

SCHAFFER LIBRARY

UPDATES FOR SPRING 2022

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Leaf from the Florence Breviary (detail), discovered in Special Collections. Courtesy of Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College (see page 4).

SEEKING STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR *Summer IDEaS*

Schaffer Library is continuing its annual summer Digital Humanities (DH) research program, the Summer Institute for Digital Exploration at Schaffer (IDEaS). Summer IDEaS is a library-taught and paid research opportunity whose purpose is to introduce a small cohort of students from across the disciplines to DH. No experience with the Digital Humanities or digital scholarship more broadly is required to participate--just curiosity, excitement, and willingness to experiment and collaborate. The theme this summer is "Collections as Data," which we will explore by learning and applying digital tools and methods to digitized letters from Special Collections. This year's cohort will focus on data visualization, including network analysis, mapping, and text analysis. For more information on the program and how to apply, please visit our [Digital Scholarship webpage](#) or reach out to Jennifer Grayburn at grayburj@union.edu. **Applications are due on April 15, 2022.**

LIBRARY NEWS

WELCOME NEW LIBRARY STAFF!

Welcome, Kate!

The Content and Digital Library Services department welcomes Kate Grant in the role of Cataloging and Digital Services Specialist. She will be supporting the work of the Catalog & Metadata and Digital Services units. She joins us with an MLIS from Simmons University and prior experience with employers as diverse as the NY Racing Association, the National Fire Protection Association Library and Archive, and Harvard University's Schlesinger Library. She herself welcomes a new pet, "Moose," an African pygmy hedgehog. "Moose" is not an ironic name but reflects the potential hazard Kate avoided in driving to the adoption site. Kate has already proven to be a deft hand at matters of metadata, cataloging, and digital projects.

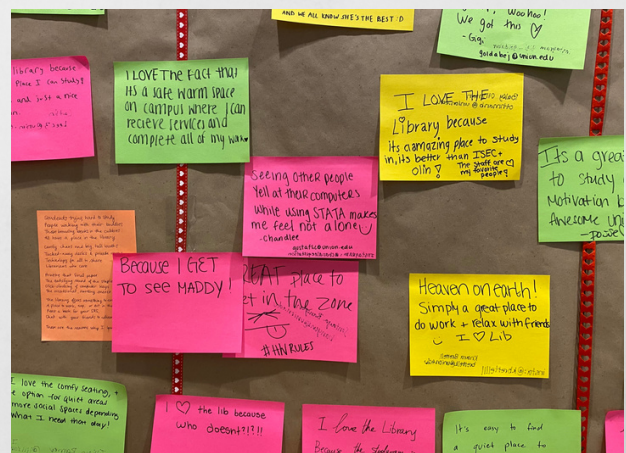
Welcome, Austin!

The Library Circulation Desk welcomes Austin Peterson in the role of Overnight Library Circulation Supervisor and Digitization Coordinator. He will be the supporting role in the nightly functions of the circulation desk, as well as a primary contact for the work study students. Austin has a heavy hospitality background with many years spent working as a supervisor of the gaming floor at Saratoga Casino Hotel. He wishes to further his own education with the end goal of teaching English as a foreign language. Austin is a fast learner and a boon to the team.

I LOVE THE LIBRARY BECAUSE...

Love was in the air during winter term at Schaffer Library. The library's Outreach Committee held a contest for students to answer the prompt "*I Love the Library Because...*" Students wrote their responses on one of the large Post-It® notes that were placed on a table near the library "love wall." Some responses were quite creative; someone posted a poem and there were several drawings. Many students expressed their love with shout outs to library staff and student employees. Others noted that the library was a safe and inviting place to get work done while studying with friends. The Outreach Committee drew three names for grand prize winners. Our winners won the use of a large study room for 24 hours during exam week. Each winner could invite five friends to join them in the study room, where they were served their choice of

breakfast, lunch, or dinner. They also received a basket of healthy snacks for later in the day and coffee service. Schaffer is still enjoying the warmth of all that love. Our prize winners said that they loved all the special attention they received during the stressful exam period.



I Love the Library Because... wall and submissions.

LIBRARY NEWS

NEW DIGITAL COLLECTION: JONATHAN PEARSON DIARIES

Schaffer Library has digitized and made available the Jonathan Pearson Diaries. Pearson, UC class of 1835, “...devoted his life to the College’s service, as professor of chemistry and botany, treasurer, and librarian,” as Harold C. Martin, editor of Pearson's diaries, wrote. The diaries contain observations on events leading to the Civil War, accounts of travel in New York and Canada, and behind-the-scenes daily life at Union. With a grant from the Capital District Library Council, Schaffer Library digitized and described 10 volumes, from 1828-1841. Transcripts of the diaries were used by our inaugural 2021 Summer IDEaS cohort to create a new edited volume of the materials, with student essays, rich media content, and topic analysis rounding out Pearson’s narrative.

