Do libraries still matter? In our age of ubiquitous information, we believe they matter more than ever—and our Vanderbilt users agree. Librarians partner with researchers and students to find reliable, useful information in our collections, in databases, and from the wider world of open access information. We are information specialists in an age of information. A student recently put this into context for me, saying, “I always ask a librarian first, because it takes more than Google to impress a Vanderbilt professor.” Though we may use new tools and innovative approaches, the best part of what we do remains the human interactions that take place among library staff, faculty, students and members of the community.

We provide access to millions of physical and e-resources—and more importantly, we teach our students and faculty the skills they need to assess sources and turn information into knowledge and innovation. In our programs, we also bring great ideas to life through a steady stream of events sponsored by the library. At Vanderbilt, the libraries are central to the educational mission.

By the time you read this, the new library catalog will be up and running, a state-of-the-art resource for research and information needs. Over the course of the last nine months, librarians migrated the data and implemented the new system, involving students, faculty and staff in the design of the public interface. It’s an example of the library evolving, while remaining true to its essence as a place of information and knowledge.

During this year of change and transformation, we have added new library services, new spaces and new programs in all of our nine campus libraries. The Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center opened in August, after a year of renovations; the Divinity Library Reading Room has been redesigned by students and librarians working together; and the Music Library has a renovated and soundproof seminar room and new entrance doors. In 2018, we are celebrating 50 years of making broadcast news available through the renowned Vanderbilt Television News Archive and planning for a 100th anniversary of the magnificent Peabody Library in 2019.

This past year we have welcomed almost two dozen new staff members throughout the libraries, including new directors at Central Library, Stevenson Science and Engineering, and the Eskind Library. (See the new staff section for more information about all these talented people.) As we move forward on so many fronts, we are keenly aware that much of what we do depends on you, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

Valerie Hotchkiss
University Librarian
Professor of English
Outreach and Engagement

Vandy Goes to War

An exhibition marking the centenary of Vanderbilt’s foray into the First World War was on display in the Central Library lobby through November 12. The libraries partnered with the Vanderbilt Reserve Officer Training Corps on the exhibition and on the accompanying program, “Unfurling the Flag.” On Veteran’s Day, November 12, Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, Provost Susan R. Wente, the libraries, ROTC and American Legionnaires unfurled and properly folded the recently uncovered 54- by 102-foot flag that hung at the Vanderbilt IMPACT symposium in the late 1960s behind speakers such as Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.
Outreach and Engagement

Reflections on the Presidency in the Era of Donald Trump

In February, Professor of History Thomas Alan Schwartz offered a balanced and thought-provoking view to a capacity audience in his “Reflections on the Presidency in the Era of Donald Trump” in Special Collections and University Archives. The talk was inspired by The American Presidency, an exhibition drawing on rare memorabilia from the James G. Stahlman Autograph Collection and biographies from the Lemuel “Hall” Hardaway Jr. Family Presidential Book Collection in Special Collections.

Bard’s Birthday Bash

The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries and the Nashville Shakespeare Festival held the Bard’s Birthday Bash—marking the 454th birthday of William Shakespeare—in April on the university’s Library Lawn.

Jugglers, troubadours, sword fighting masters, scribes and Nashville Public Library puppeteers entertained attendees during the celebration, which was free and open to the public.

“We hope the celebration will become an annual Vanderbilt tradition,” says University Librarian Valerie Hotchkiss.

This year’s festivities honored the late Ann Cook Calhoun, Vanderbilt professor of English, emerita, and a scholar who held leadership roles in Shakespeare organizations around the world.

Shakespeare, Fardles the Bear and students pose for selfies
Wax Cylinders and Lemonade

In March, the Wilson Music Library and 130 guests traveled back to 1890 when wax cylinders were the recording format of choice. Martin Fisher, audio engineer at Middle Tennessee State University and the MTSU Center for Popular Music, brought his 1906 Edison wax cylinder recorder. During the event, several musicians recorded themselves onto a wax cylinder and were able to hear their recording instantly.

