DEAR LIBRARY SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS,

This past year has been an unprecedented experience for us all. It’s been a sad, scary, exhausting year, but we are seeing brighter days.

For me, the pandemic highlighted how nimble and responsive our university libraries are. When the pandemic shut down the university in March 2020, we quickly responded by offering virtual library instruction classes and research consultations, expanding access to library resources, and collaborating with faculty on student assignments suited for distance learning.

When we reopened in August 2020, we rolled out a number of new services to ensure our campus community stayed healthy together. We offered contact-free curbside pickup of library materials, mailed books to students off-campus, expanded study space to allow for physical distancing (which you can read about on the next page), increased purchasing of library materials in digital format, and hosted a number of virtual book talks.

This past year has been an unprecedented experience for us all. It’s been a sad, scary, exhausting year, but we are seeing brighter days.

Even in all the uncertainty that the pandemic has brought to our world, we have had many exciting things to look forward to. Construction has begun on a new outdoor patio at Swem Library (pictured on the cover). We know how important outdoor spaces are to the physical and mental health of our students and faculty; and we are excited to offer another space on campus that will support outdoor study, teaching and other activities. We have also begun planning for the new Digital Research Lab on the first floor of Swem. This redesigned space will connect students and faculty to the technical tools they need to do robust digital research. These two projects, and many more, are able to happen because of support from our generous library donors.

I hope you enjoy reading more about what we’ve been up to in the pages of this report.

Warmly,

Carrie L. Cooper
Dean of University Libraries

NEW LEADERSHIP

W&M LIBRARIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Melton ’85, a member of the W&M Libraries Board of Directors since 2018, began leading the board as chair in fall 2021. A historian and author, he has written two books, Hanging Henry Gambrill: The Violent Career of Baltimore’s Plug Uglies and From Plantation to Mill: The Gambrill Family in Maryland History, as well as numerous articles in Maryland Historical Magazine.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as a chairman of the W&M Libraries Board,” he said. “As a first-generation college student, I deeply appreciate the very significant contribution that W&M Libraries is making toward ensuring a collaborative and equitable W&M academic community with open and convenient access to the broad range of resources and tools appropriate to a national university. W&M Libraries successfully anthro- pologizes everyone connected to the community feels that sense of an infinitely expanding world that I felt when I arrived on campus.”

Tracy previously served as the chair of the board’s development and outreach committee. He also gives back to the university by serving as a reader for the Admissions Office and volunteering for the library’s Special Collections Research Center, writing blogs about his research and suggesting items for the collection. “I’m not only on the W&M Libraries Board but am also a local community member who benefits from the resources that the Libraries offer, including Special Collections and the Digitized Archives, which have been essential to my research,” he said.

After a year of service on the W&M Libraries Board of Directors, Gail McClennen ’83 assumed the role of vice-chair in fall 2019. She is the director of the Final Library at Roanoke College, so she brings a wealth of experience about libraries to the board.

“As an alumna of the College, I am truly delighted to serve on the W&M Libraries Board. To witness the transformation of the Libraries from hallowed repository of years past to a center of active engagement is amazing,” she said. “The W&M Libraries’ leadership team envision and plan for the future. Expert staff, spaces, resources and programming foster innovation, creativity and collaboration as well as independent scholarship, research and study.”

“The Libraries team also holds appreciation for the past. They are dedicated to curating, preserving, documenting and promoting access to the history of W&M, surrounding communities and peoples. W&M Libraries creates opportunities for all stories to be told. There is no better time to be a part of W&M Libraries than now,” she added.

Prior to her arrival at Roanoke, she served as deputy director of the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library. She has also held positions at the University of California - Santa Barbara, Virginia State University, Old Dominion University, Georgia State University and William & Mary.
2020 was an unprecedented year as we faced a global health crisis, but William & Mary Libraries quickly adapted to the changing world to continue to provide exceptional service to our community.

Going virtual When classes resumed online, the librarians at W&M quickly moved their instruction courses and research consultations online as well. They prioritized mastering Zoom and developing best practices for online teaching using this format. Librarians completely redesigned their teaching approach for online learning, and they were so successful at providing innovative teaching techniques that numerous professors adopted their activities for their classes!

Providing online access Students greatly needed online access to library materials, and the library’s content services department quickly jumped into action to make that happen. “We took a number of steps to ensure faculty and students had access to the materials they needed,” said Laura Morales, associate dean of collections and content services. “For example, we provided emergency access to ebook versions of over 400,000 titles we have physically in our collection for the duration that our building was closed.”

Other actions included subscribing to streaming video packages to replace physical materials that were inaccessible, mailing physical items to users who were off campus and working with vendors to allow temporary access to electronic collections the libraries didn’t subscribe to. There was also a substantial increase in digitization of special collections materials that were inaccessible while the building was closed.

