Welcome to this year’s rich glimpse into the past year of the University Libraries—an amazing year, it must be said, marked by the successful opening of the first two phases of the three-part renovation of Snell Library’s lower floors. It has been truly wonderful to watch the university’s multi-million dollar investment in a renewed library facility take shape and then burst into vital student activity.

Learning and scholarship these days can be massively enhanced and enabled by access to the appropriate technologies properly supported. In the new Digital Media Commons, and the innovative new first floor teaching and learning spaces, Northeastern now has these state-of-the-art facilities, and services second to none.

The collaboration between the staff in the library and Information Technology Services that has enabled this to take shape is in its way a striking affirmation of the way in which “working together” is built into the very structure and programming of the renovated space, with multiple team rooms and shared workstations. In the details of this document you can see something of the wide range of other activities that make Snell Library a research library to be proud of. From the bottom of the building to the top, dedicated library staff members are moving the model of the modern, hybrid, print-and-digital library forward. And Empower: The Campaign for Northeastern University, launched this year (p. 22), will be essential for the library to propel these initiatives even further.

To the library’s many friends and donors I say: thanks! Come and visit us, and revel in what your support has enabled, and see what more can be done with your help. You won’t be disappointed.

Sincerely,

Will Wakeling
Dean, University Libraries
From the Ground Up
A Year in Review: Snell Library 2012 - 2013
Volume XIII

Northeastern University Libraries’ Year in Review is published annually for the library’s supporters, friends, and the Northeastern community.

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From the Ground Up
Making Room for Innovation
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A Year in Review: Snell Library 2012 - 2013

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Putting the Pieces Together
Engineering a Better Bike Lock

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A Rich Academic Experience
New Research Resources

Mapping the History of Northeastern’s Neighborhood
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We Inspire
Building for the Next Generation

Thank You, Library Supporters
Library Honor Roll 2012 - 2013
Making Room for Innovation

In September 2013, Northeastern completed the renovation of Snell Library’s entire first floor, introducing dramatic improvements to library workspaces and enhancing services. Inspired by direct feedback from students and faculty, the reinvented space represents the second phase of a three-part project to redefine the role of the university’s library. Since its opening, traffic into Snell Library has increased by 20 percent.

A new research help room offers walk-in service and one-on-one consultation with subject specialist librarians.

The Hub is a place for students to relax between classes and find recommended reading, current periodicals, and DVDs.

Students can launch their ideas in one of 21 new group study rooms, available through an online reservation system.

Quick print stations are available 24/7, allowing users to print from computers in the library or their own laptops.
A Year in the Life of Snell Library

Meet the Author: Saul Williams
Musician and poet Saul Williams delivered the first Meet the Author talk of the year during Welcome Week 2012. Williams presented *Chorus*, a new book of collected poems by previously unknown poets, which he edited. *Chorus* combines trash, heat, and craft to create shockingly honest verse, representing a new generation of poets who embody the "speak-up" spirit.

Meet the Author: Michael Grunwald
Time magazine senior correspondent Michael Grunwald showcased his latest book, *The New New Deal: The Hidden Story of Change in the Obama Era*, at the second Meet the Author event of Fall 2012. The New New Deal explores President Barack Obama's $800 billion stimulus program, which Grunwald calls one of the most important and least understood pieces of legislation in the history of the country.

Meet the Author: Francis Slakey
Co-sponsored by NUhoC, the Northeastern outdoors club, this event drew a huge crowd of adventurers and outdoor enthusiasts. To the *Last Breath: A Memoir of Going to Extremes* is about Slakey’s quest to surf every ocean and climb the highest mountain on every continent, and his encounters, adventures, and revelations along the way.

Meet the Author: Jonathan Katz
Associated Press reporter Jonathan Katz was the only full-time American correspondent in Haiti at the time of the 2010 earthquake. Katz came to Snell Library to present *Behind a Disaster*, about the devastation and terror of that day and how other nations responded, painting a picture of the startling truths and problems with foreign aid, and what can be done to make aid smarter.

Open Access Week Keynote: David Weinberger
For the Open Access Week 2012 keynote address, writer and technologist David Weinberger discussed the changing online ecosystem. He observed how although there is a spectacular amount of information available on the internet, the best content is often behind a paywall, and considered what this means for open access.

