Holzer. *Protect Me From What I Want*. 1987.



Tom Phillips. *A Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel*. First Edition. London: Thames and Hudson, 1980.



## ARTISTS' BOOKS / BOOK ARTISTS

Like concrete and visual poetry, artists' books straddle a blurry line. Are they books, art, both? The *Sackner Archive* is alive with artists' books, such as Francis Hamilton's *She's Not Ugly But*, which raise these questions and offer a wide spectrum of what artists and book artists have imagined.

## LETTRISM

Developing about a decade before concrete poetry, paralleling many of its techniques but with a significant philosophical dimension as well, the French Lettrist movement was founded by the Romanian-French writer Isidore Isou (1925-2007).



Francis Hamilton. *She's Not Ugly But*. 1982.



*Lettrisme*, no. 14, Jan.-Feb. 1967 (cover maquette).

Lettrist literature emphasized asemic writing (using invented symbols that look like writing but do not belong to any existing alphabet). A major exhibition, *Lettrisme: Into the Present*, was held at the University of Iowa Museum of Art in 1983 and included numerous works loaned by the Sackner Archive.

## THE WORD IN SOUND AND MOTION

Sound poetry—spoken performances with little or no connection to any known language—could be seen as the flip side of concrete or visual poetry. Both forms emphasize the physical aspects of human language (whether visual or auditory) rather than semantic meaning. Many poets worked in both genres. The audiovisual portion of the exhibition included Henri Chopin's 1985 collaboration with University of Iowa composer Kenneth Gaburo).

## SACKNERS AS FAMILY AND COLLECTORS

The Sackners lived with and among their archive. Birthday presents from the kids often featured words as images, and gifts and purchases arrived via mail almost daily. Building the archive was a team effort and family bonding activity. Marvin traveled to conferences pertaining to his profession as a pulmonologist, and his family journeyed with him. On their travels, they visited with other collectors, met artists in their studios, and dealers in their shops. They built relationships with these individuals over many years, resulting in extensive written communications. The Sackners carefully archived almost every letter received, and copied almost every letter sent, for decades. The exhibition included correspondence between the Sackners, Tom Phillips, and Johanna Drucker.



## MEET THE CURATORS

A team from Special Collections at the University of Iowa Libraries served as curators for this exhibition: Timothy Shipe, curator, International Dada Archive; Peter Balestrieri, curator of science fiction and popular culture; and Margaret Gamm, head, Special Collections and University Archives. Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries provided support for *Sackner Archive*.

## VIEW THE EXHIBIT

Although the *Sackner Archive* exhibition in the Main Library Gallery has now closed, a virtual version of *Sackner Archive* is available online. The virtual tour

includes videos, articles, and photographs, as well as the official exhibition guide and interactive curator highlights.

- The [Sackner Archive virtual exhibit](#) offers photos and videos of a small selection of items.
- The [exhibition guide](#) includes curators' statements and a complete list of works on display.
- A UI Libraries [subject guide](#) offers online resources related to this exhibition.



EXPLORE OUR EXHIBITS  
[lib.uiowa.edu/gallery](http://lib.uiowa.edu/gallery)

# RUTH AND MARVIN SACKNER COLLECTION

A special note for BINDINGS readers by Tom Phillips



painting, made for a particular spot in the entrance way, was installed in 1984.

The story of my relationship with Marvin and Ruth began some years earlier in 1975, when they visited a show of mine in the Basel Kunsthalle. It was a varied selection of paintings and drawings including an early appearance of the first version of *A Humument*. Marvin was keen to ask at the desk the name of the

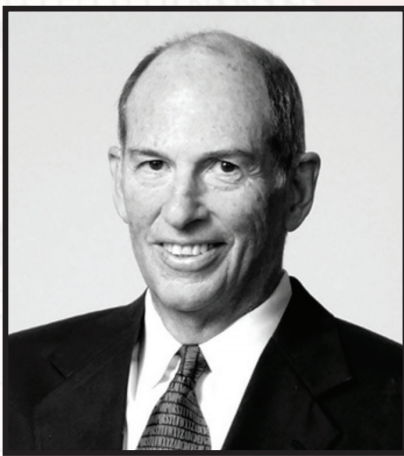
I am happy that the Ruth and Marvin Sackner collection has found a home in Iowa. In this case it is a home from home since the archive originally filled their family house in the Venice quarter of Miami. This is where the large

artists. He was surprised to learn that all the work was by the same person. Sometime later that year I got a phone call from a neighbour, Dr. Philip Hugh-Jones, who said he had a medical colleague visiting who was excited about an exhibition he had seen in Switzerland and had they heard of an artist called Tom Phillips? Oh yes, he was told, he lives just round the corner. Hasty arrangements were made and within minutes Dr. Sackner was at my door in South London.

