Spring 2019

Newsletter Spring 2019

Colgate University Libraries

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As the 2018-2019 Bicentennial academic year comes to a close, the Colgate Special Collections and University Archives’ (SCUA) efforts to celebrate, inspire, and educate the community about the institution’s 200-history are on display in print, online, and all around us.

One of the major scholarly projects of the Bicentennial was the writing of a new Colgate history book, *Becoming Colgate*, by alumnus James Allen Smith, ’70. Smith entered Colgate as an Alumni War Memorial Scholar and graduated magna cum laude. He studied as a Fulbright scholar in Belgium while completing his Ph.D. in medieval history at Brown University. His career has spanned academia and the philanthropic world. The eagerly awaited volume will go into its first printing just in time for the All-Class Reunion at the end May. The vision for the book, which Smith began researching in 2014, was to update then-University Archivist Howard Williams’ *A History of Colgate University, 1819-1969*. Smith advances the narrative to the present and fills out Williams’ history with new research and updated storytelling for the modern reader.

Research for the book largely draws on primary source material from the Colgate University Archives, including records of past university presidents, of governing and administrative groups like the Board of Trustees, the Faculty Senate, and the Baptist Education Society of New York, and of student publications, like the *Maroon News*.

Archives staff have worked in earnest since 2012 to organize these records under the direction of Sarah Keen, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections and University Archives.

In 2016, Digital History Project Manager Emily Jeffres led the charge to take the cleaned-up collections digital by revamping the in-house digitization program with new scanning equipment, updated standards, maintenance, and preservation procedures, a more functional digital asset management system, and a new public interface for finding aids.

In addition to *Becoming Colgate*, another important history will be published this spring: *Into the Light: The Early African American Men of Colgate University Who Transformed a Nation, 1840-1930*, by Diane Ciccone, ’74. Ciccone is a member of the first class of women to graduate from Colgate. After earning her JD from Hofstra University in 1977, she went on to a career in law and journalism. A founding member of Colgate’s Alumni of Color organization, Ciccone saw the Bicentennial as an

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The 2018-2019 academic year marks the beginning of Colgate University’s third century. As part of the bicentennial celebrations, the archives has digitized images and documents related to its 200-year history. The Archive’s collection complements the Colgate at 200 Years website.

Here are a few of the images and documents you can explore in the Archive’s Colgate at 200 collection online.

1840 drawing of campus, artist unknown

Back cover of the 1950 Colgate University Guide

Case Library Lobby, April 13, 1959

Sit-in to protest discrimination, 1968

Colgate Archives Supports Scholarship in the Bicentennial Year (continued)

opportunity to bring to light the historic, yet hidden lives of early Black male students. Though she began her research at the Colgate University Archives, combing through early class registers and yearbooks for names and dates, Ciccone found she often had to move outside the school’s archives to fully develop the mens’ stories. In “The Art of Historical Storytelling: Centering Marginalized Voices,” a panel discussion during the ALANA Founders’ Week, Ciccone, Jeffres, and others, will speak about the importance of analyzing the “gaps in the record” as part of a socially-conscious creative and scholarly process. In addition to these publications, SCUA also supported the curation of a large-scale digital exhibit as part of the Bicentennial website at 200.colgate.edu. The site uses one-of-a-kind digital assets, smart content strategy, and striking web design elements to illustrate the 200-year history of Colgate’s people, places, and moments; the institution’s archival sources are highlighted throughout. This project required extensive teamwork and iterative collaboration with Colgate faculty, staff, current students, alumni, and a third-party web design firm to bring to fruition. Jeffres, Jason Kammerdeiner, and Rebecca Downing (both of the Office of Communications) were awarded the Colgate “Team Excellence” staff award for their work on the website (story on page 3).
Staff Excellence Award to Yolanda Vasquez and Alan Mosher

Yolanda Vasquez and Alan Mosher received Colgate’s Outstanding Contribution award for their extraordinary actions and decisive intervention in assisting a student during an emergency medical situation in the library last February. Yoli Vasquez is the Case-Geyer Library’s Late Night Circulation Supervisor. Alan Mosher is a member of Colgate’s fine custodial staff.

