



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
University Libraries

# Founders

# TYPE

News from NIU Libraries  
Winter 2023



# Founders



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## From the Desk of Dean Barnhart

*Dear Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries,*

*I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the warmth and spirit of the holiday season. As we gather with our loved ones and reflect upon the year that has passed, it is with immense gratitude and excitement that I reach out to you, our valued friends, in the pages of our Winter Newsletter.*

*Your unwavering support and generosity have been instrumental in shaping the future of the Northern Illinois University Libraries. It is your commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, to the growth of our institution, and to the betterment of our community that continues to inspire us every day.*

*Over the past year, your contributions have made a profound impact on our library's ability to serve our students, faculty, and researchers. Your investments in our collections, facilities, and programs continue to transform our library into a dynamic and innovative hub of learning and discovery.*

*Through your support, we have been able to acquire essential resources, expand our digital archives, and provide invaluable research opportunities to our students. Your donations have created inviting and collaborative spaces where our community can come together to explore ideas, conduct research, and engage in meaningful dialogue.*

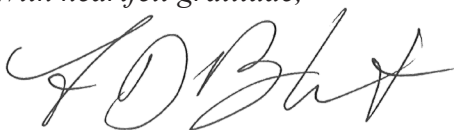
*In the spirit of gratitude, I invite you to explore the stories and updates featured in this newsletter, which showcase the impact of your support and the incredible work being done by our library staff and faculty. Your belief in the power of education and knowledge is at the heart of our mission, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.*

*As we move forward into a new year, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support of the Northern Illinois University Libraries. Your dedication is a testament to the enduring value of libraries and the impact they can have on individuals and communities.*

*In closing, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyful and peaceful holiday season. May the winter months bring you moments of reflection, connection, and inspiration, and may your continued support bring us ever closer to our shared goals.*

*Thank you for being true friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries! We look forward to the opportunities and accomplishments that lie ahead in 2024, and we are excited to have you join us on the journey.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*



*Frederick Barnhart, Dean of Libraries Northern Illinois University*



**Frederick D. Barnhart**  
Dean, NIU Libraries

## Introducing Nan Yamprai



Jittapim "Nan"  
Yamprai, Ph.D.

The University Libraries is pleased to introduce and welcome our new Head of the Music Library/Music Librarian, Dr. Jittapim “Nan” Yamprai. Nan has her Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas, her Masters in Ethnomusicology from Mahidol University in Thailand, and her Doctor of Arts in Music History and Literature

from the University of Northern Colorado. She previously served as the Director of the Music Library at the College of Music at Mahidol University (Thailand), along with teaching in the Musicology Department and serving as a PhD Program Chair. Prior to coming to NIU, she served as an Associate Professor at the University of Northern Colorado, as well as in Admission, Recruiting, and International Education Development at the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay. Nan has over a decade of experience as a librarian, professor, advisor, and curriculum developer. We are honored to have her as a member of the library faculty.

## Kudos To

- Professor Robert Ridinger for his publication in the *Journal of Religious & Theological Information: Children of the Prophet: Writings on LGBT Muslims*, [See the article here.](#)
- Congratulations—and thanks—to Joseph Reilly, who recently finished cataloging our Electronic Theses & Dissertations (ETDs) backlog. Joseph began working on ETDS in May and has since added 1,041 to Huskie Commons, accounting for half of the additions to the institutional repository in the last year. This is the first time that there has not been a backlog of ETDS in over a decade.

## Librarians Attend Legislative Meetup

Associate Dean Gwen Gregory and Head of Special Collections and Archives Brad Wiles attended the Northwest Illinois Library Legislative Meetup on November 29 in Rochelle. This event was sponsored by the Illinois Library Association and focused on legislative actions that will affect libraries of all types. State and federal legislators are invited to participate. Brad and Gwen talked with Gema Tinoco, community liaison for Representative Lauren Underwood, about activities at the NIU library. They also met State Representative Bradley Fritts of the 74th District and colleagues from local public libraries, including Shabbona, Malta, and Creston.



Gwen Gregory, Associate Dean, Brad Wiles, Ph.D. Head of special Collections and Archives with Gema Tinoco, community liaison for Representative Lauren Underwood.

## Special Greeting

**Please join us in wishing Mrs. Eleanor Broadus a very happy 100th birthday on December 28, 2023**

Happy 100th Birthday! On this remarkable milestone, we celebrate not just the passage of time but the incredible journey of a dedicated librarian who left an indelible mark on the Northern Illinois University Libraries.

