Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

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Drexel Libraries Unveils New Systems to Enable Preservation & Discovery of Drexel’s Digital Objects and Research Output

Philadelphia, PA -- On October 18, the Drexel Libraries officially launched two online systems to deepen engagement with the University’s archival collections and research assets: the Drexel University Archival Collections platform and the Drexel Research Discovery portal.

The Drexel University Archival Collections platform is the new home for the University’s digital archival collections. Drexel Research Discovery, a new research repository portal, provides access to Drexel-generated research assets.

These new systems support the Libraries’ work to enable preservation and discovery for all Drexel digital objects and research outputs so they are findable, accessible, interoperable, and usable through an efficient integration of search and discovery tools.

This migration splits Drexel-generated research and the University’s digital archival collections into two systems. Previously, Drexel-generated research (such as research outputs, theses, and dissertations) and the University’s archival collections were maintained in iDEA, the University’s digital repository. iDEA has served the University well since 2014 but is now reaching its end of life.

Both platforms connect to DragonSearch, the Libraries’ online discovery search tool, allowing members of the Drexel community to identify and locate University-affiliated research outputs and archival collections, as well as to access books, articles and licensed databases all through one search tool.

Drexel University Archival Collections Platform

The new Drexel University Digital Archival Collections platform makes it easy for students, faculty and researchers to explore digital archival materials from the Drexel University Archives and the College of Medicine Legacy Center Archives & Special Collections from a single search tool. The platform includes digitized materials from
the three collections, including historical images, audio recordings, video, and text. Enhancements to the platform are ongoing, along with the addition of new collections and digitized materials as they become available.

**Drexel Research Discovery Portal**

The Libraries also migrated all Drexel-generated research assets (including theses, dissertations and graduate student projects) previously hosted in iDEA to the new [Drexel Research Discovery portal](https://library.drexel.edu/research-discovery).

This new research portal, hosted on the Esploro research services platform from Ex Libris, broadens the impact of Drexel’s research output, offering a single platform to showcase all Drexel research assets, including publications, data sets, and creative works, with integrated search and display.

The portal also integrates with [Pivot-RP](https://library.drexel.edu/research-discovery), a tool that provides access to global funding opportunities and facilitates collaborator discovery.

Other features include faculty profiles which can showcase the full depth and breadth of faculty expertise, facilitate collaborations, attract funders, and enhance Drexel’s academic reputation. Drexel faculty have the option to create their own profile, which can be populated with information on their publications, awarded grants, achievements, and academic activities. Currently, faculty profile information is provided only on an opt-in basis. For more information about creating a faculty profile, contact libraries@drexel.edu.

*Courtesy of Drexel University Libraries*

**The Robotics Project: Building the Robot Archive**

Pittsburgh, PA – The Robotics Project is a collaboration between the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries and the School of Computer Science to preserve CMU’s robotics legacy and contribute to a broader understanding of the people and technology that created the field. The project team is pushing the boundaries of what is possible to preserve and share the record of robotics with the world. It’s exciting work and the Libraries’ latest digital exhibit provides a glimpse into their methods.

Explore the digital exhibit at [https://exhibits.library.cmu.edu/roboticsproject/](https://exhibits.library.cmu.edu/roboticsproject/).


*Submitted by Shannon Riffe, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries*

Pittsburgh, PA -- The Carnegie Mellon University Libraries is excited to announce the launch of “Cut Pathways,” a podcast developed by the Oral History Program at Carnegie Mellon University. The podcast will showcase different pathways that students and faculty follow to navigate their experiences in higher education.

Hosted by Oral History Program Director Katherine Barbera and Oral History Production Assistant David Bernabo, “Cut Pathways” draws on the Oral History Program’s growing archive of oral histories. Conversations and discussions take an honest look at higher education, exploring themes of culture, equality, and access to education, as well as catalytic points of personal growth, technological innovation, and creative development.

Each recorded history is full of funny anecdotes, follies, triumphs, hidden connections, and, occasionally, in-the-moment realizations.