Alan and Yoli assisted and comforted the student until emergency services arrived on the scene. Alan and Yoli exhibited clear thinking and a potentially lifesaving response. Yoli and Alan responded at a critical moment with compassion and professionalism.

Team Excellence Award for Creators of the Colgate at 200 Website

The team excellence award recognizes interdepartmental and cross functional staff members who demonstrate exceptional teamwork. There were 18 team nominations. Each team member received $100 plus one additional vacation day.

With guidance and input from a wide variety of faculty, administration and staff, this team worked diligently, smartly and congenially to bring to fruition the Colgate 200 bicentennial website.

The partnership between Jason Kammerdiener, Rebecca Downing, both of Communications, and Emily Jeffres, our Digital History Project Manager, brought the right mix of technical web design, acute editorial eye, and a foundation in archival outreach and research.

This team worked quickly and passionately to tell Colgate’s past, present and future story. They listened to the various stakeholders’ visions and produced a tangible, successful result. Together, and with generous assistance from other staff, they were able to build a beautiful, scholarly, well-received website for celebrating the University’s Bicentennial.
In collaboration with Colgate’s Art & Art History Lecture Series, the University Libraries welcomed Jon Ippolito on November 15th, 2018 for a discussion about preservation of media and the evolving nature of archives. In 2014 Ippolito co-authored with Richard Rinehart Re-collection: Art, New Media, and Social Memory. Jon Ippolito is an artist, educator, new media scholar, and former curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Jon spoke about the challenges of long-term access to art that is created with software that will become obsolescent. He advocated crowdsourcing Open Source emulations of outdated software programs.

On October 26th, Emily Sherwood presented on Digital Scholarship and the Liberal Arts in the Horizons Colloquium Series. Despite the buzz around digital scholarship, the term often raises more questions than answers: What is digital scholarship? What does it look like in a liberal arts context? What tools or methods are appropriate for my field, research, class? Emily’s talk underscored the complexities of these questions and how libraries, in particular, are foundational in providing support for this emergent mode of scholarly communication.

Prior to joining University of Rochester, Emily was the Assistant Director of Digital Pedagogy and Scholarship at Bucknell University and a Faculty Teaching Associate in the English Department. She joined Bucknell in summer of 2014 as a CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Scholarship. Emily holds a doctorate in English from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

On February 27th, 2019, the University Libraries in collaboration with the Environmental Studies Program celebrated Endangered Data Week. This year’s event featured Sam Edelstein, the City of Syracuse’s first Chief Data Officer. During his time in the position, he has been responsible for the development and implementation of the City’s first Open Data Policy, Data Privacy Policy, and Open Data Portal, called Data-Cuse.

Endangered Data Week is a collaborative effort coordinated across campuses, nonprofits, libraries, citizen science initiatives, and cultural heritage institutions, to shed light on public datasets that are in danger of being deleted, repressed, mishandled, or lost. The week’s events can promote care for endangered collections by: publicizing the availability of datasets; increasing critical engagement with them, including through visualization and analysis; and by encouraging political activism for open data.
New Databases

Mike Poulin, Head of Collection Management

Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment
A collection of ebooks a variety of subjects relating to the Enlightenment including: history, cultural studies, literature, biography, religious studies, philosophy, and gender studies. The 217 volumes are in both English and French. Purchase was generously supported by the Malan Fund.

Scripta Sinica
Contains more than 460 titles and 358,000,000 characters of materials pertaining to the traditional Chinese classics compiled by the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. Interface and text are in Chinese.

Our Student Workers

The libraries could not serve Colgate faculty and students if not for our very fine team of student workers. We asked our student library workers in the Case Library and Geyer Information Center and in the Cooley Science Library what they like best about working in the library. Three themes emerged: working with great people, enjoying the tasks, and the work environment.

