



# 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!

## In this Issue:

Hillman, You've Changed! Open House  
The ULS Received Its Third NEH "Landmarks of American History and Culture" Award  
August Wilson Archive Awardee Presentations  
Digital Scholarship Summer Internship Presentations  
What's Happening Next at the ULS

## Hillman, You've Changed! Open House: Friday, October 24 Noon to 4 p.m.

After an incredible eight-year transformation, Hillman Library is now a modern, vibrant hub of learning and innovation. Experience it for yourself during our Homecoming Open House occurring from noon to 4 p.m., with guided tours at 1 and 3 p.m.



Explore new cutting-edge spaces, technology, and services via an interactive self-guided tour. Get a glimpse into the past with Archives & Special Collections, see a working printing press from the 1800s, a scary prop from a horror film, and witness the future with 3D printers and digital creation tools. Along the way, learn about the many spaces, services, and programs available to you, our Pitt alumni, as we welcome you into the new Hillman Library. You'll have to see it to believe it, so we look forward to seeing you!

### **Don't Miss Pitt Alumni Association Events and Your Favorite Traditions!**

Thurs., Oct. 23: Alumni Awards Celebration

Fri., Oct. 24: Welcome Back Reception: Ale to Pitt, Fireworks & Laser Show

Sat., Oct. 25: Homecoming Tailgate: The Great Lawn on the North Shore

**Register here**

---

Questions? Visit [homecoming.pitt.edu](https://homecoming.pitt.edu) for the latest information and full event schedule.

# SNAPPED AN AWESOME HILLMAN PIC?

DON'T FORGET TO TAG US.  
**#HILLMANVIBES**





## The ULS Received Its Third NEH "Landmarks of American History and Culture" Award



The 1892 "Battle of Homestead" is the most famous event in labor history between steelworkers and the Carnegie Steel Corporation, and it catapulted a four-month-long strike. Over 130 years later, the events still have a lasting impact in the United States. The ULS's Archives & Special Collections and the nonprofit organization, Rivers of Steel, established ["The Homestead Steel Strike and Growth of America as an Industrial Power"](#) workshop to immerse educators in both sides of the battle.

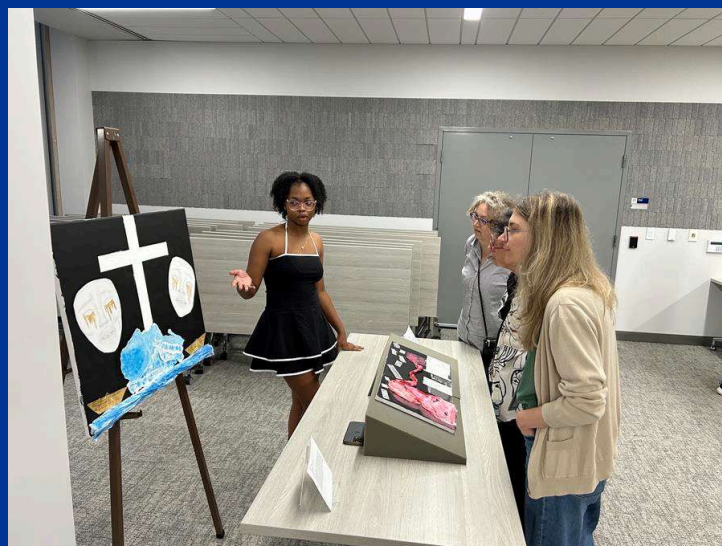
These week-long workshops were held in the summers of 2022 and 2024, through two "Landmarks of American History and Culture for K-12 Educators" awards given to the ULS from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This year, the ULS received



its third "Landmarks" award, which will fund two additional workshops in July 2026. The workshop equips educators with primary sources from our Archives & Special Collections and local sites such as the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark, empowering them to teach this piece of history in ways that wouldn't be possible otherwise.

