Preserving Hip Hop History:
Tupac Shakur Materials at the Blockson Collection

The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection has recently acquired an important piece of hip hop history: memorabilia belonging to the late Tupac Shakur. Shakur, an influential and prominent voice of 1990s hip hop, died in 1996 at the age of 25. Donated to the Blockson Collection by Goldin Auctions of Runnemede, New Jersey, the materials include a dozen handwritten lyrics and documents, as well as a diamond earring from the cover of “All Eyez On Me” and a gold and diamond crown medallion.

Ken Goldin, founder and CEO of Goldin Auctions, chose the Blockson Collection to house these valuable materials because of the collection’s reputation, expertise, and rich history of collecting and preserving materials that document the African American experience. Goldin also cited his personal connection to the city of Philadelphia as a deciding factor in choosing a home for these artifacts.

The Blockson Collection hosted a reception to celebrate the donation and invited Sonia Sanchez, Philadelphia’s first Poet Laureate and a leader in the Black Arts Movement, and Aaron Smith, assistant professor of Africology and African American Studies at Temple, to speak. Smith, who teaches a Shakur-focused course, “Tupac and the Hip Hop Revolution,” acknowledged the importance of Philadelphia in hip hop culture and history, and the significance of these items being at Temple. Diane Turner, curator of the Blockson Collection, also noted that “Philadelphia has a rich history of Black music and hip hop culture that we plan to collect for the Blockson Collection.”

This remarkable acquisition was covered locally by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Fox 29, CBS3, and KYW Newsradio, and picked up nationally by the AP and U.S. News & World Report. It also lays the groundwork, as noted above, for the Blockson Collection to continue to grow its holdings documenting hip hop culture.
Welcome from the Dean

Greetings and Happy New Year! I am pleased to share with you our 2019 winter issue of Speaking Volumes, which highlights recent developments and happenings at Temple University Libraries.

This year will mark the opening of Charles Library on Temple’s Main Campus, a project of extraordinary significance for the Libraries, the university, and the city, and which has been many years in the making. We expect to be up and running in time for the fall 2019 academic semester, and you will read in the pages that follow about construction updates and the work some of our library staff are doing to prepare for the move. I also invite you to take a look at the new library yourself: at the end of last summer, I was filmed giving a video tour, which you can view at tinyurl.com/charleslibtour.

As we busily prepare for this big moment in our evolution, we remain engaged and committed to a multitude of other important projects and initiatives as part of our mission here at the Libraries. This issue highlights significant acquisitions, endowment milestones, strategic departmental alignments, the making of Temple University Press book series, new technology at the Health Sciences Libraries, and our partnerships with members of the Philadelphia community.

I am grateful for this opportunity to update you on some of our current activities and to share in the wonderful anticipation leading up to the opening of Charles Library later this year.

Stay well,

Joe Lucia
Dean of University Libraries

Programs offered by Temple University Libraries are accessible to people with disabilities. Please contact Richie Holland, Director of Library Administration, at richieh@temple.edu or 215-204-3455 for more information, to request an accommodation, or with questions/concerns.
In October, through the generous support of our donors and friends, the Libraries reached its $1.8 million endowment goal to preserve and sustain the Philadelphia Jewish Archives (PJA). Housed in the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), this important collection documents regional Jewish history and culture, and is the largest collection of its kind outside New York City.

We have been building the endowment fund since these valuable archives were donated to the Libraries by the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center in 2009. The PJA endowment fund will continue to provide for a dedicated archivist position and the acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of these materials.

Margery Sly, director of the SCRC, notes: “We are grateful to our donors for their support of preservation and access to these rich collections which are used by students and scholars from all over the world.”
The construction of our new Charles Library in the heart of Temple’s Main Campus is on track for completion this May. The exterior, including glass installation and granite cladding, was completed in November, and the interior work is ongoing.

A stunning work of architecture, the new library will be an open gathering place for the diverse communities of Temple, the city, and the greater Philadelphia region. Charles Library will also facilitate access to incredible resources and materials, as well as open up a world of new knowledge and ideas.