An archive of experiences Through photography, art, poetry, music and other mediums, the William & Mary community found creative ways to document life during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to preserve these important works, W&M Libraries created an archive in its Special Collections Research Center. Through a simple online submission process, William & Mary Libraries collected works from students, faculty, alumni and community members. Carlee Dunn ’23 took photographs of encouraging messages posted throughout her hometown of Monroe Township, N.J. She donated the photos to W&M Libraries to include in the archive.

“I love the thought of my photographs being a part of the Special Collections for years to come,” said Dunn. “I want people to see the positivity that came through during such a time of great crisis.”

Expanding study space Students noticed a significant change when they entered Swem Library in the fall. The popular study area on the first floor, Read & Relax, was expanded to provide an additional 5,000 square feet of study space. The project kicked into high gear last summer as library staff worked to de-densify Swem before the building reopened to the campus community. Expanding the largest open study area in the library required relocating the government documents collection. With the compact shelving removed from the first floor, the area now serves as a hub of learning and study. “The area is completely transformed. It’s amazing what a difference moving the compact shelving has made,” said Carrie Cooper, dean of university libraries. “The area is open and flooded with natural light. Students love it.”
Corey Bridges ’21
Worked at the Charles Reed Media Center in Swem Library.
Major: Economics
Minor: Music
What do you do in your position at the Reed Media Center?
I got hired by the Charles Reed Media Center in December 2018 and I’ve been working there ever since. It’s a nice space and a great place to be.

What’s some of your favorite parts about working for W&M Libraries?
It’s a layout staff role here, it’s a relaxed atmosphere, and it’s enjoying being around all the people who come to the library.

Do you participate in any of the Reed Media Center’s events?
I worked on 24-speed and produced a short film! 24-speed is the competition that’s part of the W&M Global Film Festival. You get funding for your project and you choose how many hours you have in 24 hours to make a short film that’s 2 minutes or less. Last year, my team was called “The Game” and we were the first place winner in the student award in the competition! I love 24-speed and the Global Film Festival. I think that organizing these parts about being at W&M. All of it is free, all of it is accessible, and there’s a talented alumni that gives you a good introduction to the film and music world.

How do you think your work at W&M Libraries is helping the W&M community move forward?
W&M Libraries is helping the W&M community move forward! It is a hub of creativity that you’re surrounded by. When I first started working for the Media Center in December 2018 and then into different opportunities. The Makerspace is a hub of creativity that you’re always surrounded by. It provides a hub for people who come to the library. When I first started working for the Media Center, I didn’t know much about the software and equipment we have, like the cameras and audio recorders. A lot of us learned as we work. There’s always something that’s going on that you have to think critically about and try to figure out.

Ronghao Dai ’20
Worked in the Library’s Special Collections Research Center.
Major: Double Major in Math and Art History
What projects are you involved with at W&M Libraries?
I’ve had the opportunity to work on a project dedicated to cataloging 2,000 Chinese art, literature, and poetry books in the library’s new book collections. Special Collections needed to find projects for who studied art history and who knew Chinese to help catalogue the books. I knew Jenna Day, the library’s special collections manager, and she referred me to the project.

What do you love most about the collection?
...
Leslie A. Street's career as a New York lawyer, working in family and immigration law, taught her about the importance of legal research and writing. Street explains, "I didn't have to specialize in a small area of law and spend my whole life focused on that one thing. I love being a generalist. I love knowing a little about a lot of things and being able to apply that knowledge in different contexts." Street remarks that people are studying things in new ways and adding complete historical context to the Law Library to get to be a part of the new way stories get told. "It's really great to see the way that people have looked at historical things in recent years with fresh eyes and said, 'This is not something we can forget, and we have to tell the whole story,'" she said.

Street comments that people are studying things in new ways and adding complete historical context to the Law Library. "It's been over a year since W&M welcomed Leslie A. Street as its new Clinical Professor of Legal Research and Director of the Wolf Law Library," Street said. "I'm excited to be immersed in graduate school, students still have the same kind of love for law research and writing. Street turned her focus to University of Washington and its master of library science degree program specializing in law librarianship. She has worked in libraries for the last 11 years. "I've been a part of the law school community for 11 years, and it's been rewarding to see how much the Law Library has grown and developed," Street said. "As we review our collections and the Law Library gets to be a part of the new way stories get told, we're organizing their arguments in a new way, and I love being a generalist. I love knowing a little about a lot of things and being able to apply that knowledge in different contexts."
Readers rarely witness the start-to-finish development of a book, but two W&M alumni authors recently made it possible to gain insight into their writing and illustration processes. Authors Tom Angleberger ’92 and Cece Bell ’92 donated an impressive collection of their original materials to Swem Library’s Special Collections Research Center. The Angleberger and Bell collections reveal the entire drafting process for an illustrated children’s book, and include storyboards, preliminary sketches, sample pages, and more.