The first episode of the three-episode first season became available on June 29 on all major podcasting platforms.

Submitted by Shannon Riffe, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Pennsylvania Library Association Recognizes Members with 2021 Certificates of Merits

Mechanicsburg, PA -- Each year, the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) honors the service of their members, as well as community volunteers, who go above and beyond the call of duty to support the work of libraries throughout the Commonwealth.

Certificates of Merit are awarded to individuals making outstanding contributions during the last five years in Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday, September 22, three members of the Association were honored with Certificates of Merit.

This year’s winners are Amy Geisinger, Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Harrisburg; Leslie LaBarte, Seneca Library District, Warren; and Rose Chiocchi, Pike County Public Library, Milford.
Amy Geisinger is well known for her library experience, organizational skills, wisdom, and leadership. Her passion for libraries shines through everything she does, either working with her own district libraries or assisting with Pennsylvania library initiatives and training, both for library staff and boards of directors. Being active in the SNOE Region (Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, and Erie Library Districts), Amy is both inspirational and transformative. She is a forward-thinker but does not overlook the daily needs of libraries and staff. Amy is the ultimate professional by always seeking to apply her knowledge to local libraries, as well as thinking broadly to how her impact can extend to libraries across Pennsylvania.

Leslie LaBarte was also instrumental in the establishment of the groundbreaking SNOE region, which combines the efforts and fosters cohesion in the area as well as shared common goals. She remains an integral part of this contingent, serving as a mentor to other district consultants. In the PaLA, Leslie has served on the Legislative Committee, as chair of the Northwest Chapter, and is a member of the Small & Rural Libraries Roundtable. A mainstay at conferences, she was expressly invited by the association to be a part of a televised panel discussing the changing roles of libraries. Nationally, Leslie has worked with the American Library Association as a mentor for the Library Leadership & Management Association and as an advocate in the Association for Small & Rural Libraries.

Rose Chiocchi is also active with conference planning for PaLA, serving on the 2020 Conference Committee as Events chair, moderating a very well-received author panel, and successfully winning the election to serve as the 2022 Conference chair. Rose leads her library with innovation and enthusiasm, and she shares her knowledge and resourcefulness with her community. In 2020, seeing a need when local blood supply was low, she held the area’s first pandemic blood drive.

“Each year these awards allow us to celebrate a number of individuals who have gone above and beyond to make significant contributions to libraries and their communities,” said Tom Reinsfelder, 2021 PaLA President. “The accomplishments of these recipients are valued by their peers and recognized by the PaLA Awards selection committee. Congratulations to all of our 2021 winners!”

“The Pennsylvania Library Association is able to do what we do thanks to the unwavering efforts of our volunteers and our members,” said Christi Buker, PaLA Executive Director. “These awards are just our small way of shining a light on what all librarians, library staff, and volunteers do to continue promoting the value libraries bring to communities they serve. We are thankful for their support and engagement and are honored to be able to recognize their efforts. Congratulations to all of our 2021 winners.”

For a listing of previous award winners, click here. For more information about the work of the Pennsylvania Library Association, visit www.palibraries.org.

Pennsylvania Library Association Recognizes Tina Hertel, Director of the Trexler Library, Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Named 2021 Distinguished Librarian

Mechanicsburg, PA -- On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, the 2021 Distinguished Service Award winner was recognized.

The Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is pleased to honor Tina Hertel, director of the Trexler Library of Muhlenberg College in Allentown.

Tina came to the library profession after serving as a U.S. Air Force officer. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State and a Master of Information Science Degree from Indiana University.
She held a variety of positions at the libraries of the University of Scranton, Marywood University, and Lehigh University, before becoming director of the Trexler Library at Muhlenberg College in 2011. She has been an effective and innovative leader there, instituting an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force, developing a plan for library operations under pandemic conditions, and serving on campus-wide committees of faculty and administrators.

Tina is a past president of PaLA and a co-founded the highly successful PaLA Academy for Leadership Studies (PALS) in 2009. Tina developed the model for the PALS curriculum that is still in use today. Hundreds of Pennsylvania librarians have benefitted from Tina’s belief in personal and professional leadership development.

