



Visions

NEWSLETTER OF THE DREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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DREW.EDU/LIBRARY

ACADEMICS IN COMMON: TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIBRARY

by Jody Caldwell, Head of Reference & Research Services

As I watch a new class of incoming students unpack, settle in, start classes and begin to get their bearings, I have memories of my own transition to college. Much has stayed the same—the insecurities, the excitement, the challenges of courses, the pressure to work hard and stretch abilities. But a lot has changed as well—students use technology creatively, both for social and academic purposes, they write more often and more reflectively, they do research in ways I never dreamed of, they work together and generally enjoy collaboration with their peers and their faculty. The work of the Library has changed as a result, and must continue to change. And we're now presented with a raft of new possibilities in the Vivian A. Bull Academic Commons.

Several years ago, Gamin Bartle, the Director of Instructional Technology and User Services, and I began to think about how the Library and University Technology could better support students in their academic work. We looked at the ways in which students produce their work, often needing in quick succession help with research, with technology, with organizing their thoughts, with evaluating their sources, with polishing their writing. Not surprisingly, we came to the same conclusion many have come to before us: an integrated space for support of all those functions will not only be much more convenient for students, but it will also encourage them to think more seamlessly about the process of producing new knowledge. And it would foster much closer collaboration among those who were offering those services.



Our new, more welcoming Research Help Desk

We started incrementally with a technology student assistant working at the Reference Desk, space for University Writing Fellows, and some collaborative programming. Then, last January, driven by a need to reconfigure space to accommodate the new INTO New York at Drew program (which aids in the recruitment, transition and integration of international students), the University

gave the go-ahead to a much larger project, and the Vivian A. Bull Academic Commons was on its way.

The Academic Commons as it stands now includes four major organizational units:

- The Library, with its wealth of print and digital material, and its ability to

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FACELIFT FOR WILSON READING ROOM

The Wilson Reading Room, where the Methodist material and all University special collections are consulted, is showing its age from steady use spanning three decades. That will change over the next few months as a variety of improvements are made. New desks and comfortable chairs installed, the service area improved, security strengthened, the space painted, and new carpet installed.

These enhancements are made possible by a gift from Maribeth Collins of Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Collins was a major contributor to the campaign that built the Methodist Center over thirty years ago. Her father, Clarence True Wilson, was a Methodist minister, and she honored him with her gift. Thus the name of the space, the Wilson Reading Room.

THE DEAN'S CORNER

After five years of retirement, I find myself back at the Drew Library in a position I never held and never aspired to. Some days the learning curve is steep, but I have a long history at Drew and the Library and at times have been able to call upon that experience. In addition, the Library faculty and staff have been tremendously supportive and unfailingly patient.



At first glance, much is the same as it was five years ago; many of the faces are familiar but now with new faculty and staff members to add new perspectives to our work. In subtle ways my absence has allowed me to see my former colleagues in a new light, to have a fresh appreciation for their professionalism and hard work.

Much of this summer has been devoted to the construction of the new Academic Commons. This is an exciting change for the Library that has created a great deal of energy and optimism. While it is convenient for students to have these academic support services in one location, the benefits go far beyond convenience. The key players of the various departments will be working hard to create a synergy that engenders creativity and makes new services possible benefitting both students and faculty. (See article in this issue.)

Today's undergraduate students have never known a world without personal computers and the World Wide Web. Most of us adapted to the digital age by considering it an adjunct to what we were already doing, a way to do something faster and more conveniently from our home or office rather than going to the library or other print resources. Do you recall the fat periodical indexes published by H.W. Wilson, among them Reader's Guide and the Social Sciences and Humanities Index? One identified a few subject headings that might yield the pertinent articles and searched through multiple volumes selecting articles. The

essential step was to cross-check the journals cited with the library's list of holdings. If the library did not have the journal, one might not be able to get the article in time. Finally one would go to the stacks, find the issues, read the articles and take notes. Now one searches online in a full-text database, a click on the citation yields the journal article, another click or two will print it. All of us would agree that this is a vast improvement.

