Days before graduating, senior Kristina Lopez sat down with Snell Library staff to discuss her involvement with the library through the Student Government Association. Kristina has been a friend of Snell Library for years—first as a representative from SGA’s Academic Affairs group, and then as the key liaison between the library and the student body as SGA’s Vice President for Academic Affairs.

How did you work with the library when you were representing the Northeastern student body through the Student Government Association?

Students come to SGA with concerns and we reach out to university administration; it’s a flow of input and output. Sometimes people have issues, but they don’t know how to voice them in a constructive way, and that’s where we come in. In order to create a conversation between the students and the library, I started a committee within SGA that conducted library surveys, and we organized a town hall meeting where students could speak directly to the Dean of Libraries and ask questions.

SGA and the library have recently partnered up to relaunch the library’s Student Advisory Council. Could you tell us about that?

We wanted to create a space where students could let their voices be heard by the people who could make real changes. I worked on generating student interest, which wasn’t difficult—people care about the library and love to express their needs! Students didn’t turn down the opportunity to talk about a common space where they spend a lot of time. So far, the Council has served as a place where people who want to discuss Snell’s future can actually make a change.

Why is the library important to you, and why do you think it’s important to the student body as a whole?

First of all, I spend every second of my free time in the library. It’s where I study. It’s quiet, it’s easy to get my work done, and it’s a great place for group meetings. You don’t have to leave if you don’t want to—some people really take that to heart. As for students in general, I think Snell is important because we spend so much time here. Northeastern’s students are really driven, so being able to work in a peaceful place where they can focus is great. We also have incredible resources at Snell. The recent renovations speak to the direction the university is moving in, too, like the 3D Printing Studio and the new recording studios, which open opportunities to explore new areas. The library isn’t just rows of tables and bookshelves—it’s an invaluable part of Northeastern.
Tastemakers, a student-run music magazine, is dedicated to the promotion of student musicians and the development of music industry skills. One example of this development is Tastemakers Sessions, a new project this year. Senior Nick Hugon wanted to film live studio performances by artists to release on the Tastemakers website and on YouTube. Both Northeastern and off-campus artists were interested—the only problem was finding the right place to record.

Luckily for Hugon and his group, the library’s new recording studios had just opened. Equipped with an audio recording studio, a video studio, and a main control room, users can work with sound engineering, cameras, lighting, a green screen, and live video production, all while using the latest equipment.

“I spoke to music professor Jim Anderson about our project, and he told me about the Digital Media Commons and their new recording spaces,” said Hugon. “The studios arrived at a really opportune time.”

Lee Schuna, the DMC Studio’s spring 2014 co-op, is responsible for scheduling and facilitating all of the Tastemakers sessions. So far, Hugon and Schuna have brought in four bands for three-hour sessions in the studios. “It’s a lot of recording to fit into a short amount of time,” Schuna said. “But tracking live has a special vibe and energy that is hard to recreate when bands track instruments individually.”

During their sessions, artists have had access to top-of-the-line audio recording equipment, as well as Panasonic HD video cameras and a Canon 5D Mark III DSLR. They are encouraged to record four to six songs on camera, creating a constructive resource for the artist’s online presence.

“The DMC Studios have been so valuable to this entire project,” said Schuna. “It’s a beautiful space to work in, and the equipment we use is top-notch. It makes all the difference having high-quality video cameras to shoot with and a selection of nice microphones.”

The sessions are ongoing, and there are more artists who will be taking advantage of the facility in the future. “We’ve got some fairly big Boston acts on deck for our next few sessions,” said Schuna. “It’s exciting to be working with bands from the Northeastern community and beyond.”

While the 3D Printing Studio is most often frequented by engineers and artists, a goal for the studio is to reach users outside of those disciplines and to make the facility accessible to students from all areas of study. At the same time, 3D Printing Specialist Richard Ranky wanted to promote the studio’s laser-cutter, a resource complementary to 3D printing—and a versatile tool in its own right.

To that end, a “Make Your Own Notebook” workshop was planned as a no-experience-needed event to offer attendees the chance to personalize a notebook to take home. Using the laser-cutter, students had the option to etch designs into a Moleskine; create front and back covers out of wood to construct a spiral notebook; or use a “living-hinge” design to make book covers out of a single piece of wood.