Other PaLA positions include Northeast Chapter chair, Lehigh Valley chapter webmaster, College & Research Division webmaster, and Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee member.

Tina exemplifies what a librarian leader looks like in today’s world. She was an influencer before ‘influencer’ was a title. Her many talents and experiences are matched only by the various ways she has inspired Pennsylvania librarians.

Reopening Ceremony Celebrates Renovated Mary M. and Bertil E. Lofstrom Library at Penn State Hazleton

Hazleton, PA. – On September 8, Penn State Hazleton celebrated the reopening of the Mary M. and Bertil E. Lofstrom Library following a $7.6 million renovation project, officially ushering in a refreshed, state-of-the-art campus resource for research, teaching, and learning.

With one of its most noticeable new features — floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking campus — as the backdrop, the ceremony featured campus and University representatives commending the library’s modern amenities, expansive natural lighting, and variety of spaces for students to study, collaborate, and learn.

“Today is a great day in the history of Penn State Hazleton,” said Kelly Austin, interim senior vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and executive chancellor. “This $7.6 million transformation represents the institution’s robust investment in planned regular maintenance and renewal.”

Interior upgrades include significant renovations to offices and common areas, and the addition of six group study rooms, two makerspaces, a one-button studio, and a meditation corner. The lower level also features Math Dimension, a peer tutoring center, and Career Closet, which provides professional clothing for students to borrow.

Additionally, curtain windows were installed on the main and lower levels to showcase the campus’ scenic views and allow for more natural light. “The vision for the library’s interior was to create a student-centered learning environment that provides various spaces that offer opportunities for student collaboration, creativity and quiet study,” Austin said. “All of these improvements will benefit students for many years to come.”

Faye A. Chadwell, dean of University Libraries and scholarly communications, said the renovations improve the library’s functionality and appearance while supporting students in their educational goals.

“This 18-month effort represents a critical commitment to enhancing the student experience at Penn State Hazleton,” Chadwell said.

‘Happy for the students’

Renovations began in May 2019 and wrapped up in fall 2020. During that time, the library’s materials were housed in the campus’ Evelyn Graham Academic Building. Throughout the project, input and feedback from students, staff and faculty were a priority, said Head Librarian Valerie Lynn.
“We’re extremely happy for the students because this is something they’ve wanted for so many years,” Lynn said. “To be able to give them this wonderful, comfortable, technologically-robust space is very rewarding.”

Elizabeth J. Wright, director of Academic Affairs and associate dean for Academic Affairs in the Office of the Senior Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, applauded Lynn and fellow library staff Erik Angel, Lisa Hartz, and Shannon Richie for their efforts and ideas during the project.

Wright also credited Chancellor Gary M. Lawler for championing upgrades to facilities throughout his 15 years of leadership on campus.

“This project was no different,” Wright said. “Dr. Lawler was closely involved with each stage of the project and took great pleasure in considering how the space could be transformed in order to create new opportunities for students to study and to learn.”

Gina Monks, associate teaching professor of mathematics and Math Dimension coordinator, noted the renovations are already being appreciated.

“The semester is only two-and-a-half weeks in and already students are making this their place to hang out and study,” she said.

Lofstroms’ legacy

Built in 1972, the 28,000-square-foot library was named after longtime campus supporters Mary M. and Bertil E. Lofstrom in 2017 — the first time a campus building was named after an alumnus.

Bertil E. Lofstrom, a Philadelphia native, began attending Penn State Hazleton in 1950 and, after graduating from Penn State in 1954, went on to serve for 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. While serving, he earned a master’s degree from Michigan State University in 1964. After retiring as a colonel, he went on to work as a financial planner.

Mary M. Lofstrom, meanwhile, served as a nurse in the Air Force for 26 years, also obtaining the rank of colonel before she retired. During her service, she was a nursing administrator and military consultant to the surgeon general for 14 years. She died in 2016 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Through their generosity, the couple established a scholarship in their name and donated artwork that is currently on display on campus and at the Palmer Museum of Art in University Park. Both were named members of the Mount Nittany Society at University Park and Highacres Society at Penn State Hazleton.