ASK A LIBRARIAN!

Need help with your research? Ask a Librarian! We can help students identify and evaluate sources, craft citations, and develop a research strategy. There are multiple ways to contact a librarian on our [Ask a Librarian webpage](#).

exCiting Research Workshop

Save the date! Schaffer library is hosting: *exCiting Research*, a library workshop to help students cite sources properly. The workshop will be held twice this term:

Week 4: April 20, 4-5pm

Week 8: May, 19, 4-5pm

Location TBD; Reach out to Robyn Reed at reedr@union.edu with any questions.

LOOKING FOR NEW BOOKS?

The Current Reading Collection consists largely of current fiction and nonfiction, contemporary creative works of note, and titles relevant to current events and issues. These materials are temporarily assigned to a “current reading collection” area in the library to facilitate browsing before they are moved to the general stacks.



A shelf in the Current Reading Area.

FREE NYTIMES, WSJ, AND CHRONICLE ACCOUNTS

Did you know that Schaffer Library provides personal accounts for the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and the Chronicle of Higher Education with your Union email address? Did you know that these accounts may expire after one year, requiring you to renew them? If you suddenly find yourself without access to these important resources, visit our “Periodicals with Free Personal Accounts” page for instructions and more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS DISCOVERED IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Schaffer Library has rediscovered a collection of Medieval Manuscript leaves previously unknown to scholars, held at Special Collections. Known as the Ege (pronounced egg-ee) portfolios, they contain leaves from various manuscripts dating between the 13th to 15th centuries. Otto Ege, an art historian, book collector, and faculty member at Case Western Reserve University, created six portfolios in the 1930s and 1940s, and Union owns four: *Medieval Manuscripts 13th-15th Centuries : Original Leaves from Medieval Manuscripts : Original Leaves from Famous Books Eight Centuries, 1240A.D. - 1923A.D. : Original Leaves from Famous Books Nine Centuries, 1122A.D. - 1923A.D.* Though Ege purposefully divided the manuscript leaves, scholars have longed to reunite them. Union's discovery of heretofore unknown leaves provides a great opportunity to connect with Ege scholars and digitally recreate the manuscripts.

One fascinating leaf turns out to be from the Beauvais Missal, which scholars have been working to recreate digitally. Digital facsimiles of the manuscript leaves will be available later this year and some are available now upon request. The potential for scholarship within these volumes is tremendous and Special Collections welcomes inquiries, please reach out to AskSpecialCollections@Union.Libanswers.com



Leaf from the Beauvais Missal (detail), discovered in Special Collections. Courtesy of Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College.

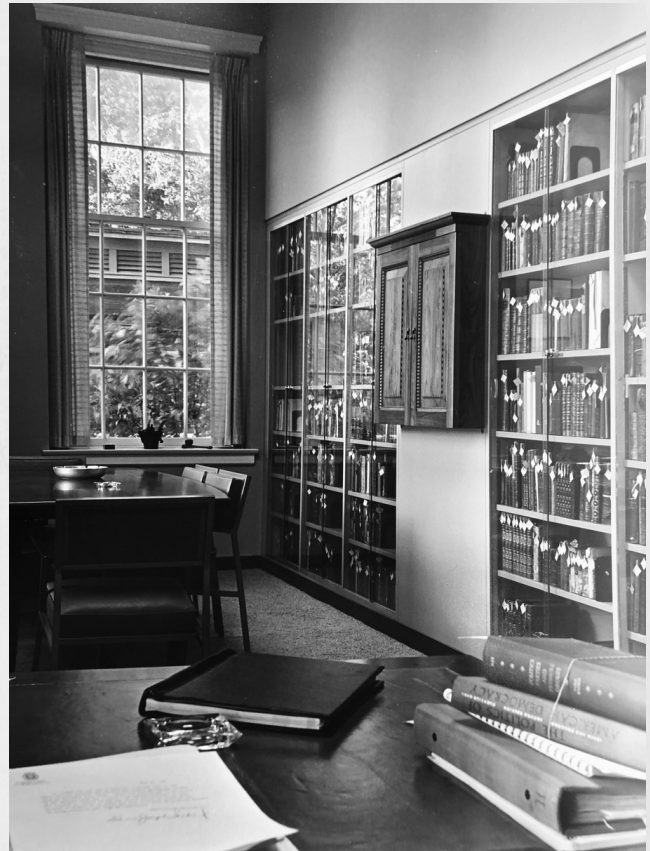
UPDATES FROM THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

