Crowdsourcing Project Gets Boost
Archival Collaboration Results in Lake Norman-Related Grant

In the spring 2013 edition of Columns, we shared news about the archives’ “Under Lake Norman” crowdsourcing project, which began in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the lake. Members of the archives team have continued to work on the project and its related community outreach, with College Archivist, Jan Blodgett, speaking to more than 20 community groups in the last year. Last fall, this community outreach resulted in an unexpected but very welcome inquiry by representatives of the Duke Energy Foundation. The foundation approached Blodgett and asked if she and Davidson could think of ways to continue and expand the work with Duke’s support.

Through a series of discussions it became clear that Duke Energy would be interested in work that would explore the multifaceted impact of Lake Norman on the region and make the work publicly accessible. Ideally, any projects also would involve student learning and research. Given the potential curricular impact, the archives staff turned to faculty members in Davidson’s Environmental Studies Department to see if there would be interest in partnering on a grant proposal. Faculty in that department responded enthusiastically, and professors Brad Johnson and David Martin spearheaded the grant-writing effort. The Duke Energy Foundation approved the proposal that requested funding over the next two years.

The grant will be used to help fund a number of activities at Davidson, with an overall goal of helping educate local students and the broader populace about the history of our region. As a first step, senior environmental studies majors participating in the department’s capstone seminar course in the 2014 and 2015 spring semesters will conduct group research projects around the history of the lake. These projects will be presented to the public via a website designed to integrate the information, present it to the public and invite feedback. This site will be created and maintained by the college archives. In the second phase of the project, educational modules based on the Lake Norman material will be created and made available to local educators.

We are excited about this intersection of archives, crowdsourcing, community outreach and curriculum. Check the archives site periodically for our progress.

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Gale Digital Studies Prize

First Awards Are Given for Critical and Creative Works by Davidson Students

In many of their classes, Davidson students are now using, creating, contributing to and adapting digital resources, methods and tools. They’ve produced impressive work, and the library wanted to find a way to recognize their accomplishments and innovations.

We’re pleased to announce that the library and Gale, a part of Cengage Learning and a leading publisher of research and reference sources for libraries, have partnered to establish the Gale Digital Studies Prize, which recognizes outstanding undergraduate research and creative projects in the broad field of digital studies.

Gale generously donated $1,000 to be distributed among the winning entries. We thank Gale very much for this support!

Last winter, a committee composed of librarians Jill Gremmels, Susanna Boylston, and Craig Milberg, instructional technologist Kristen Eshleman, and director of the new Digital Studies program Mark Sample, established criteria and eligibility requirements. This spring, we put out a call for applications and received a great—and diverse—pool of entries!

For this inaugural year of the prize, the committee decided to award two prizes—one for a critical work and one for a creative work. Tomas Husted ’15 won the critical prize for his content analysis “The Phraseology of the Boko Haram Crisis in Northern Nigeria,” and Nick McGuire ’14 won the creative prize for his video mash-up “Lost on Gilligan’s Island.”

Husted and McGuire received their awards at a special ceremony and reception held in the library on April 15. Faculty and staff from across campus attended, and we were delighted that Matt Hancox, our representative from Gale, could join us as well.

We plan to offer another set of prizes in the spring of 2015 and look forward to seeing—and celebrating—the fine work that Davidson students are doing in digital studies.

Library Rolls Out New Digital Repository for Davidson

Have you ever wondered where you can view digitized versions of Quips & Cranks, this newsletter and inaugural addresses by Davidson’s presidents? Now you don’t have to wonder any more. The Davidson College library has rolled out a digital repository accessible to anyone on the Web. The repository is designed to house digital collections that reflect the intellectual heritage of the college, including student scholarship, student and college publications, faculty and staff scholarship, artifacts and special collections.