Courtesy of Penn State University Libraries
Penn State Harrisburg Librarian Named New Librarian of the Year by Pennsylvania Library Association

University Park, PA -- Andrea Pritt, STEM librarian in the Madlyn Levine Hanes Library at Penn State Harrisburg, has been named the 2021 New Librarian of the Year by the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA).

Each year, PaLA honors the service of their members and community volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty to support the work of libraries throughout the commonwealth. The New Librarian award honors a librarian who has been in the profession for fewer than six years, devises new and improved methods in library service on a statewide or local level and demonstrates promise for continued growth in librarianship.

During her three years at Penn State Harrisburg, Pritt has worked to build positive relationships with students and better engage them in innovative STEM projects. She worked to secure grant funding for an initiative that allows students to learn about rapid prototyping and create their own inventions. Her research on the inclusion of historically marginalized people in STEM literature led to scholarly publications on understanding diverse representation in collections.

Pritt contributed to a research data management program to help ensure compliance for federal grant recipients, helped build a foundation for open scholarship, and worked to transform library spaces for collaborative use. She serves as an Open Educational Resources liaison for Penn State Harrisburg, where she teaches faculty and other librarians to identify high-quality free or affordable resources that can replace expensive traditional textbooks and teaching materials.

“As a STEM expert, Andrea is establishing herself within both the campus and the Libraries as a whole,” said Glenn McGuigan, head librarian at Penn State Harrisburg. “One of her notable qualities is her desire to grow professionally and take every opportunity to learn more about various aspects of her job and subject areas. In turn, she seeks to share her knowledge and expertise. She is an energetic, thoughtful, and collegial professional.”

In addition, Pritt has been active as a member of and volunteer for PaLA, for which she currently serves on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and as the publicity chair for the College & Research Division.

“Each year these awards allow us to celebrate individuals who have gone above and beyond to make significant contributions to libraries and their communities,” said Tom Reinsfelder, head librarian at Penn State Mont Alto and 2021 PaLA president. “Their accomplishments are valued by their peers and recognized by the PaLA awards selection committee.”

Pritt served as an information resources and services support specialist at Penn State Mont Alto before moving to Penn State Harrisburg.

Founded in 1901, PaLA is the state’s oldest professional library organization serving libraries, library employees, library trustees, and Friends of the Library groups. PaLA represents more than 1,300 personal, institutional, and commercial members affiliated with public, academic, special, and school libraries throughout the commonwealth.
The association represents the profession within the state legislature and provides opportunities for professional
growth, leadership development and continuing education for librarians.

*Courtesy of Penn State University Libraries*

### Penn State University Libraries Welcomes New Employees

University Park, PA -- Margaret (Maggie) Mahoney joined Penn State University Libraries August 4 in the
position of business liaison librarian in the Schreyer Business Library and serves as the subject specialist and liaison
for the Department of Accounting in the Smeal College of Business. She will also serve as liaison to Smeal’s Center for
the Business of Sustainability. Maggie earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University

While working on her degree, she served as a graduate research and instruction assistant in the Foster
Business Library at the University of Washington. She also completed a summer internship at the Harvard Business
School’s Baker Library in 2020. Maggie holds a Bachelor of Arts in history (with a writing minor) from the University
of Vermont. She also was a student-athlete (distance runner) as an undergraduate, having competed for four years on
an NCAA Division I varsity program in cross-country and track and field.

Betsaida Reyes joined Penn State University Libraries as Humanities and Social Sciences head on September
1. In this role, she will lead a team of approximately 20 faculty and staff, manage, promote, and enhance library services
and collections related to humanities and social sciences. She will also be actively engaged in outreach to library users,
collaborators, and donors and participate in activities related to collections, research support, instruction, and scholarly
communications as well as devote time to research and services to the University, society, and the profession.

