Divine Inspiration Creates Indelible Images
Welcome to this issue of Mosaic

Many Villanovans reminisce about their own college days reading, studying, and working with friends in Falvey. Libraries have evolved considerably, and if you haven’t visited Falvey Library in some time, you may wonder how it has changed to meet the needs of today’s students.

In this issue of Mosaic you’ll find many stories that reflect the ways the Library contributes to and bolsters the University’s research, learning, and academic enterprise.

Staff source critical academic databases and electronic resources to ensure researchers will have access to their field’s journals wherever they may be studying—whether they are in the Library, a residence hall, or around the world. Expert librarians provide in-person and virtual guidance and direction on navigating to the most reliable sources.

Data shows electronic resource usage continues to surge, far exceeding the print counterparts. But whether as physical or digital media, our staff ensures the books, journals, and publications our community needs will always be at their fingertips.

We’re proud to share a glimpse of the future home of the Library. Villanova President the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, ’75 CLAS, recently announced plans for a new 150,000-square-foot building, Falvey Library at Vic Maggitti Hall—outlined in the University’s Strategic Plan, Rooted. Restless—will be an academic hub for the entire Villanova community and better support Villanova’s position as a national research institution.

One thing will never change—Falvey Library is the welcoming, helpful environment for faculty and students from across the University to visit and research, study, and discover the unexpected. In turn, they share their own learning in hundreds of our lively educational events.

So I welcome you to Mosaic, an inside look at the impressive work taking place at Falvey Library.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

MILICENT GASKELL
University Librarian
Falvey Library

MOSAIC News from Falvey Library is published at Villanova University. Since 1842, Villanova University’s Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately, and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate, and law students in the University’s six colleges—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. Ranked among the nation’s top universities, Villanova supports its students’ intellectual growth and prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

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MOSAIC
NEWS FROM FALVEY LIBRARY

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Villanova University recently announced plans for a new 150,000-square-foot building for Falvey Library at the current site of Kennedy Hall. The new building itself will be named Vic Maggitti Hall in recognition of a previously announced $20 million leadership gift from Victor J. Maggitti, Jr., ‘56 VSB.

Located in the heart of campus, Falvey Library at Vic Maggitti Hall will be a dynamic hub that enriches the academic life of the entire Villanova community. This major construction project demonstrates Villanova’s ongoing commitment to upgrading its academic facilities—as outlined in the University’s Strategic Plan, Rooted. Restless.

The vision for the new Falvey Library is an integrated space that promotes collaboration and enhances intellectual inquiry in the broadest sense. The new building will empower student and faculty research and scholarship at the highest levels, invigorate teaching and learning, and provide a beautiful, accessible and engaging space for conferences, panels and other events that bring the entire Villanova community together.

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Building Highlights

Designed with input and involvement from more than 400 students, faculty and staff, Falvey Library at Vic Maggitti Hall will feature five floors of modern, technology-enabled spaces, including:

- Areas to showcase rare and distinctive collections, highlighting the University’s fast-growing rare books, manuscripts collections and archives.
- An expanded digital scholarship suite where faculty and students learn how to use digital tools and techniques (e.g. data visualization, text analysis, and mapping) in their research.
- On-site general collections, housed in browsable, compact shelving.
- Engaging event spaces for lectures, conferences and other programming that will bring the University’s community together.
- A significant increase in study seats and team rooms, including flexibility to accommodate additional seating during peak usage times, as well as a dedicated graduate student space.
- A floor dedicated to the student learning experience, called the Learning Commons, bringing essential academic resources for students together in a larger, central location.
- Research and Teaching Commons, a collection of the critical teams and resources that help the teacher-scholar model flourish at Villanova.
Divine Inspiration Creates Indelible Images

Celestial Beings of Biblical Art
Shine at Exhibit and Reception

Long before artists put quill to paper, humankind has dreamed of the divine—angels, demons, the Messiah, and God. And their conceptualizations of the divine became fantastical illustrations printed in Bibles sold in shops around the world.

To celebrate and explore these wondrous creations, distinctive collections staff curated an exhibit of the illustrated, historically significant bibles in Special Collections and hosted a reception and panel discussion of art experts in Falvey Library.