Open House: Digital Media Commons
Northeastern faculty, students, and staff visited the new DMC on Snell Library’s second floor to see demonstrations of work and projects that take advantage of the resources available in the new, cutting-edge facility.

Snell Library Town Hall Meeting
Students asked questions and gave their ideas and opinions about furniture, spaces, and technology at an open forum Town Hall Meeting, featuring Vice President of Information Technology Services Rehan Khan and Dean of University Libraries Will Wakeling. This feedback provided by students influenced and contributed to the second phase of Snell Library renovations that took place on the first floor of the library over the summer.

Global Game Jam
For 48 hours, game developers worked tirelessly to create their own original games as part of Global Game Jam, a hack-a-thon style event focused on game development. More than 30 students came together to collaborate, create, and showcase their original work, based on the theme of “heartbeat.”

Play and Innovate: Research Pop-Up
The Digital Media Commons hosted Northeastern’s fourth pop-up open lab, which featured 11 stations where faculty and students demonstrated their work in game design and related disciplines.

Meet the Author: Laurie Edwards
Laurie Edwards explores patient rights, the role of social media in medical advocacy, the origins of attitudes toward chronic illness, and more in her book *In the Kingdom of the Sick: A Social History of Chronic Illness in America*, which she presented at Snell Library. Edwards is a health writer and teaches health and science writing at Northeastern.

A New Discovery Search: Scholar OneSearch
After months of preparation, Scholar OneSearch, a powerful new research tool, replaced the NUCat library catalog. This new system allows users to search across not only library collections, but also many articles and journals available in digital formats.

Over the course of the academic year, the library hosts a range of goings-on, from events and programs, workshops, and exhibits, to conferences, milestones in library services, and more. Detailed here are some highlights from the past year at Snell.
In the field of DNA damage response, associate professor of chemistry Penny Beuning is studying how proteins repair damaged DNA, deep within the cells of living organisms. Cells normally do this by creating a copy of the correct genetic information and dropping it into the damaged strand. In her research, Beuning deliberately breaks the DNA strands and inhibits the enzymes that normally fix them, then watches to see what happens. This research has application to the field of cancer research; using computational tools, she and her colleagues are trying to figure out how the repair enzymes work, and how these repair processes can then be used in cancer treatment.

Beuning is also studying how to harness proteins to do her bidding: She and her team attempt to understand how enzymes work and then fine-tune and improve their activity. They have been tweaking enzymes and then measuring the result.

The big question Beuning is asking: How do all these proteins communicate with each other? When doing experiments, Beuning says she normally starts when she notices something irregular. If her reaction is “that’s weird, we didn’t expect that,” she has a good jumping off point for an experiment. For instance, her lab recently conducted an experiment where they examined DNA-reading proteins that were not behaving as expected, finding them to be different from similar proteins, and opening the door to new discovery.

But before she can get going with a new experiment in her lab, Beuning needs to check the literature on a subject, and to do that she’ll start with library resources. Beuning uses Web of Science to track the impact of new research and the use of investigative techniques. She frequently references the American Chemical Society journal archive, which Snell Library has access to in its entirety. Additionally, she brings her classes to the library for orientations to article and other databases, focusing on SciFinder, a major chemistry resource.

From the Library into the Lab, and Back Again

Penny Beuning tinkers with the building blocks of life itself, fixing damaged DNA and programming proteins. A chemist and an expert in chemical biology and biotechnology, Beuning’s research has two main focuses: DNA damage responses and protein engineering.

Putting the Pieces Together

Robert Townsend, a 2013 graduate of Northeastern’s mechanical engineering program, spent much of his final year developing a prototype for a faster, stronger, easier-to-use bike lock. He started the project in 2012 for his capstone, a year-long course that requires students to integrate what they have learned through both their academic coursework and co-op experience.

To start, Townsend and his team members put their heads together in Snell Library, researching potential solutions and approaches for their project. They needed to find some friction data, Townsend said. The engineering collections in the library “helped us to do our calculations on how much force we would need between the brakes and the wheels.”

The final model came together: a lock integrated with the bike’s kickstand that automatically secures the bike.

