



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
University Libraries

Founders

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News from NIU Libraries
Spring 2024



Founders

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From the Desk of Dean Barnhart

Dear Friends,

As we bid farewell to the winter chill and welcome the warmth of spring, I am delighted to extend an invitation to you to explore the offerings at the Northern Illinois University Libraries. With the changing of the seasons comes a variety of opportunities for intellectual engagement and cultural enrichment, which we are happy to share with you.

First and foremost, immerse yourself in the vibrant world of art and culture by visiting our exhibition of alebrijos. These fantastical creatures, born from the imagination of Mexico City artisans, embody the spirit of creativity and craftsmanship. Through intricate designs and vibrant colors, they transport us to a realm where imagination knows no bounds. We invite you to witness the magic of alebrijos firsthand and discover the stories they have to tell. [More online here.](#)



Frederick D. Barnhart
Dean, NIU Libraries

Furthermore, it is with great pride that I announce that the NIU Libraries have been awarded the first annual LEAD (Library Excellence in Access and Diversity) award by the publication, *Insight Into Diversity*. This recognition serves as a testament to our commitment to diversity, inclusion and access. I want to extend my thanks to our staff and faculty, especially the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, for their work in making the library welcoming to all.

In addition to our exhibitions and accolades, I am excited to highlight the upcoming Northern Illinois Regional History Conference on April 20. This second annual event brings together scholars, researchers and history enthusiasts from across the region to explore diverse facets of our shared past. With a conference theme of “Transnational Communities and Global Influence,” this conference promises to be a stimulating forum. We invite you to join us in celebrating the rich tapestry of regional history and heritage.

Lastly, as we embrace the spirit of new beginnings, we should celebrate our graduating students. Your dedication, perseverance and academic achievements are a testament to your hard work and determination. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, know that the NIU Libraries will always be here to support you in your pursuit of knowledge and lifelong learning.

More information about all of these and more can be found in this issue of the newsletter.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. D. Barnhart". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Frederick Barnhart, Dean of Libraries Northern Illinois University

Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World Exhibit

Northern Illinois University Libraries opened a new exhibit displaying large, Mexican sculpture pieces known as alebrijes on Jan. 29. This exhibit, which will remain open until Nov. 8, presents a collection of 22 pieces created by five artists from Mexico City. The DuPage Mexican Cultural Center in West Chicago selected the pieces and provided them to the library. Several of the pieces are quite large, over 12 feet in height. Others are smaller, about the size of a library table.

Alebrijes are brightly colored folk depictions of magical beings. Many people believe alebrijes represent a long Mexican folk art tradition, but in fact they only began to appear in the 1940s. The well-known Mexican artist Pedro Linares (1906-1992) invented the form, and its name. He often told a story about how he came to create alebrijes. While in bed with a fever, Linares dreamed of incredible creatures combining the features of different animals. The creatures began chanting a single nonsense word, alebrije... alebrije... alebrije! This frightening scene awakened Linares and when his fever subsided, he began constructing what he had seen in his dream. He called these sculptures alebrijes.

Linares had already built a career working in paper mache, creating pinatas, masks and Judas figures used in Easter celebrations. He built his first alebrijes with this material. Observers found his original pieces disturbing and they attracted no buyers. After a time, a prominent art gallery owner noticed Linares' creations, and went on to market them successfully. Linares' alebrijes then became very well-known, and the celebrated Mexican artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo commissioned pieces for their private collections.



Linares and his successors developed alebrijes in the wake of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920). Before the revolution, many Mexican artists identified with and tried to emulate European aesthetic ideals. With Mexican independence, artists, intellectuals and politicians often sought to break away from these traditions and unify a population that had experienced a decade of civil war. They often turned to the tradition of indigenous arts and crafts and alebrijes emerged as a distinctively Mexican art form. Today, alebrijes created in many regions of Mexico can be found in private and museum collections around the world. Alebrijes also appeared in the 2017 Disney film "Coco."

As the alebrijes tradition has developed, Mexican artists have continued to construct them in a variety of media, including paper mache and wood. The collection on display in Founders Memorial Library consists of materials developed from the tradition of paper mache, which produces pieces at a larger scale than woodcarving. Many artists working in this medium now incorporate additional materials, such as acrylic, in order to enhance the pieces' durability.