May this special day be filled with joy, surrounded by the love and admiration of those whose lives you've touched. Here's to a century of wonderful memories and the enduring legacy of Mrs. Eleanor Broadus.

Wishing you a birthday as extraordinary as you are! - *all of us at NIU Libraries*

# University Libraries Completes Street & Smith Digitization Project

**Northern Illinois University Libraries is pleased to announce the completion of the Street & Smith Project.** First begun in 2020 with a grant of \$338,630 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), this project involved partner libraries at NIU, Villanova University, Stanford University, Bowling Green State University, and Oberlin College and Conservatory, digitizing 113,342 pages from 4,790 dime novels and story papers published by Street & Smith. These newly digitized dime novels and story papers are now freely available, without restriction, from each partner's digital library, the majority through [NIU's Nickels and Dimes](#), and can also be found through the [Edward T. LeBlanc Bibliography](#) hosted by Villanova.

Street & Smith was one of the most prolific publishers of paper-covered fiction in the 19th century, and the only publisher to survive the dime novel era and transition into publishing comics and pulp magazines. Their empire was built on *New York Weekly*, a story paper that began in 1858 and had circulation numbers greater than almost any other periodical in the country for its nearly 50-year run. Street & Smith entered the dime novel field in 1889 with "Log Cabin Library" and "Nugget Library" and would go on to dominate the newsstands with their color-covered nickel weeklies in the 1890s.

Although relative late comers to dime novel publishing, Street & Smith were responsible for some of the era's most recognizable series and characters:

- "Buffalo Bill Stories" popularized the exploits of William F. Cody, a plainsman already synonymous with the West.
- "Nick Carter Weekly" featured the serialized adventures of Nick Carter, a detective whose action-packed adventures and colorful adversaries would influence the development of the superhero genre.
- "Tip Top Weekly" chronicled the lives of Frank and Dick Merriwell in what amounted to a decades-long serial novel that set new standards for young adult literature.

The Street & Smith Project is part of NIU's continuing effort to preserve a significant, but rapidly deteriorating and largely forgotten part of American literature and culture. This work began as a local initiative in 2013, but ramped up in 2017 with the Johanssen Project, funded by the

Council on Library and Information Resources, and continues with the Tousey Project, which was awarded in 2022 with funding from the NEH's A More Perfect Union initiative.



# Help us Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Founders Memorial Library

We are thrilled to announce a momentous occasion – the 50th anniversary of the Founders Memorial Library at Northern Illinois University (NIU)! For half a century, this iconic building has stood as a symbol of knowledge, discovery, and community on our campus. It has been a place of learning, exploration, and inspiration for generations of Huskies.

To mark this milestone, we are inviting all alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and friends of NIU to join us in celebrating the rich history and enduring legacy of our beloved Founders Memorial Library.

## Share Your Library Memories:

As part of our celebration, we invite you to share your personal memories, stories, anecdotes, and experiences related to the Founders Memorial Library. Whether you spent long hours studying in its quiet corners, made lifelong friends in its halls, or had a memorable encounter with a favorite book, we want to hear your tales.

Please consider sharing:

- Your fondest memories of the library.
- Stories of how the library impacted your academic or personal journey.
- Anecdotes about your favorite library resources, staff, or hidden gems.
- Photos or memorabilia from your time at the library.

Your stories will not only help us celebrate the library's rich history but also inspire future generations of Huskies who will call Founders Memorial Library their academic home.

## How to Share Your Stories:

*Email:* Send your stories and photos to [lib-admin@niu.edu](mailto:lib-admin@niu.edu) with the subject line "Founders Memorial Library 50th Anniversary."

*Social Media:* Share your stories on social media using the hashtag #FiftyYearsOfFondMemories and tag @NIULibraries. Don't forget to follow us for updates and highlights.



## Save the Date:

We are planning a series of events and activities throughout the year to commemorate this milestone. Stay tuned for announcements about special exhibitions, virtual tours, guest lectures, and more. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Founders Memorial Library's history. Your contributions to this celebration will help us honor the library's past and look forward to a future filled with learning, discovery, and Huskie pride.

Let us come together to celebrate 50 years of knowledge, community, and cherished memories at the Founders Memorial Library.