## August Wilson Archive Awardee Presentations

Last month, recipients of the [August Wilson Archive Educator Award](#) and the [August Wilson Archive Student Researcher Award](#) gathered in the Archives & Special Collections Instruction Room in Hillman Library to present their research projects. Awardees included local educators who incorporated their research into a lesson plan, and local students who made creative and academic works based on their research. The award, supported by a grant from the Hillman Family Foundation, is part of the ULS outreach efforts with the archives of August Wilson, the Pittsburgh playwright from the Hill District. Wilson is best known for his "American Century Cycle," a series of ten plays that convey the Black experience throughout each decade of the 20th century. All ten plays have had Broadway productions, and two have earned Wilson the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.





Anne Loudon, an English teacher at Shaler Area High School, stands with some archival materials she researched this summer. Her new lesson plan, "The Ground on Which He Stood: Wilson vs. Brustein as a Rhetorical Case Study," combines elements of the 1996 speech Wilson gave at Princeton University, which sparked an infamous feud with theatre critic Robert Brustein.

Learn more about Loudon and her research in The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review [here](#).





Adam Alaali, a senior in the Penn Hills School District, spent his summer researching Wilson's plays, including "Fences," which is set in post-World War II America. Alaali was inspired to write an essay that draws connections between African American and Japanese communities, both of which were rebuilding and redefining their cultures during this era.

"It brought a different perspective to post-war influence and impact on African Americans and Japanese people that is not mainstream in educational systems," he said.

Alaali's project demonstrates the power of engaging with primary sources at the library, sparking new insights and connections across cultures.

## Digital Scholarship Summer Internship Presentations at Open Lab

A group of undergraduate and graduate students participated in the Digital Scholarship Summer Internship programs at Open Lab, a collaborative space between the ULS and the University Center for Teaching and Learning on the first floor of Hillman Library. The internship provides designated time for students to explore innovative technology, gain skills and experience in foundational digital competencies, and contemporary digital scholarship through project-based work, with a final public presentation. Blending traditional academic research skill acquisition with creative research and development hacking and making activities, the program prepares



undergraduates for success in endeavors related to critical making and technology-engaged research. It also prepares graduate students for independent digital project work through mentorship for undergraduates and self-directed exploration of digital tools and methods.



Last month, students presented their projects in the Open Lab.



Evan Fuccio, an undergraduate studying Digital Narrative and Interactive Design, presented his project, "Disappearing Pittsburgh." Fuccio created an LED



matrix for the device, which visually portrays the bridges developed throughout the city from 1859 to 2020.



"Elevation of Wellness: Culturally Competent Mental Health Resources in Pittsburgh, 2025"

Stephanie Yau, a senior majoring in Neuroscience and Psychology, created a topographical 3D-printed map of Pittsburgh, with varying heights for each city zip code region representing the number of culturally competent mental health resources available.

Learn more about these student opportunities [here](#).

## What's Happening Next at the ULS

### Book Talk: Brenda Tate's "Journal of a Black Woman in Blue"

Tues., Sept. 30



Brenda Tate's inspirational new memoir, "Journal of a Black Woman in Blue Navigating Abuse, Addiction, Racism and Sobriety," weaves a narrative of hope and perseverance for anyone who has faced life-altering situations in their own lives that led them down an unintended road of emotional pain and suffering.

Join us for a discussion with the author on Tuesday, September 30, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Hillman Library's Archives & Special Collections Instruction Room, on the third floor.

[RSVP here](#)

---

## Hillman Library Tour: Family Weekend

Fri., Oct. 3



Join us for Family Weekend on Friday, Oct. 3, from 3 to 3:45 p.m. See your child's home away from home and get a guided tour of the reinvented Hillman Library! Explore 3D printing, scanning, and virtual reality in our Open Lab, get hands-on with a working 19th-century printing press, and explore unique materials from August Wilson, George Romero, and others on our large-scale digital interactive media wall.

**RSVP here**

---

## Other Events

**From Physical to Digital: An Introduction to 3D Scanning** - Wed. Sept. 24

**Envisioning a Just Pittsburgh Open House at Hillman Library** - Fri., Sept. 26

**Cyanotypes: Blueprint Basics** - Fri., Oct. 17

See our [events and workshops calendar](#) to find upcoming programs of interest.

---

**Subscribe to this newsletter**



**Forward this newsletter**

[Unsubscribe](#)