Richard and Eleanor Chapin Administrative Suite Dedicated in May

The Richard and Eleanor Chapin Administrative Suite at the Main Library was dedicated with a reception on May 9, attended by more than 80 colleagues and family members of Richard E. Chapin.

Dr. Chapin led the MSU Libraries as director from 1959 to 1989, after serving as associate director under Jackson Towne. Among the many accomplishments of his tenure, the MSU Libraries collection grew from about 750,000 volumes in 1959 to 3.5 million in 1989. Chapin was also a pioneer in library automation, and guided the MSU Libraries through the transition to computerized circulation, acquisitions, and finally the introduction of an online system to replace the card catalog.

Special Collections and the Turfgrass Information Center were both established under Dr. Chapin's leadership, and the East Wing was added to the building. Dr. Chapin also served as director of the MSU Press from 1987 to 1990, and received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1988. He died in East Lansing in 2009. Thanks to a generous gift from Mrs. Eleanor Chapin, the Administrative Suite is now named in his memory.

“My husband enjoyed interacting with faculty and departments all over campus,” says Mrs. Chapin. “He knew that developing the library collection was a valuable contribution to supporting their work. He also enjoyed the challenge of building the medical collection, after the College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine were established.

“And, he cared very much about mentoring the library staff, many of whom went on to leadership positions in other libraries.” To further that work, the Chapins established the Eleanor and Richard E. Chapin Endowment for Library Staff Development in 2004.

Photo captions p.2.
From the Director’s Desk

It’s a beautiful walk from Spartan Stadium, where most of us park every day, across the Red Cedar footbridge to the Main Library. In early spring, snow melt and seasonal rains often cause the river to overflow its banks, sometimes nearing the parking lot immediately behind the Library.

While we rather enjoy the dramatic sight, the high waters are a serious reminder that the lower level of the Main Library could be susceptible to flood damage. And the lower level is, of course, the location of Special Collections, where the most rare and valuable materials within the collection reside.

When I became director 19 years ago, getting Special Collections out of the basement became a high priority for me, and we pursued numerous plans to accomplish this. We had especially high hopes for a plan to expand the East Wing, but the price tag of $30 million proved unattainable.

Now, however, a more reasonably priced opportunity exists. Up to two million volumes from the circulating collection will be moved to an expanded Remote Storage Facility, allowing us to reduce the footprint that the collection requires in the Main Library. The Special Collections stacks will then be relocated to 2-East.

This will eliminate the danger of flooding, and the stack area will be “sealed” and serviced by a dedicated HVAC system to insure an appropriate environment for the long-term preservation of these unique and valuable materials. This will be an enormous improvement over the existing situation.

The Special Collections Reading Room and a new Special Collections Seminar Room will be established on the first floor. This high-visibility location will draw many more users to the fabulous treasures held in Special Collections.

While the cost of these relocations are far less than expanding the building, they are still significant. We are aggressively engaged in fund-raising efforts, with a goal of $4 million to complete these upgrades. I hope you will consider a special gift to help turn these concepts into reality.

Sincerely,

Clifford H. Haka
Director of Libraries
Moving two million volumes to high-capacity storage in the newly-expanded Remote Storage facility allows us to consider a new future for Main Library public spaces. See related story on p7.

Special Collections Welcomes the Goldenrod Music Archives

Goldenrod Music, the Lansing-based music distributor founded by Terry Grant, has been central to the world of women's music since 1975 — and we are excited to welcome the Goldenrod Music Archives to Special Collections!

In addition to business records and correspondence, the collection is rich in artists’ presskits and promotional photographs, photos and ephemera from the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, 700 recordings by lesbian and feminist women musicians, and much more.

At its height, Goldenrod distributed more than 800 artists and groups, including such luminaries as Meg Christian, Kate Clinton, Holly Near, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Cris Williamson. Goldenrod was also one of the first distributors to work with Ani DiFranco, introducing her to a wider audience.

“I’m so pleased to have the Goldenrod Music Archives at MSU,” says Terry Grant. “The music industry in general is focused on the East and West coasts, but Michigan has had such an important role in the development of women’s music. Goldenrod is here, of course, but also the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, the Grand Rapids Women’s Chorus, and Sistrum, the Lansing Women’s Chorus.”

