



# CHECK ≡IT≡ OUT

SUMMER 2019

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
SINCE 1998



IMAGE COURTESY OF OLIVIA DRAKE MALS '08

## FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

**H**igher education, especially at a place like Wesleyan, is defined both by traditions and boundless possibilities. The same is true for libraries and collections, tasked as we are with bringing the past and present into the future. With this in mind, I'm very pleased to let you know that Wesleyan has joined the Boston Library Consortium ([www.blc.org](http://www.blc.org)). Wesleyan students and faculty now have expedited access (both on-site and via interlibrary loan) to the collections of 18 institutions across New England, including UConn, Brandeis, Northeastern, Boston University, and UMass-Amherst. As well, our library staff can now contribute their considerable skills to another innovative professional community.

And in the spirit of moving forward, I wanted to let everyone know the Friends is about to embark on a new chapter in its history. Starting this next academic year, the Friends of the Wesleyan Library will be joining the Friends of the Davison Art Center and the Center for the Arts in a new support and advocacy group. We'll be in touch later this summer with more details.

— ANDREW WHITE, CALEB T. WINCHESTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN —

## WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES PRESERVES RICHARD WINSLOW'S WESLEYAN LEGACY

The World Music Archives recently undertook to have 30 years of sound recordings digitally preserved, representing Wesleyan concerts and recitals from the 1950s to the 1980s. Since this period coincides closely with the Wesleyan tenure of Music Department faculty member Richard K. Winslow, who took part in many of these concerts through his conducting of the Glee Club, the Orchestra, and other musical ensembles, we have named it the "Richard Winslow Era Collection." These tapes were held by the Music Department and came to the library along with the rest of the World Music Archives collection in the 1980s. In 1991 the library received an NEH grant to preserve and catalog the World Music Archives, but since the content of the Winslow collection recordings was seen as outside the scope of a preservation project devoted to "world music," these campus concerts were omitted from the grant and set aside for a future preservation project. In the years since, in keeping with a developing World Music Archives policy that all Wesleyan concerts, past and present, should be considered to be an equal part of the collection along with its world music field recordings,



IMAGE COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

the Winslow collection acquired a greater urgency for preservation. With the passing of Richard Winslow in 2017, and the acquisition of another significant collection of audiotapes from another member of the Music faculty, Neely Bruce, the library sought the assistance of Academic Affairs to take a role

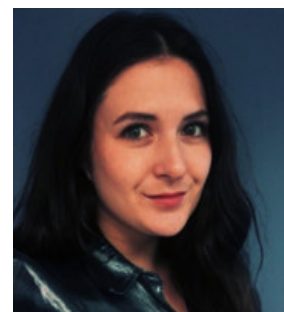
in preserving Wesleyan's musical history through its preservation of Music Department recordings. Funding was obtained partly from Neely Bruce's John Spencer Camp Chair endowment, and approximately 230 audiotape reels were sent out to George Blood Audio-Video in Philadelphia for digital preservation. The earliest recording in the collection contains incidental music Winslow composed for a performance of *Taming of the Shrew* in 1951, while the latest is a Wesleyan Big Band recording from 1980. In between are performances by the Glee Club, the Choral Society, the Chapel Choir, the Orchestra, a student string quartet, the Jazz Quartet (a vocal group), and numerous chamber works performed by Wesleyan students and faculty. The large majority of these recordings were made before Wesleyan became coed, and many occasions of joint choral concerts with women's groups—Smith, Vassar, Wellesley, and the Middletown Women's Chorus—provide a look into an era when all-male and all-female colleges collaborated not only for the social engagement but also to expand the range of voices. Throughout the recordings, Dick Winslow is ever present, acting as composer, conductor and performer, while other faculty members appearing on the recordings include Raymond Rendall, Gerard Jaffe, and Bill Barron.

These recordings are currently available for listening within the library, and will eventually be made available online to the campus community. An event commemorating the life and career of Dick Winslow is expected to be hosted by the Music Department during the 2019–20 academic year, and these recordings will be on hand to supplement the many discussions and reminiscences that will be part of this celebration.

—ALEC MCLANE, RETIRED MUSIC LIBRARIAN AND DIRECTOR, WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES—

## INTERN AT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES PROCESSES THE QUEER ARCHIVE PROJECT COLLECTION

This year, as a requirement for my Masters of Library and Information Science program at Simmons University, I was given the opportunity to intern at an archive. Online students like myself provided the program director with institutions in our geographic area where we might like to work, and the internships were coordinated from those choices. I was thrilled to find out I'd be completing my internship with Special Collections & Archives at Wesleyan.