## 2023 Horatio Alger and Dr. James B. Pick & Dr. Rosalyn Laudati Fellows Selected



Owen Clayton, Ph.D.

The NIU Libraries selected Dr. Owen Clayton as the recipient of the first **Pick/Laudati Rare Books and Special Collections Fellowship**. This award uses funds from the Pick/Laudati library endowment for the recipient to visit the NIU Libraries for two weeks, conducting research using our Rare Books and Special Collections. Dr. Clayton is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Lincoln, UK. He specializes in recovering lost literary voices, including people experiencing homelessness and imprisonment. He has published several books, including *Representing Homelessness* (Oxford University Press, 2021) and *Vagabonds, Tramps, and Hobos: The Literature and Culture of U.S. Transiency 1890–1940* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Clayton's project for the Pick/Laudati fellowship involves research for a book project on US prison writings, focusing primarily on Northern Illinois's Special Collection of Civil War carceral memoirs, examining the works for common narrative devices and representational tropes to draw conclusions about the genre of Civil War carceral memoirs, including both the northern and southern prisoners. He will investigate whether prison writings prisoners on different sides of the conflict drew on similar or unique tropes to construct their narratives. Clayton's research will also include materials related to other chapters in the book.



Kelly Ross, Ph.D.

Dr. Kelly Ross is an Associate Professor of English at Rider University where she teaches courses in American literature, African American literature, and crime fiction and film. She is the author of *Slavery, Surveillance, and Genre in Antebellum United States Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2023), and her essays have appeared in *PMLA*, *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Politics*, *The Oxford Handbook of Edgar Allan Poe*, *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*, and *Leviathan*. She co-edits, with Emron Esplin, *Poe Studies: History, Theory, Interpretation*.

Her project for the **Horatio Alger Fellowship** traces the continuity between antebellum antislavery activism and postbellum detection through the figure of Allan Pinkerton, the founder of Pinkerton's Detective Agency in Chicago around 1850. Allan Pinkerton's espionage operations during the Civil War are a crucial link between these two eras. Pinkerton's training in detection and subterfuge was strengthened by his activities as a conductor on the Underground Railroad in antebellum Illinois. Pinkerton later became a spy for the Union army and head of the forerunner to the US Secret Service during the Civil War. Pinkerton's background as an Underground Railroad conductor and antislavery activist reminds us that the history of detection and surveillance in the United States is deeply intertwined with the history of race and slavery.

## Special Collections and Archives

**The Special Collections and Archives Department at NIU Libraries has full slate of programs and activities planned for the 2024 Spring semester.**

- New exhibits in the Rare Books Reading Room and Fourth Floor display cases include “People of the Book” highlighting Jewish texts from February-April, and “Motley and the Chicago Renaissance” beginning in May and running through August.
- New funding rounds for the Horatio Alger Society and Pick-Laudati fellowships open in late January.
- The NIU History, Culture Wars, and Politics Discussion Group will continue to meet twice per month in the reading room beginning in early February (specific dates and times will be posted on the NIU master calendar by start of the Spring semester).

**The History of the Book Seminars resume in February featuring the following line up:**

- February 1, 2024 @ Noon-1pm  
Hao Phan, NIU, Associate Professor, University Libraries, “Palm-Leaf Manuscripts from Southeast Asia: their making and preservation.” & Lara Crowley, NIU, Professor, English Department, “Is it Donne? Authorship and Attribution in Early Modern England.”
- March 7, 2024 @ Noon-1pm  
Chris Nissen, NIU, Emeritus Professor, CLAS, World Languages and Cultures, “Giulia Bigolina (1516-1569), The first Italian woman known to have written prose fiction.” & Brian Sanberg, NIU, Professor, History Dept., Early Modern Europe.
- April 4, 2024 @ 5-6pm  
Laura Wasowicz, Curator, American Antiquarian Society, “Riding the ‘Lava Wave’: Rediscovering the Amateur Press.”