“We wanted to offer students the chance to be creative while understanding and learning about the capabilities of our technology,” said Ranky. “With the personalized range of notebook projects, students were able to see a variety of ideas and help each other with digital design. Then, when fabricating the parts with the studio’s work-study team, they learned the practical side.”

The practical side included selecting materials, setting them up correctly in the machine, and testing and refining the machine’s settings. “It was great to have students from all majors participate,” added Ranky. “It showed that creativity and the desire to build have a place in each college.”

One notebook-making student was pharmacy major Shuwen Wu. Wu etched the wooden covers of her notebook with a series of designs; then, using a provided template, she laser-cut holes, sized and spaced for spiral binding, on their sides.

“I wanted to create something original to use for my photography portfolio,” Wu said. “The notebook event seemed like a great opportunity for that. I’d never been in the studio before, so I didn’t know what to expect, but it was a cool opportunity. You might think laser-cutting is out of your reach, but the event really let us graze the surface of the technology.”
Archivist and Head of Special Collections Giordana Megagni, to get feedback on what type of content we should be gathering and what sort of context to add to the content once we got it.” said project co-director and doctoral candidate Jim McGrath. “The library is going to be the ultimate home of the project, so they’ve been very involved throughout the entire process.”

The library hosted OurMarathon’s first public event in October 2013, marking the six-month anniversary of the bombings. “We wanted to introduce the project to the university at large,” explained McGrath, “and the library gave us a good space to do that.” Not only did the event provide an opportunity for OurMarathon to collect stories from the campus and surrounding community, but it served as a place to display physical items on loan from the City of Boston Archives as well.

At the event, attendees were able to see materials from the digital archive on video monitors, and view artifacts such as sneakers, race bibs, and medals that were placed at the Copley Square memorial. Guests were encouraged to contribute their own stories at laptops or in a story booth. The success of the library event sparked interest in organizing events outside of the Northeastern community, particularly in communities that would not otherwise have an opportunity to share their stories online.

OurMarathon has forged partnerships with organizations such as WBUR, City of Boston Archives, Iron Mountain, and the Boston Public Library to gather content. Snell Library is also a project partner in the development of the archive as a permanent, publicly accessible resource. As a digital archive, OurMarathon will require server space in order to be hosted online, which the library will require server space in order to be hosted online, which the library will provide via the Digital Repository hosted online, which the library will provide via the Digital Repository.

Since it was launched, OurMarathon has developed into a digital archive containing photos, video, and audio, and social media posts that tell the story of the bombings and their aftermath.

Through crowdsourced submissions and community outreach, the archive has amassed over five thousand items, and it continues to grow.

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“TELLING THE STORY”

Following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, Northeastern digital humanities scholars began compiling a written and oral history of the attack and the community’s response. Called OurMarathon, the project is a collaboration between Northeastern faculty and students, community groups, and other local archival organizations.

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“OurMarathon: TELLING THE STORY”

When we first tackled this project we were expecting to find a lot of pictorial and extreme protest attached to the establishment of Villa Victoria. Instead, we found a lot of information on how the establishment was mainly a success because of the careful legal organization of the group known as the Emergency Tenants’ Council of Parcel 19, Inc (ETC). Having found this information, our eyes were opened to a new idea of protest. We learned that to get what you want from this democratic government, it is not always about extreme protest. In some cases people can succeed by riding the non-violent organized path.

—Michelle Zhang, Rocky Coelis, and Lia Garcia, MYTOWN student researchers, summer 2013

In the summer of 2013, the Multicultural Youth Tour of What’s Now, was founded in 1995 to inspire high school students to develop leadership and communication skills and become more involved in the civic life of their neighborhoods through the exploration of local history. MYTOWN encourages students to produce stories of local and family history that are then preserved within the organization’s archives and told through student-led walking tours of Boston’s neighborhoods. Since its start, MYTOWN has been named “one of the ten best youth humanities programs in America” by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has created jobs for more than 350 teenagers, who have given tours to more than 14,000 visitors.

After a period of inactivity, MYTOWN founder Karilyn Crockett wanted to reinvigorate the organization. So in the summer of 2013, she hired eight high school students to go through the material preserved in MYTOWN’s archives and find connections to local university archives, with the goal of creating an online digital exhibit to publicly share their findings. Students examined fifteen years’ worth of material and visited the archives of four universities across the city, including Northeastern.

