

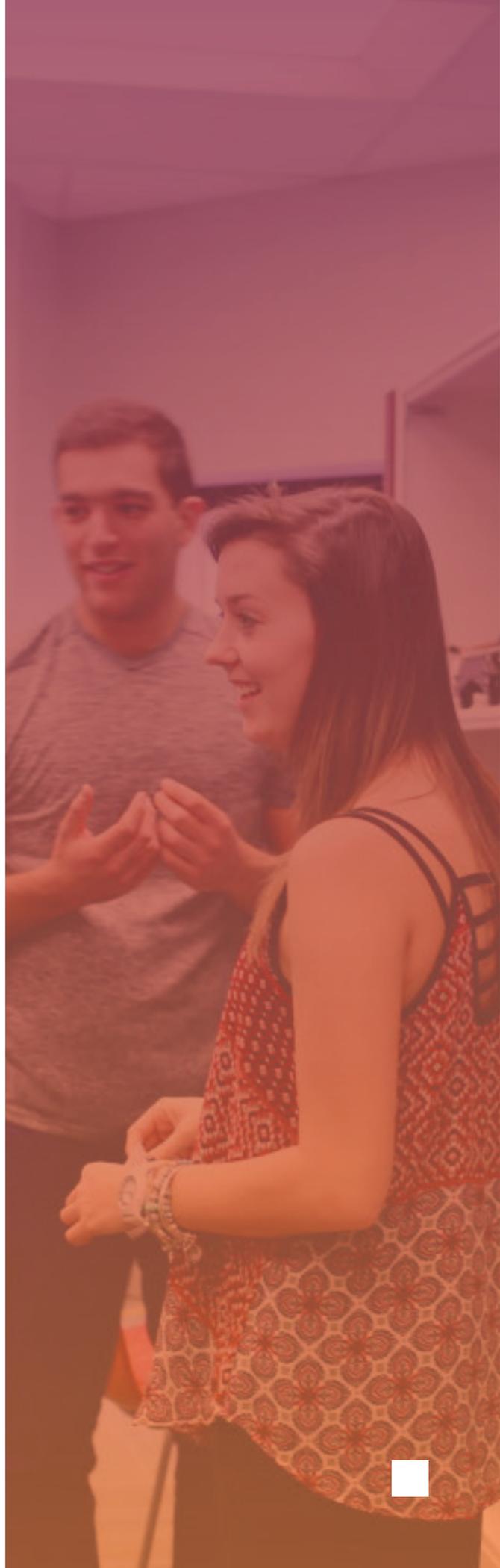


**SUMMER
2017**

University Libraries Newsletter

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Letter from the Dean, University Libraries



On behalf of the University Libraries at Virginia Tech, we are pleased to share with you the first installment of a new, primarily digital newsletter. I hope you will enjoy reading and learning about some of the programs, services, and spaces at the University Libraries and how these are supporting and enhancing the teaching, learning, and research across the university.

You may have previously heard about the development of a Creativity and Innovation District on the Blacksburg campus that will stretch from Newman Library to Main Street in downtown Blacksburg. We are excited about the opportunity to be part of this new district and happy to share the university's news article about it with you.

In Newman Library, we have a variety of new spaces and services. A couple of these include the 3D Design Studio and our new Fusion Studio. You will read more about these spaces and the unique service they provide to students and faculty in the following articles.

The University Libraries recently received a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources that will allow us to digitize and openly share a significant portion of the International Archive of Women in Architecture collection. This collection is housed in our Special Collections department and is a joint venture with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies to document the history of women in architecture. By digitizing and openly sharing materials from this collection, we will support researchers around the world in their pursuit of knowledge and creation of new scholarship.

Thank you for your continued support of the University Libraries at Virginia Tech. Private support helps us create new spaces, programs, and services to support our patrons. I encourage you to take a few minutes during your next visit to campus to stop in and explore one of our special exhibits, attend an event, or just enjoy a cup of coffee and some conversation with students.

Tyler Walters, Dean and Professor
University Libraries
Virginia Tech

Newman Library to be part of new Creativity and Innovation District

As Virginia Tech continues to unveil bold initiatives that meld traditional disciplines and existing academic and research strengths, the university has announced the formation of a Creativity and Innovation District along the eastern edge of campus where it intersects with downtown Blacksburg to fully support the complexities of innovation — from idea creation to commercialization.

