If you’ve been following the fortunes of Northeastern in recent years (and we think you have), you’ll know how large a part research, scholarship, and creative activity now plays in the way our students and faculty make an impact on the world. It’s not only the stars of research that have brought Northeastern to prominence in this area: people like Slava Epstein, Kim Lewis, and Michail Sitkovsky, who are setting the world alight with their achievements. Overall, our faculty published 80% more peer-reviewed articles and books in 2013 than in 2006. And students engage with research at all stages of their academic career here in a way that would have been unimaginable a generation ago.

What is also unimaginable is that all of this could have been accomplished without the support and involvement of a really high-quality research library. As you read through this newsletter, you can get an insight into some of the ways in which we here in Snell Library are working closely with students and researchers to further their ambitions and enable their creative scholarship.

The Library’s growing role in enabling more top-class research is taking many shapes. It can be seen in the growing range of digital journals and e-books provided by your generosity; in the fascinating new services like the 3D Printing Studio that we have been able to bring on stream through giving to the Dean’s Innovation Fund; or in the expertise of library professionals staffing new teams such as our Digital Scholarship Group, which you can read about on page 4. In all these areas we know we have you to thank for your support and for our success. To find out more, please give me a call at 617.373.5001. And we look forward to your next visit!

Sincerely,

Will Wakeling
Dean, University Libraries
Featured Events in 2014

In 2014, Snell Library hosted over 80 events to enhance the intellectual and cultural output of the University. These events included our Meet the Author series, the inaugural Neighborhood Matters series, a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon in the Digital Scholarship Commons, and various workshops, exhibits, and trainings. Digital Media Commons workshops covered topics such as audio and video recording, camerawork, 3D printing, laser cutting, and 3D scanning. During one workshop, students 3D printed their own holiday cookie cutters!

ArtsAlive! Figure and Illusion
September 17th
Northeastern students, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered in Gallery 360 to see the artwork and sculptures from the personal collection of Arthur Goldberg, MEd’65. Goldberg and special guests, including Dean Wakeling, spoke about the artists featured in the exhibit and the art of collecting.

Virtuelle Mauer
Reconstructing the Berlin Wall
November 12th – 14th
In honor of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, a three-day exhibit entitled Virtuelle Mauer / Reconstructing the Berlin Wall, by artists Tamiko Thiel and Teresa Reuter, allowed guests to explore a section of the wall in its former complexity. This exhibit and related events were co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Northeastern Humanities Center.

Neighborhood Matters
October 28th, November 4th & 18th
Three film screenings followed by discussions with special guests and community activists kicked off our lunchtime series to explore local history.

“The Neighborhood Matters series, presented by the University Libraries and Northeastern Center for the Arts, chronicles the significant histories of the neighborhoods that surround Northeastern University. We are fortunate to be a neighbor and friend to these great neighborhoods that represent a huge part of the civic, artistic and social tapestry of Boston.”

- John Tobin, Vice President, City and Community Affairs

Meet the Authors:
Lisa McCubbin and Clint Hill
October 25th
Former Secret Service agent and author, Clint Hill, and journalist and Northeastern parent, Lisa McCubbin, presented their collaborative effort, Five Days in November, to a full house in Blackman Auditorium during Parent and Family Weekend. With Hill’s personal insight on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Hill and McCubbin delivered a captivating presentation.
University Libraries recently welcomed Elana Thomas as our new development officer. As both a Northeastern alumna and current student, she looks forward to engaging with all who partner with the library.

“It has been a delight to hear from library donors about why they give and what the library means to them. Thanks to all who have contributed to enhancing our services and spaces.”

Your contributions help us to provide a high level of academic support for our students and faculty and to enrich the education, teaching, and learning experiences for our researchers. To learn how you can support the library please visit library.northeastern.edu/about/giving or contact Elana Thomas at e.thomas@neu.edu or 617.373.5452.

“I chose to donate to the library’s LGBTQ archives. Boston’s rich history is further enhanced when we highlight underrepresented groups. By processing and digitizing these archives, a wider audience is given the opportunity to learn from each other's history.”

-Christopher T. Kelley

“The 3D Printing Studio is a great resource for students to bring in their personal projects and make them come to life”

- Steven Seeberger, COE’18

“The library is a central place on campus. It is a collaborative space where students are able to study quietly on their own or with other students. Being able to reserve study rooms provides a quiet space without distractions and is extremely helpful for my mentoring meetings.”