My primary goal was to process a collection in full and compile a finding aid. Working with University Archivist, Amanda Nelson, I chose to process the Wesleyan University Queer Archive Project collection. This group of records is unique not only in its subject matter, but in its content. In addition to the usual text and written records, the collection includes t-shirts, memorabilia, and other ephemera. Originally compiled for a senior project by student Nora Houseman '02, the collection contains records from 1974 to 2006 and provides insight into the activities and evolution of the LGBTQ community at Wesleyan and the challenges they faced.

Among the array of interesting records, one in particular that caught my eye was the office diary of the Queer Alliance from 1993 to 1994. It contains entries from members of the Queer Alliance concerning the group's activities, challenges members of the group faced both in their academic work and their day-to-day life, and general musings about their experiences in the queer community within and outside of the University. It is a great addition to the collection as it provides a more direct, intimate perspective of the students' thoughts and experiences at the time.

This internship with SC&A provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about what it truly means to work as an archivist, particularly in a special collections and academic environment. So much of the coursework in LIS graduate programs is theoretical—having the opportunity to put it into practice in real time is invaluable. Wesleyan's collection is truly unique and I am looking forward to continue learning and processing additional collections during my tenure.

—RILEY CAMERON, MSLS CANDIDATE, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY—

## STUDENTS CREATE AND DONATE SITE MODEL OF OLIN AND PAC TO THE LIBRARY



IMAGE COURTESY OF REBECCA MCCALLUM

In anticipation of the Gallery Design Competition hosted by the University for a new gallery space connecting Olin Library and the PAC, Kelsey Morgan '22 and Asa Spurlock '20 were asked by architect and

Associate Professor Elijah Hugu to build a model of these two buildings as well as the surrounding topography. The purpose of this site model was to help visualize in "real space" the different gallery models submitted by competing architecture firms.

The building process began by digitally reconstructing in three dimensions the existing plans for Olin and the PAC and their topographical maps. Each of these elements presented different challenges. The gradient changes of the topography, for example, had to be isolated into incremental changes in elevation. This was accomplished in the model by stacking layers of thin sheets of wood on top of each other. This stacking solution suggested a simple design principle that could be applied across the entire site model. In this manner, the façades of Olin and the PAC were each isolated into five separate layers. When pressed together, these layers create the depth and intricacy of Olin and the PAC's complex architecture. The site model is constructed entirely out of wood and rendered at a scale of ¼ inch equal to 1 foot. At this ratio, the footprint of the entire site model stretches 4 feet by 5 feet in length and width. A laser was used to cut out the more than 500 unique parts. The project was completed in a highly restrictive timeframe—90 hours over five days. The model has been donated to the library.

— KELSEY MORGAN '22 AND ASA SPURLOCK '20 —

## "WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN DEDICATED TO THE SOUL WAS NOW DEDICATED TO THE SALE."

*from Confederacy of Dunces, chapter 2*

It is a common occurrence for book donations to be dropped in the lobby of the Science Library. Once the bin is full, my colleague Malinda Johnston and I box them for the Friends of the Library book sale. In a recent batch, I saw a book I had read years before, *Confederacy of Dunces*. It was stamped with "OWSL" inside, outside, top, bottom, side and back. Having enjoyed this book years ago, it already had my attention, but now I was wondering "OWSL, which library is that?" I opened the front cover, and there was my answer: "Occupy Wall Street Library." For a library nerd, finding a book that not only tells a good story but has an even better one is very exciting.

Occupy Wall Street (OWS), was a protest about economic inequality and the corporate influence on democracy, contrasting the 99% with what they viewed as the greed and corruption of the 1%. It began on September 17, 2011, with the protestor occupation of Zuccotti Park on Wall Street in New York City. Unlike other historical protests, this one had no demands, no leaders, no projected outcomes, no talking heads, no bottom lines. People from all professions, religions, and ethnic backgrounds came together and set up camp in protest.

It was during this short 59 days of encampment that the Occupy Wall Street Library, The People's Library, or Fort Patti existed. At its height, the OWSL had 5,500+ books in its Zuccotti Park collection. The first OWSL, a cardboard box filled with books donated by a library science student from NYU, was ruined by a weather event. A short time later a second collection was started with donated books. After learning of the demise of the first OWSL collection, Patti Smith, 2016 Wesleyan University Doctor of Fine Arts honorary degree recipient, contributed a tent to be used as the library's primary structure.

