

# Bytes & Books

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 — Immigration subject headings
- 5 — LVEHC Digital Archive
- 6 — New acquisitions
- 6 — Schlueter lecture
- 7 — ITS News

## Skillman Library Presents the Work of Stanford Professor Xiaoze Xie

This fall the Libraries are excited to present *Forbidden Stories: Installation and Photographs* by Xiaoze Xie, on view in Skillman Library from September 13 through January 2020. A native of Guangdong Province, China, artist Xiaoze Xie is the Wattis Professor of Art at Stanford University. Most recognized for his photorealist paintings, Xie's work has evolved to include photography, sculpture and video exploring themes of censorship, social memory and political discourse. He has exhibited widely in the United States and abroad and his work is represented in several prestigious private and public art collections. A companion exhibit of Xie's work, *Objects of Evidence*, will show concurrently at

the Asia Society in New York City.

The Skillman exhibit draws on Xie's work from his sweeping project entitled *Forbidden Memories: Tracing Banned Books in China*. "Books are a recurring subject in my work," Xie writes. "I have been interested in books as a material form of memory, history and ideology, and fascinated by what people do to books." His work has involved extensive research on book banning in China, throughout which he has amassed personal collections of once-banned titles and documented banned books in library collections through his

*(Xiaoze Xie, continued on page 2)*

## Digital Scholarship Services Partners to Launch the Queer Archives Project Digital Humanities Site

The Queer Archives Project at Lafayette College is a collaborative, interdisciplinary initiative designed to illuminate Lafayette's Queer history, advance teaching, learning and research in the area of Queer Studies, and promote positive institutional transformation. Guided by a multidisciplinary advisory committee of Lafayette faculty, the QAP represents a partnership among Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Special Collections & College Archives, and Digital Scholarship Services at Lafayette College Libraries. The main goal of

the QAP is to collect and preserve oral histories from Lafayette graduates, faculty, staff, and other members of the campus community that bear witness to diverse LGBTQ+ experiences at Lafayette.

Last spring, under the leadership of DSS Director Charlotte Nunes and QAP faculty director Mary A. Armstrong, the QAP team launched a new digital humanities project ([gap.lafayette.edu](http://gap.lafayette.edu)) that integrates oral histories, archival materials, and

*(Queer Archives, continued on page 4)*

(Xiaoze Xie, continued from page 1)

photography. On display in Skillman are selections from Xie's series of photographs of ancient banned books, depicting texts open to specifically selected pages with a metal ruler present under the open book, "as if to 'measure' (thus to judge) the book," Xie says, and documenting evidence of ownership, reading and interaction such as marginalia and library labels. The photographs displayed in Skillman feature pages from classic works of literature and works on philosophy, history and politics, illuminating subjects once deemed mysterious, inappropriate or subversive. Alongside the photographs Skillman also displays Xie's evocative *The Queen's College Library at the University of Oxford*, one of his Library Series of paintings which invite us to scrutinize library shelves, admiring their contents and questioning the ways books are preserved and used.



Above: *The Queen's College Library at the University of Oxford*



Above: *Golden Lotus*

are many first editions from our collections, with the work of Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, whose *Beloved*, *Song of Solomon*, and *The Bluest Eye* are among the most frequently banned or challenged books in the U.S., featuring prominently.

More information about the concurrent Asia Society show is available at: <https://asiasociety.org/new-york/exhibitions/xiaoze-xie-objects-evidence>. The Asia Society is located at 725 Park Avenue in New York City.

*Forbidden Stories* is made possible by the Friends of Skillman Library and by Stephen Parahus '84. Modern literary first editions on display from the Lafayette Special Collections include gifts to the Libraries from Joe Nechasek '62.