Center for Latino and Latin American Studies director Professor Christina Abreu reported that her organization had worked with the University Libraries to co-host the alebrijes exhibit. "These beautiful art pieces are a celebration of Latinx art and culture, and we're honored to have these on display on campus for students, faculty and community members to enjoy," she remarked. "We're also looking forward to developing some programming in the fall so that students can learn more about the history and significance of this art form."



Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World Exhibit

Dean of NIU Libraries Fred Barnhart reflected on the library's hopes for the exhibit: "Bringing the alebrijes exhibit to NIU is our way of celebrating and educating about the amazing contributions of the Latinx community. Our university has a large Latinx population, reflecting the region as a whole, and we want to provide the opportunity for everyone to enjoy this unique cultural tradition. The exhibit is especially timely in light of the fact that the university is on track to becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution. Moreover, academic libraries can sometimes be intimidating, and our hope for this, and similar exhibits, is to be a gateway to learning and knowledge for all curious minds, regardless of age or background."

"We are proud to display these beautiful sculptures at NIU," said Laurie Elish-Piper, Executive Vice President and Provost. "NIU currently has its largest undergraduate population of Latinx students in university history, and we are glad to be able to celebrate the cultural contributions of the Latinx community in this way."

Northern Illinois University President Lisa Freeman emphasized the alebrijes' significance for the university and the surrounding community, "I am delighted that the NIU Libraries has the opportunity to exhibit the alebrijes works. We are a campus community that deeply values the important role art has as a form of expression and the celebration of diversity. This exhibit brings to campus, and the DeKalb community, a number of Mexican folk-art pieces that brilliantly capture the imagination. We are grateful for this opportunity to celebrate Mexican culture, and to educate and connect Huskies from diverse backgrounds."

Sources:

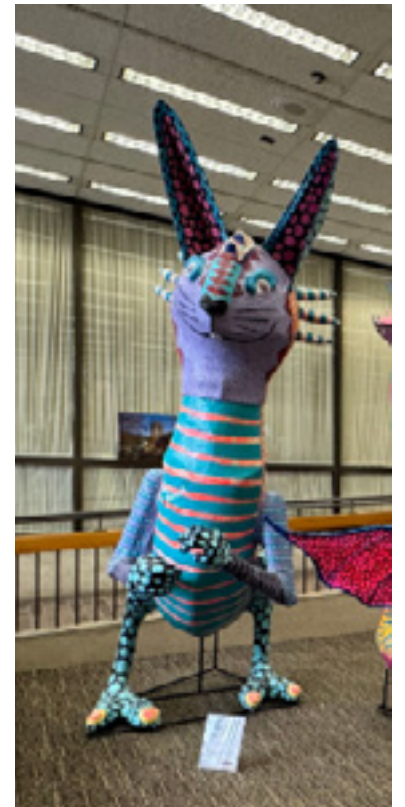
Timony S. Y. Lam Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University - Mexico: Create a Colorful Alebrije <https://lammuseum.wfu.edu/2020/10/mexico-create-a-colorful-alebrije/>

University of Kentucky Colleges of Arts and Sciences – Viva Mexico! Alebrijes of Oaxaca, Mexico - https://uknowledge.uky.edu/world_mexico_alebrijes/

Mayan Copal – Alebrije: A Brief History <https://mayancopal.com/blogs/news/alebrije-a-brief-history>

Huang, Nellie "What Are Alebrijes?" <https://mexicotravel.blog/what-are-alebrijes/>

See the virtual exhibit:



University Libraries Learning Commons Welcomes Mathematics Assistance Center

Adapted from NIU Today

Northern Illinois University Libraries welcomed the Mathematics Assistance Center (MAC) to the Founders Memorial Library Learning Commons in 2023.

Housed on the ground floor of the main library building, the MAC offers tutoring, study strategies and test-taking tips to students in a casual setting. No appointment is required, and the positive and relaxed environment has proven successful in growing students' confidence in their abilities to learn new concepts.

Kevin Shryock, coordinator and lead tutor of the MAC, described the center's "coffee-shop type of environment where the students can come in, work alone at their own pace, and then ask the tutor to help with questions... I think it does a lot to break down the emotional barriers that come along with some of the harder math classes."

Shryock took this position after serving as an instructor at NIU for several years. Formerly an engineer for Amazon and Eaton with experience seeing how math is used in the business world, Shryock now shares this knowledge through teaching and tutoring, helping undergraduates through math classes.

"The tutoring is incredibly rewarding, as it allows you to have a more personable interaction with the student," said Shryock. "You have the opportunity to get to know the student first, then find a way of presenting material in a manner that resonates with the student."