As the final designs came together in February, the group continued meeting in Snell and researching components that would be important when assembling their prototype. Townsend used books from the library about friction and frictional coefficients to ensure the lock would work as intended.

“We needed to find some friction data,” Townsend said. “We used the library collection in Snell Library to find the best information in their area of study. This group of engineering students built a better bike lock over the course of their senior year—with much of their work taking place in Snell Library.”
The Boston Gay Men’s Chorus was founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit organization, and today the 175 members perform throughout the year by giving annual holiday concerts, performances for Pride Weekend, and special concerts. In addition to performing around the city and the region, the group has been deeply engaged with Boston’s GLBT community by supporting causes such as AIDS awareness, human rights, and same-sex marriage. To date, the BGMC has raised more than $100,000 for organizations such as AIDS Action Committee, human rights Campaign, Boston Area Gay/Lesbian Youth, and others. The BGMC performed at the first-ever legal gay marriage in the US at Boston’s Arlington Street Church in 2004. In 2005, 120 members of the chorus went on an eastern European tour, becoming the first gay organization to perform in Poland.

**Building Community and Celebrating Difference**

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The donated materials from the BGMC document the organization from its founding in 1982 through 2012. Included are meeting minutes from administration and other committees, newsletters, press clippings, financial records, and posters, programs, and recordings of BGMC performances. Additionally, photographs in the collection show members of the group in a wide variety of activities, from rehearsals and backstage candid moments, through performances and concerts.

This collection embodies the chorus’s mission statement: The BGMC creates musical experiences to inspire change, build community, and celebrate difference. Even when they’re not singing, the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus is working toward something better, and that something is glimpsed in this collection.
Expanding Access through the Center for Research Libraries

The Center for Research Libraries is an international consortium of university and independent libraries. CRL gathers primary source material such as global newspapers and journals that are critical to the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. This spring Northeastern was accepted as a CRL member institution, giving our scholars access to this major research collection. Kate Luongo, associate professor of history, discusses how CRL access has benefitted research on campus.

Q: How have CRL resources been used by the campus community?

A: I have taught courses in African history at the graduate and undergraduate levels, including an undergraduate writing seminar on urban African history, and graduate courses in anthropological history and legal history, and this new membership has opened a number of doors for researchers here at Northeastern. Access to CRL collections has enabled faculty to do archival-based works without necessarily spending time in the field. Students who are doing honors theses, or even semester papers that involve original research, can now do much more substantial work because they have wider access to primary documents and a broader choice of topics to develop their research much more deeply. This makes their research more exciting and ultimately, competitive.

Neither students nor faculty could do secondary research without access to an academic library. Now that we have access to CRL, faculty and students are in a better position to ‘complete’ vis-à-vis our peer institutions and do much more original research while in Boston than was ever possible before.

Q: How are you using CRL resources in your own research?

A: My research explores the claims made by African asylum-seekers that being accused of witchcraft or targeted with witchcraft renders them a member of a particular persecuted social group eligible for refugee protection. This research is part of a larger study of the persistence of witchcraft as an engine of violence in contemporary Africa. My first book, Witchcraft and Colonial Rule in Kenya, 1900-1955 (Cambridge 2011) examines the clash of African witchcraft beliefs with colonial law and governmentality. I think there are colonial legal legacies that are helping turn witchcraft into an adverse factor affecting migration.

I am planning to do field research this coming spring and summer in Tanzania on the country’s legal history. Because of CRL, I can order Tanganyika (the colonial name for Tanzania) National Archives microfilm and do a tremendous amount of background research here in Boston before I land in the country. This makes my archival research much more efficient and frees up time for me to do more ethnographic work, enabling me to start writing earlier.

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Digital Scholarship Takes Root

Renowned digital humanities scholar Julia Flanders joined Northeastern this year with a dual appointment: as a leader of the library’s new Digital Scholarship Group, and as professor of the practice in the Department of English. Flanders will build the DSG to enable new types of original research in the humanities and social sciences, working to create cross-disciplinary partnerships and collaborations.

Arriving from Brown University, Julia Flanders brings with her the Women Writers Project, a long-term research project devoted to early modern women’s writing and electronic text encoding, and Digital Humanities Quarterly, an open-access, peer-reviewed journal focused on the digital humanities. Flanders will continue to direct both projects at Northeastern. These are examples of new digital academic work that the Digital Scholarship Group will facilitate through emerging tools and modes of research, such as text encoding, network analysis, geographic information systems, and large-scale text analysis.