Crystal Plohman, senior artist teacher of Suzuki violin and fiddle at the Blair School of Music, records on wax cylinders with two of her precollege students.

Inclusion Initiative Brown Bags

The library partnered with Vanderbilt’s Inclusion Initiatives and Cultural Competence program to share library artifacts and historical collections relevant to the nation’s heritage month celebrations. Students learned about September’s Hispanic Heritage Month through the library’s Latin American Collections, and November’s Native American Month was recognized through the library’s historical artifacts. The library looks forward to working with the IICC again in the coming year to connect students to cultural history through primary sources.

The Sound of Silent Voices

From March through May, the city of Nashville welcomed the Violins of Hope, a collection of instruments of which the majority were played by Jewish musicians interned in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Lovingly restored by Israeli luthiers Amnon and Avshi Weinstein, the instruments were on display at the main branch of the Nashville Public Library.

As part of the community-wide programming for the Violins of Hope, the Heard Libraries hosted “The Sound of Silent Voices” in April. The Silent Voices Project uses the voices of contemporary children to re-create the voices of children silenced at the hands of the Nazis. Under the artistic direction of Zachary Ebin, senior artist teacher of Suzuki violin, the Toronto-based Ton Beau String Quartet performed trios and quartets by young composers based on poetry written by children of the Holocaust. Vanderbilt Hillel students provided narration of the poems, and a brief address was given by Mitchell Korn, senior lecturer in music and educational outreach.
Cultures in Clay Exhibit Showcases 4,000-Year-Old Writing System

Clay, with its versatile virtues as both utilitarian and artistic substance, was central to the culture of what many call the “cradle of civilization.” This 4,000-year-old medium was the focus of an exhibit featured at Vanderbilt Divinity Library from December 2017 through July 2018.

Among the highlights of Cultures in Clay: The Shaping of Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations were clay tablets with cuneiform—a wedge-shaped writing system used by ancient Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians.

“Clay, as commonplace as it was, became a vital ingredient in everyday life through thousands of years in communication, construction and works of art,” says Douglas Knight, the Drucilla Moore Buffington Professor of Hebrew Bible, emeritus, and one of the exhibit’s curators. Artifacts from Knight’s personal collection on loan for the exhibit included distinctive Egyptian figurines as well as artifacts and pottery from ancient Israel.

The exhibit also drew from two Vanderbilt collections: the Cuneiform Tablets Collection, donated by the family of James Stevenson in 1989, and the Arno Poebel Collection, acquired by the Divinity Library in 1968. Stevenson was a biblical scholar and Assyriologist who was a longtime Vanderbilt faculty member. His tablets date from around 2,000 B.C. Poebel was an internationally esteemed scholar of ancient Near Eastern studies who wrote extensively about Sumerian language and literature.

In addition to Knight, curators of the exhibit included Annalisa Azzoni, senior lecturer in Hebrew Bible and religious studies, library exhibit coordinator Charlotte Lew and graduate students Serena McMillan, Jonathan Redding and Michael Sekuras.

The Man and Beast seal (from the Arno Poebel Collection) and a statue of Osiris, mythological father of the Egyptian god Horus, from the private collection of emeritus professor Douglas Knight, were on display in the libraries’ Cultures in Clay exhibit.
Your Search Starts Here

Rebuilt digital footprint enhances scholarship

Library users now experience faster, more robust searches and other digital improvements that foster learning and discovery, thanks to the July 24 launch of a new integrated library system, a refreshed website and a new online course readings system.

“Our overall goal has been to match the scholarly ambitions of our faculty and students with major technological improvements that bring print, electronic and digital materials into a single interface,” says University Librarian Valerie Hotchkiss.

Features of the integrated library system include the ability to personalize the web view and intuitive methods to save and share findings.