-Anne Houston

Right: *Peony Pavilion*

The Skillman exhibit also utilizes the library's display cases to highlight Xie's personal collections of modern banned books from China. Built with painstaking care, Xie's book collections serve "as objects of historical evidence," Xie writes, "and extend the investigation from ancient times reflected in the photographs to more recent history and the present." For the Skillman exhibit Xie's banned book collections are complemented for the first time by a selection of Western banned books. Drawn from the Lafayette Libraries' Special Collections, the Western books create contrasts among the varying ways that books may be banned or restricted in different cultures and under different political systems. Among the Skillman banned books

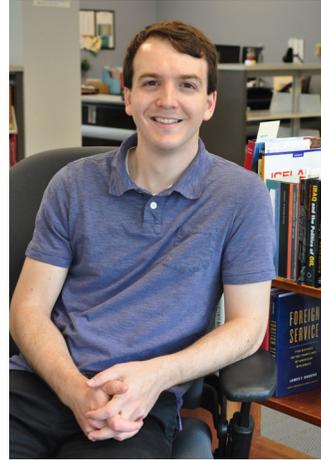


## New Library Staff

**Sara Gatti** joined Skillman Library in July as the Administrative & Communications Specialist. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Art History from Temple University in 2014 and previously worked in art galleries and auction houses in the Philadelphia area. Now, Sara has returned to her hometown of Bethlehem after a year living in Parma, Italy and is excited for autumn-inspired rendezvous around the Lehigh Valley. Sara enjoys bingeing true crime shows and podcasts, knitting and weaving fabric, and attending craft shows.



**Brian Tervo** joined Skillman in April as the Copy Cataloging Technician. He graduated Cum Laude from Eastern University with a Bachelor's degree in History, and previously worked in the interlibrary loan department at Drew University in New Jersey. When not busy with his three young daughters, Brian likes to read books on history, theology and religion, and take leisurely walks through his new neighborhood in Bethlehem.



## Libraries change “illegal alien” subject heading to “undocumented immigrant”

In the summer of 2019 Lafayette Libraries converted all records using the Library of Congress subject heading “illegal aliens” to a more inclusive and less demeaning subject heading-- “undocumented immigrant.” Librarians Joel Pearce, Terese Heidenwolf, and Ana Ramirez Luhrs were inspired to make the change after learning that the University of Colorado, Colorado College, and Yale University, among others, have converted the outdated “illegal aliens” in their authority records. The initial action to change the subject heading “illegal aliens” came from Melissa Padilla and Oscar Cornejo, former Dartmouth undergraduates and Dartmouth Research Librarian Jill Baron in 2016.

In their 2018 film *Change the Subject*, Padilla, Cornejo and Baron document their journey from Dartmouth's campus to petition Congress to get rid of the “illegal aliens” subject heading. Although the Library of Congress eventually kept the subject heading, the Dartmouth group's call to action remains an inspiration to many libraries both public and academic. While some libraries have added alternative subject headings to “illegal aliens”, Lafayette Libraries has converted the “illegal alien” subject heading to “undocumented immigrants,” with a cross reference to the former subject heading. As the topic of immigration continues to dominate the headlines, it is important to recognize that words matter.

-Ana Ramirez Luhrs



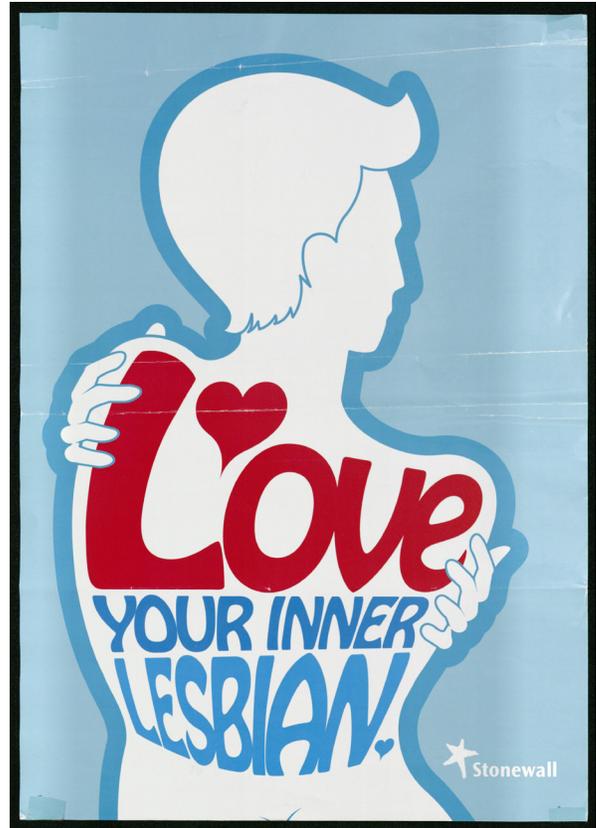
*(Queer Archives, continued from page 1)*

