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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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Pitt and the ULS Celebrate the Tansky Family Commons in Hillman Library



Last month, the ULS was the grateful recipient of a major philanthropic gift by the Tansky family which will further enhance library services in support of students, faculty, and the community. For over 50 years, the

Tansky name has been a fixture on the University's Pittsburgh campus. Their most recent gift was made in honor of Burt Tansky, who served as an emeritus trustee from 2013 until his passing in March 2025. To honor him and the Tansky family, a large open space on the first floor of Hillman Library was named the Tansky Family Commons. Featuring high ceilings, a large wall of windows, and various areas for study, the Tansky Family Commons is the perfect place for collaboration, enhanced learning, and building connections and community.

"Hillman Library serves as a crossroads for all students," said Kornelia Tancheva, director of the ULS. "The commons that will carry the Tansky name was created as part of the recent renovation of the library and became an immediate favorite of the students."

Read more about the Tansky family's legacy in [Pittwire](#).

Hillman Library's September 4th Open House

Hillman Library's Open House on September 4th introduced students to the renovated spaces, updated services, and continuous resources at the library. Even the campus mascot, ROC the Panther, and a number of Pitt cheerleaders were on hand to greet the thousands of students at the ground-floor entrance, contributing to the spirited atmosphere of celebration.



Photo by Aimee Obidzinski



Photo by Aimee Obidzinski

Local artist Alison Zapata and the Pitt students who designed and executed a mural celebrating communication through the ages for the newly renovated Hillman joined ULS Director Kornelia Tancheva on the first floor for the unveiling. Tancheva emphasized that the project reflects the library's commitment to student creativity and experiential learning.

Check out the new spaces at Hillman [any time the library is open](#), or come to our Homecoming Open House on Oct. 24 for a guided tour. (Scroll down to the events section of this newsletter for more information.)

First the Horror Studies Collection, and Now a Horror Studies Center

What's your favorite horror story? For Pittsburgh, it began with George A. Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) and *Dawn of the Dead* (1978). But at Pitt, horror isn't just a story; it's a field of study.

In 2019, the ULS acquired the archive of George Romero and established the [Horror Studies Collection](#), the world's only academic archival collection dedicated to horror. Since then, the ULS has acquired multiple other archives and materials connected to horror studies, including the literary papers of Linda D. Addison, Daniel Kraus, Gwendolyn Kiste, Elizabeth Massie, and L. Marie Wood; the archives for "The Blair Witch Project;" records of the Horror Writers Association; draft scripts for films such as "Psycho" and "The Exorcist;" first editions of "Dracula" and "The Lair of the White Worm;" the first printing of H.P. Lovecraft's "Dagon;" and much more.

And now, Pitt has established the world's first academic center dedicated to horror studies, the Horror Studies Center (HSC) at the Dietrich School, the first of its kind supported by both a major research university and a dedicated archival collection. The HSC unites Pitt's longstanding strengths in horror across disciplines and fosters inclusive scholarship, creative practice, community outreach, and collaborations that explore fear, trauma, and horror in their many cultural, historical, psychological, and artistic forms.



Professor Adam Lowenstein in the Department of English and the Film and Media Studies Program leads the project with collaborators across the university, including the ULS.



Photo by Aimee Obidzinski

Ben Rubin, Horror Studies Collection Coordinator for the ULS, says, "It is really exciting to see the establishment of the Center and how it reflects the belief that horror deserves serious study at Pitt. There has already been great scholarship and engagement with the Horror Studies Collection, and the Center will only afford newer and bigger opportunities as we collaborate and partner with it. As its capacities and activities evolve, the ULS collections will also continue to grow and serve as a scholarly resource in support of its efforts and all researchers."

Learn more about Pitt's new Horror Studies Center and what the local news and radio stations have to say about it [here](#).