Much of the rest of the story can now be seen in Iowa, dominated by that mural of 1984 in which I coined the word "Artchive" as more suitable to describe what, although archival in scope, was a collection mostly devoted to works of art. Looking at it now I can only guess at the games that the painting plays with words, centring on Archy the Archivist and other mutual gags. It is a monument to a treasured friendship, and there was much pleasure in its making.



# In memory



Dr. Marvin Sackner, 1932-2020

It is with profound sorrow that we note the passing of Dr. Marvin Sackner on Tuesday, September 29, at age 88. For those of us at Iowa, Dr. Sackner will be forever remembered for selecting the University

Libraries as the permanent home of his world-renowned collection of concrete and visual poetry. But as his [obituary shows](#), his memory will be treasured for his countless contributions in many areas—by his numerous patients; by members of the medical profession; by artists, art historians, and literary scholars around the world; and most of all by his beloved family.

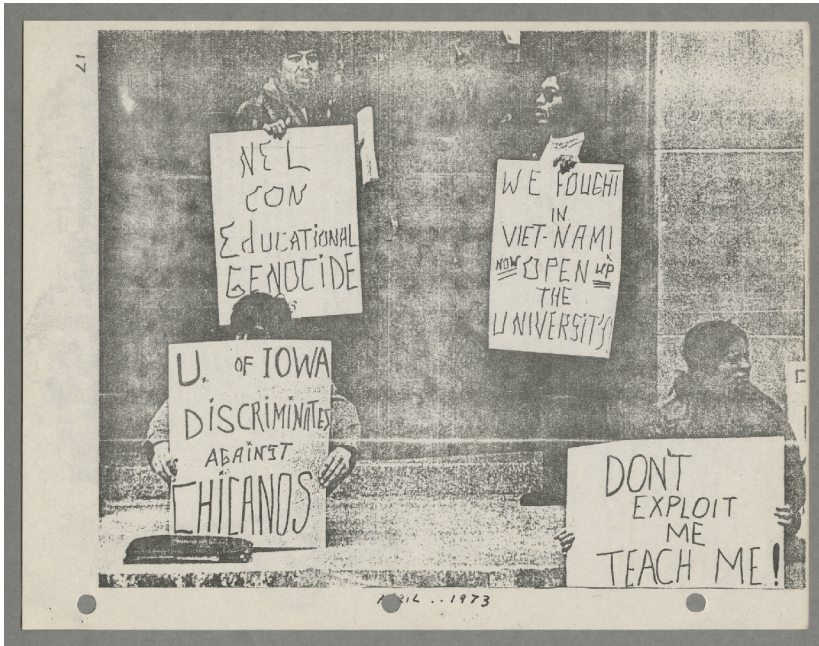
We had originally planned to open the Sackner Archive exhibition in May 2020 featuring a guest lecture by Dr. Sackner accompanied by his entire family.

Given Dr. Sackner's stature as a world-famous pulmonologist, there is a sad irony in the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic thwarted his visit to Iowa. Those of us who had the privilege of getting to know Marvin—and to hear his engaging manner of telling the story of his collection and the artists represented in it—know what an opportunity the public has missed now that there will be no chance to welcome him back to campus. But we can take comfort in knowing that current and future generations of Iowans and visitors from around the world will be able to engage with Marvin and Ruth through their legacy—the magnificent collection they amassed and curated over four decades that now resides in the UI Libraries Special Collections.

We now rededicate this exhibition to the memory of Ruth and Marvin Sackner, extraordinary art collectors, generous individuals, and above all, kind and loving human beings.

*This remembrance, written by Timothy Shipe, was featured in the Main Library Gallery as part of the Sackner Archive exhibition.*

# Up next in the Main Library Gallery



One of many items that will appear in the upcoming exhibition.

*Building our own community: 50 years of the Latino Native American Cultural Center (created in 1971 by Chicano and American Indian Students) will be on display at the Main Library Gallery from January 25 through June 25, 2021.*

In 2021, the Latino Native American Cultural Center (LNACC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary. LNACC has a long and important history at the University of Iowa. This exhibition will share that history in depth and will explore its establishment in the 1970s, its activism and programs, and much more. LNACC continues to be an active advocate, supporter, and resource for Latino and Native American students at the University of Iowa.