undergraduate interpretive research on Queer histories at Lafayette College. Members of the digital humanities project team include undergraduate researchers, faculty, and librarians, including the staff of Digital Scholarship Services and Special Collections. The team selected the open-source software Scalar on which to build the site. In Scalar, contents are heavily networked and interconnected across the site, rather than being hierarchically nested. Given Scalar's multi-nodal, non-linear format, it is an appropriate platform for research and teaching that approaches history-building critically and iteratively.

Students in Dr. Armstrong's spring 2019 Women's & Gender Studie 340 class had opportunities to contribute to the site; during the 2019-20 academic year, undergraduate researchers will continue to expand the site, adding new oral histories, archival materials, and interpretive "paths" that put these materials into conversation with each other to make an argument or tell a story about Lafayette's queer histories.

Explore the site at [gap.lafayette.edu](http://gap.lafayette.edu).

- Charlotte Nunes



*Above:* A poster featured in the QAP digital humanities site that was distributed by the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) at Lafayette College.

## Libraries Add Major Engineering Database

Over the summer, the Libraries began a subscription to Knovel, a resource for engineering data and technical information. The data are pulled from hundreds of engineering reference sources, including handbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, guides, manuals, as well as some ebook and textbook titles.

One of Knovel's great strengths in addition to providing the ability to quickly look up -- and download -- fundamental definitions, data, and diagrams on engineering processes and properties, is a suite of interactive elements. With these tools, users can plot graphs based on specific conditions and variables; solve formulas and create equation worksheets combining text, math, images, and graphs; and perform unit conversions in many different notation systems.

Knovel is made up of many different subject areas. Our collection, curated in conjunction with Lafayette

engineering faculty and based on curricular and research interests, encompasses 10 subject areas:

- Chemistry & Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering & Construction Materials
- Engineering Management & Leadership
- Environment & Environmental Engineering
- General Engineering & Project Administration
- Industrial Engineering & Operations
- Mechanics & Mechanical Engineering
- Oil & Gas Engineering
- Sustainable Energy & Development
- Transportation Engineering

Users can also create a "My Knovel" account to both save and share items such as particular tables, graphs, diagrams, and definitions, frequently-run searches, custom worksheets, and favorite units.