Then at 1:00 a.m. on November 15, 2011, the Occupy movement was dismantled when New York City Mayor Bloomberg had police raid the encampment. According to Mayor Bloomberg, Brookfield Office Properties, owners of the private park, asked the city to clear the park so it could be cleaned.

Citing safety reasons, Mayor Bloomberg barred all journalists from entering the area of Zuccotti Park, and even restricted access to the airspace above the park for press helicopters during those early morning hours. We have stories by protestors and police but no complete account of what happened to the OWSL. A small number of the books were taken to the sanitation garage on 57th Street. A few days later library representatives returned from the sanitation garage with 26 boxes of damaged books and the tattered remains of the tent Patti Smith had donated. Most of the library's collection and equipment had been destroyed, damaged, lost, or thrown away by the Police Department.

In the end only a fraction of the OWSL survived. In a settlement with NYC, OWSL received \$47,000 and a not-quite-apology. What would a group of librarians, library organizers, and library volunteers with a nonexistent library do with \$47,000? Occupy Wall Street was dismantled. People involved knew they would never be able to rebuild what they had for many reasons, so they divided it

equally amongst 34 New York-based not-for-profit organizations, such as Food for Thought Books, Books Through Bars, Queers for Economic Justice, Urban Librarians Unite, and other like-minded groups.

(continued on pg. 7)

IMAGES COURTESY OF LINDA HURTEAU





## MICHAELLE BIDDLE RETIRES

**M**ichaelle Biddle, collections conservator and head of preservation services, retired January 2, 2019, after more than 35 years at Wesleyan. Originally hired as “clerk of the works” for the library expansion project in June 1983, Michaelle knew (and, of course, still knows) Olin Library inside and out, better than anyone else. The knowledge of the building that she gained in that two-and-a-half-year project stood her in good



stead for her entire career here, and the rest of the library staff continued to benefit from it until her final day at work. In addition to keeping track of all the myriad details that determine the success or failure of such a complex renovation project, Michaelle automated the budget recordkeeping to make it easier to understand exactly where things stood. More recently, she used her extensive knowledge of the book collections and the stacks that house them to prepare a detailed history of the library's compact storage locations—a document that will serve us well for many years to come.

After the renovation project was completed, Michaelle went on to various other positions in Olin before taking over the library's conservation/preservation operation. She laughingly recalls that she began with “fifty dollars and a broken pair of scissors.” Today the nearly state-of-the-art book lab, which will relocate as part of the PAC/Davison Art Gallery construction project, lacks only a giant sink for washing materials—and we're working on that. Michaelle's careful planning and donor cultivation made it all come together, and her training and mentoring of generations of Wesleyan students made the book lab a highly desirable place to work on campus. And she expertly repaired, preserved, or conserved thousands of books, pamphlets, maps, and other materials along the way.

Like many accomplished, busy people, Michaelle's retirement plans don't involve putting her feet up while napping in front of a fireplace. Instead, she has been named a Permanent Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at the University of Hamburg, Germany. She will continue her world travels in the quest of training conservators in developing countries, especially in Africa, along with her research into the use of European paper for African manuscripts. She has already traveled to Vietnam since leaving Wesleyan. Michaelle and her husband, David, have relocated to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be closer to their son, Christopher—and the Detroit airport, which has countless international flights every day.

Michaelle is deeply missed by library colleagues, faculty, students, and staff alike.

—SUZY TARABA, DIRECTOR, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES —

## MUSIC LIBRARIAN ALEC MCLANE RETIRES

**A**lec McLane, music librarian and director of the world music archives for nearly 21 years, retired on June 28, 2019. With degrees in music from the Berklee College of Music and the University of Illinois, and experience in experimental and computer music as well as ethnomusicology, he was a good fit for Wesleyan when he arrived in 1998. It was while teaching music at Central Connecticut State University in the late 1980's that he encountered Wesleyan

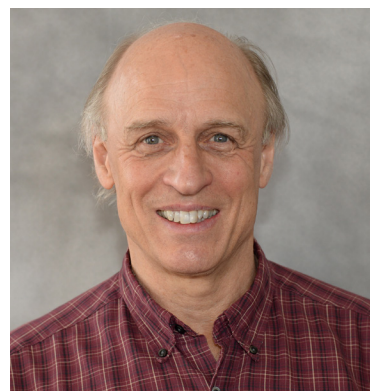


IMAGE COURTESY OF OLIVIA DRAKE MALS '08

for the first time, during John Cage's 75th-birthday festival, and had always hoped to someday return to become part of its musical environment.