A note from the exhibition's curators—outreach and research librarian Rachel Garza Carreón and undergraduate engagement librarian Christopher Ortega: “The Latino Native American Cultural Center is a living being that carries ancestral knowledge and history through the liveliness in our students' celebrations, passions, and the overall vibrancy of the center. Celebrating our daily existence and our ancestors is a value that we honor when being of service to the students, community, and future generations.”

Admission is free. The Main Library Gallery is open to the public, although visits are by appointment only due to COVID-19. Request an appointment at [www.lib.uiowa.edu/gallery](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/gallery). Appointments are available Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Please book at least three days in advance. All are welcome, including classes, individuals, and small groups.



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A [feature-length video](#) about the exhibition *The Pull of Horses* provides an in-depth tour of the exhibit, which appeared in the Main Library Gallery in spring 2020.





Damien Ihrig in the  
John Martin Rare Book Room, Hardin  
Library for the Health Sciences



# John Martin Rare Book Room

WELCOMES A NEW CURATOR

BY MICHELLE MILLDYKE

It's rare to find someone who genuinely looks forward to going to work each day. But Damien Ihrig loves his job. "I just feel really fortunate to be able to do this job—not just to *have* a job but to be able to do this particular job," Ihrig says.

Ihrig is the curator for the John Martin Rare Book Room (JMRBR) at the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, a position he took in July, shortly after completing a Master's in Library Science and a Certificate in Book Studies from the UI Center for the Book. Though these academic and professional accomplishments are recent, Ihrig has been at the university in one way or another for 30 years.

His first job out of college was in a child psychiatry lab on campus. He completed a Master's in Educational Measurement here and worked in the university's Belin-Blank Center as administrator for talent searches, research, and evaluation for eight years. From there, Ihrig moved to the Carver College of Medicine, where he was the registrar for nine years in the Office of Student Affairs and Curriculum, working mainly with medical and physician assistant students.

An interest in librarianship in general, but special collections and archival work in particular, drew Ihrig to Iowa's library and information science graduate degree program. He focused on subjects related to special collections and archives within the curriculum while taking courses through the Center for the Book that focused on the materiality of the items he would

eventually be dealing with: conservation, preservation, papermaking, and bookbinding. "I wanted to get a sense of how these things were created but also how they live their lifecycles: the kinds of environmental things that, over time, affect these materials, how they affect them, and what we can do to help preserve them for as long as possible," Ihrig says.

The approximately 6,500-volume collection in the JMRBR focuses on health science-related works from the early printing period, roughly 1450–1510, up to modern times. Dr. John Martin began collecting the rare and valuable medical books in 1947 and gave his collection to the university in 1971. He left an endowment to maintain and build the collection and also a list of items he believed would be important additions.

Ihrig credits his predecessor, Donna Hirst, for doing an amazing job of prepping materials for whoever would take over when she retired and for being a continuing resource as he builds the collection. "We're very strong in the areas of anatomy," Ihrig says, "and we've built a solid herbals collection. It's about trying to build and maintain a collection that gives you a sense of how medicine evolved over time."

Despite their rarity and value, Ihrig emphasizes that the JMRBR's items are information resources meant for use. To that end, one of his roles as curator is to spread the word about all the JMRBR offers.

—Continued on page 30



“Something Donna did that I really liked was to send monthly emails that detailed a particular work from the Rare Book Room. She included images, a description of the author and the work, and information about the work’s significance. These monthly messages offered a window into these resources,” Ihrig says. “I wanted to continue the book of the month idea and expand on that a little bit, turning it into more of a newsletter that communicates a variety of things about the Rare Book Room—activities that are happening here, materials we are bringing in, speakers we might have throughout the year, and topics that people who are associated with the Rare Book Room would be interested in.”

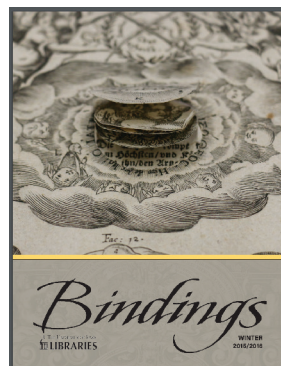
In October, Ihrig focused the newsletter on National Midwifery Week (October 4–10 in 2020). “We have a great obstetrics and midwifery collection. So, we wanted to highlight not only midwives, their work, and the week but also our collection. In particular, one of the works we have is a really nice first edition from 1609 by Louise Bourgeois, a French midwife, who was the first to write about her experiences in a direct and useful way so that her book eventually became a handbook for other midwives who came after her. We were excited to showcase that book and talk about how it fit into our collection, to talk about Louise Bourgeois’ history, and to tie it all back to the theme of National Midwifery Week,” Ihrig says.

