

2023

ISSUE 2

Lewis J. Ort Library

Special Collections/Archives 2023 Annual Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Words From Special Collections Librarian/Archivist
- New FSU Digital Repository
- Classes in the Special Collections and Archives
- Interview with Staff: Olivia Cooper
- Collection Highlight: The J.J. Rutledge Collection
- 2023 Special Collections/Archives Staff Projects
- Interview with a Researcher: T.J. Hall
- Interview with a Researcher: Andy Duncan
- Frostburg State University Celebrates 125th Anniversary
- New Accessions for 2023
- Cooley-Price Fund Purchases

FROSTBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY

Words From Special Collections Librarian/Archivist

2023 was a good year for growth in the David M. Gillespie Special Collections and J. Glenn Beall Archives. We were able to host several FSU classes in both locations. Our staff has made a lot of progress on preserving, processing and digitizing archival collections. A major accomplishment this year was completing digitizing our two student newspapers – *State to Date* and *The Bottom Line*, both available on our Institutional Repository [eScholarship@Frostburg – Frostburg State University Publications](#). We also made strides on processing and updating several of our legacy and new collections including the Jon Jansen Science Fiction Collection and Henry Miller/Roger Jackson Collection. Finally, we have recently implemented a brand new Digital Asset Management System: [FSU Digital Repository](#).

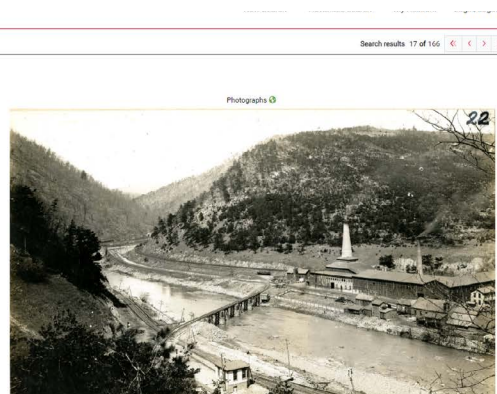


New FSU Digital Repository

Our new [Digital Repository](#), managed by Soutron Global, will be used primarily to showcase and research our visual materials. We made the decision to invest in Soutron due to its visual display capabilities and customization options. We are continuously adding new records. This year, we have been focusing on the FSU Photographic Collections, J. Glenn Beall Collection and George Meyers Collection, which you can

navigate through the panel on the left. We have also been adding local history images, highlighting Western Maryland businesses, industry and events. Each catalog record contains the digital asset, which in most cases is the digitized photograph, and descriptive information such as what a building was named, its location, and date the image was taken.

STATE UNIVERSITY	
New Search Back Opened (0) Current record Actions	
Narrows Glass Factory	
Unique Identifier:	g1 14
Date Created:	No Date
Description:	Narrows Glass Factory. Name of factory changed based on c. 1884-1908: Cumberland Glass Works (1884-1905), National Glass Company (1905-1905), Westington Glass (1905-1920).
Physical Description:	12.4 cm x 20.5 cm
Subjects:	Cumberland Narrows Cumberland Glass Works National Glass Company Westington Glass
Geographic Location:	Cumberland (MD)
Color:	Black and White
Object Type:	photographic prints
Source:	University of Maryland System Library of Cumberland collection
DOI:	10.1111
Created By:	Nazaretha Zafraona
Created Date:	11 September 2023



Classes in the Special Collections and Archives

We were able to host three classes in the Special Collections and Archives this year: Dr. Amy Armiento's ENG 376: Realism & Naturalism, Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas's IDIS 151: Experiencing Appalachia, and Andy Duncan's ENGL 336: Journalistic Writing. Dr. Armiento's ENG 376 class was focused on primarily researching our rare book collection, utilizing literary sources published in the 19th century. Some topics they studied included prisons & asylums, children's literature, industrialization and science & medicine. Some students also chose to work with our manuscript collections, utilizing records from the Mel Collins Collection, which included local photographs of transportation and industrialization. Students were asked to analyze both the content as well as physical characteristics of the rare materials they were handling.