“The Goldenrod Music Archives is an extraordinarily rich collection of materials,” says Marcie Ray, assistant professor of musicology. “It will be an enormous resource for scholars and students who wish to illuminate the fertile and largely uncharted ground of women’s music festivals in the late-twentieth century. This archive will make MSU a destination for music and gender scholars, and it will no doubt engender many valuable publications. It’s a thrilling new addition!”

The extensive Goldenrod Music Archives will be available for researchers in Fall 2016. Visit us then to explore this fascinating collection!

Online Registration & Request System Speeds Access to Special Collections

In May, Special Collections unveiled a new online registration & request system, designed to save time and effort for our users.

Researchers can now request material easily through the library catalog, and have it waiting when they arrive in the Reading Room — no more filling out paper slips by hand or waiting for material to be retrieved.

“Of course, we’ve always been happy to pull material for researchers before they arrive,” explains Peter Berg, head of Special Collections, “but they had to call ahead or let us know by email. The new system is much faster.

“It also streamlines our procedures for tracking the location of items that are off the shelf, whether they’re in the Conservation lab, on exhibit, being scanned, or simply waiting to be reshelved. That all adds up to better service for our users!”

![Image of laptop with MSU Libraries Catalog interface]
Gaming Labs Coming Soon, to a Library Near You

Last year’s gift of 17,900 video games from the ROVI Corporation – along with 844,200 music and film recordings – instantly turned the MSU Libraries into the largest library collection of video games in the entire world.

The collection offers tremendous opportunities to students and faculty in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, which has a graduate certificate in Serious Game Design and Research, and an undergraduate minor in Game Design & Development.

To support use of the collection, the library is developing gaming labs, which will be housed within the Gerald M. Kline Digital and Multimedia Center in the Main Library. Users will be able to run both console games and PC-based games.

“We're starting with games most likely to be in high demand,” explains Terri Miller, assistant director for public services. “The Smithsonian did a major exhibit on gaming, for example, with 100 top games chosen in public voting. The 100 top-grossing video games of all time have been identified, too. The number of games available will grow quickly as we add equipment and cataloging continues.”

The ROVI gift included a large selection of consoles and accessories, and staff members are searching eBay and other sources to locate other equipment needed for games we now own. Some have remained elusive, but we’re confident that they exist somewhere in the attics, basements and storage spaces of the MSU community. Donations are very welcome!

Systems and equipment needed for gaming labs:
- Atari 2600 (VCS)
- ColecoVision
- Commodore 64 Games System
- Intellivision
- Nintendo Entertainment System
- Oculus Rift DK2 (Developer Kit 2)
- Playstation 4
- Sega Game Gear
- Sega Genesis
- Sega Master System
- Sega Nomad
- Super NES
- Virtual Boy
- Wii U
- Xbox One

Can you help? Go to lib.msu.edu/collections/Rovi/donategames
Bruce Edwards has been collecting comic books since age 15 – and along the way he’s developed a great depth of knowledge and expertise about the genre.

So when Edwards and his wife, Lynn, volunteered to spend time each week working in Special Collections, the answer was an enthusiastic “Yes!”

“They were able to step right into projects we had waiting,” says Randy Scott, curator of the Comic Art collection. “Lynn started by integrating thousands of microfiche into our holdings. Bruce’s first project was to organize our collection of Classics Illustrated.”

The midcentury favorite has a complex publication history, with spinoffs Classics Illustrated Junior and Classics Illustrated Special Issues in addition to the original series. “I’d been putting it off about ten years,” Randy Scott says with a laugh, “and Bruce finished it off in six months.”

Currently the Edwardses work on evaluating donations title by title, to separate duplicate copies from items the library wants to keep. “It involves looking beyond the cover,” Bruce says, because comic books are often reprinted with different ads or other changes to the content. After a genuine duplicate is identified, Lynn explains, another step is to compare its condition with our existing copy and decide which to keep.

Along the way, the Edwardses have generously established an endowment to support the Comic Art Collection, and given thousands of comics to MSU – both from their own collection, and items they’ve purchased especially for the library.

“We found a very rare copy of the first Walt Disney annual in a used bookstore in Williamsburg, Virginia once,” Bruce recalls. “The store owner evidently didn’t realize quite how valuable it was! Another favorite was a large-format edition of Charlie Chaplin comics meant to be painted in watercolor by the reader.”

The Edwardses’ gifts of time, talent, and resources are greatly appreciated, says Randy Scott. “Bruce and Lynn have made a real difference here. It’s certainly not every day that volunteers with their level of expertise walk in off the street. I wish we had six more like them!”
Art and Intrigue in the Fine Press Movement

Special Collections has recently acquired a splendid copy of the Doves Press Bible, one of the three great masterpieces of the fine press movement.