Another of Ihrig’s goals, and a charge for the position, is to increase the engagement outreach for the JMRBR on campus and community wide. “The nice thing is there are so many different areas on campus where rare books like these can intersect with what folks are doing. It’s almost as if there’s SO much opportunity there, the challenge is trying to figure out where to start,” Ihrig said. One current collaboration, with Special Collections, is the Iowa Bibliophiles program, which invites guest speakers throughout the year. The JMRBR is bringing in experts on rare medicine and health sciences books. In April 2021, for example, Ihrig and his

Hardin colleagues will talk about how the herbal books in the collection are a key component in the College of Pharmacy’s new medicinal garden.

Ihrig emphasizes the JMRBR’s value to researchers in the health sciences but also to those interested in the materials, construction, and artistry of the books themselves. “We exist to provide these information resources to anyone who might be able to use them,” he says. “That could be in the arts, it could be in the humanities, or it could be in the sciences, health care, or allied health fields. We’ve probably got something that can help people with whatever their research happens to be.”

Damien Ihrig spends half his work hours in the JMRBR and half as the Hardin Library liaison to neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry. As a liaison, Ihrig helps students and faculty with their information resource needs. He recognizes and appreciates how well everything has coalesced. “I get to bring together all these aspects of my professional life and my educational life. I get to work in a place like Hardin, with the amazing team there, and I am able to work with special collections within health care and the health sciences,” he says. “I mean continually, every day, it just blows my mind that I get to do this job.”



## Related article

The Winter 2015/2016 issue of Bindings highlighted the creation of a facsimile of [Remmelin's Catoptrum Microcosmicum](#), a rare 17th century flap book also in the JMRBR.

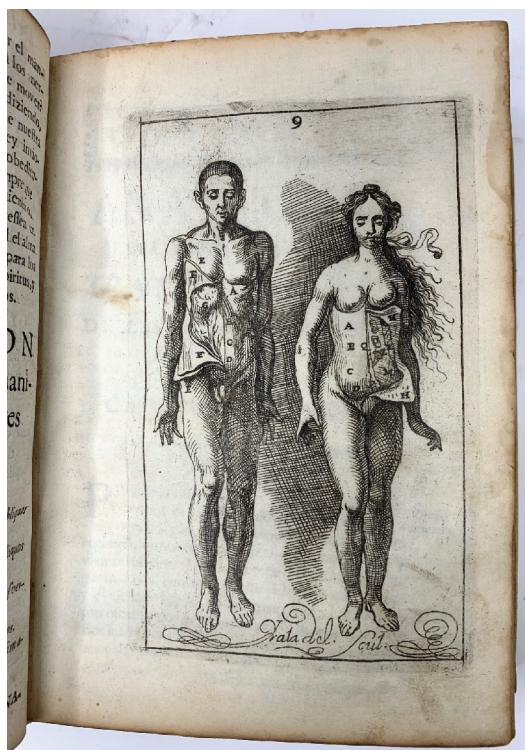
*Editor's note: The UI Libraries observes the passing of [Richard Eimas](#) (May 14, 1938 - Nov. 19, 2020), curator of the JMRBR from 1974 to 2002.*

# New acquisitions

## HARDIN'S RARE BOOK COLLECTION ILLUMINATES MEDICAL HISTORY

BY MICHELLE MILLDYKE

Since he started in July, Ihrig has procured a few new additions from the list of desired items. He highlights three. Ihrig describes Theodor Schwann's *Mikroskopische Untersuchungen über die Uebereinstimmung in der Struktur und dem Wachsthum der Thiere und Pflanzen*, published in 1839, as “a foundational work for biology, where Schwann expanded on cell theory from just talking about cells in plants to cells in animals and the fact that all living things are composed of cells.”



Porras' *Anatomia galenico-moderna*

published in 1828, is “a really rare first edition of these beautiful printed plates of pathological and anatomical specimens. They're works of art that, with the Porras book, will add a nice visual element to the collection.”