Within the Snell Library Archives and Special Collections, the students worked with materials from the Inquilinos Bonicias en Acción (IBA) collection. IBA was founded in 1968 by local leaders, activists, and residents of Parcel 19 (later renamed Villa Victoria) to protest the Boston Redevelopment Authority’s urban renewal plan, which, if implemented, would have displaced residents of Parcel 19. With the question, “What kind of protesting did the people of Parcel 19 do to combat urban renewal?” in hand, the students visited the Northeastern Archives to sift through photographs, correspondence, meeting minutes, and publications to find an answer.

“What I really wanted to do was create an innovative way to think about academic research for our youth and to encourage young people from various backgrounds in Boston to learn about their local communities and their past history, while educating them on how to do their own research and follow-up,” Crockett said. “I wanted to make this project exciting and meaningful for high school students. We found that the support of this staff at the University Archives and Special Collections at Northeastern and access to one-of-a-kind material kept the student group motivated and inspired to commit to and complete their work. I was humbled by the students’ commitment to this project.”
CELEBRATING EMPOWER

Northeastern University kicked off Empower, the university’s most ambitious capital campaign ever. Since its launch in May 2013, university leaders have been traveling across the country, and the globe, to talk with alumni and Northeastern affiliates about the campaign and the university’s mission to provide for students, faculty, and research.

The photos below were taken at Empower events held in California and New York City where student and faculty research was on display. The University Libraries’ exhibit showcased digital resources such as the Cauldron yearbooks, interactive online databases, and 3D printing technology. Visit northeastern.edu/empower to learn more.

WORDS FROM LIBRARY FRIENDS

Griffin Gift Impacts Future Generations of Learners

Gerald Griffin, LA’60, MA’62
Former Northeastern English professor Dr. Gerald R. Griffin, LA’60, MA’62, credits the university with granting him an excellent education, a rewarding career, and a wonderful life. Gerald’s interest in becoming an educator steered him to Northeastern, where a teaching assistant job gave him valuable classroom experience. After earning both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at NU and his PhD in 1971 (UMass Amherst), he joined the university’s faculty, enjoying a successful 35-year career specializing in American and Irish literature.

In gratitude, Gerald and his wife, Jane, have designated a gift to Snell Library in their estate plans. “The library was my second home at Northeastern, maybe even my first,” Griffin said. “I want our donation to help someone, as Northeastern helped me. The university introduced me to a whole new world. I’ve had such a great life because of my education.”

Gerald and Jane’s commitment will establish an endowment at Snell Library to fund the purchase of collections and materials that advance scholarly pursuits. “We wanted to give to an area at Northeastern that provides students with access to resources that help them through each step of their academic careers,” said Griffin.

To learn how you can support the library, visit library.northeastern.edu/about/giving or contact Nina Shah at nin.shah@neu.edu.

Enter Snell Library at any time of day and witness the energy, power, focus, determination, and drive that fills the building. The library provides vital resources and expert support for the NU community on campus and online, 24 hours a day. Our mission is to provide the best academic support for our students and faculty, to encourage high level, cross-disciplinary research, and to enrich the education, teaching, and learning experiences of researchers.

I’ve been studying here since freshman year, and I mostly use the third floor as a quiet space to spread out and get my work done. I’m a Spanish minor, so the library often has certain textbooks that I need. I use the books on reserve as well, which saves me money.

- Katrina Chen, S’15

I started using the library to study a couple of years ago. Then my computer died on me right before the fall semester started, so I’ve been using the first and second floor computers since then.

- Eric Payne, S’14

I don’t have a laptop, so when I come to the library every day after class, I use the InfoCommons computers to work. I also use the whiteboards in the group study rooms. They’re great thinking spaces to work out ideas. You can keep erasing and re-working things until you get it right.

- Christian DiMare, S’15

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#HUSKIANA

**DIGITAL BOOKPLATE PROGRAM**

The library’s Digital Bookplate Program allows you to make a lasting contribution to the university by supporting the purchase of future library collections while honoring and commemorating milestones in your life or the lives of others.

For more information, visit: library.northeastern.edu/about/giving/digital-bookplates.

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Bouve school’s archery team is seen practicing their form circa 1935, prior to Bouvé’s 1964 incorporation into Northeastern. To find out more about the University Archives, visit library.northeastern.edu/archives-special-collections.