Shryock has noticed interactions where a student is working on a problem in the MAC, and multiple tutors will offer different perspectives and approaches to solve it.

"This helps show that math culture is not this ivory tower type of thing, but something that invites everybody to discuss the same problem," he said. "I see people who are happy to be proven wrong in order to understand better, and that is just a very unique and comforting experience."

NIU students are embracing and using this resource. In only its third semester, the MAC provided 3,822 hours of tutoring, with 2,903 total visits from 677 unique students in 22 different math classes during the fall 2023 semester.

Tony Kasa is a sophomore at NIU with a double major in mathematical sciences and journalism. Kasa discovered the MAC during his freshman



year and says, it has been a great asset in his learning process ever since.

"The people here are very helpful and when I come here, I understand topics better than I do in class," said Kasa. "It's always been a pleasant experience, and I've been able to fully understand my work and get things done in a way that lets me leave confidently."

"Kevin puts it in a chill, laid-back manner and helps me feel more confident because he explains things piece by piece," said Kasa. "When you take an environment that's friendly and easygoing, you can feel the confidence walking in there and you can sense the positive energy, because everyone is really supportive."

Shryock encourages students to visit the MAC Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Friday between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students can check for times when tutors can help them with specific courses. The MAC also allows students to borrow calculators, find office supplies and get study guides to help them with their studies.

Meanwhile, the MAC is delivering on the university's Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan 2.0 goals of supporting access, opportunity and success for all students.

"First-generation students may not realize universities have tons of resources available to them, and what the math department has done is just extraordinary," said Bob Brinkmann, dean of NIU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "The sense of welcoming from this department is transformative and different from how math can sometimes be seen, as a burden. We want to walk with students to get them over that finish line with success, and even into math or data-driven careers."

NIU Libraries Welcome Nan Yamprai as New Music Librarian

Jittapim (Nan) Yamprai began work as NIU Libraries' music librarian in December, 2023. This brief interview provides information about her professional interests and goals for the music library.

1. What do you consider to be your specialties as a librarian, scholar and musician?
 - I would consider my specialties to be both musicology and ethnomusicology, which focus on east-west interculturalism in the following topics: historical music manuscripts, music and diplomacy, music and politics, music of Southeast Asia, music in the Catholic Church, as well as music, minorities, and refugees.
2. Where were you previously employed?
 - I started my career as a music faculty member teaching at the College of Music, Mahidol University, Thailand in 2005 and later in 2012 as a music library director. I returned to the U.S. in 2013 as assistant professor of music at the University of Northern Colorado and Associate Professor of Music in 2019. In 2022, I worked with the University of Wisconsin Green Bay on the position of international partnership collaborator and international admission advisors before moving to NIU in 2023.
3. What academic degrees do you hold?
 - I have two master's degrees. The first is a B.A. degree in ethnomusicology from Mahidol University, Thailand. The second one is the MLIS from University of North Texas. My doctoral degree is a D.A. degree in music history and literature from University of Northern Colorado.
4. How does the music library support the university community?
 - The music library is a center to share knowledge and resources of music as well as support teaching and learning of

faculty, students and staff.

5. What are your goals for the music library?
 - First, I plan to make NIU music library a warm and friendly place of sharing and learning knowledge for students, faculty and staff as well as a place that they want to spend time to discuss, study, hang out and relax after the class. One of the main goals is building trust that the library will always provide academic support and help with finding answers to their questions, along with provide music tutoring, music research and writing aids. Second is promoting cultural and social awareness that reflects major global events that extend beyond classroom through music library exhibitions in collaboration with music faculty to provide performance series and mini lectures.
6. Please tell us anything else you might want to share about your life away from work.
 - Aside from my work, I perform Japanese music and conduct research.



NIU awarded for Library Excellence in Access and Diversity

Adapted from NIU Today

NIU's diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging efforts continue to receive national recognition.

The latest accolade recognizes the [University Libraries](#) team.

NIU Libraries earned the [2024 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity \(LEAD\) Award](#) from Insight Into Diversity magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

New this year, the LEAD Award honors academic libraries' programs and initiatives that encourage and support diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) across their campus. These include, but are not limited to research, technology, accessibility, exhibitions and community outreach.

NIU will be featured, along with 55 other recipients, in the March 2024 issue of [Insight Into Diversity magazine](#).