“The creation of the district is intended to enhance our distinctive strengths in 21st century creativity and collaborative innovation,” said Executive Vice President and Provost Thanassis Rikakis. *“Creativity today is highly dimensional and inclusive. The district will therefore promote strategic partnerships among students and faculty on campus, the local community, and private companies and organizations.”*

The Creativity and Innovation District designation will guide future thinking, repurpose assets, and create physical space that will leverage both creative and entrepreneurial activities — and spark powerful innovations that emerge at the intersection of these two efforts.

“Innovation is a process that begins with imagination and creativity and leads to real-world impact,” said Ben Knapp, director of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology. *“The district will support this work, providing collaborative facilities, tools, and technologies — from virtual environments to maker spaces — to translate ideas into commercial offerings.”*



The district will make the most of existing programs and facilities already in the area, including the Moss Arts Center; the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology; the School of Performing Arts, including its performance space, Theatre 101; and the School Visual Arts.

It will also include the Squires Student Center, Newman Library, the Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown, the Media Building, and the Media Building Annex. Several of the buildings will retain their traditional functions while providing additional spaces that foster creativity and innovation. The Media Building and the Media Building Annex will be allocated to the district. University Relations personnel in those buildings are relocating to the University Gateway Center to accommodate the expansion.

Small- and large-scale renovations and construction will soon be under way. The resulting district will include interdisciplinary faculty clusters, composed of existing lines and new hires in two focus areas: Creative Technologies and Experiences, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

“Innovation and entrepreneurship can be powerful forces in organizations of all types and sizes, in established businesses as well as new ventures,” said Derick Maggard, executive director of the Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. *“The Creativity and Innovation District will bring together students, faculty, alumni, and corporate partners in an inspired and cutting-edge environment. We believe the district will unleash creativity, spark vision and innovation, and instill in tomorrow’s leaders the entrepreneurial mindset and skills that will empower them.”*

Existing and new residential space will house living-learning communities related to creativity and innovation for interested students, artists in residence, entrepreneurs in residence, and faculty. The living spaces will incorporate studios, creative technologies, and shared learning spaces.

via VT News 

Transformations at Newman Library



A major trend in academic libraries around the globe is creatively rethinking the way library spaces are used to support research, teaching, and learning. In the coming year, the fourth floor will be transformed into a new and exciting space that will create opportunities for the Virginia Tech community to engage with information, collaborate with colleagues, and explore new frontiers.

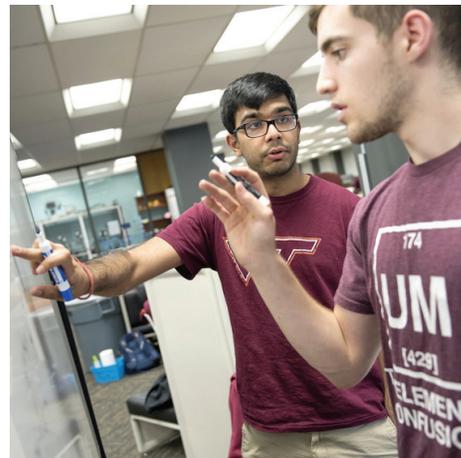
What will that transformation look like?

We are reorganizing our books, shelves, and study spaces. Eventually, the fourth floor will be renovated and our new space will be complete with modern and comfortable furniture so students and faculty can engage in projects, collaborative learning, or have a quiet place to read.

What about the books?

Not all books will be moved, and most that are moved will find new homes on our shelves within Newman Library. Some will go to our off-site Library Service Center, where they can be retrieved for students, faculty, and the general public by request.

In the past decade, we have seen an exciting increase in the number of visitors to our libraries as well as substantial growth in use of the technology and electronic resources we provide. At the same time, there has been a decline in the number of physical books being checked out or used at the library. By investing in expanding our digital collections and rethinking the way we use our space, we are ultimately able to give our patrons access to more resources and tools than ever before.



In 2016 alone, we added more than 100 new electronic resources, which collectively gave our community access to millions more pages of content that can be used in research, teaching and scholarship.