Meg Piorko, PhD, Librarian, moderates a panel with experts Peter Spitaler, ThD, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Villanova; Jennie Castillo, MA, Curator of the University Art Collection; and Heather Willever-Farr, PhD, Special Collections Librarian at LaSalle University.

Dr. Piorko installs “Envisioning Celestial Beings: Divine Inspiration.”

Meg Piorko, PhD, Distinctive Collections Librarian, and Mike Sgier, MFA, Distinctive Collections Coordinator, co-curated the exhibit, “Envisioning Celestial Beings: Divine Inspiration.” Each contributed additional material based on their respective expertise. Dr. Piorko focused on biblical translations, hand-press printing practices, and material textual culture, and Sgier contributed to the cases highlighting biblical imagery, engraving practices, and the prolific 19th century biblical illustrator, Gustave Doré.

“I believe the continued fascination with biblical imagery is due to the ambiguity inherent in visually articulating the concept of divinity,” Dr. Piorko says. “Since the beginning, humans have attempted to illustrate religious imagery such as deities, rituals, and parables. Past iconographic tropes continue to influence how artists and craftsmen visually depict divinity today.”

Sgier’s appreciation of the images comes from his fine arts background, which focused on printmaking as a craft. For printed illustrations, the illustrators would often draw the images, which were then engraved on blocks or plates by separate engravers. These blocks and plates would then be used for printing. These plates were passed between publishers and, often, lost to time. However, the images rendered in ink were indelible.

As a person who works as a printmaker, Sgier is awed by the expansive worlds rendered on a small scale. “They were translating other worldly and supernatural events into something recognizable for people living in their time. These creations were done by hand. Yet the level of detail they could achieve was incredible,” he says.

Doré, for example, is best known for his illustrations for the Vulgate Bible and Dante’s Divine Comedy. Although he was a painter, his 22,000 illustrations for bibles, novels, and poems remain his most lasting cultural contribution.

To share the exhibit more broadly and explore its themes, the reception in Speakers’ Corner featured a moderated panel discussion with faculty and collections professionals on the topic of biblical imagery.

Dr. Piorko moderated, and experts included Jennie Castillo, MA, Curator of the University Art Collection and Gallery Director at Villanova; Peter Spitaler, ThD, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Villanova; and Heather Willever-Farr, PhD, Special Collections Librarian at LaSalle University.

They discussed the value of the Bible for learning across different disciplines and the evolution of the Bible today, as influenced by pop culture and artificial intelligence.

“It was also great to connect with scholars and collections experts from Villanova and the greater Philadelphia region for the reception. The conversation was stimulating and thought provoking, and students were very engaged in follow-up questions,” Dr. Piorko says.

A follow-on digital exhibit will feature a curated selection of biblical objects and images. This digital medium allows more space to discuss the historical context to an even larger audience as well as theological and art history researchers.

Printmaking Demonstration a Revelation

After the reception panel, Mike Sgier, MFA, Distinctive Collections Coordinator, conducted a live print demonstration for attendees. Using linoleum relief blocks he carved to recreate biblical illustrations, Sgier made prints while answering questions about printmaking as a historical artform.

His work provided a glimpse into the historical methods of reproduction from the exhibit and gave attendees a unique print to take home.

Mike Sgier, MFA, Distinctive Collections Coordinator, conducts a live print demonstration with divine beings he carved into linoleum relief blocks.
IN DISTINCTIVE COLLECTIONS

Making Sheet Music Sing Again

Century-old Music from Digital Library Recorded for New Audiences

Music is always meant to be heard.

For most people, sheet music is a mere document with notes and lyrics. It is through performance that composition is truly understood as those marks come alive as melody and rhythm intertwined. Together, the musical elements sweep the listener away to when and where the piece was first composed.

Making treasures and history accessible is one of the passions of Michael Foight, Director of Distinctive Collections and Digital Engagement at Falvey Library, who conceived of the project to enhance music already contained in the Digital Library.