"The diversity of our student body is an important dimension of NIU's excellence and, as part of our university goals, we are committed to being an institution that prioritizes diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging," said Laurie Elish-Piper, NIU's interim executive vice president and provost. "Our University Libraries team is to be commended for their dedicated work in this area, and we thank Insight Into Diversity magazine for recognizing NIU with this honor."

Insight Into Diversity magazine selected NIU Libraries because of the following factors:

- Continuous assessment and improvement of the library's DEI programs.
- Support for diverse library collections, practice and events.
- Library support for underrepresented authors and researchers.
- Support for NIU's faculty in their diversity, equity and inclusion research.
- Access to resources and information in the library's physical and virtual environments.

Formed in 2019, the Library's Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee (LEDI) meets regularly and is frequently adding to library initiatives and campuswide DEI initiatives.

"I am very proud of the actions that have been taken by the NIU Libraries," said Fred Barnhart, dean of University Libraries. "This national recognition not only underscores our work, it also encourages us to keep improving, and it encourages other libraries as well."

"When we initiated a DEI Committee, now the LEDI Committee, members were given a broad charge to look at everything we take for granted on a regular basis," he said. "We could not have dreamed of the enthusiasm and energy that would be generated by the library staff and faculty."

The efforts have involved faculty, staff and students across campus and beyond and have led to numerous speaking events, exhibits, resources and more offered through University Libraries.



NIU awarded for Library Excellence in Access and Diversity

"We support underrepresented authors and researchers in a variety of ways and continue to look for new ways to do so," Barnhart said.

Among numerous initiatives, University Libraries partnered with the [Disability Resource Center](#) to provide technology and space to improve accessibility to resources.

"We provide a book paging service for anyone that is unable to access a print book for whatever reason, regardless of disability," Barnhart said. "During the 2022 academic year, the libraries were the pilot location for a [finding tool called Navilens](#), which is now being deployed campuswide."

DEI topics are a regular part of the library's monthly forum discussions, Barnhart said, with speakers often brought in from outside University Libraries. Among those have been representatives of NIU's [Diversity and Cultural Resource Centers](#), the Disability Resource Center and NIU's chief diversity officer and vice president of [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#).

In addition to the LEAD Award, NIU also recently earned the [2023 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity \(HEED\) Award](#) from Insight Into Diversity magazine. This was NIU's third consecutive year winning the award.

These recent recognitions reflect the university's ongoing commitment to broaden diversity and inclusion and create a welcoming living and working environment for all.

"NIU's institutional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging extends across our entire Northern Illinois University community," said Carol Sumner, Ed.D., vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and chief diversity officer. "This award earned by our colleagues in the NIU Libraries is a well-deserved example of how we are all a part of being change agents in the spaces we occupy. We join them in celebrating this inaugural and highly esteemed recognition."

A call for nominations for the inaugural LEAD award from Insight Into Diversity was announced in October 2023.

"We know that many academic libraries are not always recognized for their dedication to diversity, inclusion and access" says Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of Insight Into Diversity magazine. "We are proud to honor these college and university libraries as role models for other institutions of higher education."

For more information about the 2024 LEAD Award, visit insightintodiversity.com.

University Libraries and Huskies United, 2024

On March 20 and 21, the university will host [Huskies United](#), an online fundraising event. The University Libraries will provide [three opportunities](#) to support specific projects promoting student success and community outreach.

The first seeks donations to support public programs related to the library's current exhibit: "[Albebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World](#)." Alebrijes are a form of Mexican folk art that first developed in the 1940s. The collection on display in the library takes the form of paper mâché sculpture pieces, although artists can also fashion smaller alebrijes from wood. The DuPage Mexican Cultural Center made the collection on exhibit available to the University Libraries. The University Libraries can also work with the center to bring artists who created the pieces on display to DeKalb for workshops and other public programs. The libraries seek \$3,000 to support the artists' travel from Mexico, lodging and speaking fees.

The second seeks donations to provide for the repair, upgrading and expansion of the University Libraries' collection of collaboration stations. Each station consists of a large monitor attached to a table. Users may connect the monitor to a variety of devices, including laptop computers, tablets and cell phones. Students typically use the stations to share the contents of a device's display to the monitor. This allows a single student to view the material at a larger scale and share it with others seated at the table. The four stations currently in use have become very popular, and two require repairs. The libraries also seek funds to install two more stations. The libraries seek a total of \$3,000 for this project.