Read more at news.lib.vt.edu





Course Exhibit Initiative

When you walk through the second floor of Newman Library, you may notice an exhibit set up across from the circulation desk. These attractive and unique exhibits are a part of a program called the Course Exhibit Initiative. For one to three months, these handmade installations showcase a university professor or instructor's course. The exhibits aim to inform visitors about innovative approaches to classes, showcase student work, boost enrollment for courses, and encourage learning outside the classroom.

Scott Fralin, exhibit curator and learning environments librarian, creates all exhibits in-house and builds them from scratch. Throughout April, a "Stories from the Great War" exhibit highlighted research that history students had compiled about men from Virginia Tech (then VPI) who served in World War I. Old photos and portraits from the University Libraries' Special Collections were featured alongside these stories of Virginia Tech alumni who also served as soldiers.

For more information, visit lib.vt.edu/spaces/exhibits



**COURSE
EXHIBIT
INITIATIVE**

3D Design Studio and Fusion Studio

Last year, we launched two new collaborative and interactive studios.

The **3D Design Studio** is a 3-D printing studio that allows students and community members to print 3-D materials using a variety of printers. In addition, the studio regularly offers workshops that teach people how to get started with 3-D printing. The studio has been incorporated into courses and used by students and researchers alike to create innovative items that solve everyday problems.

[Learn more at designstudio.lib.vt.edu](http://designstudio.lib.vt.edu)



3D DESIGN STUDIO

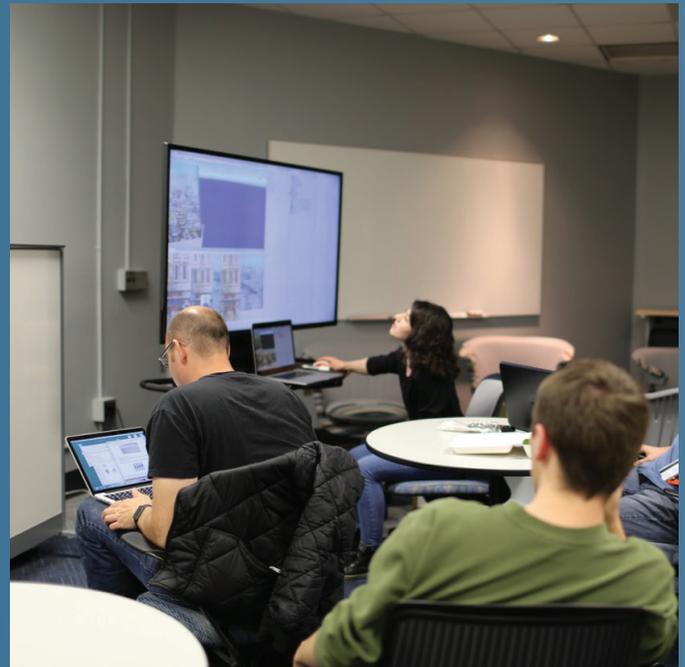


The **Fusion Studio** brings groups of students together in a co-working space for extended project management. With flexible workspaces and programming that facilitates partnerships among the disciplines, the Fusion Studio brings to life the University Libraries' mission to provide cutting-edge services and support emerging research practices.

[Learn more at fusionstudio.lib.vt.edu](http://fusionstudio.lib.vt.edu)



FUSION STUDIO



Women of Design digitization project

Within the walls of the University Libraries' Special Collections department is a treasure of research projects waiting to happen: the life's work and correspondence of more than 400 women who practiced architecture and design around the world from the 1800s through present day.

Currently, the architectural drawings, design sketches, personal and professional correspondence, project files, business records, and photographs that comprise the collections can only be viewed in person.

But now, with the support of a \$232,356 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), the University Libraries at Virginia Tech will digitize and document a significant part of the collection, making the work of 30 women architects freely accessible to the world in an online repository.

"We are honored by this opportunity to expand public access to the unprecedented scholarly resources of Virginia Tech's International Archive of Women in Architecture," said Sam Winn, Collections Archivist at the University Libraries.

The Women of Design: Revealing Women's Hidden Contributions to the Built Environment project was one of just 17 projects selected for funding out of 144 proposals to CLIR's Digitizing Hidden Collections program. The program seeks to digitize collections of rare and unique content in cultural memory institutions, prioritizing collections that have high scholarly value.