In anticipation of the move to the new building, we have created a Physical Collections Working Group, which has been in place for well over a year and is comprised of library staff members from across departments. This group is involved in planning the move of our massive collections and have begun coordinating with the Temple Facilities group.

We expect to move staff and collections into Charles Library this summer. The collections move will include loading the Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS) book bins, while approximately 175,000 books will be designated for open browsing on the library’s fourth floor.

The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) move will be handled separately from the move of circulating collections, with materials bound for a special aisle of the ASRS for record boxes, dedicated compact shelving, and a new vault in the basement level of the building.

Once all collections have been moved to Charles Library, the current Paley Library will be repurposed for the College of Public Health and will continue to house the Academic Advising and Professional Development Center. Updates about the library move can be found at library.temple.edu/move.

In other news, we have a working group bringing together library staff and Temple’s Information Technology Services (ITS) staff digging deep into technology specifications and various room configurations for Charles Library.

We plan to open the building to the public for the start of the fall 2019 academic semester, and look forward to welcoming our Temple patrons and the broader community to this extraordinary new space.

This past October, the Libraries, along with Temple University President Richard M. Englert, Temple leadership, and the Alumni Association, hosted an alumni event at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Dean Joe Lucia gave a presentation about the new building, while university trustee Steve Charles, KLN ’80, spoke about why he chose to name and support the new building.

This event allowed us the opportunity to share a first-hand look at Charles Library with Temple alumni and friends and to garner support for the library endowment. This fund will allow us to operate Charles Library at its full promise once we open in August 2019. Be on the lookout for more alumni and friends events near you in the months ahead.
Digital Scholarship Center Prepares for Expanded Space and Services in Charles Library

The Digital Scholarship Center (DSC) staff is gearing up for the move to Charles Library, where the Scholars Studio (as it will be known in Charles) will occupy most of the public space on the new building’s third floor. This is a significant increase in square footage as compared to the DSC’s current space on the ground floor of Paley Library and will further expand our capacity to support forward-thinking, technologically advanced research and scholarship.

The DSC offers a wide range of technical equipment, software, and support for scholarly practices. According to Matt Shoemaker, librarian and coordinator of digital scholarship service development, “the past few years at the DSC have really been an experiment in figuring out what services would work for a larger endeavor.” As we prepare for the move to Charles, he notes “our main tasks right now are identifying and testing equipment we plan to outfit the new space with and developing policies for using the space.”

The new Scholars Studio will feature an enlarged makerspace with more equipment that can both support a greater number of people utilizing the space and a larger variety of equipment. It will also house a new virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) space where multiple people can interact with one another and collaborate. In addition, the Scholars Studio in Charles Library will feature more higher end computers for patrons’ research use.
The Making of a Book Series at Temple University Press

Temple University Press, as part of the library enterprise, supports our shared mission to advance scholarship through the dissemination of ideas and culture. The Press is a leading publisher of books in the social sciences and humanities, as well as books about the Delaware Valley region. And within these broad publishing areas, the Press organizes a number of its titles thematically as book series.

According to Editor-in-Chief Aaron Javsicas, “Book series function as places to go when readers are seeking a body of scholarship on a certain subject.” Ultimately, this organizational strategy allows readers to find and explore a broad but thematically coherent collection of books organized around an important topic.

Each book series is developed by an editor at the Press in conjunction with a series editor, most often a practicing academic. Series editors are well known in the fields themselves, and help recruit new projects and develop manuscripts.

One of the Press’s core series is Urban Life, Landscape, and Policy, which includes titles such as Beyond Preservation: Using Public History to Revitalize Inner Cities and To the City: Urban Photographs of the New Deal. If you continued to browse this series, you would also find books on contemporary planning in New York City, urban sprawl in Atlanta, crime, environmental activism, and so much more.