What's Happening Next at the ULS



Hillman, You've Changed!
Homecoming Open House
Friday, October 24
Noon to 4 p.m.
(Guided tours at 1 and 3 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

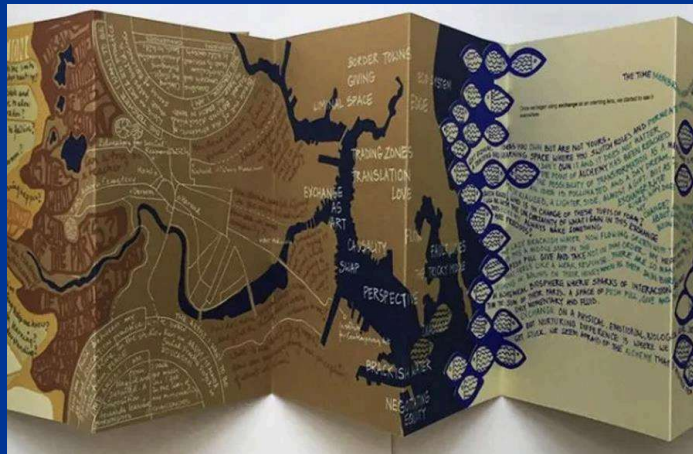
Sat., Oct. 25: Homecoming Tailgate: The Great Lawn on the North Shore

Register here

Questions? Visit homecoming.pitt.edu for the latest information and full event schedule.

Is That a Book? Creating Beyond the Traditional

Wednesday, Nov. 5



What's an artist's book?

It's a form of creative expression that may mimic, challenge, or reimagine our customary idea of a book. It might look like a bracelet or a box of supplies for survival in the wake of an apocalypse. It might take the form of a scroll, a fold-out, or a collection of postcards. It might even incorporate a shoe!

After investigating a selection of unique and imaginative examples at the Frick Fine Arts Library, construct your own using both traditional and non-traditional materials from the Center for Creativity.

No prior art or bookbinding experience is required. Explorers welcome!

Advanced registration is required.

5 to 6:30 p.m.

Frick Fine Arts Library, 4122 Schenley Drive

[Register here](#)

Jazz On the Air and in the Hill

Mon. Nov. 3, from 5 to 6 p.m.



Join us for a conversation with Dr. Aaron Johnson, author of "[Jazz Radio America](#)," and Dr. Colter Harper, author of "[Jazz in the Hill](#)." They will discuss their new books, which explore nightclub spaces during the golden age of jazz, and a study of the behind-the-scenes forces that interacted to create jazz radio. AJ Johnson is a native of Washington, D.C., and is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Pittsburgh, where he studies and teaches jazz, African American popular music, film music, and music and technology. Colter Harper is an ethnomusicologist, musician, and Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Music at the University at Buffalo. The event will be moderated by Kathryn Haines, head of the Center for American Music. Haines works with jazz collections, including the Erroll Garner and Dave Burrell Archives, and the recently acquired Sam Rivers, Ahmad Jamal, and Bill Cole Archives.

Archives & Special Collections Instruction Room, on the third floor in Hillman Library

[Register here](#)

The University of Pittsburgh Library System's Annual Audubon Day

Friday, Nov. 21

This is what you've been waiting for "owl" year!

**Audubon, Wilson, and the Race to Describe the
Birds of America presented by Kenn Kaufman
10 - 11:30 a.m.**



Join Kenn Kaufman, naturalist and author of "The Birds That Audubon Missed," as he explores the historic rivalry that helped to shape John James Audubon's spectacular "Birds of America."

When John James Audubon set out to compile "Birds of America," he faced a challenge: Alexander Wilson was already regarded as the ultimate expert on our birds, based on his nine-volume "American Ornithology." To make a name for himself, Audubon would have to outdo Wilson in every way. In this presentation, naturalist and author Kenn Kaufman will describe Audubon's drive to find as many birds as possible, to discover new species, and to produce one of the greatest natural history works of all time.

Hillman Library, Archives & Special Collections
Instruction Room, 340

**Audubon Prints on Display
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**



Hillman Library, Archives & Special Collections Reading Room, 320

Not an early bird? Be sure to check out the Open Lab (1st floor) and Text & conText Lab on the 3rd floor for other bird-related hands-on fun. It's sure to be a hoot!

[Register here](#)

Other Events

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

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