"In a digital environment, the goal is to make these historical documents relevant to a modern audience by adding interactivity," he says. "This way the items contribute to the greater good, beyond scholars researching music or history."

Foight is always looking to draw on the many talents of people who work in the Library. When John Banionis, Director of Resource Management and Description, joined Falvey in 2019, his extensive background in choral music sparked the project. Banionis is Past President of the Chester County Choral Society and performs in multiple choral groups, including some right here on campus.

"This music in our special collections is of a genre reflecting events and sentiments from its time, but then quickly fell out of widespread popularity. They were literally cranking them out a dime a dozen. As people collected new tunes, they often didn’t return to play the previous one."

BANIONIS

Banionis’ musical expertise allows him to read through the music and lend his voice to a cappella recording. Although he spends a few minutes the night before preparing, when he reaches the time to perform, Banionis has been able to nail the tune in only one or two takes.

Meg Piorko, PhD, Distinctive Collections Librarian, acts as the project’s sound engineer, recording the songs and mixing them before they are added to the Digital Library.

Hear It Again

They source the songs from the Digital Library, which contains many popular materials that have entered the public domain. Since many weekly newspapers from the early 1900s included music, and Villanova holds the family papers of Joseph McGarrity, prominent Irish nationalist, they have a wealth of sheet music to choose from.

"There’s a tradition of showing the malleability of historic materials by adapting them for modern interpretation and use. Our goal in working with John was to record materials that have not been performed elsewhere," Foight says.

Currently there are three songs, with a fourth and fifth in process. The tunes include a 1909 composition for “Billy-boy,” a child kidnapped, and a song about the 1915 sinking of the ocean liner Lusitania in which almost 1,200 people died.

Banionis was surprised to learn the latter song is upbeat, even jolly: “It’s a very somber story, people died."

Now Playing

To hear the song recordings, visit Falvey’s Digital Library and search for “sheet music” and select John Banionis as the author. Inside the relevant song listing there will be a note indicating “sound." The link on the left side of the web page contains an option to download the track to your device.

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Wimpy Kid Author’s Precursor Comic Available

Jeff Kinney is best known for his Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, which started as a web series before becoming the beloved graphic novel series that ruled elementary school libraries starting in 2007. But before Kinney was a best-selling author and illustrator, he was a cartoonist for The Villanovan.

While his characters Greg, Rodrick, Rowley, and Manny came later, between 1989 and 1993, Igdoof, a character that got into comedic antics while trying to survive college life, was published in The Villanovan and later the University of Maryland’s newspaper. Although Igdoof’s humor was not for kids, Igdoof clearly influenced Kinney’s later work.

The Igdoof comics were once thought to have been lost to history, but the 1989 and 1990 comic strips of Igdoof live on in the Digital Library. As Distinctive Collections Coordinator Christoforos Sassaris notes, Igdoof is just one example of what hidden gems can be found in the Digital Library.

He explains, “Falvey’s Digital Library preserves numerous materials of historical significance from both Villanova and beyond. I am confident that lots of interesting things are waiting to be discovered among our digitized collections.”

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Book Performance Takes a Stand for Threatened Texts

Data from The American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) showed a “record surge” in titles challenged in public libraries during the first eight months of 2023. As reported on the ALA website, “Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2023, OIF reported 695 attempts to censor library materials and services and documented challenges to 1,915 unique titles—a 20 percent increase from the same reporting period in 2022, which saw the highest number of book challenges since ALA began compiling the data more than 20 years ago.”

The growing censorship of texts led Heidi Rose, PhD, Professor, Performance Studies, Department of Communication, to create an assignment for her “COM 3241 Performance of Literature” course focused on highlighting the current reality of book bans. “The assignment started with a lot of open discussion and research,” says Brendan King ’24 CLAS. “Our class examined past and current book bans. We talked about reasons for the bans. A lot of the books our class read when we were growing up are now being challenged.”

Pennsylvania is currently seventh in the nation when it comes to restricting access to books, according to Chris Gilligan, Data Journalism Fellow with U.S. News & World Report, in his Oct. 9, 2023, article “The States with the Most Banned or Challenged Books.”