Other prominent and groundbreaking Press series include Asian American History and Culture, which established the Press as one of the first academic presses specializing in Asian American studies, and Sporting, which is a highly interdisciplinary series that shines a light on an often understudied but highly consequential cultural and social activity.

The Press is also constantly developing new projects to grow its offerings and advance scholarship. One forthcoming series, which the Press is developing in partnership with the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania, will look broadly at the role of universities in their communities.

Visit tupress.temple.edu to explore these series and browse the list of available titles.
At the Special Collections Research Center: Primary Sources and Information Literacy
by Margery Sly, director of the Special Collections Research Center

What do over 1,250 students in courses including art, history, English, urban studies, journalism, film, media studies, education, criminal justice, political science, and social work have in common? They all visited the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) during the 2017-18 school year for class instruction sessions.

These sessions take various forms depending on the course and the faculty member’s interest. We might provide an introduction to doing research in archives or more of a deep dive into that process using specific collections. Other classes look at the history of the book, at book structures, or printing processes. Still others focus on specific content—the creators and the stories held in the archives about immigration, labor, Jewish, or urban history.

A major aspect of every class includes introducing Temple students to the rich resources held in the SCRC—and enhancing their primary source literacy. The recently approved Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy (developed by a joint library-archives task force) notes the importance of primary source literacy and information literacy, encouraging students to gain a unique perspective on the subject they are studying....they also gain important skills that help them navigate the use of other information sources, and further develop their critical thinking skills.

Temple undergraduate and graduates students also used SCRC for individual papers and projects. And, an additional 50 high school students from the region visited and learned about local history and using primary sources to create National History Day and other projects.

SCRC staff members look forward to the dedicated classroom in the new Charles Library where we will introduce even more students to the Libraries’ extraordinary archives and special collections and encourage them to grow in the ability to analyze and use primary sources in their research and in their lives.
The Libraries have implemented a number of organizational changes that help strengthen our mission and drive our work forward. One of these recent restructurings involved developing the Learning and Research Services (LRS) department from the former Reference and Instructional Services (RIS) department. This new department brings together subject librarians from connected disciplines on cohort-based teams to work collaboratively in supporting our academic mission.

There is an ongoing conversation in academic libraries about the evolving role of subject librarians. While librarians remain engaged in traditional research support, instruction, and collection building, their roles are also expanding into digital scholarship, data research services, and scholarly communications.

In order to expand the opportunities for engagement with emerging services within disciplinary-focused groups, we developed the LRS department, which consists of three units. Arts, Humanities, and Media is headed by Tom Ipri; Business, Social Sciences, and Education is headed by Olivia Given Castello; and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Biomedical is headed by Jenny Pierce.

According to Steven Bell, associate university librarian, “This new disciplinary-focused approach is designed to allow our subject specialist librarians to collaboratively deliver learning and research services within smaller, more agile structures. Each unit has the capacity to share more traditional responsibilities, while creating opportunities for developing new initiatives.” In support of this, many of our subject librarians now sit on cross-functional teams, developing new service objectives and working on key projects to strengthen the Libraries’ mission.

We are grateful to our subject librarians for their diligent work in adapting to this new structure and look forward to sharing more information about upcoming projects and collaborations in a future issue.

From top: Olivia Given Castello, head of Business, Social Sciences, and Education; Jenny Pierce, head of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Biomedical; and Tom Ipri, head of Arts, Humanities, and Media, photos courtesy Chris Kendig
This academic year, Temple Libraries’ *Beyond the Page* public programming series is focused on questions of access and opportunity. During the fall semester, we offered a number of free programs that explored the cultural, financial, and/or physical barriers that limit opportunities and strategies for moving toward a more accessible world.

Temple Professor of Sociology Sara Goldrick-Rab kicked off our programming with a discussion about affordability in higher education. Specifically, she presented her research on food and housing insecurity. One of her recent national studies involved more than 30,000 two- and four-year college students and found that approximately half are food insecure, while between 11–19% of four-year students are housing insecure.