**Second Annual Northern Illinois Regional History Conference - Saturday, April 20, 2024**

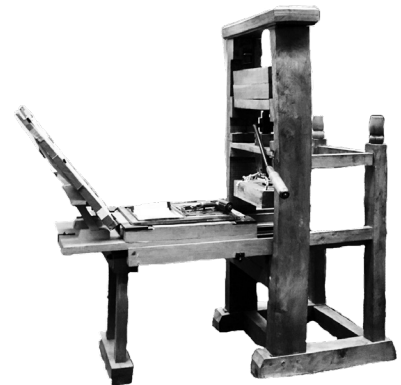
Hosted by the Regional History Center: this year’s theme explores transnational communities and global influences in and on the history and cultural heritage of Northern Illinois. We invite proposals from professionals and amateurs across disciplines that address the history of transnational communities and the many reciprocal global-local influences that continue to characterize the region. The presentation format is open and both group and individual session proposals will be featured. To submit a proposal before January 31st or for more conference details and updates, please visit the conference webpage.

**Celebrating the History of the Book at NIU!**

Together NIU Libraries Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) and the NIU English Department built a nationwide reputation for work on the history of the book. The emblem of this specialization is the replica of the Common Press built by NIU student Joe Frieders in 1976 that greets one when entering RBSC. Unfortunately, that press and other smaller presses, along with other accoutrements used to enhance the student understanding about the history of print, have fallen into disrepair just as national academic interest in the history of the book is on the rise. In an interdisciplinary effort, we aim to restore NIU's legacy and retake our rightful place on the national stage in this field.

The history of the book, which examines the materiality and craft involved in printing, book binding, publishing trade routes, censorship practices, facets of reading, and much more, needs materials in good working order. So while time and lack of use have stopped Northern Illinois University Libraries’ presses, we are working to get them started again!

We are happy to announced that we raised the nearly \$15,000 necessary to restore the presses, and also to purchase supplies to use them for demonstrations! We look forward to sharing more news about the NIU Libraries Booklab in the future. Please reach out to Prof. Beth McGowan, [bmcgowan@niu.edu](mailto:bmcgowan@niu.edu) with inquiries about the Booklab or Prof. Brad Wiles, [bwiles@niu.edu](mailto:bwiles@niu.edu) for other Special Collections and Archives projects.





# Founders Memorial Library and Learning Commons adds new One Button Video and Lightboard Studios!

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking addition to the Founder Memorial Library's Learning Commons that will undoubtedly enhance our student and faculty academic and creative endeavors—the brand new One Button Video and Lightboard Studios! We believe that the OBVS and Lightboard Studios will empower our community to deliver impactful and engaging content in ways that were previously unimaginable. We can't wait to see the brilliant ideas our students, faculty and staff bring to life with these unique resources.

## What is the One Button Video Studio?

The One Button Video Studio is a state-of-the-art facility that simplifies the process of creating high-quality videos and multimedia content.

### Key features of the One Button Video Studio include:

- 1. Easy to Use:** As the name suggests, it's as simple as pressing a button to start recording. No technical expertise required!
- 2. Professional Equipment:** The studio is equipped with top-of-the-line cameras, microphones, and lighting to ensure your videos look and sound exceptional.
- 3. Versatile Backdrops:** Choose from a variety of backdrops to suit the theme, whether it's a formal presentation or a creative project.
- 4. Support and Training:** Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are available to assist, and we offer workshops and tutorials to help the community get the most out of the studio.

## What is the Lightboard Studio?

The Lightboard Studio is a transparent glass board that allows you to write or draw while facing the camera, all while maintaining eye contact with your audience.

### Key Features of the Lightboard Studio:

- 1. Interactive Teaching:** Elevate your teaching and presentations by drawing diagrams, equations, and illustrations in real-time while maintaining a connection with your audience.
- 2. Professional Quality:** The studio is equipped with high-quality cameras, lighting, and audio equipment to ensure your videos are crystal clear and engaging.
- 3. Versatile Use:** Whether you're explaining scientific concepts, solving math problems, or delivering persuasive speeches, the Lightboard Studio adapts to your needs.
- 4. User-Friendly:** It's easy to use, and our friendly staff are available to assist you if needed.

We believe that the OBVS and Lightboard Studios will empower our community to deliver impactful and engaging content in ways that were previously unimaginable. We can't wait to see the brilliant ideas our students, faculty and staff bring to life with these unique resources.

## Our Donor Trees Have Moved

In order to make the donor trees more visible, we moved the donor trees to a space next to the Science on a Sphere, near the elevator and escalator. The two trees memorialize so many wonderful gifts and friends from years past that we want to make sure that our library users can see them.