He has since become known for his enthusiastic dedication to helping students and faculty through personal research sessions, classroom instruction, and tracking down needed research and performance materials and for his expertise in sound archiving. He oversaw the Music Library and World Music Archives collections, access services, and archiving and metadata policy and procedures; served on many audio-visual, technical, and public services committees; and secured grants and other funding to preserve archives collections. Numerous students benefited from his training in recording concerts, sound archiving, and cataloging, leading several to go on to careers in libraries and archives. Alec worked closely with Music Department faculty such as David McAllester, Mark Slobin, and Neely Bruce to preserve their recordings and make them accessible. He has also been a valued member of Wesleyan's Chinese Music Ensemble and Javanese Gamelan Ensemble and enjoys playing at old-time music gatherings and singing in a Middletown community chorus. He will be missed by his colleagues at the library but fortunately will continue to be active in the Middletown musical scene.

—JENNIFER HADLEY, LIBRARY ASSISTANT, MUSIC LIBRARY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES —

(continued from pg. 5)

But just how did one of 802 surviving books make it to a donation box in the lobby of the Science Library? We may never know the journey from Zuccotti Park to the Science Library and I'm fine with that. But now that Wesleyan has this little piece of history what do we do with it? For those of you wondering—the OWSL actually does not want these books returned. They encourage and want them to carry on and take on a journey of their own. What a perfect thing it is that this book will now become part of the Special Collections & Archives collection for current and future students, faculty, and staff to be able to access it so its story and the Occupy Wall Street story goes on.

—LINDA HURTEAU, LIBRARY ASSISTANT, SCIENCE LIBRARY —

## OLIN RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY TO WELCOME THE DAVISON ART CENTER COLLECTION IN SPRING 2020



IMAGE COURTESY OF MIKE ROSALIE



IMAGES COURTESY OF MIYA TOKUMITSU



## THE WESLEYAN AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE EXHIBIT IN OLIN LIBRARY



IMAGES COURTESY OF OLIVIA  
DRAKE MALS '08



## FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY



**C**ongratulations to the winners of the 2019 Friends of the Wesleyan Library Undergraduate Research Prize, honoring excellence in writing and library research! Emma Leuchten '19 (anthropology and religion major) was awarded first place for her senior essay "Anthropology Beyond Belief: Navigating Dreams and Reality in the Burmese Weikza Tradition," submitted to the Anthropology Department (Prof. Traube). Isaac Klimasmith '20 (biology) was awarded second place for "'Waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert': Irrigation Myths in the History of Early

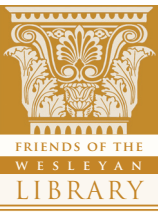
Mormon Agriculture," a paper written for The Economy of Nature and Nations (ENVS 307 Prof. Erickson). In addition, our jury recognized two students with honorable mentions: Aviv Rau '19 (sociology, American studies) for "Conditionally Coed: Parenting, Policing, and Producing Womanhood at Wesleyan University, 1872-1912," a paper written for Critical University Studies (SOC 399G Prof. Boggs) and Celeste Smith '19 (earth and environmental sciences and Science in Society Program) "Humans, Comets, and Nitrogen: Gothic Science Fiction's Expansion into the New Millennium," a paper written for History of the End (HIST 387 Prof. Fullilove). The papers will be available online through WesScholar, Wesleyan's repository. The winners were recognized at a reception on May 1, with a talk by Susan Campbell, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *Frog Hollow: Stories from an American Neighborhood* (Wesleyan University Press, 2019). We are grateful to Stephen Darnell '69 for sponsoring the prizes this year though his generous special project donation.

We would also like to thank Michael Meere, assistant professor of French and medieval studies, for his three years of service as chair of the Friends. He has been a tireless advocate of the Friends and the library and spearheaded many exciting collaborations.

—JENNIFER HADLEY, LIBRARY ASSISTANT, FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY —

The Friends are grateful for your generous donations.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the Friends through membership or specific donations towards our digitization, preservation, and archival projects, research prize, or events, please email [libfriends@wesleyan.edu](mailto:libfriends@wesleyan.edu).



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