The new system, developed by the Israeli software company ExLibris, is a leader in its field, according to Dale Poulter, director of library IT. “The same platform is used by more than a thousand research libraries, including most of our peers and several national libraries, and we are all working together as research capabilities continue to evolve. The system allows for continual, collaborative enhancement of services," he says.

Campus training sessions were held in the fall, and short videos that explain how to find books, journals and other materials through the new system continue to be uploaded.

A total of 823 survey responses from students, faculty and staff as well as focus groups across campus played an important role in shaping the new system’s features. Library staff members have worked over the summer months to make a smooth transition.

Meanwhile, the refurbished library website offers a cleaner, streamlined layout that fully integrates with the university’s overall website design. The site is mobile-friendly and meets web accessibility standards. Features include prominent search boxes on all library homepages and smaller search boxes at the top of every secondary page.

For the new academic year, faculty and students also benefit from a new course readings system called Leganto, which strives to boost student engagement with library resources and embedded librarians. Faculty can now create course reading lists quickly and easily with Leganto, which is accessed via Brightspace, the university’s primary course management system.
Digital Scholarship and Data Science Hires

Vanderbilt libraries have led the way in digital scholarship, scholarly communications and data science for several years, and 2018 saw the arrival of three remarkable new information experts in these areas.

Andrew Wesolek joined the library in May as the director of digital scholarship and scholarly communications. Wesolek comes to Vanderbilt from Clemson University, where he was the first head of digital scholarship. His research and professional interests focus on library support for new forms of scholarship with an emphasis on “Open Access” initiatives and infrastructure.

Steve Baskauf, who has worked closely with the libraries in his role as principal senior lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt, moved to the libraries in August as a data science and data curation specialist. He has a doctor of philosophy in biology and works on biodiversity informatics. He is steeped in the history of Vanderbilt’s grounds and buildings, and he has worked closely with University Archives.

Stacy Curry-Johnson also joined the team in August as librarian for geospatial data and systems. Johnson has a long history working in the GIS industry but has also taught geography on the university level and as a National Science Foundation Fellow. A doctoral student in geography from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she advises faculty, students and staff about collecting, analyzing and visualizing geospatial information.

Cultural Heritage in the Age of Big Data

How do we preserve cultural objects for future generations while respecting the rights and norms of the communities that created them? This was the topic of “Cultural Heritage in the Age of Big Data,” the libraries’ third public symposium on cultural heritage at scale. The summer symposium brought together archivists, librarians, digital humanists and public historians to discuss the ethical implications of preserving and providing access to culturally sensitive materials online.

New Print Accessibility Service

Vanderbilt students, faculty or staff with visual disabilities can now request electronic copies of more than 16 million titles held by over 120 libraries worldwide, regardless of copyright status. A new collaboration with the National Federation of the Blind and the HathiTrust Digital Library allows users at Vanderbilt to access these titles through both the JAWS and NVDA screen readers. The screen reading technology is widely available and has been installed on workstations in the libraries.

16,408,519
Total items available to patrons with print disabilities via HathiTrust
5,742,981,650 pages
735 terabytes
194 miles of books
Open Journals Hosted by the Library

The libraries publish five open access journals using Open Journal Systems, a journal management and publishing system developed by the Public Knowledge Project. The latest journal, *Vanderbilt Lives*, is an annual publication of creative nonfiction essays by Vanderbilt undergraduates that welcomes submissions discussing, demonstrating or celebrating the diversity and breadth of experiences of students’ lives both before and during their years at Vanderbilt. The inaugural issue was published in May, and can be read at ejournals.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php/VanderbiltLives.

Library on Location

This is the second year that the libraries, led by the Student Outreach and Engagement Committee, have offered “pop-up” reference service around campus. The program increases the visibility of our libraries, improves student understanding of library services and resources, and publicizes upcoming library events.
The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries' special and permanent collections were strategically expanded this year through a one-year program called the Library Collections Initiative. The expansion was made possible by a funding initiative sponsored by Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan R. Wente to support faculty-driven research and scholarship.