Married for 27 years, Angleberger and Bell met during their freshman year at W&M. After graduating, they both choose careers in children’s literature. Since then, Angleberger and Bell have produced an extensive catalogue of books and have earned significant accolades. Angleberger is the author of the popular Origami Yoda series, and Bell is the author of the Newbery Medal Honor and Eisner Award winning El Deafo.

“It feels amazing to have my body of work housed in one of my favorite spots as a former student,” said Bell. “I spent a ton of time in Swem studying, so it’s like part of me has come home to roost.”

These collections will provide students with an important look into the work that goes into writing, illustrating and publishing children’s books.

There’s a lot of ‘try, try again’ and the job is often not as glamorous or fun as it may seem from the outside,” Bell said. “For aspiring children’s book authors and illustrators, it can be sobering to see how much work and editing goes into each book, but it’s rewarding to see their ideas come to life. I love the idea of people looking through my old stuff and giggling over it.”

Angleberger liked the idea of providing access to drafts that are typically unavailable to aspiring writers.

“I think I would have really enjoyed digging through an author’s manuscripts and doodles and outlines when I was a student,” he said. “I’m hoping a student or two finds these and sees something interesting or, dare I say, inspiring.”

Special Collections staff expect the collections will especially appeal to students in the creative writing and education programs.

“The collections show the meticulous process of brainstorming, drafting, editing and revising before the final products are published,” said Mariaelena DiBenigno, special collections assistant. “Their papers display that process in a way researchers will find fascinating.”
ShoUlding the Heavy Burden of Textbooks

A textbook costs have continued to rise, many students at William & Mary have devised ways to manage the burden of these costs. Jessica Hall ’21 is one such student. Hall explained that she invests an extensive amount of time into finding cheaper substitutes for her required textbooks. She recognizes, however, that some students do not have enough extra time to hunt down other options.

“One fact that absolutely blows me away is how the cost of textbooks has increased more than 400 percent in the last 20 years,” said Asia Randolph, content services graduate assistant. “It’s rising at a much faster rate than inflation. For students who have to buy 4, 5 or 6 textbooks each semester — sometimes more — it becomes too much for their budgets to handle.”

W&M Libraries wants to ensure all students have access to the information they need to be successful in their classes; thus, the Textbook Affordability Initiative was created.

The effort is managed by a task force comprised of librarians, faculty, staff and students, who are responsible for providing recommendations to Provost Peggy Agouris for ways to make textbooks more affordable.

The task force also gathered feedback from students via survey about their textbook purchasing habits, and held focus groups with faculty members to understand how they choose course materials.

“The student survey has opened my eyes,” said Paul Heideman, biology professor and co-chair of the task force. “I would not have predicted so many students avoid courses or don’t perform well in them because of textbook costs. From looking at the numbers, 15 to 20 percent of students are avoiding courses with expensive textbooks.”

During the focus group meetings, they learned that a number of professors are using alternative resources in their teaching. The most common substitutes for textbooks are open educational resources and library resources, such as e-books and journal articles.

“I think it’s really important that faculty think about other options to help control costs for students,” Heideman said. “We should be doing everything we can to encourage faculty members or others to produce open educational resources.”

A handful of potential strategies to alleviate the issue came out of the student survey. One of them was for faculty to advertise necessary course materials prior to the registration period to give students the chance to budget for the semester and 2) allow students to investigate alternatives.

Heideman and Hall both agreed that the next step for the task force is to continue to educate faculty on available alternatives to textbooks.

“I don’t think there is just one solution that we could implement to solve textbook affordability,” said Hall. “I believe the first step is just making professors aware of textbook affordability issues and how it causes inequality for certain students.”
One Book, One Community

This year W&M Libraries once again partnered with Williamsburg Regional Library for One Book, One Community, an initiative that brings readers together for a shared reading experience. This year’s book selection was Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. This #1 New York Times bestseller is an eye-opening and accessible exploration of race and racism in the United States.

“Stamped is a powerful book that provides a very accessible, very important overview of 500+ years of racism and antiracism in the United States,” said Carrie Cooper, dean of university libraries at William & Mary. “Our hope was that this book would prompt thoughtful intergenerational discussion about critical issues facing our nation and our local community.”

Author Jason Reynolds spoke to the W&M and broader Williamsburg community in a live virtual talk on February 22, 2020. Over 200 people attended the event, proving it very popular.

