two A Conversation with: Alice Bright
three Enhance + Services: A New Look for Sorrells Library
five Steward + Collections: Three Sheets to the Wind
six Spotlight: A Class in Shoemaking
seven Insight: Keith Webster
eight Build + Services: A Partnership for the 21st Century Library
nine IDeATe: Visit from MythBusters Star
ten 3MT@CMU

Front cover:
The new “portal” connects the front and back sections of the renovated Sorrells Library

Back cover:
2017 First Place Awardee Diane Nelson presenting her Three Minute Thesis

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Alice Bright (DC 1973), retired on March 1, 2017 after 37 years as a librarian at Carnegie Mellon University. During this time, she held the positions of reference librarian, serials librarian, and head of cataloging. In addition to her long career at University Libraries, she is a third-generation alumna. Colleague Terrence Chiusano talks to Alice about her legacy at CMU.

Congratulations on your recent retirement! Between your undergraduate studies and your career, you’ve spent a lot of time on and around campus. What is it about CMU that made you want to spend so much of your life here?

My undergraduate experience was very profound and formative. I met so many different kinds of people that I never had the opportunity to meet growing up. CMU challenged me and taught me how to think. As a member of the newly formed H&SS College in the early ’70s, our class helped to mold the school. We started out with no grades and an experimental feel to classes, although as time went on it got more traditional. It was an interesting time. When I came back as an employee I was coming home.

Your father and grandfather both went here as undergraduates, and your grandfather was the registrar here from 1918–1940. Do you feel a special connection to CMU?

I grew up hearing about Carnegie Tech and Pitt (where my mother attended). My parents never dwelled too much on their college days so I had this good feeling about the campus, but not too many details. Stories I’ve heard about my grandfather say that he was very kind and helpful to students; I wish that I could have known him. When he died, the school closed for his funeral.

Your first day on the job here was as an assistant reference librarian at the science library. On your final day of work, you attended the reopening of what is now known as the Roger Sorrells Engineering & Science Library after extensive renovations. What do you think of the make-over?

The Sorrells Library now seems like something out of a sci-fi movie! With all that is changing about education and libraries, the new design is appropriate for supporting collaborative work and providing different kinds of study areas for the very diverse student body.

As a serials librarian, your job changed dramatically over the course of your career, particularly with the introduction of e-journals and scholarly databases. What do you see as the future for serials librarians?

I have seen so much change in libraries in my career. It seems like a whole different world. I enjoyed organizing the content of the collections and making it discoverable in the catalog. That will still need to happen, just very differently. New librarians need to be conversant with all sorts of computing to manage so much more than just the content of e-journals and databases. I leave it to them to create the libraries of the future.
As a result of the recent update, individual study spaces have increased by 25 percent, and new technology-enhanced group study spaces support collaborative work. These latest updates build upon the first phase of renovations, completed in 2013, that included quiet and group study areas and improved lighting.

“For generations of students, the Sorrells Library has been at the heart of their work, providing access to information spaces for serious study, and an opportunity to work alongside specialist librarians,” said Keith Webster, dean of University Libraries. “This remodeling begins to deliver spaces that meet the needs of 21st century students — spaces for collaboration and innovation, a venue for quiet study, and innovative technology.”

University leadership celebrated the renovation at a grand reopening event on March 1. On librarian-led tours of the space, attendees including Provost Farnam Jahanian, President Subra Suresh and Dean Emerita Gloriana St. Clair got an up-close look at how students are responding to the new space.

“I love the new modern look to the library,” said Juliana Nam, a junior design major. “It’s definitely drawing in more students because not only is it visually pleasing, but also much more intuitive of students’ needs in a study environment.”

To accommodate the major changes, a large number of books were moved to offsite storage. About 12,000 frequently used books remain on site.
Alumni Give Library a Facelift

Made of bamboo, three striking millwork pieces bring the transformation of Sorrells Library to life, defining spaces and bringing warmth where students can go to collaborate, focus and learn.

A “portal” connects the front and back sections of the library; the “cabana” lines the group study tables along the south wall; and the “den” houses a multimedia group study area at the rear of the library.

The organic structures were created by Standard & Custom, an architectural design and fabrication firm founded by Carnegie Mellon College of Fine Arts alumni Filip Agren and Lexi Chung, 2011 and 2010 graduates, respectively, of CMU’s School of Architecture. GBBN Architects led design for the project, which significantly enhances the library’s space, including expanded seating and new technology. S&C was brought in for their knowledge and expertise.

“We wanted to work with Lexi and Filip because of their experience with digital fabrication as well as their design sensibility,” said GBBN project designer Amanda Markovic. “It was a seamless collaboration.”