Full text indexing allows another time-saving, but potentially dangerous, convenience; one need not read the entire article, but search for the relevant term or phrase within the article. The question arises, has something been lost in this process? I would argue that, prodded by the various beeps and buzzes on our digital devices, we are in danger of valuing too highly quick access to information and of confusing information with knowledge. Information is of the moment, changing rapidly as new data becomes available. Knowledge requires thought, reflection and analysis. If searching within a text is restricted to a phrase, "national identity" for example, what can one conclude about the use of the phrase? Without reading the article in which it appears, one loses the context of the article and the phrase becomes divorced from the source in which it appears. In this case, can one do more than compile data on the frequency of its use?

The digital revolution has transformed our world at least as profoundly as the Industrial Revolution of the late eighteenth century. Our task in working with the digital generation is to instill evaluative and analytical skills in dealing with the flood of resources on the Web. One needs to be able to distinguish among the digital images of an eighteenth-century newspaper, a scholarly journal article and a contemporary posting. What is the relevance of each to the issue being studied; its value for research? For those of us who have had hands-on experience with primary sources and scholarly journals, these questions are easily answered. For the digital generation the importance of these questions is often not readily apparent. As educators our challenge is to help students learn the benefits of evaluation and critical thinking, to go beyond the easily accessed information in search of knowledge.

**We are in danger
of valuing
too highly
quick access
to information.**

Linda E. Connors

FOCUS ON: CHRIS ANDERSON

This past spring WMNJ, the Drew radio station, broadcast the speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his visit to Drew University fifty years ago in February 1964. Chris Anderson, Head of Special Collections and University Archives, created and hosts a weekly radio show, *The Drew Vault*, to promote the archival collections at Drew and inform listeners of the history of the university. Word of the planned broadcast produced an unexpected response from Marybeth Oxnam, daughter of Robert F. Oxnam, president of Drew in the early 1960s. She recalled that prior to that evening's speech, President Oxnam gave a dinner for Dr. King and selected faculty. Marybeth, a young child at the time, was not included, but she did have an opportunity to meet Dr. King before his speech; an experience she said she will never forget. The preservation of the audio recording and the initiative of Chris Anderson made it possible for Marybeth Oxnam to re-live that experience and for current students to hear the historic speech, which was simultaneously broadcast throughout the Ehinger Center.

For Chris Anderson, the ties to Drew, the University Library, and the United Methodist Church are multi-dimensional. When Chris arrived with his family at Drew in 2001 to pursue a PhD in American Religion and Culture, his plan was to return to the Midwest to teach in a liberal arts university and coach baseball. But Drew has a way of claiming its own and the position of Methodist Librarian opened up unexpectedly as he was completing his degree. At the same time, Chris was appointed Librarian for the General Commission on Archives and History for the United Methodist Church, in January 2007. With the 2013 Library reorganization, he became head of the new Special Collections and University Archives department. In addition he is an adjunct professor in the Department of Comparative Religion in the College and serves as a volunteer coach for Drew's baseball team.

As department head, Chris manages four staff plus five student employees. The department is active in collecting, preserving, and promoting the rich special collections and university archives



material owned by the Drew Library. He particularly welcomes assisting students and outside researchers with reference requests. Of his many responsibilities he especially enjoys collection development work related to the Drew Methodist Library collection, which is regarded as the largest Methodist-related collection in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Researchers from around

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DREW HELPS CREATE THE FUTURE FOR N.J. ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

by Guy Dobson, Systems Librarian

I have very fond memories of working in the library after school: filing catalog cards, stamping due dates on cards and pockets, and putting books away on the shelf. Those memories not only qualify as nostalgic—they qualify as obsolete as well. With the advent of e-books even the business of putting books away on the shelf is becoming a smaller and smaller part of the job description for those who work in libraries. And now an epiphany is underway in the world of computer technology as it relates to librarianship.

The computer programs that made cards, pockets, and rubber stamps obsolete are now becoming obsolete themselves thanks to LSPs (Library Service Platforms). VALE, a consortium of New

Jersey college and university libraries, seeks to create an LSP that all of NJ's academic libraries can share to "unify policies, collaborate in their operations, and work to provide a sum greater than their parts." (see also valenj.org/valid)

The name of the project is VALID (VALE Academic Libraries Information Discovery) and Drew University is one of five "alpha" libraries (along with The College of New Jersey, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, and William Paterson University) that are working to implement an open source solution to realize the vision of VALID.