- Ben Jabre

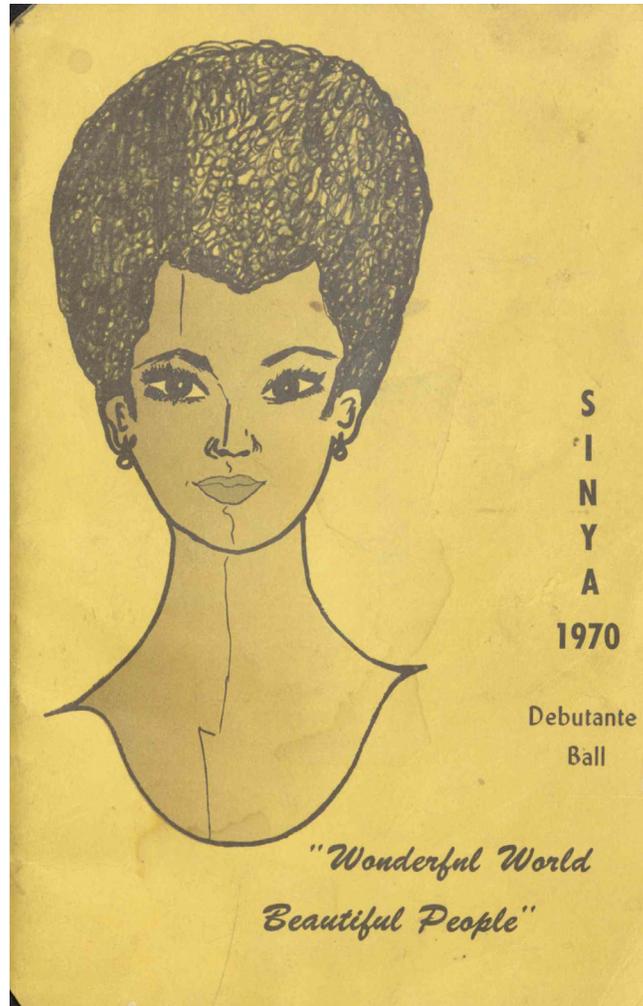
## Digital Scholarship Services Launches the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium Digital Archive

Lafayette College Libraries Digital Scholarship Services is a partner on the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium or LVEHC (<https://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc/>), a four-year grant initiative supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through June 2021. The goal of the grant is to foster collaboration across Lehigh Valley campuses, libraries, cultural institutions, and community partners, in exploration of themes such as the diversity of communities, the changing nature of work, and the environment and sense of place in the Lehigh Valley during the past half-century.

As a partner on the LVEHC, Digital Scholarship Services is proud to launch the LVEHC Digital Archive (<https://lvehc-archive.lafayette.edu>), a regional digital archive representing collection-building efforts at Lehigh Valley college campuses, public libraries, and cultural heritage institutions. The range of primary source materials collected in the archive include oral histories, family photographs, historic maps, ephemera, and other materials that document diverse ethnic and immigrant communities, emergent economies in the de-industrial era, relationships between culture and the environment, and other topics. The archive will remain in-progress, with grantees contributing additional collections, through the conclusion of the Mellon grant in June 2021.

Do you have an idea for a potential collection to build for the LVEHC Digital Archive? Grants are available for faculty to build digital collections and to include digital collections in their course planning, for instance through interpretive exhibit assignments for undergraduates to analyze items in the archive. Read more about grant opportunities at <https://sites.lafayette.edu/lvehc/proposals-and-deadlines/>, or reach out to LVEHC co-Director Charlotte Nunes ([nunesc@lafayette.edu](mailto:nunesc@lafayette.edu)) for more information.

- Charlotte Nunes



Above: The cover image of an Easton, PA NAACP debutante ball program from 1970, featured in the Easton NAACP-Sigal Museum Collection in the LVEHC Digital Archive.

## Lafayette Libraries Implement Auto-Renewals for Books for Faculty & Staff

For faculty and staff, starting this June when your academic year long checked out books are due, the Lafayette Library will be automatically renewing them for another year. This way if you have already headed off for the summer you don't have to worry about renewing them yourself. Of course, if you are done with the books, we'd be happy to have them back. You will receive an email letting you know what has been renewed.

Another change we have made is now the loan periods for the spouse/partner of faculty & staff and their children 16 years and older are also for an academic year for most books.

- Kylie Bailin

## Nicholas Basbanes to Deliver the 2019 Schlueter Lecture, November 18

The 2019 Paul and June Schlueter Lecture on the Art & History of the Book will feature Nicholas Basbanes, author of several acclaimed books on the history of the book. Basbanes will be speaking about the history of papermaking and his book *On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History*, in conjunction with Skillman Library's fall exhibit of artist's paper. The lecture will take place on Monday, November 18 at 4:30 p.m. in Skillman's Gendebien Room.

