“One of my favorite archival documents is this page from the 1963 meeting minutes of the Blue Barnacles, an aquatic arts club that was part of the Women’s Recreation Association at Western. It’s kind of pretty, and even comical, with the water droplet smears (we can imagine them holding their meeting poolside), but to me the part that makes it so endearing is the following action item in the text: ‘Incorporate the year’s minutes into the year’s scrapbook and build a permanent library of them.’

Because of that archival impulse to preserve a record of their activities (which was, it turns out, a requirement of the Women’s Recreation Association), we now have some wonderful records of this group. I have made it a goal throughout my time at Western to work with student organizations in order to record their activities in the Archives. I am constantly impressed by the value that students place on documenting their activities at Western. Some of the Archives’ richest and most interesting records are from student organizations.”

~ Tony Kurtz, University Archivist

“As Acting Director, I find that there are two things I enjoy most: working with such gifted and knowledgeable colleagues in Heritage Resources, and collaborating on so many diverse projects.”

~ Margaret Fast, Acting Director of Heritage Resources (filling in for Elizabeth Joffrion who is on sabbatical until March 2018)
Heritage Highlights

We would also like to welcome Michael Taylor, who will join Western Libraries as the new Special Collection Librarian on January 2, 2018. Michael comes to us from the University of New Mexico where he is Public Services Librarian in the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections. Prior to his position at the University of New Mexico, he worked for nearly a decade as Rare Books Curator at Louisiana State University. From 2004 to 2007, he worked in public services and image reproductions at the Lilly Library at Indiana University.

Michael holds graduate degrees in history and library science from Indiana University, with a specialization in rare books and manuscripts librarianship. He has received additional training from Rare Book School (University of Virginia), California Rare Book School (UCLA), and the History of Books & Printing Workshop (Texas A&M). He has expertise in developing new collecting areas, digitization, and curating exhibitions. His professional and research interests include library programming and instruction, the intersection of rare books and local history, and re-evaluating special collections for diversity-related content. Please join us in welcoming Michael to Western.

~ Elizabeth Joffrion, Heritage Resources Director

Continuity and change can mean saying goodbye to valued colleagues and welcoming new staff and faculty to Heritage Resources and Western Libraries. In June, we celebrated the retirement of a key member of our team, Paul Piper. During his long career at Western, Paul served many roles in the library and across campus, including Special Collections Librarian and Subject Librarian to the English and Journalism departments. Joining Heritage Resources in 2013, Paul dug into his role with enthusiasm and creativity. During his tenure, we expanded relationships with faculty and students across campus through exciting learning opportunities that featured our collections and services.

Paul's dedication to teaching is evidenced by the courses he developed, including Research for Creative Writers, Internet Literacy, and Fly Fishing in American Literature. Over his career, Paul published numerous scholarly and creative works. A Flutter of Wings Passing through Heaven: a Tribute to Robert Sund, emerged through Paul's noteworthy efforts to cultivate donor relationships with artists and poets in Skagit County. Paul is a gifted teacher, librarian, poet, and a beloved colleague, and we will remember him as a leader, volunteer, innovator, and poet who was articulate, intelligent, heartfelt, creative, and full of laughter. He will be missed.

~ Elizabeth Joffrion, Heritage Resources Director

Winter 2018 Heritage Resources Distinguished Speaker

Western Washington University Professor of English Dr. Kathryn Vulić will present “Exploring Medieval Manuscripts” on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 4:00pm in Special Collections (Wilson Library 6th floor). Dr. Vulić will showcase and explain both original and facsimile copies of manuscripts from the late Middle English period, dating roughly 1300 to 1500 CE, which are housed in the Heritage Resources Division of Western Libraries. Attendees will get an overview of the study of medieval handwriting, manuscript construction, creation and preservation, and book binding and publication. The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Special Collections Manager Tamara Belts at Tamara.Belts@wwu.edu or (360) 650-3193.
Special Collections is hosting an exhibition entitled “Germany: Integrating Immigrants,” which opened on October 24 and will remain on display through the end of winter quarter. The exhibition is the result of grant acquired by Dr. Cornelius Partsch, Professor of German at Western Washington University. It is free and open to the public, and is offered as part of the German Information Center at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany’s annual German Campus Weeks program.