As a member of the VALID Implementation Taskforce, my contribution to the project has been to create program-

ming that de-duplicates the catalogs of the five alpha libraries and creates new bibliographic records (digital catalog cards) for each title so that local notes and subject headings are retained and associated with their relevant libraries.

In its mission statement, VALID seeks to advance the teaching, learning and research activities of higher education in New Jersey and to provide students and faculty with access to information resources through the development of creative and innovative systems that are flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable. Catalog cards and rubber stamps might be obsolete but thanks to VALID, librarianship in New Jersey's academic libraries will stay on the cutting edge of technology and innovation.

CHRIS ANDERSON

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the world spend anywhere from a week up to a year analyzing Drew materials.

Digitization initiatives, both local and international, underpin much special collections work. In 2008 Chris secured a grant to digitize Drew's holdings of rare print documents for the former Rhodesia Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. Images of the documents are accessible online and digital copies were given to Africa University in Zimbabwe. He has also been involved in the American Methodism Project with several Methodist-related university and seminary libraries across the United States. To date, over four thousand texts have been digitized and made available on Internet Archive. Chris has also managed the Methodist Image Project with Flickr.com. The recently completed project includes over five thousand images from the Methodist Library collection. Current projects include the digitization of the Governor Thomas H. Kean Collection. To date over 2,500 speeches, given by Kean while governor of New Jersey, have been digitized and will be made available online in the next several months.

Chris is also a productive scholar who writes on an eclectic assortment of topics ranging from religion and food to silent

film culture to baseball. Since 2012 he has published two books and has a third under contract with the University of Arkansas Press. He has had a number of book chapters published; among them a chapter on American Methodists, popular culture, and the silent film industry for Cambridge University Press. Book chapters on sacred texts and dietary food laws and the use of college radio as an outreach tool to educate the campus community and alumni are nearing completion.

In his years as Methodist Librarian and Head of the Department of Special Collections, Chris has initiated an active program of outreach to the Drew community and the greater Madison area. He regularly contacts teaching faculty offering the use of relevant special collections to augment their course work. In 2012, thirteen Drew courses from all three schools used special collections and university archives materials from the Drew Library and this program continues to grow. The staff also offers talks on primary source materials and workshops on how to do research at an archive. Under his direction the Library's program of exhibits featuring special collections has been expanded. These services connect the resources of the Drew Library to faculty research interests, the curriculum of the university and also promote special collections more generally.

The most recent initiative of the Special Collections department has been to extend the open hours of the Wilson Reading Room until 9 p.m. each Tuesday during the semester. This opportunity to spend additional time with special collections has been



embraced by students and also by faculty who have scheduled special classes to take advantage of the collections. The first Tuesday of each month is devoted to a series of exhibits and workshops spotlighting the collections of the Drew Library. Each "Out of the Vault" workshop focuses on a specific collection at Drew and gives participants an opportunity to interact with the collections.

Wearing many hats, Chris is involved in several non-traditional outreach initiatives for the library through baseball and radio. His work as a volunteer coach for the Drew baseball team provides opportunities to interact with the Athletic Department coaching staff, undergraduate students, and alumni. Chris enjoys the work with student athletes and is regularly available to discuss concerns off the field related to school and family. His radio program, *The Drew Vault*, is broadcast every Thursday on Drew radio station WMNJ and online at wmnjtheforest.com. The program functions as an outreach forum to promote the archival collections at Drew, their accessibility to all students and researchers, and to publicize the history of the university.

Thirteen years after arriving at Drew, Chris Anderson continues to enjoy working, studying, and playing at the University in the Forest. Under his leadership the Special Collections department is a vibrant organization actively acquiring, processing and, most importantly, fostering the use of special collections.



The baseball coaching staff at Doc Young Field, May 2014

ACADEMIC COMMONS

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provide both individualized and group instruction and assistance in finding and evaluating information.