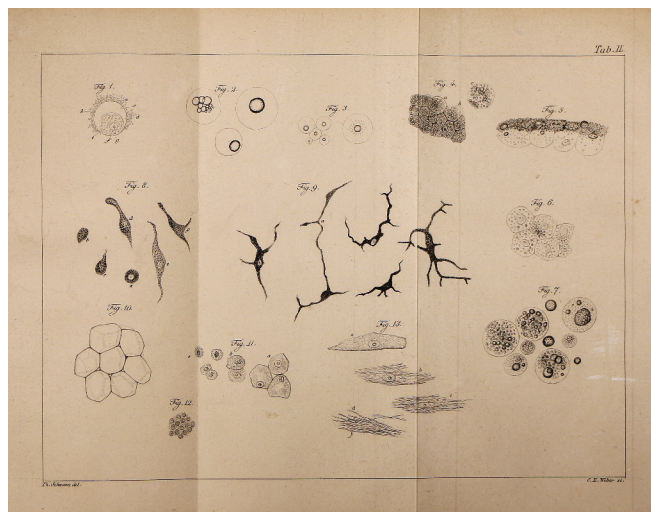
A second work Ihrig recently added to the collection is Manuel De Porras' *Anatomia*

*galenico-moderna*, published in 1716. “Porras was a surgeon who eventually became a surgeon for the Spanish king. This was an anatomy book to be studied by surgeons of the time.” Ihrig said.

Ihrig says the third work, Jan Bleuland's *Otium academicum, continens descriptionem speciminum nonnullarum partium corporis humani et animalium subtilioris anatomiae ope in physiologicum usum praeparatarum, aliarumque, quibus morborum organicorum natura illustratur*,

Bleuland's *Otium academicum*

Schwann's *Mikroskopische Untersuchungen*





# UI Libraries anti-racism guide

RESOURCES FOR CRUCIAL, ONGOING WORK

BY RITA SOENKSEN,  
ENGLISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE LIBRARIAN



Rita Soenksen

If there can be a silver lining to the tumultuous year of 2020 (and I hope there is!), it would be the awakening of America to the racial inequities of its past and present. This realization has not come easily—people lost their lives needlessly or were seriously injured, and friendships and family ties remain strained. Recognizing past and current harms of racism is a charged topic, but it is difficult work we must do.

As part of a public institution of higher education, the University of Iowa Libraries holds a responsibility to provide resources that examine injustice and amplify the voices of those who have been consistently marginalized. On June 1, 2020, the Libraries issued a statement, *In Support of Eliminating Racism*, which reminds us, “We are a research library planted in the heartland, and we are not immune to racism. We are not free of the responsibility to stop it.”

One of the tools that assists with this work is an anti-racism guide developed by UI Librarians.

Meaningful change begins within each of us, so this guide is open and accessible to all. With over 3,700 views since its creation this summer, the guide has the potential to reach many within the Iowa community and beyond. Typically, users need an institutional login to gain access to the licensed resources contained within a guide. But because the need for understanding and action around anti-racism reaches beyond those with university IDs, the UI Libraries has made an intentional effort to include articles and links in the guide that do not require such authentication. For those without a UI login, book links in the guide provide information to help them locate the items at their preferred library or retailer.

The guide is made for everyone—for white people wanting to deepen their understanding of anti-racism (hint: it's more than just being “not racist”). It's for members of communities of color in need of support; for parents and educators navigating difficult discussions about race; and for those who want to dive deeper into the history of racism in America. One of the most important features of this guide is its use for self-education; it allows the user to learn about and sit with the impacts of race and racism, without placing the burden of explanation on people of color and without pressure. It is not an exhaustive resource but meant to inspire further reflection and engagement.

Although structured for personal growth, this guide's potential impact extends to academic work. Imagine a Rhetoric instructor assigning students to write a critical response paper about a resource within the guide. The Reading Lists tab of the guide provides a great starting point for the student looking at the intersection of racism and areas like healthcare, higher education, and housing. Future plans include the development of each of these intersections into individual, expansive guides.

Just as the work of anti-racism is never done, nor is the work on this guide. It is a living document, one that is updated regularly by the Libraries' staff in order to reflect the current discussions of anti-racism and continually empower those working to eradicate the effects of racism in our society. It is not easy to change the systems that hold inequities in place; it is not comfortable to examine the role of racism in our individual and national lives. The Libraries' [anti-racism](#) guide is here for everyone when they are ready to start.