Many students mentioned how much they enjoy working with and being mentored by library staff. Shout-outs included thanks to Kristi Mangine, Science Library Coordinator, James Pollock and Brendon Fox, Evening/weekend assistants, and Bonnie Kupris, Circulation and Electronic Reserves Coordinator.

Students also frequently mentioned enjoying the company of their co-workers and helping their fellow students. One note of several stated what they liked best was “the wonderful staff and my fellow student workers!”

Reshelving books, shifting books, and shelf reading (checking to be sure books are in the right locations in the stacks) may not sound like a lot of fun, but several students noted that they enjoy that task. A few took the opportunity to note that much of the shelving work is done by those on the evening shift.

The work environment got several mentions like “the meditative and peaceful, introspective atmosphere fostered by staff and students alike.” Others noted the flexible working hours.

We sincerely thank all the students for their contentious work. The library’s operations rely on their dependability and reliability. The great work environment they described couldn’t exist without them.

A Case-Geyer student worker waxes poetic about shifting books
Colgate University Libraries hosted a series of events to celebrate National Library Week. The week long celebration aims to bring attention to our nation’s many libraries and librarians as well as promote library use and support.

University Librarian and past American Library Association President Courtney L. Young notes “the hard work of faculty librarians and staff at Colgate build the collections, provide services, and develop and maintain facilities to support the university’s mission. I am proud of the work we do to support and inspire our students, faculty, and staff.”

Events included the celebration of National Library Workers Day on April 9 with a social hour featuring cake and cookies. We were sure to save plenty for our night-time staff to enjoy, too.

We hosted our first Edible Books Festival on Wednesday, April 10. Participants were encouraged to craft - and eventually eat - their book-inspired culinary creations. Judges were Christopher Wells, Senior Advisor to the President; Kerra Hunter, Assistant Dean & Director of International Student Services, and Sofia Melgoz ’19. The overall winner was Rachel White for A Bear Called Paddington. Honorable mentions went to Michelle Smith & Erin Patterson for Harry Potter and Heidi Ziemer for To Kill a Mock-tail. The People’s Choice award went to Wendy Canfield for Silence of the Lambs.

Finally, the libraries hosted a movie night in the Ho Tung Visualization lab, featuring two showings of the cult library classic, Party Girl.
On Tuesday, April 16, the library hosted a reading that featured Adam Tedesco, Shira Dentz, and Micah Dean Hicks.

Adam is founding editor of Reality Beach, a journal of new poetics. He read several poems from his published works, plus a few not yet in print.

Shira teaches creative writing at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. She read selections from her five published works. Shira includes visual elements in her works, which she depicted in the reading with hand gestures and sound effects.

Micah read from the first chapter Break the Bodies, Haunt the Bones, a ghost-filled fictional mash-up of science fiction and fantasy, among other genres.

Attendees asked the authors how they came to be writers. Shira shared that she began as a way to cope with the death of her younger brother. Adam was influenced by suggested readings in a punk rock zine. Micah said he has just always loved stories, and took the academic path to being a professional writer.

The reading was organized by Jesi Buell, Colgate’s Instructional Design and Web Librarian in collaboration with Patrick Williams, Librarian for Literature, Rhetoric, and Digital Humanities at Syracuse University as part of an ongoing series shared by the two universities.

Librarian publications


The Book of the Last Word by Jesi Bender (aka Jesi Buell) will be published May 1, 2019 by Brooklyn-based Whisk(e)y Tit, www.whiskeytit.com/product/the-book-of-the-last-word/.
Print and E-book Use

The library continues to actively collect both print books and e-books. We choose titles based on faculty recommendations and the librarians’ understanding of what Colgate students need to succeed in their courses. Academic libraries everywhere grapple with finding the ideal balance of print and electronic formats. In many cases we purchase both print and e-book, as each format has its strengths and weaknesses. We welcome your feedback.