- The University Technology Instructional and User Services, which helps students with hardware issues, and assists them in exploring the use of various software and tools for teaching and learning.
- The Center for Academic Excellence, incorporating the Center for Writing Excellence, the Peer Tutor program, Academic Coaching and the Math and Science Resource Center, all of which support students in their coursework, and help them to succeed in their assignments.
- The INTO New York at Drew Learning Resource Center, providing English-language instruction and materials for international students

To accommodate all these services, the main floor of the Library has undergone the first phase of a major renovation. We've created offices and dedicated space for the Instructional Technology Center, the University Technology Helpdesk and the Center for Academic Excellence. But the main focus of all this activity is the students, so we asked them what changes they would like to see. Consequently, the wireless has been significantly upgraded to enhance connectivity throughout the floor, new chairs (no small thing!) were chosen in consultation with students, and we planned more consolidated services. In addition, we now have:

- The Instructional Technology Center (a combination of the Faculty and Staff Lab, and the Student Technology Education Lab), neighboring the offices for the ITUS staff, so that help is always available.
- A new classroom for INTO/NY in the center of the floor, which will facilitate integration of our new international students into the Drew community.
- A Center for Academic Excellence, close to the research and technology resources.
- An instruction space that ITUS and the Library can share, with workstations,



An information literacy session in the shared classroom

whiteboard walls, and interactive smart board.

- The Technology Helpdesk, providing hardware and technical support.
- A Research Help Desk, replacing the old (rather intimidating) Reference Counter, facing the entrance and heightening our visibility, where students can get both assistance with technology and help with their research.
- Two group studies with central counter-height tables and stools, and a monitor that enables students to project from their own devices.

This year, we will be living with a mix of old and new furniture, but Phase II promises a large laptop bar for the central area, additional comfortable seating dotted throughout the floor, improved task seating (recommended by students), shelves for a portion of highly-used Reference books, and flexible wiring so that tables can be moved and still provide power. Still on our "wish list" is an avenue directly to the popular Kean Reading Room.

What do we hope for from this new arrangement? I know that, as a colleague of those in the Center for Academic Excellence, the Instructional Technology User Services, and INTO/NY, I want a deeper collaboration among us, going well beyond the occasional pro-

gram. The Library—and I—have a lot to learn from our new neighbors, and perhaps we have something to offer them. But one reason why all the specific units are in a shared space is because of a fundamental similarity in ethos and vision: we all care deeply and concretely about the academic lives of Drew students.

For the students, I hope the Vivian A. Bull Academic Commons will be a place for exploring all the ways technology can help us learn and create new knowledge, where they can interact with other students and faculty, where some of the questions they're learning to ask in the classroom can be explored through new information sources, and where they can organize their thoughts and effectively communicate them. We hope that by furnishing a variety of attractive space for work, both singly and in groups, and by providing a supportive environment with readily available assistance, we can help to prepare our students for exciting futures.

It is the nature of the beast that students grow quickly from moving in to moving on, from First Year jitters to Commencement. We really don't have much time with them. The Vivian A. Bull Academic Commons will provide a means for using that brief time effectively.

NEW STAFF



LINDA CONNORS

After five years of retirement Dr. Linda E. Connors has returned as Interim Dean of the Libraries succeeding Andrew Scrimgeour who retired on June 30,

2014. She has devoted many years to the Drew Library, beginning as a student worker and then serving in a variety of positions within Acquisitions and Collection Development, including 23 years as head of the department. In this role she worked actively with faculty to double the size of collections, supported the evolution of the curricula, integrated electronic resources and enlarged the role of special collections. Connors was

also awarded Drew's Bela Kornitzer Alumni Book Award for *National Identity in Great Britain and British North America, 1815–2851: The Role of Nineteenth-Century Periodicals*. (Ashgate, 2011).

JESSE MANN

started as the new Theological Librarian in August. Jesse has a B.A. with a double major in Spanish and Religion, an M.A. in Religious Studies from University of Chicago, and a Ph.D.



in History of Christianity from the same institution. Along with numerous publications, frequently on the 15th century scholar Juan de Segovia, he has also taught extensively at Montclair State and at Drew, in the Theological School. Jesse is perhaps better known to the Madison community as the proprietor of the Chatham Bookseller, which will continue under new management. Both the Library and the Theological School are very pleased to welcome Jesse in his new capacity as Theological Librarian.