## About LibGuides

The University of Iowa librarians create online subject guides, also known as "LibGuides," to provide information to its constituents. Our ability to use this platform as a springboard for distributing up-to-date resources makes LibGuides a useful and effective tool for conveying information about any topic or subject, including anti-racism.

For our student and faculty readers, LibGuides is a familiar platform for presenting in-depth information on a topic or group of related topics.

For those less acquainted, a brief introduction: LibGuides allow librarians to gather resources and information into curated webpages that encourage exploration through readings and resources that illuminate pathways for further research. LibGuides are extremely popular among academic libraries for their ease of use and customization potential. Some examples of the benefits of LibGuides:

- When faculty or instructors need to gather resources to help students complete a research assignment, librarians assist by creating an assignment-specific LibGuide.
- Students interested in making the best use of the library to enhance their studies can look at LibGuides made for specific courses or academic disciplines. LibGuides allow videos, links, articles, and book records to coexist easily on a page.
- Good instruction means staying flexible in the classroom, and instructors often need to add information resources to LibGuides. Because they are online, LibGuides are easy to change, and the adjustments are available to students and faculty immediately.

To explore LibGuides created by our librarians, visit [guides.lib.uiowa.edu](#) for a complete list.





# Libraries sponsors Witching Hour Festival

BY SARA J. PINKHAM,  
EXHIBITION & ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Stacey Walker presenting in the Main Library Gallery  
during the Witching Hour Festival



Each October, the [Witching Hour Festival](#) brings brilliant artists and thinkers to Iowa City to explore the unknown, share their work, and consider what it means to be human. The Englert Theatre and *Little Village Magazine*, two longtime pillars of the arts community in the Iowa City area, present the event.

Witching Hour, like most annual events making a brave comeback in 2020, had to pivot to a virtual format due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. This change did not stop the production team from finding

world-class speakers and artists. They emerged with a varied lineup of crucial topics, timely art, and speakers from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

“For us, we were very interested in how anyone was making sense of the world this year,” says Andre Perry, executive director at The Englert Theatre. “There have been a lot of challenges, from health and economic perspectives to recognizing the ongoing pain of racism and inequity in our country. We were pretty certain that if we opened up this platform, it would be hard not to hit some of those issues head on,” he says.

The University of Iowa Libraries has been a sponsor and partner for Witching Hour Festival since 2019.

“The Libraries supports events such as Witching Hour so that we can be part of critical community conversations around the creative process,” says John Culshaw, Jack B. King university librarian at the University of Iowa Libraries. “By highlighting the work of diverse local, regional, and national voices, we can help make Iowa City and the Corridor a more inclusive place. Learning about the lived experiences of others through conversation and listening demonstrates why events like Witching Hour are important to our community and why the UI Libraries stays involved,” he says.



Danez Smith  
Writer



Beatrice Thomas  
Artist



Heavy Color  
Musicians



Stacey Walker  
Citizen



Tameka Cage Conley  
Writer



Black Belt Eagle Scout,  
Musician



Dawson Davenport  
Writer



The 2020 event featured Dawson Davenport, a writer, artist, entrepreneur, and member of the Meskwaki Nation; Tameka Cage Conley, a graduate of The Iowa Writers' Workshop and an assistant professor of English and creative writing at the University of Iowa; Stacey Walker, Linn County Board of Supervisors; Beatrice Thomas, a national arts equity strategist, artist, and social justice drag queen; Heavy Color, consisting of musicians Ben Cohen and Sam Woldenberg; Danez Smith, an award-winning Black, Queer writer and performer; and Black Belt Eagle Scout (Katherine Paul), a musician who grew up in the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community of Washington state.

"The festival is really about collaborating with amazing folks on the ground in the Iowa City and Cedar Rapids area. The University of Iowa Libraries is an essential

place. There's clearly a lot of knowledge to access in the library," says Perry, adding that Witching Hour Festival appreciates the financial support of the UI Libraries as well as the opportunity to collaborate with the Libraries to film Stacey Walker's poignant talk about the Black experience in America. Walker's speech was recorded in the Main Library Gallery during the *Sackner Archive* exhibition, near a "textpicture" of Jean-Michel Basquiat by Austrian artist Anatol Knotek. Basquiat was, and remains, an influential artist whose paintings reflect his experiences as a Black American in the 1970s and '80s.