Nicholas A. Basbanes is the author of nine critically acclaimed works of cultural history, with a particular emphasis on various aspects of books and book culture. His first effort, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* (1995), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction, and was named a New York Times Notable Book. In 2015, Basbanes was awarded a Public Scholar research grant by the NEH in support of *Cross of Snow*, a dual biography of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his wife, Fanny Appleton Longfellow, to be published early next year by Alfred A. Knopf. He also writes the "Gently Mad" column for *Fine Books & Collections* magazine, lectures widely on book related subjects, and is a frequent contributor to *Humanities* magazine. This coming March, the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives of Texas A&M

University, which in 2015 acquired Basbanes's literary archive and significant components of his personal library, will mount an exhibition commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of *A Gentle Madness*.

*On Paper*, which Basbanes calls "a cultural history that takes in the full sweep of this remarkably versatile material, and discusses the impact it has had on the shaping of history," was named a best book of 2014 by *Mother Jones*, *Bloomberg News*, *National Post*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. *Booklist* magazine described *On Paper* as "a celebration of paper ... engrossing and thought-provoking, leading up to the dramatic conclusion, in which Basbanes recounts deeply affecting stories about the "paper rain" that covered New York City on 9/11. Paper, Basbanes avers, is nothing less than an embodiment and conveyance of humanity." The Lafayette Libraries are fortunate to own a wonderful collection of handmade artists' papers which will be displayed in the Simon Room this fall (see p. 8 for more on the exhibit), making a wonderful complement to this year's Schlueter Lecture.

- Anne Houston



Above: Pulp to Print exhibit case. Simon Room

## New Electronic Acquisitions

### ART & ARCHITECTURE EPORTAL

*A&A ePortal* is a curated collection of academic art and architecture ebooks from Yale University Press, also featuring titles from the presses at Harvard, Princeton, the Art Institute of Chicago, and others. The collection can be browsed or searched by image or topic. It has a particular strength in being able to discover scholarship relating to a particular work of art or artist. Instructors can also request the ability to create coursepacks (contact the library to learn more).

### MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT RESEARCH CENTER

This database includes a wide range of stock and company financial data, including research reports, data, and analyst reports on mutual, closed-end, and exchange-traded funds

(ETFs). *Morningstar* also allows users to build trackable portfolios, calculate savings based on projections, and perform investment risk analyses.

### TAKING INDIA: HOW THE MILITARY ESTABLISHED COMPANY RULE, 1752-1774

*Taking India* is a digital archive of papers from two key East India Company employees, Colonel Robert Clive and Brigadier-General John Carnac. The papers cover the transfer of power from the Mughal Empire to the British Empire, including key battles, the hiring of Indian workers, and how these employees and their compatriots viewed the events taking place.

## ITS News

### INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY IS NOW LEARNING AND RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES

Instructional Technology changed its name this summer to Learning and Research Technologies to more accurately describe services and collaborations provided by the team. One impetus behind this change was the addition of a Research and High-Performance Computing (R/HPC) team, which provides high-performance computing capabilities coupled with personalized consultations to the Lafayette community. This group recently deployed a new computational cluster for campus use.

Faculty already are leveraging these systems to dramatically shift the types and scales of questions they are able to ask. In addition, over the summer the R/HPC team deployed two new campus services—RStudio Server Pro and JupyterHub—that can be used for teaching, collaborative learning, and research. If you're interested in leveraging these services or systems, please reach out to Jason Simms, Manager, Research and High-Performance Computing, at [simmsj@lafayette.edu](mailto:simmsj@lafayette.edu).

### ROCKWELL AND OTHER COLLEGE SPACES

After three years of consulting and planning, ITS finished technology installations for the Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center. In Rockwell, ITS introduced new technologies to campus like screen-mirroring for nearly any device, microscopes connected to AV systems in Biology labs, and 3D projection to be used with human anatomy software. In all, the Rockwell Center technology footprint includes four smart classrooms, three computer science teaching

labs, ten meeting/conference rooms, an engineering lab space, the new Dyer Center, and eight Biology teaching labs.

