Northeastern University Libraries

Creating the Library of the Future
**Welcome Back**

After several decades, Snell Library welcomed Eleanor Goldman Lurensky (joined by her daughter Harriet Kuhn and grandson Jacob) back to campus. The family enjoyed a full day touring NU and particularly visiting the Archives at Snell Library. Eleanor’s first co-op experience sixty years ago was, coincidentally, at the Boston Globe archives – which were gifted to Snell last year. We are grateful to Eleanor for her memorial gift, made in honor of her husband Robert Lee Lurensky, to support the Dean’s Innovation Fund.

*“My visit to Northeastern was truly an ‘Alice in Wonderland’ experience. I was amazed at all the positive changes and possibilities. The Snell Library is a marvelous place!”*

- ELEANOR LURENSKY CPS, CSH ’47

**“Owning” the Red Sox**

Northeastern University was delighted to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lowndes as Northeastern’s “Red Sox Owners for A Day” The event included a special VIP pre-game tour, photo opportunities, and dugout box tickets. We are happy to acknowledge this special couple with a unique occasion to recognize their advocacy and support of the Library... and a Red Sox win 4-2 over the Chicago White Sox!

**A Special NU Couple**

This summer Dan Cohen, VP for Information Collaboration and Dean, University Libraries was pleased to welcome Corinne (CSSH’64, MEd’71) and Gene Reppucci (COE ‘60, MEd’65, H’95) for a tour of the Archives and a behind-the-curtain peek at the on-going renovations at Snell Library. The Reppuccis, both former loyal NU employees, are supporters of Northeastern University and library advocates. The Alumni Reading Room on the first floor, named for Gene’s mother Anna Reppucci, is utilized by students, alumni, and faculty every day. We are grateful to this Husky couple for their “Club Snell” enthusiasm!
The fall is always an exciting time on campus as we welcome a new class of Huskies and as the thrilling swirl of new activities and ideas blankets the campus. And fall is especially exciting at Snell Library this year as we begin a further evolution of our space and services for the Northeastern community. Over the summer, we began a refresh of the upper floors of the building, starting with new carpeting and paint and soon to include new comfortable and flexible furniture for focused study and group collaborations. We are really looking forward to these major improvements to the Library.

Just as important are the continued improvements to the services we provide for every aspect of learning and research at the university. Over the summer we hired additional staff to help with scientific and entrepreneurial activities. And we’re thrilled to have received two major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, including Challenge Grant that will match donations up to $500,000 to further increase our technical staff and enable cutting-edge digital scholarship. With this grant, personal donations to the Library will have a greater impact than ever before.

All of us at the Northeastern University Library are looking forward to another year in a wonderful space and in terrific collaborations with thousands of people from across the Northeastern network.

Dan Cohen
Vice Provost for Information Collaboration
Dean, University Libraries
Professor of History
**Holocaust Archives**

The newly launched Holocaust Awareness Committee Archives digital repository site preserves and displays the rich history of Northeastern's extraordinary commitment to Holocaust awareness and genocide prevention, as well as curriculum and research, including courses in the Holocaust, Jewish and European History and Public History.

Since 1977, Northeastern has commemorated the Holocaust with a week-long series of events including lectures, performances, and survivor talks to explore the history and memory of the Holocaust. Key elements of the Archives includes event programs and video recordings, i.e., the Salomon Robert Morton Lecture Series, The Philip N. Backstrom, Jr. Survivor Series of video recordings of 30 Holocaust survivors; Annual Commemoration/President's Breakfast with lectures by faculty and noteworthy scholars, and art, music and dance presentations by student awardees. Original content for the majority of these resources resides in the Libraries’ Archives and Special Collections. In addition, unique online exhibits explore the themes of religious commemoration, genocide awareness and prevention and faculty/student engagement.

Teaching about genocide is urgently important, and it is most effective when students can make the connection between genocidal policies, historical events, and the living human beings who experienced the effects of trauma. Giving our students access to recorded testimonies is a way to keep these voices alive for rising generation. To facilitate this goal, it is important that our students and faculty have access to USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive, the most comprehensive research collection of its kind. The Archive includes 53,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust. One can search videos through more than 62,000 keyword terms, 1.79 million names and 682,923 images to locate segments by the minute, read transcripts and cross reference information with other NU resources. Philanthropy designated to acquiring this vital archive is encouraged.

Please email g.mansfield@northeastern.edu for detailed information on how you can help.

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**Snell Library Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Grants**

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Snell Library a $500,000 Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grant. The funded project “Research Infrastructure for Digital Scholarship” will further propel Northeastern’s commitment to digital scholarship, synthesis of archival materials and data, and experiential education. Specifically, the grant will expand the Library’s technical capacity through the creation of four new staff positions to undertake technical development, data design, and semantic data integration to further support the work of the Digital Scholarship Group, the new Boston Research Center, and other projects that integrate archival materials, data, and new forms of research.

For every three dollars raised by the library, the NEH provides an additional dollar to strengthen the Library. With the $500,000 now available for matching, the Library can raise up to $1.5 million under this grant. Matching funds are received immediately.
FayFoto Archive Aquired

A leading provider of commercial photography in greater Boston for over 80 years, FayFoto provides photographs for corporate, business, and non-profit clients. The company recently gifted an exciting archive, which consists of over 7.5 million negatives (1963 to 2006), to Snell Library.

Photographs in the collection cover a wide range of subjects, including business headshots, architectural interiors and exteriors, corporate events, industrial photography, and product still life. Though the collection primarily consists of historical Boston business photography, it also has a broader local and national historical significance, including celebrities, politicians, events, and aerial photography.