All the Library’s a Stage

Collaborating with Kallie Stahl ’17 MA, Communication and Marketing Specialist, and Nicole Daly, MLS, ’20 MS, Social Science Librarian, Dr. Rose was able to move the live performances from the Black Box Theatre in the Communication Department Studio to Falvey Library’s Speakers’ Corner. Guided by Dr. Rose, the collection of banned book performances, “Who bans books in the U.S.—and what are they so afraid of?”, were showcased in the Library Oct. 30, and Nov. 1.


“Adapting to Speakers’ Corner was a new experience,” King says of the location change. “The Black Box Theatre is completely dark…no windows, nothing. The Library has a very different atmosphere. It’s much more open with people studying and socializing.”

Performing solo or in groups, students made the most of their new stage. Their movements and vocal projections led Falvey patrons to become impromptu audience members. Each performance brought new meaning to the current conversation surrounding censorship.

The embodied performances and the physical space provided the Villanova community an opportunity to engage with current attempts to remove or restrict access to books.

“Every performance dealt with a particular theme that was important to talk about. No one should be silencing or obstructing content in any way,” King says. “Spreading awareness is the best thing that Falvey Library can do.”

BANNED BOOKS

Kristian Williamson performs Animal Farm
Paige Freer performs Junie B. Jones and Her Big Fat Mouth
Kaleigh Brendle performs Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents
Alexandra Festa and Katie Lehan perform The Glass Castle

“our class examined past and current book bans. We talked about reasons for the bans. A lot of the books our class read when we were growing up are now being challenged.”

— Brendan King ’24 CLAS

Ryan Cummings performs The Catcher in the Rye
Julianna Rigoglioso performs Junie B. Jones is Captain Field Day
Abe Dekin performs The Catcher in the Rye
Christian Carson and Zoë Magee perform The Bluest Eye

Heidi Rose, PhD, Professor, Performance Studies, Department of Communication, introduces the student performers of banned books.
Out of the Archives

Being in the BAND

Being in the Villanova band back in the eighties was one of my favorite things I’ve ever done in my life. Particularly during basketball season, it was like we were touring rock stars. We packed our instrument cases Tetris-tight in the under-bus cargo hold, and together, travelled into enemy territories: the Palestra, Madison Square Garden, Syracuse, the Rupp Arena. And, of course, we helped pack the cozy and raucous Nevin Field House more times that we could count.

One reason it was so much fun was due to our band director John “Aldo” Dunphy, who directed the band—and built Villanova’s Office of Music Activities—for 38 years. While it’s been too long now for me to remember many details—as Maya Angelou reminded us—it’s more important to remember how people made you feel. And we all loved Aldo. Under his watchful eye, he gave us the reins and let us fly. And there’s probably not any band alumni out there that doesn’t have a good story about how that went!

Aldo passed away this past fall, and his funeral service was packed with band alumni, where many brought their instruments and played “Auld Lang Syne” together.

Since this is the Library publication, I’d be remiss to not also mention that during our rock star bus trips, Aldo usually had his nose in a thick hardback book...sometimes even taking it into the basketball games. (Good thing Rollie didn’t notice!)

These pics prove how much other Villanovans loved being in the band as much as I did: it was an activity almost as fun as visiting Falvey to reminisce. The photos in this collage are culled from our shelves of Belle Air yearbooks that we keep for that express purpose.

–Joanne Quinn
23 MA, ’84 CLAS
Students in the College of Professional Studies (CPS) are high-achieving adults balancing educational and professional aspirations with life commitments. Falvey is working with CPS to catalogue books donated by Villanova undergraduate students to double the College’s lending library, reducing the cost of attendance.

To date, Falvey has processed over 200 titles, according to John Banionis, Director of Resource Management and Description. "Our students in CPS have numerous financial obligations they must consider when deciding to pursue an academic credential. Providing affordable materials for our nontraditional students is crucial for promoting accessibility, inclusivity, and overall student success," says Kirstin DeFusco Houtz, MS, Director, Academic Advising and Student Support in CPS.

This initiative lives out the University values of truth, unity, and love and missions of promoting diversity and equity in the campus community.