"CLIR's program to provide online access to hidden collections fits perfectly with the goal of the University Libraries to use technology to make complex and difficult to use analog research materials accessible online," said Aaron Purcell, director of the University Libraries' Special Collections.

Virginia Tech's International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA) is the world's largest and longest continually operating program of its kind, offering a rare glimpse into the lives and professional work of women in the built environment. The IAWA comprises over 2,000 cubic feet of unique materials on more than 400 individual women, organizations, and exhibits.

Women are traditionally underrepresented in the architecture field, making the collections especially important for exploring pioneering women's contributions to architecture and design.

"These collections document the historic and often unseen contributions of women to the built environment around the world, with tremendous research potential for scholars of women's history, social movements, immigration, higher education, and the evolution of architecture and design practice," Winn said. "The collections selected for digitization under this project provide a compelling snapshot of 20th century gender and labor issues,

including the experiences of women emigres in the U.S. workforce and women working in traditionally male fields."

Over the next two years, the Women of Design project will digitize 35,000 items from the collections of 30 women architects from ten different countries who worked in the United States between 1929 and 2010.



"Digital access will allow researchers to search for the same feature, structure, or design across many collections which would be difficult, if not impossible, in a traditional reading room environment," added Purcell. "And the content is more

than unique—it represents a chorus of hidden voices that have yet to be fully heard by scholars, students, and architects. Many mass-digitization projects sacrifice quality in favor of quantity, but this project is focused on creating thousands of high-quality digital files with rich metadata and searchable information. We are thrilled to watch this project develop over the next two years and have it lead the University Libraries into new digital territory."

CLIR's Digitizing Hidden Collections program is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

via VT News

Recent events & workshops

■ 12th Annual VT Authors Recognition Event

On February 27, 2017, the University Libraries held its 12th Annual VT Authors Recognition Event and proudly recognized the successful scholarship of the Virginia Tech community. Complete with refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, and remarks by Executive Vice President and Provost Thanassis Rikakis, faculty, staff, and the general public attended to view new books on display and listen to authors discuss their works.

As a land-grant research university, new scholarship plays a crucial role at Virginia Tech and the University Libraries was pleased to host this event in partnership with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Virginia Tech's Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Watch the event highlights at:
bit.ly/12thauthors



■ Big Data Science Workshop

On Thursday, January 12, the University Libraries hosted a Big Data Science Workshop in partnership with Advanced Research Computing and the Center for Open Science. This workshop, also held with support from the University of Virginia, helped graduate students learn how to handle large amounts of data and provided them with meaningful ways to publish their data. The workshop also featured breakfast, lunch, a poster reception, lecture, and sessions on data visualization, reproducible research practices, and brainstorming ways to improve research workflows.

Each year, the Big Data Science Workshop is highly attended and this year we had **60 graduate students**

participate. Our Data Services experts look forward to this opportunity to work with graduate researchers every year.

■ Open Data Week

From April 10 through April 14, the University Libraries hosted Open Data Week to celebrate and increase awareness of the benefits of open access to data, encourage adoption of open data policies, and begin conversations on campus about improving access to data.

The week gave faculty, staff, students, and community members the opportunity to learn more about content mining, data visualization, and more through hands-on workshops.

Learn more at guides.lib.vt.edu/opendataweek

■ April 16, 2007 Remembrance

In the days and weeks after April 16, 2007, people from around the world sent words of comfort and hope to Virginia Tech. Ranging from origami cranes and creative expressions of poetry, music, and handcrafted items, to banners, posters, memorabilia, and books of condolences, the university received *more than 90,000 items from all 50 states and 80 countries*.



Under the direction of the university archivist, Tamara Kennelly, items collected from campus and received through the mail were gathered, inventoried, and stored in the April 16, 2007 Archives of the University Libraries.

Every April, the University Libraries share a part of the collection to allow the Virginia Tech community to reflect and remember. This year, we contributed to seven remembrance displays and events.

Stay current with what's happening at the University Libraries by visiting news.lib.vt.edu

Annual giving

Support the University Libraries

Your annual giving to University Libraries helps students and faculty from all disciplines. It provides access to the latest scholarship and data. It creates spaces that foster collaboration.

Help us meet the teaching, learning, and research needs of the entire Virginia Tech community.



Visit givingto.vt.edu/libraries to give today



For more information on how you can make an impact, please contact:

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