Driven by Vanderbilt’s Academic Strategic Plan, which calls for the advancement of excellence in research and scholarship, the university made a series of substantive and strategic investments in the Heard Libraries system by strengthening existing resources and launching new initiatives.

The Library Collections Initiative awarded funding through a competitive process for faculty and librarians together to acquire new collections of primary resources and research materials.

“Tamik libraries at Vanderbilt are our laboratories of the mind, where ideas are shared, tested and created,” Wente says. “It is essential that we not only maintain but also bolster the impact of the libraries by acquiring stellar collections with real research potential. Having a library with robust collections is critical for all disciplines, and especially so for the arts and humanities. In addition, new collections will complement many of our strategic initiatives ranging from the new digital humanities center to Immersion Vanderbilt.” A signature component of the Academic Strategic Plan, Immersion Vanderbilt is a requirement for undergraduate students that integrates classroom knowledge with experience.

All full-time, Vanderbilt-employed and provost-reporting faculty were eligible to partner with librarians in submitting proposals.

In May 2018, 10 projects involving 25 faculty and staff members were announced with awards totaling nearly $750,000.

Ad hoc faculty committees reviewed the proposals as they were submitted. Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Ifeoma Nwankwo led the review effort, which included 34 faculty members from all 10 colleges and schools. University Librarian Valerie Hotchkiss served in an ex officio capacity.

First edition (1527) of Sebastian Münster’s Chaldaic Grammar, recently acquired through the Library Collections Initiative and already part of a Divinity Library exhibition.
Climate change is not fiction, but it has inspired an entire genre of creative writing. Often abbreviated as “Cli Fi,” climate fiction has its roots in 19th-century romanticism and fantasy. Think Jules Verne or Mary Shelley, but the 21st century has seen an explosion of writing on the subject. Thanks to the Provost’s Library Collections Initiative, a large collection of Cli Fi was acquired for the libraries by Professor of English Teresa Goddu and librarian Deborah Lilton. The libraries are committed to building upon this impressive start as we add nonfiction, environmental science and other fields in order to encourage interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Above: From Le Vingtième siècle, La vie électrique (1890) by Albert Robida imagines Paris in 1955, beset by storms caused by malfunctions in a vast electrical grid.

**2018 Library Collections Initiative Awards**

- Baruch Spinoza Collection
- Jewish Intellectual History and Christian–Jewish Scholarship
- Delia Zapata Olivella Collection
- Holocaust and Cold War Video Archives
- Contemporary Printed Music Scores
- Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s Alban Trilogy (1762–69)
- Climate Fiction Collection
- The Inscribed World of the Eastern Mediterranean
- Vanderbilt Television News Archive Research Collection
- Multimodal Resources for Social Transformation: Past and Present
On Aug. 5, 1968, Vanderbilt University began recording, abstracting and sharing the nightly news. Fifty years later, the archive has expanded coverage from ABC, CBS and NBC to include CNN, Fox and coverage of news specials. The libraries offered a series of conferences, open houses and programs over the past year to recognize and celebrate this achievement. In March, the libraries organized a national conference on preservation news, “Sustaining Television News for the Next Generation: A Digital Preservation Workshop,” with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. A panel discussion on informed citizenship took place in October.

ArchivesSpace

Archival finding aids for more than 800 collections in Vanderbilt’s extensive archival holdings are now searchable in ArchivesSpace, a new platform that makes finding archival material easier and more efficient. As new collections are processed, they now become publicly discoverable through ArchivesSpace.
New Databases

The libraries have added a number of new databases and digital resources to our collections over the past year. New resources include **Kanopy**, which offers access to a large, curated catalog of films; **Periodical Archives Online**, which makes back files of scholarly periodicals in the arts, humanities and social sciences available electronically, spanning more than two centuries of content, 37 key subject areas and multiple languages; and **Statista**, which contains quantitative data, statistics, infographics and related information compiled from market research institutes, trade publications, scientific journals and government databases. Scholars of the humanities now have access to the digital archives provided by Adam Matthew and Gale, publishers of digital primary source collections. Scientists, technologists and entrepreneurs now have **Derwent Innovation**, a patent research resource, at their fingertips.