The third seeks contributions to support the [Women in STEM Lecture Series](#), which the libraries co-sponsor with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The series provides women scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians with an opportunity to discuss their work and experiences in professional life. It engages members of the community to share experiences and foster inspiration and camaraderie within fields where women and other gender minorities are historically underrepresented. The libraries seek \$3,000 to provide speakers with honoraria and, in the case of off-campus speakers, travel funds.

[Please consider making a donation to the University Libraries' Huskies United.](#)

As we celebrate your remarkable achievements and the journey you've embarked upon, we at the library want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you. Your hard work, dedication and pursuit of excellence have led to this momentous milestone. We hope that our library has been a valuable resource and refuge for you, contributing to your academic and personal success. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember the hours spent among the books and the knowledge gained. May the lessons learned and experiences shared here continue to inspire and guide you. Congratulations, graduates! Here's to new beginnings and the endless possibilities that await you.



Rare Books and Special Collections

Exhibits:

Motley: The Forgotten Story of a Chicago Writer

- Feb. 5 through March 31

The Chicago-born and raised Willard Motley was a Black writer who found a moment of fame after the publication of his first novel, "Knock on Any Door," which was later adapted into a film starring the acclaimed Humphrey Bogart. However, Motley soon fell out favor. He was often criticized for insisting on writing about white, ethnic protagonists instead of focusing on Black characters and race issues in America as other Black writers of the time. The exhibit chronicles Motley's career as a writer and features holdings from the Willard Motley Collection including original typescripts and notes, photographs and other personal items.

Phillis Wheatley Peters: African American Poet: Work, Life and Legacy

- Feb. 12 through April 12

Phillis Wheatley Peters (c. 1753- 1784) often considered the founder of African American literature, was kidnapped from her home in West Africa, enslaved and transported to North America when she was about seven or eight years old. She became the first African American to publish a book of poetry and only the third woman in colonial America to do so. NIU Rare Books is very lucky to own a first edition of her book, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," published in London in 1773 as well as an edition dating from 1835. This exhibit provides information about her life, her work and her legacy.

History of the Book Seminar Series:

- **Thursday, April 4, 2024 | 5 to 6 p.m.**

Riding the "Lava Wave": Rediscovering the Amateur Press

Presenter: Laura Wasowicz, Curator, American Antiquarian Society

Laura Wasowicz is curator of children's literature at the American Antiquarian Society. In that capacity she oversees the growth, description and use of the AAS Children's Literature Collection comprised of some 30,000 American children's books issued between 1650 and 1899. She has written on various aspects of 19th-century American children's book publishing, picture book iconography and child reading habits, including essays published in *Radiant with Color & Art: McLoughlin Brothers and the Business of Picture Books, 1858-1920*. (American Antiquarian Society, 2018) and *Who Writes for Black Children?: African American Children's Literature Before 1900* (University of Minnesota Press, 2017).

Abstract: "The Adams and Novelty presses kindly furnished the crater, and through it poured the burning lava." –John Winslow Snyder, 18-year-old amateur journalist, 1873.

With the advent of the improved lowe tabletop press in 1868, a floodgate of opportunities for personal expression opened for hundreds of children and teenagers across the United States throughout the late 19th century. These boys and girls tried their hands at typesetting and printing works written by themselves. These amateur-produced books contained courtship advice, whimsical nature poetry, comic stories and highly violent tales of adventure.

Wasowicz will discuss what she discovered while riding the "lava wave," cataloging the superb holdings of 200 amateur books held at the American Antiquarian Society, an independent research library in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 2022, AAS received a two-year NEH grant funding the Historic Children's Voices Project to catalog and digitize printed and manuscript juvenilia. What she has found are stories of ambition, glimmers of literary brilliance, caustic wit, and lives cut short by mental illness or endemic diseases like tuberculosis. Above all, these tiny pamphlets reflect the desires of young people to develop and refine their unique voice as writers, editors, typographers and entrepreneurs.

NIU Libraries to Host Second Annual Regional History Conference

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NIU Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center

NIU Libraries Regional History Center will host the second annual Northern Illinois Regional History Conference from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center on NIU's campus in DeKalb. The conference theme is "Transnational Communities and Global Influences In/On Northern Illinois." The conference keynote speaker is Professor Erik S. McDuffie, associate professor of history and African American Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, who will examine the global impact of Black northern Illinois from the late 18th century to the present. Specifically, McDuffie will discuss African-descended people such as Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, Ida B. Wells and Christine Johnson; the historic, all-Black municipality of Robbins, Illinois; and movements such as the Nation of Islam and the Black Arts Movement. The discussion will provide a theoretical and empirical framework for appreciating northern Illinois as a key site in the making of the modern Black world.