For the last eight months, the library staff has been working as a beta partner with the hosting vendor to design the system and add content. Visitors to the repository can currently find our fully digitized Cumming Map Collection, historical college catalogs, samplings of faculty and staff publications and samplings of student scholarship among other items. We are actively working on digitizing historical materials and collecting new materials within the constraints of appropriate intellectual property practices, so please feel free to check back often to see what we have available or to suggest things you would like added.

> Landing page for the digital repository
Hannah King to Attend Interlochen Session on Ensemble Librarianship

Hannah King, music library manager, will be away from the music library for a portion of this summer to participate in an internship opportunity in Michigan. She has been selected for one of three summer positions in ensemble librarianship for the Interlochen Center for the Arts’ summer season. Interlochen is home to one of the country’s most reputable arts high schools, Interlochen Arts Academy, as well as the Interlochen College of Creative Arts. The summer arts camp offers seven areas of study and educates 2,500 students from more than 40 countries each season.

King will have the opportunity to work with other library interns from around the country who also provide library services to their performing ensembles. She will learn specialized skills in performance library management that she will be able to bring back and apply to her work in Davidson’s music library. Ensemble librarians typically organize and maintain collections of music, mark and edit scores and distribute and collect parts. Knowledge of many genres and styles of music is essential for this kind of work so that scores can be properly acquired, edited and organized. Attention to detail is also very important, as one incorrect or illegible marking in a score can cause big problems for an ensemble. King is excited to spend the summer combining her performance background with her current library work at an institution that prides itself on high-quality education and experience for young musicians. The music library will maintain its usual summer schedule, open half-days during the week, with the help of staff from the E.H. Little Library.

Christian-Lamb is Newest Member of Library Staff

Caitlin Christian-Lamb joined the E.H. Little Library Staff as the associate archivist in October 2013. Her duties include assisting the college archivist and special collections outreach librarian in engaging users with special collections material. This includes answering reference questions, processing archival collections and collaborating with faculty on class projects. As associate archivist, she is taking the lead in digital projects, especially ones connected to the college’s new digital studies initiative. Since beginning work at Davidson College, Christian-Lamb has been increasingly engaged with the archival profession, including a full slate of presentations.

On April 8, she gave a presentation on Davidson’s recently unveiled Digital Repository. Her publication, “No Archive is an Island: Implementation of Islandora at Davidson College,” will be part of the Publishing and Managing Digital Collections without CONTENTdm session at the Society of North Carolina Archivists Annual Conference in Raleigh, N.C.

Later in April, Christian-Lamb delivered a short paper at the sixth International Conference for the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HAS-TAG) in Lima, Peru. The conference theme was “Hemispheric Pathways: Critical Makers in International Networks,” and her presentation was entitled “Librarians and Study Abroad: An Opportunity for International Communication and Engagement.” It has served as an opportunity to discuss further collaborations with the staff of the Dean Rusk International Studies Program, as well as open a dialogue on study abroad programs role in international knowledge exchange.

In June, Christian-Lamb will present “Curriculum Driven: A Liberal Arts College Archives Path to Digital Humanities,” with College Archivist and Records Management Coordinator Jan Blodgett and the Assistant Director for Discovery Systems Craig Milberg at Data Driven: Digital Humanities in the Library in Charleston, S.C. Their paper will provide an overview on the archives and special collections digital projects over the last 15 years, with a focus on curricular projects and engagement with faculty and students.

Finally, wrapping up a busy few months, she will present a poster at Digital Humanities 2014 in Lausanne, Switzerland, in July. Entitled “Adams Family Legacy: Visualizing the World of an American Presidential Family,” the poster was coauthored with Sara Sikes, associate editor for digital projects at the Massachusetts Historical Society’s Adams Papers Editorial Project. The poster will chronicle their collaboration on the implementation and modification of the SIMILE web widget to construct an interactive timeline of the Adams family’s activities, a project completed while Christian-Lamb was employed at the Massachusetts Historical Society.
Blue lights were shone on the library columns to help celebrate National Autism Awareness Month.

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