ENG 336 class in Archives



ENG 376 class in Special Collections



In Fall, 2023, Dr. Rogers Thomas's IDIS 151 class researched the Wills Mountain State Park in the Narrows. In order to gain more of a historical context on the area, students came to the Special Collections where they were able to investigate topics such as the Artmor Plastics Factory, Lover's Leap, the Narrows, and the Wills Mountain Sanitarium. Students later organized a listening session at Allegany Museum.

Our final class was Andy Duncan's ENGL 336 class, who were able to get a tour of the J. Glenn Beall Archives, learn about the donation process, and have a greater understanding on the role of a political archives in documenting and interacting with historical events.

Interview with Staff: Olivia Cooper



Olivia Cooper

Student Assistant, David M. Gillespie Special Collections

Olivia Cooper is a Frostburg State University graduating senior, majoring in History and minoring in African American Studies and Geography. She is a member of the student-led Strutters Dance Team and has worked in the Special Collections for 3 years.

Karen Bambacus was hired by Frostburg State College in 1974 as a Media Specialist. She worked on communication media and instructional technology. Bambacus did much of the photography on campus. In 1995, she became the Director of Instruction Technology, launching online learning at Frostburg and coordinating technological requirements in new buildings and facilities. [The Karen M. Bambacus Collection](#) contains a variety of photographs, correspondence, ephemera, and miscellaneous items from her time at Frostburg State College and Frostburg State University. Many photographs document instructors/staff members at Frostburg State College and Frostburg State University.

1. What did you find interesting while working on the Karen Bambacus Collection?

I liked the photographs. There were many faculty members from the past. I learned about Ricky Arnold, who was an FSU alumni (and NASA astronaut).

2. Is there anything you found surprising?

I learned that when processing an archival



Students during move-in day circa 1978 from Karen M. Bambacus Collection

collection, you have to have the big picture in mind. You have to think of the collection as a whole before considering the different parts.

3. Why is the Karen Bambacus Collection important?

It is a valuable resource documenting the history of Frostburg State College. There are many photos and documents related to faculty members and administrators. It is important to preserve this history.

Collections Highlight: The J.J. Rutledge Collection



John J. Rutledge

J.J. Rutledge (1870-1952) played an instrumental role in the coal mining industry of Maryland. He devoted his life to the mining industry and was an advocate for mine safety. After a variety of experiences working and managing mines as well as studying mining, he was employed from 1909 to 1922 at U.S. Bureau of Mines. The greater part of his career was spent in Maryland, first as Chief Mine Engineer (1922-1949) and then Chief Consultant (1949-1952) for the Maryland Bureau of Mines.

[The John J. Rutledge Collection](#), housed in Special Collections, contains hundreds of photographs and photographic negatives of Maryland and other North American mines and mining equipment; mine inspection and other technical reports; memorandums, correspondence, and articles written by J. J. Rutledge; Rutledge family photographs and Rutledge personal artifacts. The collection also contains over 1000 maps of local coal mines, physical copies of which are housed separately in map cases on the 2nd floor of the Ort Library; digitized copies can be found via [FSU Digital Repository](#).



2023 Special Collections/ Archives Staff Projects

- **Dr. Mary Anne Lutz, Library Services Specialist, J. Glenn Beall Archives**
 - o Completed processing the [Henry Miller/Roger Jackson Collection](#), consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, artwork and photographs related to Henry Miller, author of *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn*
 - o Completed processing the Roger Pickenpough National Road Collection
- **Andrew Haberkorn, Digital Lab Assistant**
 - o Worked on digitizing and describing [J. Glenn Beall Jr. Campaign Photos](#)
 - o Completed Digitizing Gillmore Photographic Albums, depicting early 20th century photographs of Western Maryland
- **Olivia Cooper, Special Collections Student Assistant**
 - o Filled in vacancy in Digital Lab to complete digitizing

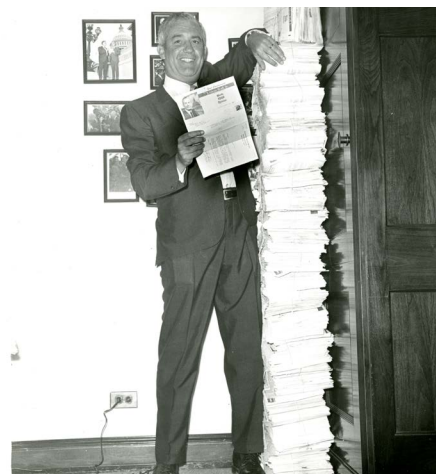
[The Bottom Line](#), our student newspaper