Leaf	\$200
Acorn	\$500
Small Stone	\$1,000
Large Stone	\$5,000
Mini Tree	\$10,000

If you are interested in adding to the donor trees, either in memory of a loved one, or to memorialize a special occasion:

- Email: [lib-admin@niu.edu](mailto:lib-admin@niu.edu)
- Mail Check:

NIU Libraries  
217 Normal Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115



## It Happened in the Library:

### Mini Golf at Founders

September 22-23, our mini golf event was a part of Family Weekend, drawing students, families, and local community members together for a fun and engaging experience. Not only did it provide an opportunity for families to bond and enjoy quality time, but it also served as a way to engage the community and promote the university's vibrant spirit while providing students with access to library services.



### Fall Collections Colloquium

October 19, The Fall Collections Colloquium featured the recently digitized Peace Corps Training for Thailand Collection. The presentations focused on the impact of the Peace Corps on the NIU community, and was co-sponsored by the Special Collections and Archives Department of the NIU Libraries and the NIU Center for Southeast Asia Studies.

### History of the Book Seminars

November 2, Dee Anna Phares, Assistant Professor and Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian and Michael Barnes, Presidential Research, Scholarship and Artistry Professor, presented a program called *Between a Rock and a Barred Space: Information Dissemination and Private Collection*, as part of the History of the Book Seminar Series, held monthly in Rare Books and Special Collections.

### The Impact of Comic Books

November 16, Mike Korcek (NIU class of '70, longtime collector and comic book buff) and Gary Colabuono (NIU class '74, comic book collector, dealer, appraiser and historian) joined the library to share a panel presentation on the impact of comic books. Together we all dived into the pages of iconic comics and explored their profound influence on culture, art, and literature.

### Ravel Quartet

November 30, the Library Staff Lounge was immersed in the captivating world of classical music as the Ravel Quartet masterfully navigated through the exquisite movements of *Allegro moderato-tres doux* and *Assez vif-tres rythme*. Reilly Farrell and Jordan Weiss were on violin, Elianna Nielson was on Viola, and Hannah Sheridan was on Cello.

## Save the Date:

### Breaking the Japantown Stereotype:

### Who Were the Japanese and Japanese Americans in Chicago 1865-1940?

#### February 28, 12 Noon – 1 p.m., Founders Memorial Library

Most people think of the Japanese as so group-oriented that they would naturally form Japantowns, enclaves for Japanese immigrants in US cities. Yet, unlike their counterparts on the West Coast who were subject to strong racism, the Japanese in Chicago felt free to live where they chose, based on their own sense of individuality and self-identity. Please join Takako and Michael Day to learn about the many and varied lives of Japanese immigrants, as well as their families and their professions, introducing, through Chicago history, a new aspect of Japanese American history in the United States.

Takako Day, originally from Kobe, Japan, is an independent researcher who has published seven books and hundreds of articles in Japanese and English. Her latest English book, *Show Me the Way to Go Home: The Moral Dilemma of Kibei No No Boys in World War Two Incarceration Camps*, was published in 2014.

Michael Day is Emeritus Professor of English and former Director of the First-Year Composition Program at Northern Illinois University. He earned his PhD in Rhetoric from the University of California with a dissertation on Japanese rhetoric and has published widely on digital rhetoric and teaching with technology. He serves as editor and co-author on this book project.

## Coffee Mug and Calendar Sales

You can help support the University Libraries by purchasing this one-of-a-kind NIU Library insulated mug. The regular price is \$20, but NIU students can purchase the mug for \$10. All profits go to support the NIU Libraries Textbook Purchase Program.

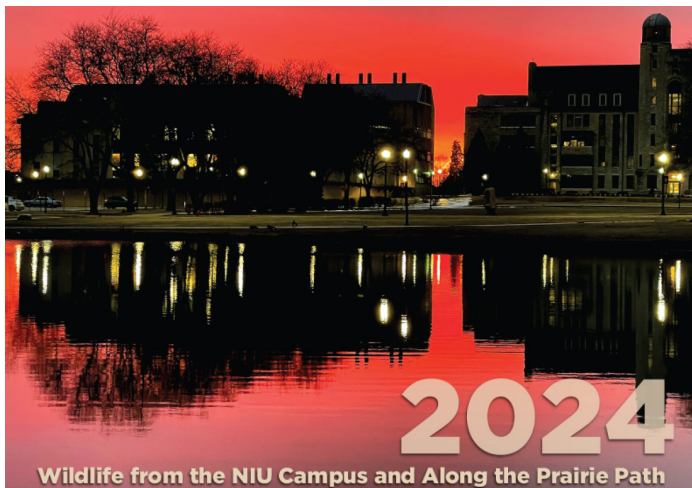
Show your library mug at Einstein Bros. Bagels in the Founders Memorial Library for 50 cents off hot coffee or tea drinks, or at Cast Iron Coffee on Lucinda Ave. for a 10% discount.