“Germany: Integrating Immigrants” explores the experiences of first- and second-generation immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and provides contextual information about Germany’s history, economy, and public policy. The exhibition comprises 30 posters that illustrate individual stories and viewpoints from immigrants and refugees, as well as from German volunteers and professionals who are working towards better integration.

The primary goal of the German Campus Weeks program is to preserve and foster the friendship between Germany and the United States through programs and exhibitions in American university and college campuses. This year’s theme, “Germany Making Choices,” refers to the choices and political directions at stake in Germany’s September 24, 2017 federal elections, in which the future of the EU, the integration of refugees and immigrants into German society, and the transatlantic partnership with the US were among the most important issues voters were considering.

“Germany: Integrating Immigrants” will be available for viewing Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). To schedule a class or group visit, please contact Special Collections Manager Tamara Belts at (360) 650-3193 or Tamara.Belts@wwu.edu. For questions about the exhibition, the German Campus Weeks program, and further events scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit, please contact Cornelius Partsch at (360) 650-3929 or Cornelius.Partsch@wwu.edu.

This exhibition is sponsored by the German Embassy in Washington D.C. and is supported through a partnership from Western’s Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Western Libraries, and the Ray Wolpow Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity.

We would like to thank our volunteers and student employees for all they do in support of Heritage Resources. We would also like to thank the many individuals, families, and organizations who have made generous monetary gifts and contributions of collection materials. To donate to Heritage Resources, please email Elizabeth.Joffrion@wwu.edu or phone 360-650-3283. Donations can also be made online or by mail to the Western Foundation, MS-9034, Western Washington University, 516 High St, Bellingham, WA 98225-9034. Please designate your contribution to Western Libraries and identify “Heritage Resources” as the program you wish to support.
“Raves & Faves” (continued from Page 1)

“I was born in Bellingham at a time when it was roughly one-third of its present size. I am reminded of the area’s growth through the work I do digitizing historical photographs and audio-visual content at CPNWS and University Archives. Seeing photographs and film footage of Bellingham, Whatcom County and the greater Pacific Northwest from decades past, I simultaneously get to re-live my memories and be reminded of how this little town has grown into a thriving, vibrant city.”

~ Eric Mastor, CPNWS & University Archives

“I love collaborating with faculty, students, staff and our community patrons to explore the treasures of our collections and see them used in endlessly creative ways. Hosting class sessions and public programs that reveal the uniqueness of these resources is incredibly gratifying.”

~ Roz Koester, Outreach & Instruction Coordinator

“As Records Management Specialist, my absolute favorite part of my job is providing advice and consultations to university employees about their records. I answer questions about how long to keep records and what to do with them. I love the problem solving this involves, and the fact that it means most people are happy to see me!”

~ Rachel Thompson, Records Management Specialist

“Everything in Special Collections is my favorite! I am passionate about the history of Western and that sparked my interest in this job 17 years ago. This past year I have particularly enjoyed learning more about our Rare Book Collection and showcasing newly-acquired gems during class visits. Our medieval manuscript fragments are especially stunning and never cease to amaze our students!”

~ Tamara Belts, Special Collections Manager

“I’m grateful for the many fantastic people I get to engage with and learn from as part of my job at CPNWS. In addition to having wonderful colleagues, I’m fortunate to connect with patrons and donors who bring an incredible range of knowledge, interests and perspectives to the process of working with archival materials. Every interaction brings an opportunity to discover something new about this region’s past and present, and to think afresh about how our collections can support different aspects of research, teaching and learning.”

~ Ruth Steele, CPNWS Archivist