-Nibha Kumar, DMBS’15

“To provide an environment and opportunity where students and faculty can design, discover, and shape the future is a fabulous, priceless gift! From the 3D printer to the collaborative study spaces to preserving NU’s history, I am proud to be considered one of NU Library’s supporters!”

-Marie Berry, N’86

“I support the library as my way of giving back to NU and benefiting all students”

- Gregory W. Doyle, Jr., E’86, MBA’91
In 2013, DSG Director Julia Flanders brought the Women Writers Project (WWP) to Northeastern University. The WWP is a long-term research and publication project that focuses on early women’s writing in English and electronic text encoding. Shortly after becoming the project manager of the WWP in July 2014, Dr. Sarah Connell collaborated with Associate Professor of English, Marina Leslie, to design a digital scholarship assignment for Leslie’s course, Topics in Renaissance Literature: Gender, Sex and the Renaissance Body.

Dr. Connell and project co-coordinator Sarah Stanley, a graduate researcher, introduced students to the kind of work that goes into creating digital scholarly resources like the WWP. Students learned the importance of the editorial decisions that go into encoding texts. For their class projects, they worked together to identify and mark key terms in their selected texts using digital tools to reveal patterns in the representations of gender, the body, and early modern culture. This process allowed them to see how the digital humanities can open up new methods for scholarly analysis and dissemination.

Today, Dr. Connell hopes to have more classes involved with digital humanities in this way in order to teach our next generation of researchers the newest methods of discovery.

“We hope that this assignment can become a Lego-like component,” said Dr. Connell, and that it will “live on as a model and be disseminated so that it can be successful as a way to introduce undergraduate students to the methods of digital scholarship.”

Teaching New Tools for Research

Housed in the new Digital Scholarship Commons on the second floor of Snell Library, the Digital Scholarship Group (DSG) serves as an entry point for many at Northeastern. The DSG offers students, faculty, and researchers a way to learn more about the new methods of digital scholarship that address questions unanswerable by traditional avenues of inquiry. Partnering with professors in the humanities and social science disciplines, the DSG is bringing digital scholarship to the classroom.

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In Professor Reagle’s Online Communities class, students are given the opportunity to explore and contribute to online communities. As a major assignment, students are asked to either update or create an article of their choice on Wikipedia. The library provides semester-long support for this project, offering students resources and guiding them through the creation of content within Wikipedia.

Many of Professor Reagle’s students choose to base their articles on materials from our Archives and Special Collections department, which focus on the prominent activists and organizations that worked toward justice and enduring change in Boston’s underrepresented communities. Students gather content for their entry by visiting the Northeastern Archives and identifying supporting articles and records, and then by searching rich online historical newspapers. These online newspapers are available through our library subscription, so students using these resources are enhancing Wikipedia and the broader Internet with information to which they have special access to as Northeastern students. Through the process of writing these robust Wikipedia entries, students learn how to use our special collections and online resources to make Boston’s local histories of underrepresented communities available to a larger audience.

Before taking the Online Communities class I had never been to the archives or done anything with Wikipedia,” said communications major, Tessa Rose, AMD’15. “I had a lot of fun going through the tons of materials that the Northeastern Archives had on my topic. They had a wide variety of resources from old meeting minutes to photographs to information pamphlets dating back to the 40’s. The staff in the Northeastern Archives are very friendly and always willing to answer any questions I had about their resources, showing me how to get the most out of them.”

“The experience of creating a Wikipedia entry taught me to be open-minded: the most usable information can sometimes come from the most unlikely source! My topic for this assignment was the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts. While Elma’s description of the school’s history was vital to my research, some of the most important facts and dates were gleaned from contracts, bills, and formal documents,” shared communications major, Anna Glina, AMD’16, “The Northeastern Archives give students the opportunity to understand the gravity, implication, and historic context of their topic. Northeastern Archives contain an unprecedented amount of unique documents and content that, when preserved and presented to the public, supplement Boston’s changing, complex, and incredibly interesting history.”
Last spring, the library re-launched the Student Advisory Council to open a new channel of communication with students. The council, consisting of undergraduate and graduate students representing a number of disciplines at Northeastern, provides feedback on library resources and enhances the library’s understanding of student needs.