Digital research projects allow scholars to use new digital tools to address questions unanswerable by traditional avenues of inquiry. For example, a researcher may be able to examine the embedded narratives within an entire body of texts, or map those narratives to visualize the spatial component within centuries-old literature.

The DSG will encourage new types of original research to be conducted within the library and also new collaborations between campus academic partners. And what Flanders brings to this new group is an expertise in developing and building digital projects, helping those projects take root in the library, and engaging undergraduate and graduate students with original research and hands-on experience.

One Gift, Lasting Value

The Davis Educational Endowment Library Fund was established in 1990 to augment library acquisitions and collections. This past fiscal year, the Fund generated over $46,000, which aided in the purchase of new library materials that support the curriculum at Northeastern. Kate Simpkins, a Ph.D. candidate in English literature, found that many of the library’s resources provided by the Fund were extremely useful to her research this spring.

“When preparing for my exams this spring, which were on Victorian literature, Caribbean literature, and modern visual and material cultures, I was able to utilize interlibrary loan and ARTstor, as well as borrow very expensive anthologies funded by the Davis Educational Endowment Library Fund that I would not have otherwise been able to afford. When writing my field statements and preparing for comprehensive written and oral exams, I had to provide a general ‘statement of the field’—how we see scholarship within the field develop and where it is going. I noticed, from reading stacks of books stamped ‘Courtesy of the Davis Educational Endowment Library Fund’ that this generous endowment had purchased many of the anthologies and concentrated author studies by the best publishers, all standard editions including essential criticism, that I needed to complete my work.

“I, and I know my colleagues, am so grateful that the library and our donors make resources like these available. The information that can be found at the library provides key historical data that paves the road into an enormous landscape of a researcher’s field of study.”
3D Printing Comes to Snell Library

Snell Library has just opened a new 3D printing studio in the Digital Media Commons, where the campus community can access this exciting, emerging technology. 3D printing, or additive manufacturing, typically uses plastics or resin to create 3-dimensional objects from digital models, putting the power to make physical objects in the hands of anyone who wants to bring their ideas to life in 3D.

3D printing is already finding its way into classrooms and labs at Northeastern, and outlined here is a project that used cross-disciplinary collaboration between biologists and engineers to 3D print a piece needed for a research project. These technologies are now available to the entire university community in Snell Library’s 3D printing studio.

In December of 2010, Amanda Chilaka was working on her doctoral project in biology, a bacterial cultivation device in the Epstein Lab. She had been using plates to cultivate cellulose-degrading bacteria, but the normal-grade plates were far too large for her bacteria to thrive. She needed tiny molds made from silicone, and they needed to be soft, so the bacteria would be able to grow.

Chilaka worked with a team in mechanical engineering to develop the idea of a custom 3D-printed mold, which could be used again and again, injected with different kinds of liquid silicone to create as many tiny plates as Chilaka would need for her bacteria.

To print the three parts of the mold, they sent their SolidWorks digital model to a stereo-lithography 3D printer. Stereo-lithography is the most detailed and sturdy of the current 3D printing methods, and utilizes a liquid resin made of photopolymers: plastic hardened by ultraviolet light.

In the machine’s build chamber, the parts are constructed in layers mere microns thick. Layer by layer, an ultraviolet laser passes back and forth, tracing the outline of the part’s cross section, hardening and binding the resin to the rest of the piece. The platform then descends and more resin is swept over the newly-hardened surface, and the process continues until the part is complete. Finally, the piece is baked in a UV oven to harden and cure the resin completely, making the parts ready to use for the bacteria growth in the lab.

Some adjustment of the large-plate design was needed so they modeled the new part in 3D modeling software called SolidWorks. Taking the large, normal plates as a template, they modified the design, making adjustments to make the pieces work together at such small scale. Ultimately, they created a design for a user-friendly, three-part mold.
A Rich Academic Experience

NEW RESEARCH RESOURCES

As faculty and students’ academic needs change and new areas of scholarship emerge, the library works to acquire new online resources to support all areas of the Northeastern academic experience. Many are made possible by the contributions of library supporters, delivering otherwise unattainable collections. Highlighted here are selected new research and teaching resources from the past year.