The bamboo pieces installed at Sorrells are meant to evoke curiosity while bringing warmth to the existing exposed concrete. GBBN designed and developed an initial 3-D model of the elements, from which S&C fabricated detailed mockups and constructed the final products.

“Filip and I were thrilled to be back at our alma mater to help with this project,” Chung said. “It’s been our dream to be part of the effort to improve campus facilities.”
Interns have curated exhibits over the years on topics ranging from data visualization to “Das Kapital.” As the 23rd intern, Reineke’s prior experience with 3MT gives her a bit of an edge. “Participating in the 3MT competition helped me distill my ideas and focus on narrating my dissertation to a non-expert audience, which are vital skills for curating my exhibit.” Reineke said. “Furthermore, both the Posner Internship and the 3MT competition improved my ability to communicate the relevance of my work. Ultimately, sharing one’s research with interested audiences from across the CMU community is a joy and an honor.”

This time last year, Juliann Reineke celebrated her second-place finish in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Championship, an annual competition hosted by University Libraries that challenges Ph.D. students to describe their doctoral research to a general audience in three minutes or less. (Read more about this year’s competition on page 10.)

This year, she’s preparing to install an exhibit based on that research, “Three Sheets to the Wind: Sailors Disrupting Society” at the Posner Center as the latest Posner intern.

“Three Sheets to the Wind” investigates how the common British sailor, popularly known as the Jolly Jack Tar, reflects 18th and 19th century British concerns over the expanding empire and Britain’s place in the world. It’s a topic that has modern day relevance as well, illustrating how current perceptions of sailors and veterans developed in the 18th century.

As this semester’s Posner Center intern, Reineke has spent 15 weeks working with Special Collections librarian Mary Catharine Johnsen to identify materials from the Posner Collection, as well as the University Libraries’ Special Collections to be used in her exhibit. The internship program — established in 2004 — is sponsored by the Posner Fine Arts Foundation in association with University Libraries.

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A Class in Shoemaking

Given to Carnegie Mellon University in 1987 by two local Pittsburgh collectors, Jacob Lawrence’s 1947 tempera painting, “A Class in Shoemaking,” clearly shows his pictorial style that he called “dynamic cubism,” with jagged compositions in bold, flat colors that are abstract yet figurative, and full of social comment.

Jacob Lawrence was one of the first American artists trained in and by the black community in Harlem. This community gave him professional recognition; yet he was also the first African American artist to receive sustained support from mainstream art museums, and patronage from outside of the black community. In Pittsburgh, he exhibited at the Carnegie Museum of Art in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

Often in his career, he painted tradespeople, craftspeople and laborers hard at work in many fields. In 1941, his show of “The Migration of the Negro in 1941,” a 60-panel series at the prestigious Downtown Gallery, was the first show for a black artist in a New York commercial gallery. He exhibited with established modernists such as Stuart Davis, John Marin, Charles Sheeler and Ben Shahn, all of whom became close friends.

In 1946, he taught at the Black Mountain College summer session in Asheville, N.C., at the invitation of Josef Albers. He counted the leading African American authors of his time among his acquaintances, including Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison and Langston Hughes.

In 1990, President Bush awarded Jacob Lawrence the National Medal of Arts. He died June 9, 2000 at the age of 82.

Jacob Lawrence “A Class in Shoemaking” 1947. Tempera; 20 x 24 inches. The Downtown Gallery; Gift of Dr. Carl W. Norden and Mrs. Margaret Norden

This painting can be found in the Fine & Rare Book Room, on the fourth floor of Hunt Library and is viewable by appointment. Contact Mary Catharine Johnsen, Special Collections librarian, 412-268-6622, mj0g@andrew.cmu.edu.
This spring issue of Boundless arrives at a time of year associated with renewal and new growth in our surrounding environment. That same sense of transformation has been present in libraries for many years. We have seen collections of printed books and journals enhanced greatly by the vast array of digital resources in the contemporary university.

The silent library reading room is now complemented by group study facilities and spaces designed to foster collaboration and innovation. But while we are constantly changing, we must celebrate an enduring sense of ‘libraryness’ — the steadfast values of those who work in libraries, and those whose scholarship is enhanced by all that we do.

In the internet age, the library remains an institution of research and learning, and our librarians work closely with students and faculty, helping them navigate an increasingly complex information landscape. This complexity brings with it a demand for new skills in searching for, evaluating and creating information. In an era of ‘alternative facts,’ the world needs the neutrality and expertise of librarians more than ever before. I’m proud to work alongside a team of dedicated professionals committed to ensuring that our remarkable university is a community of curious and inquiring minds.

As Carnegie Mellon University seeks to impact society through continual innovation in education, research, creativity and entrepreneurship, the University Libraries is ready to be at the heart of this work. A century ago, Andrew Carnegie created and defined the library of the 20th century. Given the support and resources we need, his university will define the library for the next 100 years.