This spring, we sat down with Eric Tyler, the library liaison to the Student Government Association, and User Engagement and Assessment Librarian, Karen Merguerian, to find out about the progress and projects ongoing in the Council.

What are some of the improvements that the Student Advisory Council has been able to make to the student experience at the library?

ERIC: The Student Advisory Council has been able to improve use of space and facilities around the library. We discuss large issues like study space and smaller things like organizing study breaks for students during finals.

KAREN: We also heard from the Council that the library needed to be more active on social media, so we became more active on social media. For student messages, we put the bulk of our communications on Twitter and Facebook in addition to the library’s website.

What do students want to see more of?

ERIC: I think it’s all different types of space; group and individual study space. Definitely leaning more towards group study space, though. We found that students really prefer to study at large tables with chairs; spaces conducive to group study. The most recent change that students appreciate is the addition of one hundred new seats on the fourth floor. Students always appreciate more space since it’s hard to come by at Northeastern. The addition that I think students find the coolest is the office supplies vending machine.

Has the council strengthened communication between students and the library?

ERIC: The Council has greatly improved our communication. At our meetings, council members are able to proactively communicate requests and issues that students bring up about the library. Students trust this method because every month the library updates us with: ‘Here’s what we heard at the last meeting’ and ‘Here’s what we have done to start improving or fixing it.’

KAREN: From the library’s point of view, the Council helps us to know how students would like to receive information and also is a new channel of communication in itself. The Council has helped us reach many graduate students who might otherwise only connect with library services online. Graduate students use the interlibrary loan system quite a lot, and give us a lot of feedback on how that’s working for them.

“The library is important to the student body because it is the center of academic life. There are so many resources here, from the librarians who can help you do research, to the people at the Help and Info. Desk helping you out with any of the technology, to the study space and access to books. Everything just ends up being at the library.”

- Eric Tyler, CIS’16

A User-Centered Library
Northeastern faculty and students have embraced 3D printing, laser cutting and etching, and 3D scanning, as new mediums for innovation. Faculty and students across all disciplines are exploring the applications of 3D services in teaching and research available at Snell Library in the 3D Printing Studio.

The range of ideas that can be brought to life in the studio is limitless. Here are several inspiring projects from the past year.

### Marine Science

"Part of our research at the Patterson Lab focuses on studying the physiology and biomechanics of corals. I needed to replace a specifically sized propeller to drive and control the water flow over small coral colonies during experiments and was unable to find it online. I decided to give 3D printing a try and designed a custom propeller to fit in the flume.

With the custom 3D printed propellers working in the flume, I am once again busy making measurements of oxygen levels inside of corals."

- Sara Williams, Research Technician, Patterson Lab, Marine Science Center

### Humanities

"It is an Early Modern pattern poem by an anonymous poet. It was created from a scanned page of a book from the Early English Books Online database (a resource accessible through the library’s website). I presented a paper on this project at a conference last month, and I know that I couldn’t have done it without Managing Director Mark Sivak and the 3D Printing Studio staff."

- Jonathan Fitzgerald, PhD Student, English Department

### Art and Computer Science

"Viv is a creative artificial intelligence that attempts to capture and model creative inspiration, generating 3D-printable vases that are inspired by a source image.

Many of the vases would be difficult for a human artist to produce. The ability to prototype our ideas and see them produced in tangible form has been an important and exciting part of our research and creative process."

- Gillian Smith, Assistant Professor, Game Design and Computer Science and Janos Stone, Lecturer, Art + Design

### Engineering

"Some educational model vehicles that are used in schools to teach physics and engineering concepts are not designed to be durable enough for heavy use and are too expensive for most schools to purchase in large quantities. I wanted give my students the experience of what it’s like to really engineer a consumer product, so I asked them to design and build something better."

- Jennifer Love, Associate Academic Specialist, First Year Program, College of Engineering.

Photos courtesy of Jonathan Fitzgerald, Janos Stone, Sara Williams, and Jennifer Love.
Thank You, Library Supporters

The honor roll recognizes donors who made gifts to the library between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, 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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We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the library’s honor roll list. If there is an error in the way your gift or your name is listed, please notify Elana Thomas, Library Development Officer, at 617.373.5452 or e.thomas@neu.edu.
King Husky I, Northeastern’s first mascot, receives a meat pie to celebrate his first birthday, March 17, 1927.

To find out more about the Northeastern Archives, visit library.northeastern.edu/archives-special-collections.