DEPARTURES

DOROTHY MEANEY left Drew and Madison in late August to relocate to Boston where she is now Manager of Administration and Finance in the Tisch Library at Tufts University. In her 11 years in the library Dorothy held a series of increasingly responsible positions, most recently as Head of Collections and Metadata Services. With the digital revolution dramatically

affecting the dissemination of scholarly knowledge, Dorothy managed library collections through periods of significant change. Since 2011, she also played a key role in several campus-wide planning initiatives in her additional position as Director of University Planning and Assessment. We wish Dorothy every success in this next chapter in her career.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON, PhD, Head of Special Collections, University Archives, and Methodist Librarian, published several items including a chapter, "Methodists and Popular Culture" in *Cambridge Companion to American Methodism*, edited by Jason Vickers (Cambridge University Press, 2013), several entries in *Historical Dictionary of Methodism*, edited by Charles Yrigoyen and Susan Warrick (Scarecrow Press, 2013), a chapter, "A Thief in Our Midst: Special Collections, Archives and Insider Theft" in *Management: Innovative Practices for Archives and Special Collections*, edited by Kate Theimer (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), as well as an article, "The Politics of Special Collections Exhibits: The Civil War or a War of Northern Aggression?" in *Library Philosophy and Practice* (2014). He presented a paper, "Making Muslims: American Methodists and the Framing of Islam," at the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies at

Oxford University, in August 2013, and attended the BETH Conference in Paris, as a representative of the International Collaboration Committee with American Theological Librarian Association in September 2013. He also organized and chaired a panel of international librarians and archivists on, "The Treasures We Keep (and Share): Libraries and Archives in a Global Network," at the annual meeting of ATLA in New Orleans in June 2014.

REBECCA BARRY G'01, and former Archives Associate, has been named the 2014 Writer-in-Residence for *Victoria* magazine. Her first article, "A Winter Library," appeared in the January/February issue.

MATTHEW BELAND, PhD, Acquisitions and Archives Associate, was promoted to University Archivist on July 1, 2013.

CASSIE BRAND, Methodist Library and Archives Associate, gave four

papers: "Representations of Irishness in The Secret of Kells," Transatlantic Connections: A Drew University Conference in Ireland, Jan. 17, 2014; "A Book and a Secret: Visual Representations of Ireland in The Secret of Kells," Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture, Brock University, Ontario, May 27–28, 2014; "Labyrinth Libraries: The Care and Storage of Fictional Books," Rare Books and Manuscripts Preconference, Las Vegas, June 24–27, 2014; and "A Private Place: Power and Subjugation in Books of Hours," Society for the History of Authorship, Readership, and Publishing Conference, Antwerp, Belgium, Sept. 17–21, 2014.

GUY DOBSON, Integrated Systems Librarian, presented "Merge and Search," the story of how a shared bibliographic database is being created for the VALID project at the 2014 VALE Conference on January 13, 2014 at Rutgers University.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

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BETH PATTERSON, PhD,

Reference/Government Documents Librarian, was a panelist at the Fall 2013 DANJ “Global Information, Local Access” Conference at Princeton University where she presented a slide show titled “United Nations and Partners: Starting Points.”

ERNEST RUBINSTEIN, PhD, Theological Librarian Emeritus, had an essay titled “A Modern-Day Scriptorium” published in the January 10, 2014 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

ANDREW D. SCRIMGEOUR, PhD, Dean of Libraries Emeritus, published an essay, “Scribbling in the Margins,” in *The New York Times* on February 1, 2014. He also received a grant from a foundation in Iowa to continue his research on a biography of Robert W. Funk.