"Providing course materials will help to create a more equitable educational landscape at Villanova, empowering individuals to achieve their goals and will have many intergenerational benefits," says Olivia D’Aiutolo Mendenall, MEd, Academic Advisor, CPS.

### Electronic Books Lead Falvey’s Most Accessed Title Lists

Over the past decade, Falvey has continued to see a dramatic shift in use from print to electronic books and resources. Print book checkouts in the Library reduced by more than 70 percent from 2013 to 2022—about 56,000 to 16,209. In contrast, eBook usage in 2022 has soared to 317,254.

Books are essential to research, especially in certain disciplines like the humanities, which rely on print monographs.

Falvey continues to serve patrons who love to hold a book and flip paper pages. For them, the Library’s print collection allows for extended loans, and the interlibrary loan service expands offerings across a network of academic libraries.

But student-researchers work both on campus and around the world, and they need information to be available wherever they may be. Falvey has also added eBook versions of its most circulated scholarly print materials for increased accessibility.

#### Popular Reading Pilot

In the spring, the Library launched a pilot program for popular print reading books, which were selected by students. With over 400 new fiction and non-fiction titles available for short-term borrowing patrons will be able to curl up with a print book. These offerings serve the whole Villanovan, supporting personal wellness, growth, and many areas of interest like literary fiction, romance, fantasy, mysteries, cookbooks, biographies, and essay collections.

### What are Falvey’s Most Popular Books?

#### TOP FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

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<td>Jane Austen</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dirty Dust: Cré Na Cille</td>
<td>Máirtín Ó Cadhain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Other Tales</td>
<td>Robert Louis Stevenson</td>
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<td>The Picture of Dorian Gray</td>
<td>Oscar Wilde</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bluest Eye</td>
<td>Toni Morrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Social Change: Contours in the History of American Schooling</td>
<td>John L. Rury</td>
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### Electronic Books Lead Falvey’s Most Accessed Title Lists

#### TOP FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candide, Or, Optimism</td>
<td>Voltaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love in the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Dale Jamieson; Bonnie Nadzam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasion</td>
<td>Jane Austen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dirty Dust: Cré Na Cille</td>
<td>Máirtín Ó Cadhain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Other Tales</td>
<td>Robert Louis Stevenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Picture of Dorian Gray</td>
<td>Oscar Wilde</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bluest Eye</td>
<td>Toni Morrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone</td>
<td>J.K. Rowling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TOP NON-FICTION HIGHLIGHTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confessions</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plutarch’s Lives</td>
<td>Plutarch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Dialogues</td>
<td>Plato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical Leadership and Global Capitalism: A Guide to Good Practice</td>
<td>Annabel Beerel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Social Change: Contours in the History of American Schooling</td>
<td>John L. Rury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying Lived Religion: Contexts and Practices</td>
<td>Nancy Tatom Ammerman</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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### Partnership Expands CPS Lending Library

Students in the College of Professional Studies (CPS) are high-achieving adults balancing educational and professional aspirations with life commitments. Falvey is working with CPS to catalogue books donated by Villanova undergraduate students to double the College’s lending library, reducing the cost of attendance.

To date, Falvey has processed over 200 titles, according to John Banionis, Director of Resource Management and Description. "Our students in CPS have numerous financial obligations they must consider when deciding to pursue an academic credential. Providing affordable materials for our nontraditional students is crucial for promoting accessibility, inclusivity, and overall student success," says Kirstin DeFusco Houtz, MS, Director, Academic Advising and Student Support in CPS.

This initiative lives out the University values of truth, unity, and love and missions of promoting diversity and equity in the campus community.

"Providing course materials will help to create a more equitable educational landscape at Villanova, empowering individuals to achieve their goals and will have many intergenerational benefits," says Olivia D’Aiutolo Mendenall, MEd, Academic Advisor, CPS.
Teaching Students to Unlock the Secrets of Research

Falvey Forums Give Students Key Tips, Techniques, and Technologies

Every semester Falvey Library’s expert team of librarians and staff share the must-know tips and strategies students need to excel in class and faculty use to hone their research.