Digital Collections: Building a Better Repository for Images

For years, libraries have struggled with vast amounts of digital materials housed in disparate systems with hard-to-use interfaces. In many instances, especially as systems aged, discovery of digital materials became nearly impossible. We are addressing these issues in the Vanderbilt libraries. Our new digital repository will ensure preservation and provide public access to our digitized and born-digital collections. Vanderbilt’s **Digital Collections** repository features images, digital facsimiles, and other material from the university’s archives, the library’s special collections and other initiatives across campus. An open-source digital repository platform called Islandora serves as the backbone of Digital Collections and features all the essential elements of a sound digital repository, including ease of use, a central access point and responsible digital preservation.

Islandora now houses the full run of Peabody College’s *The Pillar* yearbook, including this 1957 illustration from Vanderbilt University Archives.
Distinctive Collections Take Center Stage

In today’s age of information overabundance, the Heard Libraries’ distinctive collections are areas of particular strength that set Vanderbilt apart from other research libraries. They include items of great rarity and historic value and even one-of-a-kind treasures that hold the power to connect us to our recent and more distant pasts, making history come alive. They stimulate teaching and scholarship, elicit memories and inspire new knowledge.

The distinctive collections exhibit, on display from December 2017 through May 2018, introduced visitors to artifacts and primary sources, from Civil War surgical instruments to rare decks of hand-illustrated tarot cards and photographs of freedom riders from the civil rights movement in 1960s Nashville.

A publication that complemented the exhibition featured descriptions of collections in southern history and culture, 20th-century civil rights, Latin American studies, French modern literature, the history of medicine, games and leisure, American journalism and politics in the 20th century, performing arts, astronomy and physics, rare books and fine bindings, and the history of Vanderbilt University.
The Libraries by the Numbers

4,200,000 PHYSICAL VOLUMES
1,858,185 WORLDWIDE DOWNLOADS
1,556,013 ELECTRONIC BOOKS
1,112,072 STREAMING VIDEO FILES
377,896 MICROFORMS
104,141 E-JOURNALS
40,152 AUDIO ITEMS
21,811 PHYSICAL VIDEOS

10% Undergraduates
4% Staff
42% Faculty
44% Grad students

Library use
7,000 PEOPLE THROUGH THE DOORS DAILY
5,000 LIBRARY WEBSITE USAGE DAILY
1,675,753 WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

Library instruction
51.1% of teaching complements the curriculum and introduces students to new research skills
772 INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS
9,665 PARTICIPANTS

Research guides
674,299 VIEWS
429 RESEARCH GUIDES
105 RESEARCH GUIDES DIRECTLY SUPPORT SPECIFIC COURSES/PROGRAMS
30 FOR-CREDIT COURSES TAUGHT
66 SUBJECTS COVERED

Study room use
Room reservation report includes: Central/Divinity, Eskind, Music, Peabody, Sci & Eng (Eskind closed during this period)
5,054 BOOKINGS
11,895 HOURS
40,724 ATTENDANCE
Students Shape the Libraries

Library design challenge makes Vanderbilt libraries more meaningful for students

Developing a formal plan to bring more library expertise into the undergraduate research experience was among the winning ideas in a student design competition to make the library’s resources more accessible and meaningful for users.

The Wild Bunch Library Design Challenge, held in February 2018 with the theme “Design a Better Library,” was open to all Vanderbilt students and organized by the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries, in conjunction with the Wild Bunch Fund, Design for America, the Wond’ry and DIVE (Design as an Immersive Vanderbilt Experience).