Professor Goldrick-Rab noted that Temple Libraries provided her first opportunity to present to an interdisciplinary audience since arriving at Temple. We are happy to have been part of providing a forum to expose a diverse spectrum of the Temple community to her important research.

As a complement to Professor Goldrick-Rab’s lecture, the Libraries teamed up with Cherry Pantry, the Temple community’s food pantry. We offered library fine forgiveness in exchange for food donations to the pantry throughout much of September, and were honored to support Cherry Pantry’s mission to combat hunger on Temple’s campus.

The Libraries also collaborated on a series of programs exploring public art in Philadelphia. Conrad Benner of streetsdept.com and Cindy M. Ngo of Eat Up the Borders partnered with us to bring local muralists and street artists to Paley Library to discuss their work, art in the public space, access to the arts and art education, and more.

The culminating event in the series brought the art right to our audience members. We held a workshop and invited participants to display their own art on a wall constructed outside Paley Library. The wall stayed up for several weeks, and students and visitors to Temple’s campus continued to add their art to the wall. This dynamic display showcased the incredible power of art made by and for the community.

Visit [library.temple.edu/beyondthepage](library.temple.edu/beyondthepage) to learn more about programming and to check out what we have planned for the spring.
Libraries Participate in Higher Ed Awareness and Readiness Program

As Philadelphia’s public university, Temple University is committed to engaging with and providing resources for our community. Recently, the university partnered with Philadelphia’s GEAR UP program. This past summer, the Libraries hosted five high school students as part of this university initiative.

The GEAR UP Program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a grant program of the U.S. Department of Education, designed to provide higher education preparation and awareness to low-income students. Locally, the program serves 12 schools throughout the Philadelphia school district.

At Paley Library, the GEAR UP students worked in the Access and Media Services department, which oversees access to and the circulation and organization of our general and media collections. Students rotated between the stacks and circulation units, where they helped prepare books for the move to Charles Library and observed and learned about customer service interactions at the circulation desk.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the Libraries to provide students in our local community with experience in the library and useful work-related skills.

Augmented Reality System Enhances Teaching and Learning at the Health Sciences Library

The Ginsburg Health Sciences Library's Innovation Space continues to expand its technology offerings, in order to provide the best and most current tools for medical students, faculty, and researchers.

One of its newest tools is a Microsoft Hololens augmented reality system, which is the Ginsburg Library’s first augmented reality system. The Hololens is a self-contained unit that takes interactive virtual elements and blends them in with a user’s current environment.

And unlike virtual reality systems that must hook up to another device, the Hololens is a self-contained unit that primarily utilizes hand gestures and voice commands for user interaction.

One of the Hololens’ popular medical applications is the HoloAnatomy program, which allows users to view anatomy in three dimensions. According to Innovation Librarian Patrick Lyons, “The Hololens’ portability makes it especially helpful as an educational aid, for anatomy in particular, to take to conferences, awareness events, and other gatherings, as it is a great introduction to mixed reality technology in general.”

Patrick also notes that “The Hololens’ ability to scan environments and objects is very handy for therapeutic and training applications, such as exposure therapy and firefighting, with potential applications like surgical training or first aid education in the future.”
**Our Donors Speak Volumes**

We are grateful for the support of our donors, who impact the work we do and the services, resources, and tools we provide. Below, we acknowledge just some of the wonderful friends who have generously supported our enterprise recently. We invite you to join us and consider making a gift to the Libraries via the enclosed envelope or at giving.temple.edu/givetolibraries. For more information, call 215-204-9305 or email dwash@temple.edu.