The conference program will also feature concurrent panel sessions with presentations on a variety of topics and projects related to northern Illinois' history, heritage and culture in local and global contexts. According to conference organizer Bradley J. Wiles, associate professor and head of NIU Libraries Special Collections and Archives Department, this year's conference built on feedback received from last year's conference attendees. "I think we had such wide interest from potential presenters this year because the global/local theme really seems to resonate on a personal and community level throughout the region," said Wiles. In addition to hosting more panelists this year, Wiles said that he is working with NIU's Division of Outreach, Education and Regional Development for the conference sessions to qualify as Illinois State Board of Education continuing education professional development hours for eligible conference attendees like history and social studies teachers. "With every successive conference, we want to improve and make the experience as inclusive and meaningful as possible for all attendees," said Wiles.

The Northern Illinois Regional History Conference is free and open to the public. No registration is required but attendees are encouraged to RSVP by April 15, 2024. For more information or to RSVP, please [visit the conference webpage](#) or contact Bradley J. Wiles at bwiles@niu.edu or 815-753-9392.

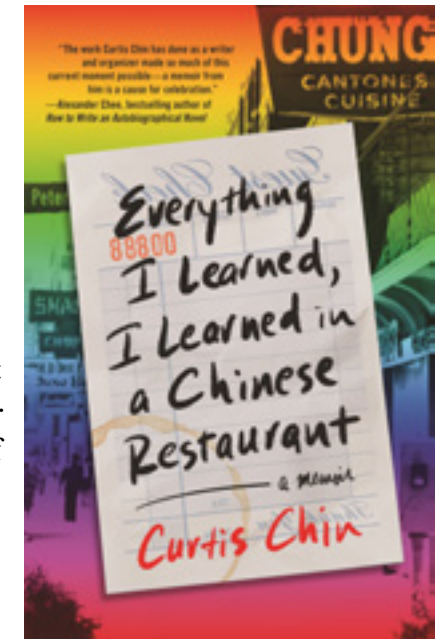
Curtis Chin at Founders Memorial Library

Join us for a heartwarming exploration of identity and belonging at our book signing event from noon to 2 p.m., April 3, at NIU Founders Memorial Library Staff Lounge. The event is open to the public.

Northern Illinois University Libraries, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Kishwaukee College Library, DeKalb Public Library, Sycamore Public Library, Ellwood House Museum and Robin's Nest Bookshoppe present Curtis Chin, author of the acclaimed memoir "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant."

Experience a captivating conversation about Chin's journey as a gay Asian American growing up in Detroit. Discover the cultural richness of diverse American families, communities and our resilience. Connect with your friends and neighbors in a celebration of cultural enrichment.

Get your copy signed. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of Robin's Nest Bookshoppe.



New Databases Added

The communications department has purchased the Access World News newspaper collection for campus use, to be managed by the library. It includes thousands of newspapers, including the Chronicle (2000 to present) and other Illinois publications. The following are listed under [New/Trial Databases on the A-Z list](#).

- Access World News Research Collection.
- Daily Chronicle Collection.
- Illinois News Sources.
- Access Business News.

These news databases support research in many subject areas including:

- Business (over 1,000 business and trade journals from around the world.)
- Communications.
- Criminal justice.
- Latin American studies (more than 200 sources in Spanish from around the world.)
- Political science (over 40 years of news content, updated daily.)
- World languages and cultures (news content in more than 15 languages.)

NIU Libraries Now Part of eRead Illinois

The NIU Libraries now provides the eRead Illinois service, with access to thousands of popular ebooks and downloadable audiobooks. The collection include books for adults, teens and children in English and Spanish. All the titles are available for campus users through the Huskie Search catalog and also from the eRead web site. This access is provided by funding from the Bernadine Hanby Endowment, named for the long-time director of the NIU Libraries who retired in 1967.



Library Hours to change for Summer Sessions

Summer is on the horizon, and with it comes a change in our library hours. Don't miss out on valuable study time. Scan the QR code below to view our updated schedule and plan your visits accordingly. Keep your study momentum going strong throughout the summer session with us.



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 email distribution list for announcements of upcoming Friends events, please email us at 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.

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.
- Reduced rate to use library space for event.

We want to thank the following Friends of the NIU Libraries for their generosity during the past year. 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.

Lifetime Donors

Adra Baker-Gallagher
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