“We were astounded by all the thoughtful—and thought-provoking—ideas of participating students,” says University Librarian Valerie Hotchkiss. “They have helped us move forward in our mission to make library resources central to the research needs of students and scholars.”

Students across a variety of schools and disciplines came together for a design-thinking boot camp and discussion led by Kevin Galloway, director of making, faculty director of DIVE and research assistant professor in the School of Engineering; and Karina Gupta, an engineering student active with Design for America.

Honora Eskridge, director of the Stevenson Science and Engineering Library, organized and hosted the event. She talked about the mission of the library and the challenges it faces. The students then formed seven teams, each of which had five days to refine its initial idea, consult with librarians and library users, and develop a pitch.

The presentations took place in the Central Library’s Community Room. The judges awarded first place to Sophie Druffner, Kevin Ifiore and Kurt Lezon for their presentation, “Leaders in the Quest for New Knowledge (LiNK).” They propose integrating librarians into the Vanderbilt Visions programming for all first-year students and staging additional pop-up libraries across campus during the semester.

They also recommend creating an email listserv that would send automatic messages from appropriate subject librarians to undergraduate students when they declare their majors. The goal would be to establish one-on-one research relationships between students and librarians to generate a plan of study and research.

Druffner has a double major in mathematics in the College of Arts and Science and violin performance in the Blair School of Music. Ifiore and Lezon, who are both in the School of Engineering, are majoring in chemical engineering and electrical engineering, respectively.

“Our Library SLAYS” received second place
in the competition. Samuel Bender, Rasul Dent, Caroline Janssen, Caleb Larmey and Samantha Rowland propose the creation of an app that brings together information about library resources, directions and hours all in one place. They also recommend having librarians participate in the Visions curriculum for first-year students. In addition, they would like to have “tea time” and other specific events geared toward increasing collaboration between students and librarians.

Bender has a double major in viola performance and computer science, while Dent has a double major in Spanish/Portuguese and scientific computing. Janssen and Rowland are both majoring in civil engineering, while Larmey has a double major in civil engineering and economics.

Braden Barnett, Skyler Froese, Alex Luckerman and Rachelle Vang were awarded third place for their presentation, “Interaction as Incentive in the Library.” One of their recommendations is installation of LED navigators in the stacks to ease the process of searching for books. They also propose offering “mural breaks” when students could use chalkboard paint for their own enjoyment and creativity.

Barrett is a mechanical engineering major, while Froese and Luckerman are in the College of Arts and Science, with majors in history and cognitive studies, respectively. Vang is a first-year master’s student in the Learning and Design program at Peabody College.

The winners of first, second and third place were awarded cash prizes, a certificate and membership in the Wild Bunch, which co-sponsored the student design competition for the second consecutive year. Representing the Wild Bunch and serving as a competition judge was David Blum, a member of the Class of 1977.

“We are a group of irreverent—but never irrelevant—Vanderbilt alumni of a certain age who support our alma mater by giving back to the libraries,” Blum says. “Chancellor Alexander Heard, for whom the libraries are named, was a friend and mentor to all of us. We support this competition and other similar events because we want to keep the spirit of the Wild Bunch alive and encourage creativity and innovation in the next generation of Vanderbilt students.”

The other judges were Carolyn Floyd, associate director of the Office of Immersion Resources at Vanderbilt; Hotchkiss; Keith Loiseau, university architect and director of architecture and construction; and Caitlin Moon, who earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from Vanderbilt.

This was the second annual student design competition hosted by Vanderbilt’s libraries. The theme for the inaugural competition in 2017 was “Places and Spaces: Mapping Sciences.”
Gonnerman leads Central Library

Kasia Gonnerman has been named director of Vanderbilt University’s Central Library. She came to Vanderbilt in April from St. Olaf College Libraries, where she served for the past decade as head of research and instruction.

Gonnerman earned a master of arts in English linguistics with a specialization in American literature from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, where she also taught as a senior lecturer. She later received a master of library and information science from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. She is fluent in English, Polish and Russian.