Keith G. Webster
Dean of University Libraries
A Partnership for the 21st Century Library

With the goal of championing new forms of scholarly communication, University Libraries has announced a partnership with Digital Science, a technology company serving the needs of scientific and research communities, to create a number of research platforms.

Using continuous, automated capture of data from multiple internal and external sources, the libraries’ tools will provide faculty, funders and decision-makers with an accurate, timely and holistic picture of the institution’s research. These tools offer a multitude of benefits including:

- Symplectic Elements – Will become the definitive source of research information for CMU and will be used by faculty, librarians and research managers alike to help showcase both the output and impact of CMU research.
- Figshare for Institutions – Will provide an institutional data repository offering a robust and reliable place to curate research data.
- Altmetric Explorer for Institutions – Will enable CMU to monitor and report on the attention that its research and clinical trials are garnering from wide-ranging audiences.
- Dimensions – Will give CMU’s administrators and faculty access to the world’s leading grants database powered by UberResearch.

Introducing: KiltHub

Over 50 submissions were received during a university-wide competition to name the new repository — an online archive built on the Figshare for Institutions platform that provides open access to the scholarly work being done at CMU. Anyone with access to the internet will be able to discover, view and download the research data and other scholarly outputs of CMU contained in this new repository. On April 13, University Libraries recognized the winning submission and its creator, Felipe Gomez, associate teaching professor of Hispanic Studies, Department of Modern Languages, at an event in Hunt Library for National Library Week.
Keith Webster, CMU’s dean of University Libraries and director of emerging and integrative media initiatives, told Savage that the program brings together students from nearly every discipline, who learn how others outside their field think.

“In the 21st century, our students are going to be dealing with big challenges, which no one can solve on their own,” Webster said. “We need to find a way in which students can gain those experiences of learning to work with other people and what each other brings to the problem.”

Since launching in the fall of 2014, the IDeATe program has been learning from its students and is constantly evolving. Footage and interviews from the visit will be featured this spring in a web series hosted by Savage on Tested.com.

During his visit, Savage explored IDeATe’s labs in the basement of Hunt Library. He met with students and faculty who introduced Savage to some of the program’s maker courses, ongoing work and finished projects that combine innovation with technology.

“CMU seems to clearly understand that properly preparing its students to enter a 21st century reality means training them in a wide array of approaches to problem solving,” Savage said. “By adding a minor in making and encouraging cross-campus collaboration, they whet the student’s appetite for looking outside the box for solutions and ideas. This is, to my mind, a terrific approach.”

Former “MythBusters” star Adam Savage and a production crew interviewed students and faculty in the Integrative Design, Arts and Technology (IDeATe) Network last fall during a national tour focused on maker spaces and innovation in education, entrepreneurship and workforce development.

Pictured above: Adam Savage talks with Shaun Burley, who is pursuing a master’s degree in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute.
Three Minute Thesis is a research communication competition that challenges Ph.D. students to give a compelling presentation on their thesis and its significance in just three minutes, in language that anyone can understand.

This was CMU’s fourth year hosting the event, which started at the University of Queensland in 2008. The competition has been adopted in more than 57 countries at hundreds of institutions.

University Libraries Dean Keith Webster brought the concept to CMU and hosts the competition. This year saw 78 graduate students participating in 10 rounds of preliminary competitions.

First place went to Diane Nelson, who is studying biomedical engineering. Second place and the People's Choice Award went to Surya Aggarwal, Mellon College of Science. Third place went to Ania Jaroszewicz, from the Department of Social and Decision Sciences. The Alumni Choice Award was awarded to Sudipto Mandal, from the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Michael Craig, a doctoral student in the College of Engineering, was one of the finalists who discussed their research in McConomy Auditorium. This was Craig’s second time in the finals — he placed second in 2015 — and third time participating in the program. Each year he has discussed a different aspect of his research. This year his talk was titled “Grid-scale Electricity Storage: A Help or Hindrance for Mitigating Climate Change?”

“Last year I got too involved in the details,” Craig said. “But it’s such a good experience. More people should participate.”

Ania Jaroszewicz, who is pursuing a doctoral degree in behavioral decision research in the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, competed for the first time. The focus of her talk was “How the Psychology of Poverty Affects Behavior and Financial Outcomes.”

She said she hopes people take away from her talk the idea that poverty is complicated and goes beyond financial issues. Jaroszewicz said Three Minute Thesis has given her an opportunity to think about how she communicates her work to people who might use it to help shape policy or nonprofit programming.

“For researchers like me, you get used to speaking to other people in your field and using terminology and shortcuts that others may not understand,” she said. “Poverty is much more complex than many people perceive it to be and consequently, understanding those complexities can improve the effectiveness of welfare programs.”