LOOKING BACK AT SCHAFFER LIBRARY

Did you know that the library at Union College used to be housed in the Nott Memorial? Construction on Schaffer Library only began in 1960, and it has undergone expansion and a number of renovations over the years due to changing space and technology needs. These photographs, from the Special Collections Picture File, show Schaffer Library during the 1970s, when research relied on physical books and card catalogs.

The Picture File in Special Collections is full of wonderful historical photographs of Union College and Schenectady. To learn more about the the collection, please visit the [Picture File collection description](#) or reach out to us at:

AskSpecialCollections@Union.Libanswers.com.



Special Collections Reading Room. Courtesy of Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College.



First floor of Schaffer Library, including the Circulation Desk (left) and Reference Collection (right). Courtesy of Special Collections, Schaffer Library, Union College.



UPDATES FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION & EXHIBITIONS

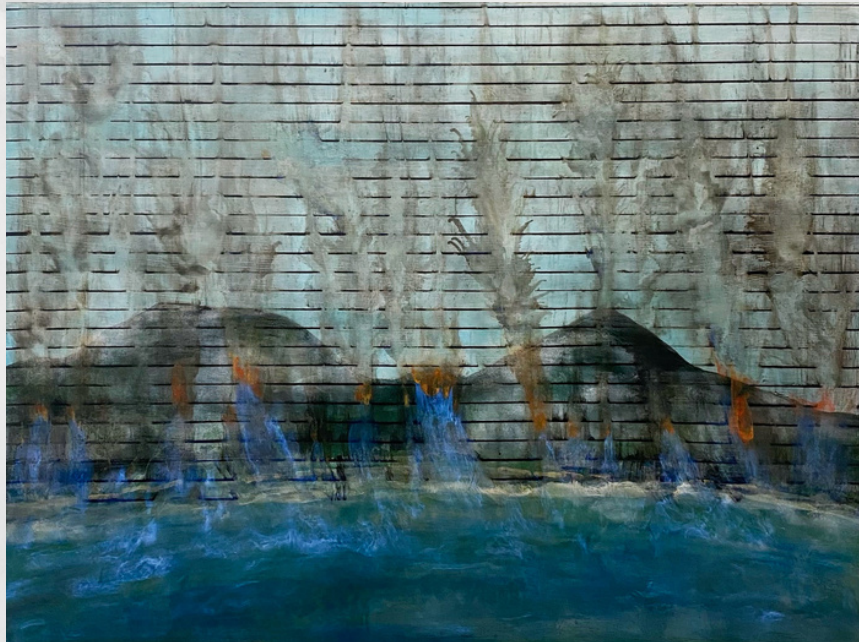
ADDENDA REOPENING IN LALLY READING ROOM

Due to repairs being done on the Nott Memorial, the current Mandeville Gallery exhibition, *Addenda*, is now in the Lally Reading Room on the first floor of Schaffer Library.

The new iteration of *Addenda* features the majority of artworks from the original exhibition. This includes four of the five pieces created in response to the collection of archival materials held in the college archive which details the life of missionary and the first general agent of education for the territory of Alaska, Sheldon Jackson (Class of 1855).

Featured contemporary artists are: Gina Adams (Ojibwe-not enrolled and colonial immigrants of Irish and Lithuanian descent), Merritt Johnson (lives/work on Lingít Aani, her family/partner's home territory in Sitka, Alaska), and Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Iñupiaq/Athabascan). Adams, Johnson, and Kelliher-Combs draw on history, cultural traditions, and archives, along with a strong belief in seeking alternative narratives, to create artworks that exist as a record of unconsidered perspectives and often unrecognized pasts.

Addenda is being held concurrently with *Sheldon Jackson: Our 'Other' Man in Alaska, 1835-1909 Union College Class of 1855*, mounted in the Beuth Atrium of the library by student-curator Matt Giarratana '23, that examines the Sheldon Jackson archive and Jackson's life.



Merritt Johnson, When the world turned upside down long enough for Water to move and catch fire and wipe out the ink lines that divide, claim, kill and bury, 2021, oil and alkyd on panel, 36 x 48 inches, Courtesy of Accola Griefen Fine Art, New York City and the artist.