ACCESSPHARMACY is a valuable resource in part because of the skills videos available. I teach a skills lab course and it’s great to be able to incorporate resources from the site that are well done and easily available to the students to review again and again for practice. The site also serves as a textbook resource for our students, allowing for free access from anywhere.”

Jennifer Kirwin, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

THE WORLD NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE is a terrific resource for both teaching and research. A veritable treasure trove of the world press from the nineteenth century to the present, it is of exceptional value in undergraduate research and writing seminars in history and political science among other fields, where students are expected to conduct research using primary sources. It is already making it easier for our undergraduates to engage in research and is also extraordinarily useful for faculty research as well.

Laura Frader, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor of History

“While a researcher might already be in contact with others in her discipline and know who has produced data that she could use, in an increasingly interdisciplinary landscape this is not always the case. DATA CITATION INDEX is an excellent resource for researchers at all levels to find data sets. It also helps to expand the concept of scholarly output beyond published research, strengthening researchers’ impact in their field and beyond.”

Hillary Corbett, Scholarly Communication Librarian and University Copyright Officer

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“This is a moment when the impact of our entertainment industry has global reach and power, crossing boundaries of nation and ideology. All those familiar questions of solid research—how, why, when, where, who—begin with historical primary sources. This new digital resource is essential support for the undergraduate and graduate programs in our music industry curriculum. In taking the measure of our cultural footprint, Northeastern students have a path to follow in the ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY MAGAZINE ARCHIVE.”

Judith Tick, Matthews Distinguished University Professor Emerita, Department of Music
Geographic information systems (GIS) provide spatial references for every point on the earth’s surface, from mountaintops to the street corner in your neighborhood. These references make it possible to build maps that bring together diverse forms of information, such as the records of businesses and homes since replaced by new construction. This process becomes difficult, though, when the exact location of the bygone shop or house isn’t recorded—and that’s where the library’s GIS specialist, Kevan Grimaldi, comes in to help.

Grimaldi provides GIS support for Northeastern students and faculty, which often means merging maps with other data to help researchers create a spatial-visual display of their information. Although Grimaldi’s primary focus is on earth science, GIS is becoming increasingly cross-disciplinary, being used by researchers in many fields to map the results of their research. For example, Grimaldi has been working recently with humanities scholars on a project finding the locations mentioned in slave narratives. At the same time, Grimaldi has been working with the Freedom House photographs from the Archives and Special Collections, identifying where these approximately 2,000 photographs were taken, and then putting this information into an interactive map. This process requires plenty of detective work. She started by focusing on photos taken outdoors, looking at the features of a particular building or what was in the background, trying to find landmarks or street addresses.

For photographs of streets or buildings that no longer exist, things got a bit trickier. To find areas that have since been redeveloped, Grimaldi went to the Boston Public Library and requested old insurance maps, which she photographed with her cellphone. She then overlaid the insurance maps on the current digital versions and used existing landmarks to identify the photo locations. “Quite a few streets were taken out so that Martin Luther King Boulevard could be put in,” she found. “There was a lot of redevelopment in that area and that’s partly why they were taking all these photographs.”

Once Grimaldi finishes this project, she believes that the interactive map will be useful for more than just record keeping: “Suppose researchers wanted to figure out what the backstory is to this particular neighborhood? How has the face of the neighborhood evolved?” With the digital map of the Freedom House photograph collection, the answers to these questions will be just a few clicks away.

“The Northeastern Archives and Special Collections are known for both preserving and making accessible the university’s archives, and working to preserve the history of local organizations that serve under-represented communities. There are two parallel goals that we have set for the archives and special collections going forward.

“The first is to grow the use of the collections in the university’s curricula, across departments and programs. This will mean meeting with faculty and students to really make the archives a teaching tool. Faculty can use the materials here in their research, forging links between the research they’re doing and the local community; and students can learn about where Northeastern comes from, by digging into campus history, and through exploration of the local community that surrounds the campus, discovering more of the city and the people who make Boston unique.