"Witching Hour offers opportunities to have a challenging festival—enjoyable, but challenging," says Perry. "The core of this event is to celebrate creativity and community and to question a bit in order to see how we can—individually and collectively—be better."



# Advancement Council

BY KATHARINE LASANSKY,  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL GIFTS & LIBRARIES

Over the last few years, the UI Libraries has been strategically expanding advancement and engagement activities.

Perhaps you've attended an Iowa Days event when we've taken the *Hatching Herky* exhibit on the road, chatted with John while enjoying a President's Pregame Tailgate, or joined one of the many virtual events we've hosted over the last year.

Maybe you've read about our Student Employee Scholarships in past issues of **BINDINGS** or enjoyed learning more about the Sackner Archive of Visual and Concrete Poetry, now in its new home at the UI Libraries. Philanthropy has impacted all of these opportunities.

Many of our campus partners at the University of Iowa have established advisory boards in an effort to seek guidance from and forge deeper relationships with alumni and friends of their respective colleges. Most of our peer research libraries have similar groups.

Given our ongoing strategic increase in advancement activities, we felt it was the ideal time to establish an Advancement Council for the UI Libraries.

In establishing this council, we sought a committed group of individuals who would think beyond the usual boundaries, actively championing the UI

Libraries by building and expanding networks within the university and in their own circles of influence. This dedicated group shares a common bond: their strong belief in and support of the University of Iowa Libraries.

These individuals represent a variety of backgrounds and experiences that will enrich and broaden the approach, perspective, and reach of the UI Libraries as we strive to meet the needs of students, faculty, and researchers in today's ever-changing environment. They have remarkable expertise in the field and come to us from across the state and country.

The UI Libraries Advancement Council will provide feedback to aid our efforts to increase support for the UI libraries through fund raising, advocacy, and engagement. The leadership of the Advancement Council will be critical as we adapt during these times of unprecedented change.

It is with deep gratitude that we welcome eight inaugural members to the Libraries Advancement Council. We will continue to welcome additional members to this council in the future and look forward to keeping you, our friends, informed of how to become involved.

To learn more about how you can engage with the UI Libraries, please give us a call at (319) 467-3809.



Members of the new University of Iowa Libraries Advancement Council. Photo taken on Zoom at the first meeting of the council, November 18, 2020. From top left: Susan Annett, Timothy Benson, Virginia Eichacker, LeAnn Lemberger, Sandra Reuben, Jane Roth, and Aaron Schaefer. Not pictured: Griffin Sweeney.

## The University of Iowa Libraries Advancement Council

**SUSAN ANNETT**, Los Angeles, CA—Principal Librarian, Public & Branch Services, City of Santa Monica, now retired. Susan graduated from Iowa with a BGS in 1975 and an MA in 1977. She is a former UI Libraries student employee.

**TIMOTHY BENSON**, Los Angeles, CA—Curator of the Robert Gore Rifkind Center for German Expressionist Studies at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), where he has curated more than 40 exhibits. Tim earned an MA in 1976 and a PhD in 1985, both from Iowa.

**VIRGINIA EICHACKER**, Las Vegas, NV—Assistant Public Defender at Clark County Public Defender's Office. Her parents, George and Lois, served on the former Friends of the Libraries Board. Virginia graduated from Iowa with a BS in 1987 and earned her JD in 1992.

**LEANN LEMBERGER**, Ottumwa, IA—Author of romance novels under the pseudonym Leigh Michaels. She teaches romance writing for Gotham Writers' Workshop, among other places. Leann's papers are archived in UI Libraries Special Collections.

**SANDRA REUBEN**, Thousand Oaks, CA—The Los Angeles County Librarian (1989-2001), now retired. Sandy graduated from Iowa in 1963 with a BA.

**JANE ROTH**, Leesburg, VA—Senior Director, Global Real Estate at Ellucian, now retired. Jane's initial involvement with the University of Iowa was through her parents, who both graduated from Iowa.

**AARON SCHAEFER**, Iowa City, IA—Vice President of Investments, Trust and Wealth Management at Hills Bank & Trust Company. Aaron earned his BBA from Iowa in 2002 and his MBA in 2004.

**GRIFFIN SWEENEY**, Elkhorn, WI—Financial Recruiter for Robert Half, based in Chicago, IL. Griffin was a UI Libraries student employee in the Business Library and graduated from Iowa in 2019 with a BA.

*Thank you!*

for serving on our Advancement Council!