The Falvey Forums, held virtually to increase accessibility and convenience, cover many of the basics to navigate Library resources and free-to-use technology, including software like Zotero for citations and Transkribus for transcription. Both improve the efficiency of academic writing and can save many hours, especially important when multiple assignments come due at the same time.

Led by librarians in Research Services and Scholarly Engagement, as well as other experts, the sessions also aim to inform new pedagogy (just a fancy word for “how teachers teach”) and encourage the integration of advanced academic research into personal and professional lives, an area of rapid expansion across the University.

Prior years focused on teaching new skills and technologies, emphasizing the changing way students and faculty work. For example, Falvey staff led introductions to digital history, digital archives and using electronic historical resources, web archiving, storytelling with geographic information systems technology, and mapping policy data using publicly available resources.

Frequent presenters include Business Librarian Linda Hauck, MLS, MBA; Digital Scholarship Librarian Erica Hayes, MLS, MFA; Communication, Sociology, and Criminology Librarian Nicole Daly, MLS, ’20 MS; and now retired Social Science Librarian Merrill Stein.

“The Falvey Forums and Love Data Week workshops are a fantastic series each semester that benefit students and faculty by opening the door to new resources and tools for research on campus.” Daly says. “They offer our community the opportunity to learn about the wonderful resources available through Falvey. These events foster and enhance our students’ and faculty’s research skills while providing our librarians and campus partners the opportunity to demonstrate their skill and expertise.”

For more information about Falvey Forums, or to see offerings from prior years, visit: https://library.villanova.edu/research/teaching-and-learning/workshops/archived-pages

‘Textbooks and Tacos’ Takes a Bite Out of Book Costs

Students can feel overwhelmed by the cost of course materials and ways to source textbooks. They have a powerful partner in Falvey Library’s librarians and staff. Early in the fall semester, the Library welcomed students to meet with librarians to explore cost-saving strategies.

They “checked out” their newfound skills by finding books with librarians’ guidance.

Backpack to Briefcase: Merging Know-How and Know-Why in Business

Competitive Intelligence (CI) involves gathering, analyzing, and acting on data that impact an organization’s future success. And it uses publicly available information across multiple sources to gain valuable insights about competitors and industries. Linda Hauck shared her CI expertise with students to help them bridge the gap between campus and career through a business research session designed to help them see opportunities, avoid pitfalls, and use information to make better decisions.

Open Access Week: Academia for all

To support Villanova’s scholarly and academic community, Falvey Library celebrated Open Access Week to promote the practice of making scholarly works available without price or permission barriers in October. Led by Scholarly Communication Librarian Nancy Foasberg, MLS, OA Week included tabling events and virtual workshops to help faculty and students find critical high quality open access journals and publications for their research.
Students who come to Villanova arrive with restless hearts needing guides on the pathway to truth and learning.

Falvey Scholar Robert Duffy, PhD, ’13 CLAS, continued searching for truth, and has become a seasoned guide for the next generation as the founding Headmaster of Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Hope in Warwick, R.I., a classical Catholic high school.

Chesterton emphasizes promoting wonder and seeking the fullness of truth within an authentic community of friends. Eighteen students are enrolled for Chesterton’s first year. When at capacity, the school will serve 160–200 students.

Once a month the faculty share a meal and discuss a great work. Right now, they are discussing St. Augustine’s Confessions, familiar to every Villanovan. In doing so they create a space to understand themselves as a community of friends pursuing truth, enabling them to better help students navigate those big questions of truth and faith.

“The faculty are seasoned guides on that journey, but not the holders of all knowledge,” Dr. Duffy says.

His strong intellectual foundation as a philosophy and humanities student at Villanova, capped by his Falvey Scholar research on the objectivity of truth, only expanded during his doctoral studies at Fordham University.

“The themes I continue to explore were visible in my Falvey Scholars project: the relationality and objectivity of truth. The way that truth exists ultimately within a relationship to God,” he says of his essay “Givenness and Geist: Resituating the Subject and Reanimating the Real After Kant.”

He hopes to ignite in his students the same love of learning his Villanova professors sparked in him. The passion to read and discuss great works of literature and philosophy, theology, history, and science. To experience great intellectual friendships that help them define a good life and understand how to find happiness. Dr. Duffy explains.