- **Goldin Auctions** donated a collection of materials, including handwritten lyrics and jewelry, belonging to the late rapper Tupac Shakur to the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection.
- The **Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center** made a gift to the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Endowment, which helps ensure the preservation of and access to this extraordinary collection documenting Jewish life and history. Susan and Ivan Popkin and David Wice, Esq. and Betsy Wice also made gifts to this endowment fund.
- Library Board of Visitors member **Audrey Merves** made a gift through the Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation Fund #2 to the Library Endowment Fund, which helps provide perpetual support for library operations and resources, including those in our forthcoming Charles Library. Library Board of Visitors member Sandra Lea Cadwalader, Esq., Victoria A. Montavon, Ph.D. and James N. Myers, Esq., Ms. Marilyn L. Steinbright, Thomas Whitehead, and Mr. William J. Zimmer, Jr. also made gifts to this Library Endowment Fund.
- **Russell and Lori Ring** made a gift to the Library Endowment Fund to name the Carlyle Conwell Ring, Jr. Staff Meeting Room on the first floor of the new Charles Library.
- **Mr. Albert C. Vara** made a gift to the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection Endowment, which supports the ongoing preservation and growth of this important collection documenting African and African American history and culture. Sheila Bedford and the Honorable Frederica Massiah-Jackson also provided gifts to this fund.
- **Carol and Richard Lang** continued to support the Carol J. Lang Staff Support & Development Fund, which provides professional development and social opportunities for library staff.
- The **Nessa, David, Eleanor, and Solomon Forman Family Fund** made a gift to the Nessa Forman Fund. Housed in the Special Collections Research Center’s Urban Archives, this fund helps preserve the papers of Nessa Forman, former writer and editor for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin and WHYY.
- **Gale**, a Cengage company, continued their support of the Livingstone Undergraduate Research Awards Endowment Fund and sponsored the award in Sustainability and the Environment. Library Board of Visitors member Mrs. Estelle R. Alexander and her husband Dr. Gerson J. Alexander also made a gift to this endowment fund, which provides funding to honor the best in undergraduate research at Temple University.
- The **M. Rebecca Carr Fund** made a gift to the Charles Library Fund, which will provide perpetual support for our wonderful new library building, opening in 2019.
- Morris I. Rossman, D.O. and Margaret and Tim Walsh provided gifts to the Library Annual Fund, which helps support ongoing library operations, facilities, programs, and services.
- **Ms. Harriette Newman Hirsch** continued her support of the Paul and Harriette Newman Hirsch Children’s Literature Fund, which helps us maintain and build our collection of children’s literature.

**Correction:**
We made an incomplete acknowledgment of Barbara Allen’s donation in the spring/summer 2018 issue of Speaking Volumes and amend to the following:

- **Barbara Allen** donated a generous collection of books in sociology and related disciplines to the Libraries’ general collections, in memory of her late husband David Allen, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Instruction in Temple’s Department of Sociology.

**News in Brief**

**Livingstone Undergraduate Research Awards Celebrate 15 Years**
This academic year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Livingstone Undergraduate Research Awards, the Libraries’ initiative to support and recognize excellence in undergraduate research. These awards are made possible by donor and Library Board of Visitors member John H. Livingstone, SBM ‘49. Gale, a Cengage company, provides additional support through sponsoring an individual award category, which this year is the award in diversity and social justice. We look forward to celebrating these wonderful awards and a new cohort of winners this spring.

**Blockson Collection Receives Pew Grant**
The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection received a $130,100 grant from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage to develop the project, *Black Lives Have Always Mattered: Hidden African American Philadelphia of the Twentieth Century*. This new graphic novel depicts underrepresented stories of talent, courage, and achievement from 20th century African American Philadelphians and encourages conversations about race in America. Blockson Collection Curator Dr. Turner and librarian Asliaku Berhanu are working with writer Dr. Sheena Howard and artist Eric Battle to produce the graphic novel. In addition, they are working with Yasin Muhammad, a representative from the School District of Philadelphia, to recruit teachers and students who would be interested in offering feedback on the project.

**In Memory of Loretta Duckworth**
We regret to note the passing of Loretta Duckworth, CLA ’62, ’65, TYL ’92. Loretta was an avid supporter of our work, serving as a Library Board of Visitors member, as well as a university trustee. We are grateful for her longtime commitment to both Temple and the Libraries.