Beyond the Rockwell project, ITS helped reconfigure teaching spaces on the second and fifth floors of AEC, which now feature additional huddle tables with screen-mirroring technology, relocated lab computers, and a new 24-workstation teaching space. The second floor of the Williams Center for the Arts underwent renovations that include A/V systems for the Music computer lab and a new Art History seminar room. Finally, we installed displays for the new South College lounge.

### DOES YOUR LAB SOFTWARE NEED UPDATING FOR THE SPRING?

By November 1, faculty members and lab managers should submit version update requests for currently deployed academic lab applications, as well as to inquire about the possibility of deploying new academic lab applications for Spring 2020. Requests should be sent to Alan Johnson, Desktop Engineer, at [johnsona@lafayette.edu](mailto:johnsona@lafayette.edu).

### STAFF UPDATES

**Mike Buckler** joined the Digital Infrastructure team in August of this year as System Administrator/Cloud Engineer. In addition to supporting existing servers, he and the rest of the team will be working towards developing Lafayette's infrastructure in Amazon Web Services. Outside of work, he enjoys gaming, drawing, spending time with family, and trying out new restaurants in the Lehigh Valley.

## Robert Macfarlane to Deliver the Libraries' 2020 Hatfield Lecture

On March 12 the Libraries will welcome Robert Macfarlane as the 2020 John L. Hatfield '67 lecturer. Robert Macfarlane is a fellow at Cambridge University and one of the preeminent nature writers of our time, known for his searching explorations of the connections between landscape and human life in books such as *The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot*, *The Wild Places*, and *Landmarks*. For the annual Hatfield Lecture, Macfarlane will discuss his widely praised new book *Underland*, a journey into the worlds beneath our feet and "a deep-time voyage into the planet's past and future."

Photo credit: Brian Appleyard



## Skillman Library Showcases Handmade Paper Exhibit

### Pulp to Print: Techniques & Transformations in Handmade Paper

Simon Room, through mid-January 2020

*Pulp to Print* highlights the many artistic possibilities handmade paper offers. The exhibition presents a selection of outstanding works by leading paper artists created specifically for *Hand Papermaking, Inc.*, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the ongoing development of artistic papermaking since 1986. The artists made use of all types of fabrics and vegetable matter in the composition of their pulp and developed inventive techniques in the processing and finishing of their handmade sheets. Whether investigating the concept of negative space in handmade paper, or exploring the unusual and creative interactions between fibers, the represented

paper artists create works that share boundaries between the traditional and the experimental. Also featured in the exhibit are works by well-known paper and book artist, Helen Hiebert who uses her handmade paper to create unique artists' books that explore watermarking techniques and the interplay of geometry and light. Carolee Campbell, founder of *Ninja Press*, transforms handmade paper into some of the finest artists' books found in

the contemporary book arts scene. Her iconic work *The Real World of Manuel Córdova*, printed on a persimmon-washed and smoked handmade paper, extends nearly nine feet across three display cases. Rounding out the exhibit are poetry broadsides made of handmade paper, and artists' books that address different but overlapping aspects of papermaking—the use of natural dyes on handmade paper from around the world, experiments in paper investigating the use of invasive plant species, samples of paste paper and other decorative paper specimens in bookbinding ephemera, and the history of handmade paper in Japan.

- Pam Murray



Above: Bridget O'Malley. *Venus Flytrap*. 2005



Above: *Pulp to Print* exhibit case. Simon Room

## Information Literacy Grants Deadline - December 16, 2019

Faculty interested in working closely with a librarian to integrate information literacy into an upper-level course this spring are invited to apply for a \$1,500 stipend offered by the Library and the Office of the Provost. Application details can be found on the Library's website. Faculty who wish to apply should contact Lijuan Xu as soon as possible at 610.330.5152 or [xul@lafayette.edu](mailto:xul@lafayette.edu).

## Bytes & Books

is published twice a year by the Lafayette College Library.

EDITOR: Kylie Bailin

Send your ideas and comments to [refdesk@lafayette.edu](mailto:refdesk@lafayette.edu).