“The FayFoto collection is an amazing pictorial of ‘who’s who’ of Greater Boston businesses and government” notes Daniel Lavoie, Collections Archivist at NU. “The addition of this collection and the Boston Globe archive positions Northeastern as a leading repository for the photographic history of Greater Boston.” The Library plans to digitize the collection, making it a valuable asset for the Boston Research Center at the library.

from the NEH as donors support the organization. “This grant is a vote of confidence for the direction we’re taking to develop new forms of scholarship, and we’re delighted by how funding from private sources will be greatly supplemented in this way by the NEH,” said Dan Cohen, Vice Provost for Information Collaboration and Dean of the Libraries.

Northeastern University Library also received $197,000 from the NEH’s Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities program to support “Word Vectors for the Thoughtful Humanist: Institutes on Critical Teaching and Research with Vector Space Models”, a series of four three-day institutes that will explore the use of new frontiers of textual analysis.

For information on how you can multiply the impact of your gift to support Snell Library, please contact Gail Mansfield at g.mansfield@northeastern.edu.
Rome: Northeastern’s First Alumni/Parent Event

A dozen NU alumni and parents warmly welcomed Dan Cohen to Rome. This was the first gathering for the Northeastern University community in the area, expanding on our mission to engage globally. The unique innovative ecosystem at Northeastern continues to be a catalyst for our global community of agile, creative thinkers. Guests enjoyed meeting Dan and each other, with conversation ranging from digital media and technology to the varied initiatives and professions our alumni and parents are involved. We look forward to continuing to evolve and strengthen the wonderful connections made in Italy!

Seattle, Washington

In October, Dan Cohen, Evan Simpson and Gail Mansfield spent two days in Seattle, visiting the bustling satellite campus, meeting with students and faculty, and enjoying lunch with current parents at the Seattle Library. The trip concluded with a reception in South Lake Union where alumni gathered to welcome the Snell staff and mingle with each other.

LEFT Doug S.
Farrell DMSB
‘88 and Sandy
Farrell-Muller
DMSB‘87
Oxford, England

Dan joined leading experts in libraries and technology from the US and UK for the biannual conference of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) at Oxford, England. As digital media is revolutionizing research and scholarly processes rapidly evolve, a new role for the library in supporting the strategic requirements of the University is emerging. The conference brought together experts in digital scholarship to share their practices and ideas. Dean Cohen delivered the closing keynote, speaking about the future of libraries and the impact of digital media and technology on the 21st-century library.

Library Travel: Year 1

Dean Cohen and the advancement team spent a whirlwind year visiting alumni, parents and friends throughout Northeastern’s global community. We look forward to this year’s journeys!
Race and Space in Boston

Materials from the NU Archives and Special Collections were recently featured in the Harvard Graduate School of Design’s (GSD) international (Mumbai, Istanbul, Berlin) traveling exhibit “Urban Intermedia: City, Archive, Narrative,” which is on its final stop at the GSD. NU’s contribution was highlighted on the Boston Portal: Race and Space in Boston Archives. The Archives were assembled from various Boston collections. Curators were invited to interpret the topic of Race and Space and select a variety of materials—15-20 digital surrogates of archival content or born-digital material from their collections (maps, photographs, graphics, and texts)—that address the theme historically and spatially. Together the collections contribute to a broad understanding of Boston at the intersection of Race and Space.

Button Donation

In 2009, Mary Leno donated her first set of activist buttons and pins to the Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections; this summer, she donated an additional 500 to the collection. The buttons cover a wide range of topics, including women’s rights, civil rights, immigrant rights, affordable housing, AIDS/HIV, LGBT rights, ecology, anti-nuclear power, health, Native American issues, multi-culturalism, African American rights, prisoners rights, labor unions, and ageism. “At their essence, buttons were an early form of social media” remarked University Archivist Giordana Mecagni. “Some even served the same purpose as a meme would today—virally spreading easily digestible messages like a pink triangle, a peace sign, or messages like ‘Make Love Not War.’ Or ‘No Nukes.’”
Snell Library is pleased to acknowledge W. Graham Arader for providing a collection of nearly 300 hand colored lithographs and engravings to Northeastern University. This new collection provides students throughout Northeastern with access to zoological images by multiple artists of the 18th and 19th centuries. Faculty from the history department in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities will be integrating these beautiful works into the curriculum. Arader, owner of Arader Galleries in New York City, is passionate about using art to communicate the importance of natural history and the environment and has helped Northeastern add hundreds of botanical and zoological lithographs, engravings, and original watercolors to its art collection, as well as dozens of historically important maps.

“We are grateful to Mr. Arader for his continued support of our special collection archives. Faculty have exciting ideas about using the collection and we are delighted to add these pieces to our academic toolbox for our students to learn from and enjoy,” said Dan Cohen.

View the collection at library.northeastern.edu/news-events/arader-galleries-collection

A Natural Gift

**TOP LEFT**
George Edwards (1694 - 1773)
The Crested Hummingbird

**BOTTOM LEFT**
Friedrich Strack (1781-1852) LXXX

**BOTTOM RIGHT**
Georges Cuvier (1769-1832) Renne male
Renovation Naming Opportunities at Snell Library

Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated. At this time of renewal and renovation at Snell Library, we are pleased to offer the following limited naming opportunities to our supporters:

- **$10,000**
  Tangent Modular Sofa
  (6 needed)

- **$5,000**
  Berhardt Double Seat Sofa
  (10 needed)

- **$2,500**
  Duo Study Pod Carrel
  (8 needed)

- **$1,000**
  Agati Single Study Pod Carrel
  (32 needed)

Gifts to the Dean’s Innovation Fund will generate additional challenge funds to support the Library from NEH. For details and a pledge/agreement gift form, please contact Gail Mansfield, Director of Development, at g.mansfield@northeastern.edu or call 617-373-5452 for more information.
“Without the library, I would have been lost.”

- JESMYN WARD