- o Worked on indexing [FSU News and Media Services Collection](#), a photographic negatives and slides collection depicting Frostburg State College and Frostburg State University

- **Julia Seddon, J. Glenn Beall Archives Student Assistant**
 - o Curated her first exhibit, *Art of the George A. Meyers Collection*, currently on display on the 4th floor of the library
 - o Continued working on the [Beall Campaign Photos](#) to catalog into our FSU Digital Repository
- **Lily Garner, Digital Lab Technician**
 - o Hired in December 2023
 - o Worked on digitizing and cataloging photographs from the [George A. Meyers Collection](#)



Julia Seddon's 'Art of George A. Meyers' exhibit



Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr. with congressional newsletters



T.J. Hall

Intern, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, Cumberland Office

T.J. is a recent Frostburg State graduate with a degree in in History. For Fall & Summer 2023, he worked as an intern for the C&O Canal Cumberland Visitor Center, assisting those learning about the history of the canal.



Andy Duncan

Professor of English, Frostburg State University

Andy grew up in rural South Carolina as a bookish, cosseted kid, but his horizons widened—first at the public library, then in lots of places: the student media office; the general-assignment beat at a major daily newspaper; multiple community theaters; dozens of science-fiction conventions and writers' conferences; and, for the past 15 years (yikes!), the undergraduate writing classrooms of Frostburg State University.

"My students teach me more than I ever hope to teach them; I will never catch up".

Interview with a Researcher: T.J. Hall

The C & O Canal completed construction in 1850 when it reached its terminus in Cumberland, Maryland. Already superseded by railway transportation, the C & O Canal was would still be used for the next 80 years to transport coal from the Allegheny region to Washington D.C., where it was sold. Coal was transported by the slow-moving canal boats towed by mules. Sellers would often prefer the use of the canal compared to trains due to the cheaper transportation costs. Established as a National Monument in 1961, today the canal and its towpath is used recreationally in activities such as fishing, kayaking, biking and camping. The C & O Canal Cumberland Visitor Center features interactive displays to learn about the canal, its history and its many uses. A life-size replica of a canal boat, "The Cumberland" is on display at the park.

1. Please tell us about your position at the C & O Canal Museum in Cumberland and what brought you to Special Collections?

I am an intern at the Canal and my duty is to inform people about the history of the canal. I also help people find attractions in the Cumberland area. I chose to go to Special Collections at Frostburg because I knew there was a wide variety of sources about the Canal at Special Collections. I wanted to read and discover the firsthand



accounts of life on the Canal.

2. Have you learned anything new about the Canal while doing research in the Special Collections?

I was particularly interested in the primary source accounts. I found first-hand accounts of peoples' general experiences on the canal. There were recollections of students and others recreationally using or working at the Canal.

3. Why are archival collections valuable to researchers?

Archival Research is important for research because it gives firsthand accounts of people who lived through the stories of History. Often, there are accounts of secondary sources describing the story. However, there are hardly any primary sources.

Interview with a Researcher: Andy Duncan

1. What brought you into Special Collections? Can you tell us a little bit about your *Weird Western Maryland* project?

I have haunted Ort Library for 15 years, but I became a Special Collections regular only a few years ago, during my most recent sabbatical. My project was a glorious fool's errand: compiling and documenting a comprehensive list of weirdness in our area—ghost stories and haunted houses, UFO and Bigfoot sightings, conspiracy theories and unsolved murders, roadside eccentricity and stupendously unlikely stuff that nevertheless happened, like the crash of the nuclear bomber in Garrett County in the year of my birth.

That sabbatical project succeeded (or, if you will, failed) beyond my wildest hopes, in that the Great Work has never ended.

Oh, sure, I went back to teaching—it's who I am, and I sorely missed my students—but I just keep discovering more stuff, not only from Maryland's four westernmost counties but also from what I call the Adjacent Borderlands. I don't know whether our area ever could claim to be uniquely weird, but that it is endlessly weird seems undeniable. It's a bottomless Mary Poppins bag of weirdness. About 150 examples, with links and sources, extend from my new Frostburg State home page, <https://www.frostburg.edu/personal-arduncan/>.

