

Libraryinsider

Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh Library System's *Library Insider*. Here, we share brief updates on library spaces, services, programs, and people, and extend invitations to library-hosted events we hope you will find interesting. Thanks for reading!

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Showcasing Innovation: Digital Creations from the Open Lab

The Open Lab in Hillman Library, a collaboration between the University Library System and the Center for Teaching and Learning, empowers the Pitt community with technology for hands-on making and learning. Their recent *Digital Media & Design Showcase* highlighted interactive student projects from English department courses. Students created a dynamic range of media, like audio narratives, podcasts, and 3D animations, pushing the boundaries of traditional storytelling.



Projects included a webpage about "Steel City Gardening," which addressed food insecurities in Pittsburgh, a novel-style murder mystery game called "Stag Party," and a 31-day social media campaign with the feminist nonprofit "Remarkable Women Stories."



One student masterfully combined laser cutting, engraving, 3D printing, and soldering to build a retro arcade cabinet housing their original 2D game.



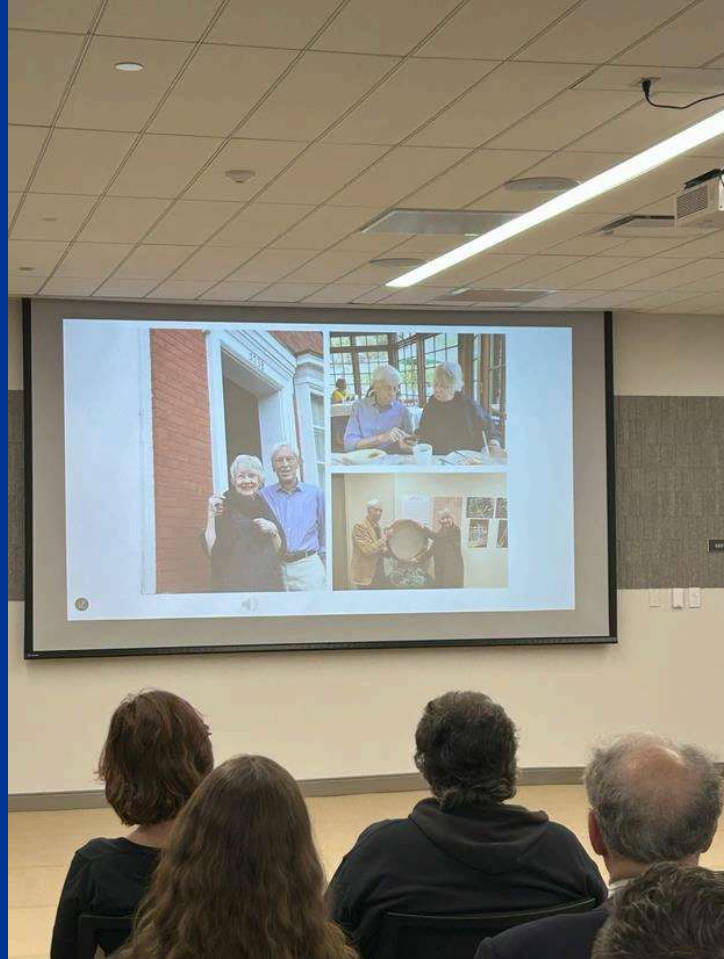


The showcase demonstrated students' creative technological skills and unveiled exciting new avenues for digital storytelling and information sharing.

A Legacy Remembered: Celebrating Professors Mae and Richard Smethurst



The University Library System recently honored Professors Mae and Richard Smethurst, who dedicated their careers to the University of Pittsburgh since 1967 (Mae in Classics, and Richard in History). Their profound connection to Japan Studies led to a significant donation of Japanese woodblock prints to the ULS Archives & Special Collections, making our Tsukioka Kōgyo Noh and Kyōgen collection the largest outside of Japan.



Friends and colleagues gathered to share heartfelt reflections on the Smethursts' impact on their lives and work.



Following the remarks, Prof. Oyler of the East Asian Languages & Literatures department introduced the award-winning professional Noh actors from Japan, Hisa Uzawa and Hikaru Uzawa. They performed three *shimai*, Noh dances: "Eguchi," "Ominameshi," and "Tōru," dedicated to the Smethursts.



Hisa Uzawa (above right) is a designated “cultural treasure” by the Japanese government and is one of the first women to perform a main masked role in Noh (*shite*).



The memorial also featured a poignant display of prints and materials from the Smethursts' cherished collection.

Uncovering History: Insights from Archival Scholars

Hillman Library buzzed with intellectual curiosity as the Archival Scholars Research Award (ASRA) student recipients recently shared their fascinating research journeys using the unique resources in Archives & Special Collections.



Students presented their research, which included examinations of health and political resistance rhetoric, and urban planning for Forbes Field, Oakland's baseball park, formerly located next to Hillman Library. One panelist used data from the archives to trace the spread of infectious diseases in Pittsburgh between 1880 and 1920. Two students discussed researching the Cathedral of Learning's Irish and Chinese Nationality Rooms using the room archives held by the ULS.



Emily Salisbury, a senior majoring in Computational Biology (above center), found the program a welcome counterbalance to her curricular focus on coding and the sciences. Salisbury researched local comedian [Barbara Russell](#), who passed away in 2018. Russell was part of the comedy duo "[Brockett and Barbara](#)," with Don Brockett, known for his role as Chef Brockett on "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood," the beloved Pittsburgh TV program. Incidentally, Russell and Brockett played zombies in the 1985 movie "Day of the Dead," by [George Romero](#) whose archives are also preserved by the ULS.

"During my online research, I soon discovered that finding accurate information about Barbara was challenging," Salisbury explained. "When I went through her collection at the ULS, it was comforting to know these materials came from her family and were credible, so that I could share her story."



After the panel discussions and Q&A, the students gathered with Rachel Lavenda, Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting to launch their exhibit on the interactive digital wall. Come to the third floor of Hillman Library during [library open hours](#) to explore their work!

Explore Now: Exhibits on Display this Summer

Discover captivating stories and hidden treasures in the Archives & Special Collections Gallery this spring and summer, anytime during [library open hours](#).

Hidden Gems: Surprising Artistic Finds in A&SC



What differentiates a museum collection from an archival one? To some, an object's placement in the archive marks it as "not art"—or else, wouldn't it be in a museum? In this display, we present several objects from the archives for you to consider in the context of this question. Stop by, then let us know: do these objects belong more in a museum or an archive, and why?

Guardians of Nature: Animals in Chinese Culture and Conservation



Explore the deep symbolism of animals in Chinese culture, from ancient beliefs to modern conservation efforts. This exhibition showcases how animals have been revered, protected, and symbolized throughout Chinese history through prints, postage stamps, and art objects that come from the Archives & Special Collections, or are on loan from private collectors.

Fresh Finds: New Arrivals in A&SC Exhibit

Each year, A&SC adds hundreds of rare books, newspapers, manuscripts, audio, and video recordings to its collections to support Pitt communities the global community of researchers. The items currently on display were acquired in 2022.



For a complete list of exhibits in the A&SC Gallery, visit the [exhibits webpage](#).

See What's Happening Next at the ULS



See our [events and workshops calendar](#) to find upcoming programs of interest. Look out for an invitation to our end-of-renovations Hillman Library Open House this Homecoming!

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