“The second goal is to build on the strong nucleus of local history collections that are already at the heart of the archives: to explore Boston’s history of social justice activism in places we haven’t yet had a chance to, such as the West End and East Boston. We are also interested in looking at the history of our built and natural environment: infrastructure, roads, parks, etc. Finally, I’m exploring opportunities for collaboration with other institutions to look at areas where partnerships will help extend our reach—for example, it makes sense for us to be partnering on digital projects, where together we can tell a more comprehensive story about Boston-area social justice history.

“And as we move forward with both of these goals, we work behind the scenes to process and digitize these invaluable records, creating unique, interactive online exhibits and research guides available to the broader research community.”
This year Northeastern launched Empower: The Campaign for Northeastern University to begin a powerful journey for the institution that will transform higher education for today’s students and professionals. With the support of Northeastern’s entire community, we will be able to amplify our strengths in creativity and entrepreneurship, and be a global leader in the world of academic research institutions.

A leading research institution cannot exist without a leading research library. Snell Library has come a long way since its start in Dodge Hall. Today, the library is not just a physical structure and the hub of intellectual life on campus, we are also a provider of databases, journals, books, and scholarly works that reach thousands of researchers all over the world. This campaign gives us the chance to be even better and to expand our offerings. Your support of the library in this campaign is essential to bring critical resources directly to the students, faculty, and researchers who need them; to revolutionize library services and spaces; and to encourage researchers to try to test innovative solutions to real-world problems using tools that would not otherwise be accessible.

Snell Library is a facilitator of interdisciplinary initiatives, partnerships, collaborations, and research, and by joining others at this crucial turning point in Northeastern’s history, you will be supporting a number of areas of priority for the academic community that so greatly relies on the library every day.

To learn how you can support Empower: The Campaign for Northeastern University, and the library, please contact Nina Shah at nin.shah@neu.edu or 617-373-5452.

The library’s campaign priorities:

**ACQUIRING AND SUSTAINING THE LATEST AND MOST RELEVANT COLLECTIONS**, databases, books, and journals, in order to deliver the richest content possible to Northeastern’s global community. Library collections must have incredible depth and breadth for students—undergraduate and graduate—and faculty to be able to perform original research and create scholarly works. We could not provide all of the research databases and resources that we offer without donor support. Your contributions toward library collections will help us maintain and add the highest quality resources to support an outstanding educational experience for years to come.

**EXPANDING THE DIGITAL LIBRARY** to broaden access to the academic and creative works of the Northeastern community. The number of remote patrons using the library’s digital resources is rapidly multiplying due to online courses, the opening of new graduate campuses, and the placement of faculty across the globe. The library continues to expand our digital repository, preserving and sharing faculty-authored and -edited books and articles, student-run publications, and more. Since the repository’s launch, it has grown to contain over 45,000 items, downloaded more than one million times. Your investment toward staffing, equipment, and software will help expand, maintain, and support this platform.

**REIMAGINING STUDY SPACES, TECHNOLOGY, SOFTWARE, AND LIBRARY SERVICES** to better serve students and faculty, and to facilitate high-level academic work. Snell Library is a resource for everyone on campus, and we must be able to provide for a diverse set of study needs—undergraduates studying for an exam in groups, alumni developing a new startup, graduate students working on advanced research projects, and students who need a sanctuary to study independently and quietly—all in one facility. With your support we can transform the library’s signature study areas into modern, functional spaces for academic work.

**PRESERVING AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO INVALUABLE ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS**. The University Archives and Special Collections are critical to preserving the history of Northeastern and the history of Boston’s local social justice communities. Your support is needed to preserve, digitize, and process many of these treasures to make them available to researchers for in-person and online viewing.
The honor roll recognizes donors who made gifts to the library between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013, that exceeded $250. Donations include individual gifts as well as gift-in-kind donations such as books, manuscripts, and archival materials.

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The archives preserves a rich and growing collection of Northeastern University images from 1902 to the present. The collection includes pictures of academic programs, student life, faculty, the campus, athletics, and university events, including commencement. A portion of these photographs have been scanned and are available online.

Exploring Northeastern’s History

FROM THE ARCHIVES

1. Mayor of Huntington Avenue competition (1967)
2. Banjo Club (1938 - 1939)
3. Astronomy Club (1941)
4. Flying Club (1930s)

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