“I’m constantly thinking about how to help young people discover those things for themselves and be shaped by them so that they can live full lives. Much of my vision for my students was received from my professors at Villanova, who were engaged in the same kind of work.”

The Falvey Scholars award is an annual program established by Falvey Library and the Center for Research and Fellowships to recognize exceptional undergraduate research by senior-level students at Villanova.

Catch up with a Falvey Scholar

Robert Duffy, PhD, ’13 CLAS

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Africana Studies Expert Discusses Apartheid

Olukunle P. Owolabi, PhD, Associate Professor of Political Science and Global Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of Africana Studies, celebrated his recently published book, Ruling Emancipated Slaves and Indigenous Subjects: The Divergent Legacies of Forced Settlement and Colonial Occupation in the Global South.

The annual Senghor-Damas-Césaire Lecture for Africana Studies, which focuses on African issues and issues connected to the global Black diaspora, was held in Speakers’ Corner. Wale Adebanwi, PhD, Presidential Penn Compact Professor of Africana Studies, Director, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania, spoke about the politics of renaming apartheid-era streets and removing apartheid and colonial-era monuments from public spaces in contemporary South Africa.
Outstanding Faculty Research Recognized

Living Out Caritas Values

Comic Event a Big Draw

Prominent Irish Poets, Authors visit Falvey

Folio Conference Hosted at the Inn at Villanova

What’s Happening

Outstanding Faculty Research Recognized

Prominent Irish Poets, Authors visit Falvey

Members of Falvey Library’s Resource Management and Description (RMD) and Technology teams, including John Banionis, Director; David Burke, MLS, Metadata Librarian; Roberta Pierce, Coordinator; Anne Morgan, MLS, Metadata Librarian; and Danielle Dempsey, MLS, Metrics and Assessment Librarian, attended and presented at the Folio Mid-Atlantic User Group, held at the Inn at Villanova in October.

Check out the Falvey events calendar library.villanova.edu/events for opportunities to attend future events like these. Scan the QR code to stream Falvey Library events from the entire academic year.
Merrill Stein Retires
For the last 34 years, the above quote remained a prominent fixture at the desk of Merrill Stein, Social Science Librarian, who retired in January. Finding facts and making them accessible to the Villanova community informed every facet of Stein’s many capacities at Falvey Library. Stein came to Falvey Library after previous positions at Drexel University, Saint Joseph’s University, and the non-profit organization Lyrasis.

Supporting scholarship at Villanova, Stein was the liaison to political science, psychology, public administration, geography, and naval sciences. The social sciences representative on the Collection Management Committee, he served as leader of the social sciences team. Actively involved in numerous Library and University initiatives, Stein co-organized many events and instruction workshops.

Whether offering research help or reporting for the Library blog, Stein was eager to assist others in the discovery of information. “We’ve made so many things available to the Villanova community and beyond. I enjoyed helping students and faculty while learning alongside them.”

Margot Accettura joined Research Services & Scholarly Engagement (RSSE) as the STEM Librarian. From Morristown, N.J., she earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from Skidmore College and a master’s degree in imaging science from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Currently enrolled at PennWest Clarion University, Accettura will receive a master’s of science in library information science this year. Previously working for her undergraduate library and the Phoenixville Public Library, Accettura feels her role at Falvey perfectly integrates her STEM experience and passion for libraries.

“I’m very excited for this opportunity and am looking forward to helping Falvey and the broader Villanova community,” she says.
Falvey Library offered students a Mario Bros.-themed power-up. Visitors had a super time relaxing with refreshments and playing video games and activities.

Just in time for the end of semester (AKA the “boss level” of classes), Falvey Library offered students a Mario Bros.-themed power-up.

Visitors had a super time relaxing with refreshments and playing video games and activities.

FOR MORE NEWS ABOUT THE LIBRARY: be sure to follow our blog at blog.library.villanova.edu! It is updated daily with the latest Library resources, recommendations, and Wildcat-centric photos and diversions! You’ll also find us on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and X!