# The services must go on



Mary Rettig

Since the onset of the pandemic, it has become common to hear people describe the world's COVID-19 experience using phrases such as “unprecedented times,” “current challenges,” or “uncharted territory.”

However, as you read in the last issue of **BINDINGS**, services at the University Libraries have continued. As the saying goes, the show must go on. And indeed, Libraries staff have shown their commitment to continuing services and programs for students, faculty, and staff, even as each of us navigates uncharted territory, both personally and professionally.

The Libraries have not gone away during COVID-19. Rather, our services have become even more important to the individuals we serve. How has the University Libraries been able to respond so quickly?

Loyal support from our Friends over the years is a key element in our current success. Your generosity has provided funds for librarians to develop the tools and infrastructure for online services and virtual programs. Our librarians were able to prepare for the future, even though they did not foresee specifically what that future might hold; after all, we are in unprecedented times. Your past support provided the foundation for the Libraries' ability to pivot quickly and continue operations and services, even as the physical spaces closed.

Something else has also continued: your interest and financial contributions. We are grateful for your messages expressing appreciation for online access to resources and for book deliveries—directly to the reader's residence! We appreciate your thoughtful notes of encouragement, and we are thankful for your financial gifts.

Just as your support goes on, we assure you the Libraries' services will continue likewise.

Thank you!

— *Mary Rettig*

*Assistant University Librarian for Advancement*

[mary.rettig@foriowa.org](mailto:mary.rettig@foriowa.org)

# ABOUT THE University Libraries



A student and Libraries staff member in a one-on-one research instruction session in the SEAM (Students Engage At Main), which holds evening consultation hours for undergraduate students. This photo was taken pre-pandemic, when students and staff could meet in person. This fall, SEAM staff held consultations sessions with students on Zoom.

The [University of Iowa Libraries](#) serves as a vital partner in research, learning, creative work, and clinical care through expert librarianship, exceptional service, and outstanding collections.

The Libraries' most important asset is its staff, who connect scholars with the resources they need. In keeping with the core values of higher education, librarians at the UI work hand-in-hand with faculty and staff to awaken urgent curiosity in students, providing key in-class instruction to help students gain crucial skills in critical thinking.

A long-standing advocate for open access, the UI Libraries provides resources without barriers to the campus community; library staff collaborate with researchers across institutions, sparking innovative approaches to sharing research and data that enhance knowledge discovery.

The UI Libraries is the largest library system in Iowa, ranking in the top 20 of U.S. public research libraries. It is one of only 36 libraries in the nation that serve an

[AAU-member public university](#) (America's leading research universities).

With [seven campus libraries](#), a state-of-the-art [storage facility](#), and a museum-quality [exhibition gallery](#), the UI Libraries serves all disciplines, including the creative arts, STEM fields, business, social sciences, health sciences, and clinical practices. The UI Libraries operates a full-service [preservation department and conservation lab](#) and a unit to support [digital scholarship](#). Our collections—including books, journals, databases, media materials, and extensive [special collections and archives](#)—serve the learning and research needs of the entire campus.

The UI Libraries also serves as a resource for all Iowans, especially in its efforts to advocate for libraries statewide and its commitment to dismantling systemic racism. Regionally, the Libraries provides [access to health information](#) to health professionals and the public. Globally, the UI Libraries shares UIowa research and creative work through its open access repository, [Iowa Research Online](#).



# BINDINGS

## THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

125 West Washington Street

Iowa City, IA 52242

[www.lib.uiowa.edu](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu)

[libraries@uiowa.edu](mailto:libraries@uiowa.edu)

## MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY

JANUARY 25–JUNE 25, 2021

**BUILDING OUR OWN COMMUNITY: 50 YEARS OF LATINO NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER (Created in 1971 by Chicano and American Indian Students)**

In 2021, the Latino Native American Cultural Center (LNACC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary. LNACC has a long and important history at the University of Iowa. This exhibition will share that history in depth and will explore its establishment in the 1970s, its activism and programs, and much more. LNACC continues to be an active advocate, supporter, and resource for Latino and Native American students at the University of Iowa.

*Exhibitions in the Main Library Gallery are open to all and free of charge. Location, hours, and exhibition information at [lib.uiowa.edu/gallery](http://lib.uiowa.edu/gallery)*

## THANK YOU

for helping to boost  
our students' success  
through the UI Libraries!



**GIVE TO THE UI LIBRARIES**

[www.givetoioowa.org/libraries](http://www.givetoioowa.org/libraries)