Library Staff Service and Excellence Awards

New awards to recognize staff excellence were established this year and presented in February.

The University Librarian’s Award was given to Debra “Dee” Stephens, Science and Engineering Library, for the library support staff member who made a difference in a library or department.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Award for Distinguished Librarianship honors a professional librarian for distinguished service and leadership. This year’s recipient was Julie Loder, head of the e-resources team.

The Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries Award honors the work of a team, committee or task force that developed and followed through on an idea resulting in streamlined workflows, cost savings, enhanced services or boosted morale in a department or library or across the libraries. The award recognizes collaborative work and collegiality. The winners were the Internal Communications Task Force: Sara Byrd, Jodie Gambill and Rick Stringer-Hye.

Rank and Promotion

Vanderbilt hires and promotes exceptional librarians who not only show promise when first hired, but also grow in their professional roles. Librarians are expected to make sustained and increasing contributions to the mission of the libraries and university, as well as to their profession throughout their careers. Last October, the provost and council of deans approved a system of rank and promotion for Vanderbilt’s professional librarians to be implemented during the 2018–19 academic year (FY19). The libraries currently rank in the top 50 among 125 peers in the Association of Research Libraries. This professionalization of librarians, as well as institutional support of library collections budgets, will enhance our reputation as a research library.

The Poetry Room

In honor of National Poetry Month in April, the Central Library opened a public space for contemplation and inspiration called the Poetry Room. The beautiful bookcase-lined room on the sixth floor holds about 1,500 volumes of poetry. Vanderbilt poet Mark Jarman, Centennial Professor of English, generously donated many volumes in the collection, and the library continues to increase its holdings in this area with the help of others in the Vanderbilt creative writing program. Students can browse the collections, enjoy a poetic moment or just study in the Poetry Room, which is accessible whenever the library is open. Patrons can check out new volumes of poetry recommended by staff and faculty or use one of several vintage typewriters to release their own lyrical spirit.
Renovated Eskind Library Opens

The Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center opened July 18 after a yearlong, $12.9 million renovation with infrastructure improvements and updates to support the continuing evolution of medical education.

The construction project was designed to incorporate the university’s research, learning and teaching goals and includes features that complement the School of Medicine’s innovative Curriculum 2.0. It also meets LEED Silver certification standards.

“This project reflects Vanderbilt’s immersive, collaborative brand of education and will support the learning needs of the next generation of physicians, nurses and biomedical scientists,” says Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan R. Wente. “The renovated library and learning center space will help keep Vanderbilt at the forefront of supporting biomedical research and medical education, and we are grateful to the Eskind family for their generous support.”

The project was supported with a visionary $6 million gift to Vanderbilt University from the Eskind family in 2016. Longtime Vanderbilt benefactor Annette S. Eskind and her two sons and their wives, Dr. and Mrs. Steven J. Eskind and Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey B. Eskind, made the gift to continue the vision of the late Dr. Irwin Eskind.

“This library, and Vanderbilt as a whole, meant a great deal to Irwin. The training of the next generation of physicians and researchers was his passion,” says Annette Eskind.

New Director Named for Eskind

Philip Walker has been named the new director of the Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center. Before coming to Vanderbilt as a health science librarian in 2012, Walker worked at Tulane University’s Rudolph Matas Library of the Health Sciences, Texas Medical Center Library and Meharry Medical College Library. Walker earned a master’s in library and information science from Louisiana State University and a master’s in health informatics from the University of Missouri. He recently completed a yearlong fellowship in the prestigious Leadership Fellows Program sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries.
program that creates in-depth learning experiences for Vanderbilt University undergraduate students with diverse library resources has been endowed with a $1 million gift from alumni Poppy and Richard Buchanan.

The Poppy Pickering Buchanan and Richard D. Buchanan Library Fellows Fund will benefit students and future library users by supporting strategic projects in which selected students work on multidisciplinary teams under the mentorship of faculty and professional librarians.