Pay for your mug using the online form below. After you purchase your mug online, you will be emailed a receipt. Please bring that receipt to the Welcome Desk of Founders Memorial Library to receive your mug (\$10 of each mug purchase goes to support the library's Textbook Affordability Fund). For those not in the DeKalb-area, mugs can be mailed to you for \$5 extra.

The NIU Library's 2024 calendar is now also on sale. Calendars are \$20 each if picked up at Founders Memorial Library, or \$25 if mailed out to the address listed during check out. (\$10 of each calendar purchase goes to the Friends of the Libraries Endowment to support library programs and resources). You may also purchase three calendars for \$55 if picked up at Founders Memorial Library, or \$60 if mailed out to the address listed during check out.

**Buy yours here: [foundation.myniu.com/article.html?aid=2278](https://foundation.myniu.com/article.html?aid=2278)**

NOTE: The University will be closed Dec. 22 - Jan. 1; no orders may be picked up or shipped out during this time.



Special thanks to Michael Day for generously sharing his art.

## Continuing Support for Faculty Cutting Course Materials Costs



The Course Materials Affordability Task Force (CMAT) is pleased to announce the return of two successful programs, sponsored by NIU Libraries, encouraging academic departments and faculty to transition to low (\$40 or under) or zero cost materials in their courses. For the second year, the ACM Awards will recognize departments offering the highest percentage of course sections using low or zero cost course materials during the academic year—acknowledging them on [NIU's Open Education website](#) and presenting them with a financial award. Additionally, individual faculty who consistently offer low or zero cost materials designated courses in MyNIU will also be recognized on the site.

In 2023-2024, a new ACM Integration Cohort will focus on converting existing courses to low or zero cost materials. Participants will learn how to locate, evaluate, and integrate affordable course materials with support from CITL staff and subject specialist librarians, and will receive a \$500 stipend upon completion of program requirements. All full-time and adjunct teaching faculty are eligible to apply, but participants will be limited based on funding.

# Discover the Latest at the Founders Learning Commons: Empowering Student Success and Well-Being

We are excited to bring you the latest updates from the Founders Learning Commons. As the heart of academic support on campus, the Learning Commons continues to evolve and expand its services to meet the diverse needs of our students and community. In this edition of Founders Type, we will introduce the various offerings available, highlight the addition of the Math Assistance Center, and celebrate the establishment of the Founders Snack Pantry.

## A Hub for Learning and Support

The Founders Library Learning Commons, located on the first floor of Founders Memorial Library, is a vibrant space dedicated to fostering academic success and providing valuable resources to students. It offers a wide range of study spaces, catering to both individual and group work. Individual study pods, wired discussion booths, and lounge seating are available to accommodate different preferences and needs.



Moreover, the Learning Commons is home to several student services designed to support students in their educational journey. The University Writing Center is readily available to help refine writing skills, offering guidance on everything from documentation styles to research papers. The Technology Support Desk is staffed by knowledgeable experts who can troubleshoot technical issues and provide assistance with NIU software applications and printing. Subject Specialist Librarians are available at the Research Help Desk to assist students, faculty, and community users in navigating the vast array of resources available. These units work closely together to seamlessly support students who often have overlapping needs. This co-location also allows for the discovery of services and resources that support student success.

## Math Assistance Center: Empowering Mathematical Excellence

Starting this fall, the Math Assistance Center relocated to the Learning Commons to enhance students' understanding and confidence in mathematics. This center provides drop-in tutoring sessions, offering students the opportunity to seek assistance whenever they encounter challenges or need clarification. Skilled tutors will be available to guide them through complex problems and support their journey toward mathematical mastery.

## Founders Snack Pantry: Fueling Students' Bodies and Minds

In support of the overall well-being of students, the Founders Snack Pantry has been established in the Learning Commons. The snack pantry ensures convenient access to food for students between meals, offering a variety of individually packaged food items to sustain students as they study, collaborate, and create within the library.