One Book, One Community debuted last year, with Tommy Orange’s bestselling novel There There as the inaugural read. The program included lectures, panel and book discussions, and culminated in a virtual talk by Tommy Orange to Williamsburg for a public book talk. This year’s series followed the same general pattern, with programs held throughout the winter.

Other events included a discussion about race and racism with Barbara Hamm Lee, host and executive producer of WHRO’s Another View; a presentation by Chloe Edwards, the Advocacy and Engagement Manager for Voices for Virginia’s Children; a lecture on fighting racist imagery by Steve Prince, artist-in-residence at W&M’s Muscarelle Museum of Art, among others.

“We received a great deal of feedback that racism and racial justice were topics this community wanted to engage with more deeply,” said Betty Fowler, WRL’s Engagement Manager. “We were thrilled to partner with William & Mary to not only encourage people to read this eye-opening book on the subject, but also give people an outlet to work through and more deeply understand the issues it raises.”

Stamped from the Beginning is the #1 New York Times bestseller by Kendi. This #1 New York Times bestseller is an eye-opening and accessible exploration of race and racism in the United States.

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One Book, One Community

It was great to read his book, then hear from the author himself and ask questions. It really made the reading experience richer and more impactful for me.”

—LONI WRIGHT ’21

Engaging Alumni Authors

Summer Storytime Series 2020

In summer 2020, W&M Libraries partnered with the W&M Alumni Association to host virtual talks with alumni authors. A new summer story time series was developed that featured children’s authors, as well as a year-long book talk series that featured authors writing for an adult audience. Both series adapted well to the virtual format and received great online attendance.
After graduating from Virginia Union University in 1983, Natasha McFarland had no intentions of working at a library. However, fate had different plans as she stumbled upon an entry-level opportunity that led to a 37-year career at William & Mary Libraries.

McFarland was admiring the W&M campus while on break from her job with Colonial Williamsburg when she came across the human resources office. She applied for a job and never looked back.

“I didn’t specifically apply to work at the library, so I was as surprised as anyone to stumble upon a rewarding career,” McFarland said. “It was a place full of excitement and innovation. The library was always cooking up something new and we were constantly shaking up the old ways.”

Through her enthusiasm and desire to learn, McFarland left a large imprint on the Libraries. Over the course of her 37 years, she broke barriers and developed a legacy.

Upon her retirement in December 2020, the university libraries staff scholarship was named in her honor because of her dedicated career. The scholarship provides financial assistance for library employees pursuing education to advance their library career.

“I was just so floored,” McFarland said. “I felt in that moment that all my hard work was recognized. I started as a part-time employee and went all the way up to becoming a librarian. I am proof that librarianship is for people of color and others like me should feel comfortable exploring careers in libraries. If I did it, so can others!”

On top of that, the Libraries established the Natasha McFarland Staff Education Fund to increase the monetary support for current staff pursuing professional development opportunities.

McFarland initially joined the Libraries as a clerk typist for Interlibrary Loan. However, her natural problem-solving talent and willingness to go the extra mile allowed her to climb up the job ranks.

McFarland was elevated to a leadership role nine months after being hired, overseeing new work described as database records management and working on the conversion of the card catalog to the University’s first online library catalog. While working within Content Services she developed a reputation for mastering new technology and helping others learn it as well.

Her ambition eventually led to her pursuing an MLIS degree in order to advance to a professional role. She enrolled in an online library program at the University of North Texas-Denton and graduated in 2010.

Carrie Cooper, dean of university libraries, took notice of McFarland’s warmth and passion for librarianship soon after her arrival. When a librarian position opened in 2012, Cooper said it was an easy decision to promote McFarland to a research librarian in a public services role.

“Natasha showed other staff members it’s possible to start in one place and move to get a new perspective and different experiences,” Cooper. “It is important for staff to know there is room for growth and benefits to change over the course of a career. She is an example and inspiration for people at the library and across campus.”

Check out Natasha’s oral history: youtu.be/iAFzw58nSZY

Long-time employee honored with scholarship name

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William & Mary Libraries
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET
Note: Does not include all university contributions, especially McLeod Business Library and Wolf Law Library, whose budgets are managed by their respective deans’ offices.

W&M Libraries FY 20 TOTAL EXPENDITURES
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020

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William & Mary completed its boldest fundraising campaign yet, with $1.04 billion raised, ties among alumni and alma mater strengthened and its status as the No. 1 public university for alumni participation cemented several years in a row. For nearly a decade, the For the Bold campaign infused revolutionary ideas and bold initiatives into our 328-year-old institution of higher learning. The campaign led to wide-ranging transformations across the university and new opportunities and experiences for generations of students, faculty, alumni and staff.

For the Bold
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$22.3 MILLION RAISED
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