2. What drew you to be interested in these topics?

I was about 12 when I discovered C.B. Colby's *Strangely Enough!* and Donald Rumbelow's *The Complete Jack the Ripper*, and my research interests still are largely determined by my inner 12-year-old.

Interview with a Researcher: Andy Duncan (cont.)

Much later, discovering the works of Charles Fort (1874-1932) led me to realize I've been a Fortean all along—which means, I suppose, I've always been a curious person (curious inquisitive and curious peculiar).

3. Can you tell us about the unique documents or materials you discovered within the Special Collections? Did you learn anything new or surprising from your research?

At the moment, I am reveling in *Across the Desk*, an Allegany County Historical Society compilation, circa 1968, of the weekly *Cumberland Sunday Times* columns of J. William Hunt, an unstoppable yarnspinner who seems to have been incapable of writing a dull sentence. Here's my favorite J. William Hunt item so far, in its entirety, from June 9, 1946:

During the fall of 1915 John "Jonah" Nash came down to Keyser, W.Va. from his home at Switchback, near Elk Garden, to complain to the Mineral County authorities that threatening notes were being left at his door and that a bunch of switches was the latest intimidation. "Jonah" was a ginseng "broker" who began wearing a white robe and going barefoot after reaching the belief that he was a reincarnation of the Prophet Jonah. He permitted his hair and beard to grow long, carried a staff and began itinerant preaching.

He often visited Cumberland and died only a year or so ago. (161)

4. Why are Special Collections and Archives important to the historic record? Why is [it] important to preserve and make accessible these unique materials?

A few towns now embrace their legendary pop-culture status (Roswell, New Mexico; Point Pleasant, West Virginia), and we shouldn't forget that Salem, Massachusetts, has for generations attempted, with mixed results, to turn a ghastly historical atrocity into a citywide theme park. In general, though, my weird topics tend not to be marketed by Chambers of Commerce. Most civic boosters would be horrified: *Come to Cumberland, and see the rectory haunted by a hanged soldier! Visit Vale Summit, where a guardian angel saved an immigrant from the Ku Klux Klan! Attempt a UFO sighting in the Shades of Death! Hey, folk-horror fans! Leave your own homemade stick-figure offerings to the Lost Children of the Alleghenies—Can you still hear them in the woods, giggling?*

This determination to avoid anything off-putting makes all TV tourism spots look and sound exactly alike, no matter what part of the United States they trumpet.

The past and present truths about our area, any area, are unlikely ever to be officially endorsed, because they aren't the world depicted in the ads. They're much spikier, darker, harder to parse: weirder. For those truths, you need to delve deeper than the gloss on the travel brochures. You need a treasure trove of community memories like Ort Library's Special Collections.

5. Is there anything else you would like to share about your research or your experiences within the Special Collections?

We have a lot of work to do, we storytellers and story collectors—which is to say, we human beings—in unearthing the stories that were forgotten, or suppressed; and in re-thinking the stories told too often (involving, say, faithful slaves and tragic Indian princesses). I find inspiration in the Brownsville Project (<https://www.thebrownsvilleproject.com/>) and Lynn Bowman's *Being Black in Brownsville*; and in Nesrine Malik's *We Need New Stories: The Myths That Subvert Freedom* (Norton, 2021). I have a lot of fun finding weirdness in Special Collections, but all those archived voices, and the silences between, also help me emerge with a new resolve to do some good, in the wide weird world of 2024.



Frostburg State University Celebrates 125th Anniversary

This year, the Department of Special Collections and Archives celebrated the 125-year anniversary of Frostburg State University by hosting a series of exhibits depicting the different epochs of the school: *The State Normal School No. 2 at Frostburg 1898-1934*, *Frostburg State Teachers College 1934-1963*, *Frostburg State College 1963-1987*, and *Frostburg State University 1987-present*. These exhibits, displayed on the main floor of the Ort Library, allowed patrons to learn about campus growth, leadership and student activities during the different ages of the institution. Beginning as a two-year Teachers College founded by local area miners, Frostburg transitioned to a 4-year Liberal Arts College in 1963, and joined the University of Maryland System as Frostburg State University in 1988. We also hosted companion exhibits at Frostburg Museum and in the Library related to campus leadership where Presidents such as Lillian Compton and Nelson P. Guild were highlighted for their accomplishments.