RECENT GIFTS

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following gifts.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Gail Atwood
- Mary Ellen Ball
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- Gale N. Stevenson
- Ronald E. Verblaauw
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- Robert J. Wilson

GIFTS IN KIND

- Fairleigh Dickinson University Press
- James and Sibylle Fraser
- Judith Kumin
- Connie Mutel
- Andrew D. Scrimgeour
- Society of Biblical Literature
- Westar Institute

GIFTS IN KIND TO THE METHODIST LIBRARY

- Brethren Historical Library and Archives
- Claremont School of Theology Library
- Lessie Culmer-Nier
- Dorian A. Davis
- Dennis Dickerson
- Elizabeth Evans Heuisler
- Christopher Jones
- Paul McCleary
- Kenneth Murrah
- Richard A. Rathemacher
- Christopher Rodkey
- Kenneth E. Rowe
- Rev. Thomas L. Shanklin
- Mark Shenise
- Walt Staiger



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FALL LIBRARY EVENTS

Reception

Thursday, October 2, 2014, 4–6 p.m., Library Lobby

To celebrate the publication of Theological Librarian Emeritus Dr. Ernest Rubinstein's *"From Ecclesiastes to Simone Weil: Varieties of Philosophical Spirituality"* by FDU Press.

Conversation on Collecting

Hosted by the Friends of the Library

Wednesday, October 29, 2014, 4–5 p.m., Pilling Room, Rose Library

"Collecting Authors" *Harry Keyishian*

Harry Keyishian, director of Fairleigh Dickinson University Press since 1976, will discuss the process of acquiring and developing scholarly manuscripts for publication.

LIBRARY EXHIBITS

September 8, 2014–
October 31, 2014

An Exhibition of Favorites

We have chosen a few of our favorite treasures to show the wide range of materials found in Special Collections and Archives and to encourage viewers to come research with us.

Curated by the Department of Special Collections and University Archives

Location: Methodist Center

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday until 9 p.m.

September 8, 2014–
October 31, 2014

In Memory of George M. Eberhardt, Sept. 29, 1904–April 28, 2014

An exhibit documenting the life and work of George Eberhardt, Director of Audio Facilities at Drew from 1967 to 2005.

Exhibit materials include recording equipment, documents, news articles, and other artifacts created to celebrate his milestones at Drew.

Curated by Matthew Beland,
University Archivist

Location: University Library

November 10–February 20, 2015

Fictions Evangelicals Read: Perspectives on the Evangelical Literary Archive

This exhibit introduces popular novels, religious periodicals, and denominational publications whose literary productions shaped both nineteenth century evangelicals and their literary and spiritual heirs.

Curated by James Van Wyck, PhD candidate at Fordham University and Christopher J. Anderson, Head of Special Collections, Archives, and Methodist Librarian.

Location: Methodist Center and University Library

The exhibits are free and open to the public. For additional information contact the Drew Library at speccol@drew.edu or 973.408.3590.

Library Announces Out of the Vault Series

These interactive sessions will introduce people to materials from various Drew collections and allow them to hold a piece of history in their hands. The workshops are free and open to the Drew community and to the general public. Located in the Rowe Reading Room, Methodist Center, 7–8 p.m.



September 2

"*Incunabula, or, Books in the Cradle*" Cassie Brand

The term "incunabula" refers to books printed before 1501, literally translating from Latin to mean "in the cradle." With 29 books in the incunabula collection, Drew University Special Collections boasts great examples of early printed books.

October 7

"*What They Wrote: Historical Manuscripts*"

Zannah Bingham Buck

Drew University's collection of Historical Manuscripts is full of handwritten documents from over 900 different historical figures, all of which are available for use by researchers or by anyone who is simply curious.

November 4

"*Day in the Life of Governor Kean*" David Reagles

Thomas H. Kean served as governor of New Jersey, was appointed chairman of the 9/11 Commission, and led Drew University as its 10th president. We will explore a "day in the life of Kean" and examine the exciting collection of his papers that now enriches Drew University's archives.

December 2

"*Tiny Treasures: Small Books in the Drew Library Special Collections*" Brian Shetler

This workshop will provide an opportunity to interact with a selection of "tiny" books that are to be found in Rare Books, McClintock, Hymn Books, and other collections.

For additional information contact the Drew Library at speccol@drew.edu or 973.408.3590.