The Doves Press was a celebrated fine printer of the Arts and Crafts era. They designed their own typeface, the Doves Font, which was very much admired by other printers, and that is the typeface used in the Doves Press Bible. But in 1909 the two owners of the Doves Press were dissolving their partnership and in dispute about who would own this typeface. One of them solved the problem by throwing thousands of pounds of lead type into the River Thames!

The font has been recreated digitally and just recently someone sent divers into the Thames in search of the type, and they actually were able to find a few pieces.

Visit Special Collections to see these exquisite volumes!

Libraries Welcome Diversity Scholars

Gr8 insights about diversity, equity, inclusion.
Inspiring conversation about digital projects and technology.
Nerding out on metadata & the process of cataloging a large media collection!

At the end of May, the Twittersphere was full of commentary about the MSU Libraries’ seminar for 16 visiting scholars from the Association of Research Libraries’ Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce (#irdwmsu16). The three-day visit included presentations on academic life, emerging career paths, notable projects at the MSU Libraries, and visits to Special Collections, the Wallace Conservation Lab, and the library’s makerspace.
A New Future for Main Library Public Spaces

“There is nothing permanent except change,” said the philosopher Heraclitus, and it’s certainly true in an academic library. Our users’ needs are continually evolving, and the library must evolve with them.

Over the next several years, the MSU community will see a significant reorganization of public spaces in the Main Library, focused on the first and second floors of both wings. We have an ambitious set of goals in mind, from better stewardship of our print collections to creating space for new ways of teaching, learning, and conducting research.

What changes are we planning? Here are the highlights:

**Special Collections holdings**, which now exceed 500,000 items, will move from the basement to 2 East. Safe from the possibility of water damage (two floors above the basement, two floors below the roof), this is the optimal location for an absolutely irreplaceable collection.

The Special Collections reading room will move to a central location on the first floor. This new visibility will bring Special Collections to the attention of many more students and faculty, and promote the use of rare books and primary source materials. Enhanced exhibit space and a dedicated seminar room will complement the new reading room.

Two new wired classrooms are being built on 2 West, replacing classrooms on the first floor and basement which had been in service for nearly two decades. Up-to-the-minute furniture options will replace straight rows of workstations, so that students can access technology and work collaboratively.

The classroom space freed up on the first floor will allow Reference and Circulation to move their service desks a short distance to a location which will provide better traffic flow in the lobby.

A new Digital Scholarship Lab will allow us to meet the growing demand for assistance with data-based research, which spans the disciplines from the humanities to the hard sciences. A walk-in, public service point for digital scholarship, rather than scheduling an appointment, will give users faster access to digital librarians and provide late-night access to specialized software.

The MSU Libraries are a force for creativity, discovery, and teaching – a vibrant place, with an essential role in the university community. Please join us as we prepare to serve the scholars and researchers of tomorrow.

EMPOWER EXTRAORDINARY
THE CAMPAIGN for MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

We are fortunate to receive support from truly extraordinary donors. Your generous gifts make it possible for us to provide an outstanding collection of resources and efficient, user-centered library services for MSU students and faculty.

Continued support will enable us to upgrade and maintain the Main Library. Many current and planned spaces in the Library can be sponsored. The following are just some of the spaces available to be named:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space</th>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistive Technology Center</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyber Café</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Collections Reading Room</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Collections Display Room</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Collections Reception Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Collections Seminar Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation &amp; Reference renovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Lobby Study Lounge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make Central Makerspace</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map Library</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turfgrass Information Center</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Room A</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room B</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Floor Events Room</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To discuss the possibility of a major gift, please contact Seth Martin, MSU Libraries Development Officer, at 517-884-6446.
The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) is the world’s most comprehensive publicly-available collection of turfgrass research and educational materials. Its primary database is the Turfgrass Information File, which indexes more than 250,000 items and offers full-text access to more than half of those items. TIC has a great new video explaining its work and the goal for its endowment campaign. Watch now!

When selecting items for our Book Arts collection, we keep an eye out especially for artists’ books on food themes, to complement the Cookery collection.

In the foreground, Cathleen Casey’s Global Salad: Famine Foods documents not-quite-edible plants that have been eaten around the world in times of hunger. Behind is a woodcut from David Esslemont’s Chili Recipe.