Betsaida previously worked at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, where she worked as the librarian for
Spanish, Portuguese, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies. She has extensive experience in liaison work, collections,
instruction, reference, outreach, open access, and promoting diversity and other cross-functional initiatives. She was
promoted to the rank of associate librarian and was tenured in 2019 at the University of Kansas. She has a Master of
Science in Information Science, a Master of Arts in Hispanic literature, and a Bachelor of Arts in English/Spanish, all
from University at Albany, State University of New York.

Ben Goldman, most recently Penn State University Libraries’ archivist for curatorial services and strategy and
interim University archivist, started his new appointment as university archivist in the Eberly Family Special
Collections Library on September 20. In this role, Ben leads the multi-faceted work of building, stewarding, supporting
research and teaching, and promoting use and engagement with collections documenting the history of Penn State
with a focus on documenting the diverse voices and experiences of students and engaging with underrepresented
groups. Ben collaborates closely with the Office of Records Management, serve as a resource for faculty, students, and
staff across campuses, and develop relationships with donors, alumni, and community members.

Ben served as archivist for curatorial services and strategy since May 2019 and as interim University archivist
since February 2021. Previously, he held the position of digital records archivist beginning in May 2012, achieving
tenure and promotion to associate librarian in 2018. Prior to his arrival at Penn State, Ben served as assistant
archivist/digital programs manager at the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center. He received a Master of
Library and Information Science from Syracuse University, NY, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Arizona State
University. Ben has published and presented widely on topics related digital preservation, climate change and
archives, and sustainability, and he is an active member of the Society of American Archivists.

Patrice Green joined Penn State University Libraries on October 1 as curator for African American collections
in the Eberly Family Special Collections Library. In this role, Patrice will lead collaborative efforts to build, steward,
and promote use and engagement with special collections documenting African American life and culture in all
Patrice joined Penn State from the University of Georgia, where she has served as research and instruction librarian in the Special Collections Libraries since June 2019. Patrice earned a Master of Library and Information Science and Master of Arts in public history from the University of South Carolina, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Jacksonville State University, FL. She is an active member of the American Library Association, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and National Council on Public History.

Rebekah G. Hill joined Penn State University Libraries on October 1 as music and performing arts librarian in the George and Sherry Middlemas Arts and Humanities Library. In this position, Rebekah will play a key role as the liaison for the School of Music and the programs of theater, musical theater, and dance in Penn State’s School of Theatre. Rebekah will work closely with the rest of the Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences in the University Libraries.

She comes to Penn State from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh where she worked as a librarian in the Music, Film, and Audio Department. She brings extensive years of experience in collection development, instruction, and outreach, including leading a 20-year collaboration with the Pittsburgh Opera. She also has experience in music ministry with the Sisters of Divine Providence and La Roche University and is a pianist, choir director, and vocal coach. She has a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Music degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Denise A. Wetzel joined Penn State University Libraries as science and engineering librarian in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences (PAMS) Library. Denise will be the subject specialist and liaison for the departments of Mathematics and Statistics as well as supporting Biomedical and Chemical Engineering. Denise will also assume the role of Patent and Trademark Resource Center Librarian for University Park.

Denise comes to Penn State from Florida State University where she was the STEM Research and Learning Librarian. She earned her Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama and has just completed a Master of Aquatic Environmental Sciences at Florida State University. Denise holds a Bachelor of Humanities degree in interdisciplinary humanities from Penn State Harrisburg.

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Pennsylvania Library Association Recognizes Libraries for PA Forward® Star Achievements Earned in Second Quarter of 2021

Mechanicsburg, PA -- The Pennsylvania Library Association just announced the 2021 second quarter PA Forward® Star Library awardees. More than 30 libraries from throughout the state earned their star status and are being recognized by the Association for their efforts to provide patrons with educational resources and opportunities.

Since Pennsylvania has lifted the pandemic limits on indoor visitation, libraries in Pennsylvania have begun to schedule and plan for more robust in-person programming. Libraries continue to provide programming based upon local conditions and local community restrictions. Libraries never stopped working for their communities over the past year. The libraries highlighted here not only continued to provide programming to their communities but provided programming which was of such a high quality and following professional good practices, they received a star honor by the Pennsylvania Library Association.