The Founders Snack Pantry has received overwhelming support from the generous community. Through the Huskies United fundraising effort, \$3,085 has been raised from 23 donors, including a special challenge from Fred Barnhart and Andy Wanek. This extraordinary achievement reflects the shared dedication to supporting students in need and fostering a caring and inclusive campus community.

For more information about the Founders Snack Pantry or to contribute food items, interested individuals can reach out to Kimberly Shotick, the Learning Commons Coordinator, at [kshotick@niu.edu](mailto:kshotick@niu.edu).

## Student Success and Well-Being Collection

Recognizing that student success encompasses more than just academic achievement, the Learning Commons is home to the Student Success and Well-Being Collection, adjacent to the Popular Reading and Graphic Novel collections. This collection is curated to support students holistically, addressing their mental health, personal development, and overall well-being. From self-help books to guides on mindfulness, resilience, identity, and navigating college life, this collection is a valuable resource to empower students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

## SEA News

In May 2023, Hao Phan, Southeast Asia Curator, traveled to Vietnam and Thailand to work on a digitization project, conduct his research, and visit libraries for collaborative services and projects. In Vietnam, Hao focused on a project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation for the Southeast Asia Digital Library, <https://sea.lib.niu.edu/>. This project aimed to document Cham religious traditions through videos. Alongside this, he visited libraries, including the Fulbright University's library in Ho Chi Minh City.

He then traveled to Thailand for his research on the anti-communist posters and pamphlets produced by the United States Information Agency (USIA) during the Cold War. Although printed in large numbers in the 1960s, these materials are now scarce and hard to come by. NIU Libraries holds a collection of 14 such posters and pamphlets, while the Library of Congress has about 10 of them, <https://sea.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/seadl%3Aposters>. These materials serve as valuable primary sources for the study of Southeast Asian history and culture. For example, two scholars currently using these materials to write their book and article are Professor Mike Rattanasengchanh at Midwestern State University and Professor Tamara Loos at Cornell University. While in Thailand, Hao visited the libraries at Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, and the office of the Library of Congress' Collaborative Acquisitions Program for Southeast Asian (CAPSEA) in Bangkok. Hao will present a paper on the Thai anti-communist posters at the Thai Studies Conference at NIU in October. This trip was funded by the Thai Studies Council.



Hao Phan pictured during his visit to the Library of Congress's Collaborative Acquisitions Program for SEA office in Bangkok, Thailand

## Friends of the NIU Libraries

The Friends of NIU Libraries was founded in 1983 as an association of library supporters interested in contributing to the University Libraries' mission to "... empower and inspire students, faculty and the community to transform the world, and themselves, through the discovery and creation of knowledge."

The Friends secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of books, manuscripts, and other materials such as electronic resources that could not otherwise be acquired by the library. The Friends also sponsor a series of programs each year on a wide range of topics, often related to books, libraries, and publishing, but also of general interest. Many of these programs are free and open to the public, but some are members only. If you would like to be part of an e-mail distribution list for announcements of upcoming Friends events, please email us at [LibAdmin@niu.edu](mailto:LibAdmin@niu.edu). Suggestions for future Friends programming can be sent to the same address.

If you would like to join the Friends or donate to support the NIU Libraries, please visit the Friends of the NIU Libraries page at [crowdfund.niu.edu/project/39610](https://crowdfund.niu.edu/project/39610)

There are many other benefits to membership in the Friends at different levels:

### Student Level - \$25

- Listing in NIU Libraries Annual Report
- Recognition on Libraries' Website
- Hot/cold insulated library mug

### Friend Level - \$50

- Listing in NIU Libraries Annual Report
- Recognition on Libraries' Website
- Gold Courtesy Card (allows for longer check out)
- Access to Interlibrary Loan
- 2024 NIU Nature Calendar or insulated library mug

### Leader Level - \$250

- All of the above
- Special Events Priority Invitation, Seating and Reception
- Framed 1970s "psychedelic" carpet from Founders Memorial Library. (If you know, you know.)

### Scholar Level - \$1,000

- All of the above
- Science on Sphere banner ad for special event recognition
- Use of library laptop and library hoteling space (as available)

### Benefactor Level - \$5,000 (one time)

- All of the above
- Named Exhibit (in coordination with the Exhibit Committee)

### Founders Circle - \$10,000 (one time)

- All of the above
- Name or corporate logo on library promotional materials
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