“We are deeply grateful to the Buchanans for their significant investment in our students’ research interests,” says Susan R. Wente, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “The library fellowship program will be a novel path through which the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries support Immersion Vanderbilt and create opportunities for undergraduates to conduct an academic project that extends and supports their overall learning experience.”

Buchanan Library Fellows have worked with some of the library’s most significant collections, including the J. Leon Helguera Collection of Colombiana, Judge Hu C. Anderson’s personal papers from a Nazi war crimes trial, and presidential speeches from the Vanderbilt Television News Archive.

Last spring, Janna Adelstein, a junior in the College of Arts and Science, worked with History Librarian Jason Schultz to curate “Tracing the Movement of Populations: American Legacies of..."
Expansion and Removal,” using Special Collections to develop the narrative of migration. “I spent the past summer interning for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, working to help Native Americans advocate for voting rights through litigation,” Adelstein says. “The historical research that I conducted as a library fellow helped me see how past events in our nation’s history can have significant modern-day repercussions.”

“This generous gift from Poppy and Richard Buchanan ensures a robust program of hands-on, immersive learning as our students undertake serious research and create digital scholarship,” says University Librarian Valerie Hotchkiss. “We hope to mentor current Vanderbilt students in as meaningful a way as the librarians of the past inspired Dr. Buchanan.”

Poppy earned her bachelor of science in nursing in 1961, while her husband, Richard, received a bachelor of arts in 1957 and an M.D. in 1961. Their keen interest in library programs had its beginnings in Richard’s experience as a Vanderbilt undergraduate student who worked at the library.

“My time working at the library’s circulation desk meant so much to me and taught me the important role the library plays in connecting the university to its highest mission of education and research,” Richard Buchanan says. “Poppy and I want to ensure that the library is able to give this same gift to other students as well, expanding their horizons and opportunities throughout the generations.”

The couple are longtime supporters of Vanderbilt, having given generously to the School of Medicine and School of Nursing, as well as to the Library Fellows Program previously.
Marshall Chapman Donates Her Papers

Singer, songwriter and author Marshall Chapman, BA’71, has donated her papers to Vanderbilt’s Special Collections. The archive contains letters, photographs, artifacts and playbills from her performing career and her association with singers who recorded her songs, including Jimmy Buffett and John Hiatt and others with whom she sang, such as Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. In spring 2019, Chapman and songwriter Matraca Berg will perform songs, with stories written by novelists Lee Smith and Jill McCorkle, for Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries. In February 2019, an exhibition highlighting Chapman will open in the Central Library. Among the artifacts included will be posters, photographs and other items illustrating Chapman’s influences and career.

The Secret Game


A poster featuring a photo by Tom Rankin for an on-campus performance by Chapman and her group, The Love Slaves
Friends’ Board

We thank the board members of the Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries for their support over the past year. If you enjoy literary and musical evenings with notable thinkers, fascinating exhibits, cultural and political discussions, and access to world-class resources, then we need to be friends! The Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries are an active group who support and advocate for the libraries by engaging and inspiring the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities. For more information, visit library.vanderbilt.edu/friends.

Card Games and Whist

In March, the Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries hosted an evening of card game history and whist playing with David Levy, collector and historian of card games. Treasures from the libraries’ recent acquisition of the George Clulow and United States Playing Card Company Gaming Collection were on display. After the lecture, audience members learned to play whist and soon understood why it was so popular.

ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018
(Supporting collections and programs)

$1,3 MILLION

FUNDS RAISED
(Gifts & pledge payments 2018)

$1,235,667

Back cover: Gingerbread Hornbooks, *Of Mousse and Men*, Beethoven’s *Moon Pie Sonata* and *Madeleine*. All of these and more were on display during the inaugural Vanderbilt Edible Book Contest in early April. No evidence remains because we ate all the books!