“The PA Forward® Star Library program spotlights libraries’ efforts to continue making intentional investments in literacy-aligned programs,” said Christi Buker, Pennsylvania Library Association Executive Director. “Our libraries continue to be community pillars, meeting citizen needs, helping businesses, government organizations,
and others connect with residents, sharing resources and information which have the potential to positively impact multiple lives.

“Yes, you can go to your local library and check out books, but these agile institutions demonstrate day in and day out they offer more than books,” Buker added. “Libraries offer the world to those who enter their doors. It is an honor to highlight those efforts with the PA Forward® Star Library designation. Congratulations to all of our participating Star Libraries.”

PA Forward®, which launched statewide in 2012, works through five key literacies – Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health, and Financial – to assist individuals in enhancing their overall quality of life. To continue helping libraries use PA Forward® to demonstrate all their libraries offer, in January 2017, the Association kicked off the Star Library program statewide. The Star Library recognition offers support to libraries who participate and integrate PA Forward®’s literacies in their programming activities. Program topics can include information such as retirement planning (financial literacy) to more physically active programs such as walking book club discussions (civic and social literacy and health literacy).

Libraries are recognized for meeting benchmarks within the bronze, silver, and gold star levels of the program. While one star is awarded for both the bronze and gold levels, a total of five stars are awarded in the silver category – one silver star for each of the five literacies of PA Forward®. For each silver star award, a number appears denoting the number of silver stars obtained to date.

Stars are awarded on a quarterly basis in the calendar year and the recognition is for the highest level attained in the program at the time of the award. The libraries noted below are those that earned a first-time star or a new star level between April 1 and June 30, 2021. For more information visit the Star Library Program. The next round of awards will be announced after October 1, 2021.

The list of awardees, by county, follows:

**Adams County**
- Adams County Library System – Bronze

**Allegheny County**
- Carnegie Library of Homestead – Silver
- Robinson Township Library – Silver

**Armstrong County**
- Ford City Public Library – Gold, Maintenance

**Berks County**
- Bernville Area Library – Silver

**Blair County**
- Claysburg Area Public Library – Gold, Maintenance

**Bucks County**
- Warminster Public Library – Gold, Maintenance
- Bucks County Community College Library – Bronze

**Centre County**
- Centre Hall Area Branch - Silver
- Holt Memorial Library – Silver

**Chester County**
Pennsylvania Library Association Recognizes Libraries with Star Library Achievements in the Third Quarter of 2021

Mechanicsburg, PA -- The list of awardees, by county, follows:

**Allegheny County**
- Western Allegheny County Library - Gold, Maintenance
- Upper St. Clair Township Library – Gold, Maintenance
- Northern Tier Regional Library - Silver 3

**Armstrong County**
- Kittanning Public Library - Bronze

**Berks County**
- Boyertown Community Library – Gold
- Brandywine Community Library – Gold, Maintenance
- Wernersville Public Library – Silver, 4
- Wyomissing Public Library – Bronze
Sinking Spring Public Library – Bronze

Centre County
Centre Hall Area Branch - Silver, 2
Holt Memorial Library – Silver, 3

Delaware County
Lansdowne Public Library - Gold

Franklin County
Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library – Gold
Penn State Fayette – Silver, 5

Lancaster County
Manheim Community Library – Silver, 5

Lebanon County
Palmyra Public Library – Gold, Maintenance
Annville Free Library – Silver, 5

Montgomery County
Free Library of Springfield Township – Gold, Maintenance
Roslyn Branch (Abington Township Public Library) – Silver, 1

Northumberland County
Degenstein Community Library – Gold, Maintenance

Potter County
Genesee Area Library – Gold, Maintenance

Wyoming County
Tunkhannock Public Library – Gold, Maintenance

Courtesy of Pennsylvania Library Association

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We look forward to making your Pennsylvania library accomplishments, experiences, events, and news part of the PaLRaP conversation.