Image on top represents "The Varsity Shop" in 1949 when it was located in the former Faculty Hall (between Old Main and Allegany Hall, torn down in 1981). The Varsity Shop was a student hangout and offered a small shop where students could buy snacks or school supplies. Image on bottom: FSU students circa 1991.



CONTACTS

Yelizaveta L. Zakharova
Special Collections Librarian/Archivist
ylzakharova@frostburg.edu
301-687-4889

Dr. Lea Messman-Mandicott
Library Director
lmessman@frostburg.edu
301-687-4397

ORT LIBRARY
FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
1 SUSAN EISEL DRIVE
FROSTBURG, MD 21532-2303

MAIN DESK: 301-687-4395

CIRCULATION:
circulation@frostburg.edu

RESEARCH HELP:
libref@frostburg.edu

www.frostburg.edu/library

FROSTBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY

New Accessions for 2023

Thank you to our donors, without whom we would not continue to grow and develop into the future.

- Union records from railroad, textile and Renewal Agencies, Dan Whetzel
- Patricia Holleran Wilson Photographic Collection, Elizabeth Wilson
 - o The Patricia Holleran Wilson Collection represents her time as an editor for *State-to-Date* from 1952-1952. The collection includes over 100 photographs of student life during that time period.
- Glass plate negatives of local churches, Albert L. Feldstein
- Correspondence supporting the development of the Frostburg MBA program, Bob Garver
- Canvas of FSTC administrative staff photos during the 1950s, Bradley Richards
- Cumberland American Association of University Women records, Bernice Friedland and Sandra Roeder
- Family photographs, articles and interview related to the George A. Meyers family, Ellen Meyers
- *Western Maryland Central Labor Council Records*, Dan Whetzel and Jody Oliver
 - o The Western Maryland Central Labor Council records includes minutes, ledgers, photographs and ephemera from local unions, including the Brotherhood of Railroad Engineers and Kelly Springfield Tire Company
- *The Eckhart Family From Western Maryland* book, Diane Kelly Weintraub
- Various Allegany County campaign signs, Andy Duncan

Cooly-Price Fund Purchases

The Cooley-Price Fund, sponsored by Bernadene Hannah Range Cooley, mother of former Special Collections Librarian MaryJo Price, enables the Special Collections to purchase books and media related to Western-Maryland and Appalachia. Local history books are added to both the Special Collections and circulating library collections. Topics can include biographies, industry, history, poetry and geography. The following books were purchased this year through the Cooley-Price fund.

- *The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered*, Charles W. Mitchell
- *Fairy Tales of Appalachia*, Stacy Sivinski
- *Another Visit to the Mountaintop: A History of Mt. Lake Park, Maryland. 1881 – 1921*, George Cowgill
- *Ready to Fly*, Reverend Martha Macgill
- *The Big Book of Maryland Ghost Stories*, Ed Okonowicz
- *Telling Her Story: Barrier Breaking Women of Allegany County* (DVD Documentary), Mountain Ridge High School Historical Research Methods Class
- *Lion in the Bay: The British Invasion of the Chesapeake*, Stanley Quick
- *What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia*, Elizabeth Caatte
- *The Western Maryland Railway (Images of Rail)*, Anthony Puzilla
- *Heroes Were Made – The Story of Flight 93 – The Victims, the Memorial and the Community of Supporters*
- *Wild Women of Maryland: Grit & Gumption in the Free State*, Lauren R. Silberman

Current Exhibits in the Library, Spring 2024

Our final 125-year anniversary exhibit: *The FSU Years, 1987- present* is currently on display through Spring 2024 located on the 5th floor of the Ort Library. In addition, a companion exhibit also representing Women's History Month dedicated to President Catherine R. Gira is on display on the 2nd floor. Julia Seddon's exhibits *Art of the George A. Meyers Collection* is on display on the 4th floor and *Black Political Figures in America* is on the 5th floor.