Each new academic quarter brings Heritage Resources opportunities to host and work with a diverse array of visiting classes, and instructors and students immersed in disciplines ranging from Art History to Journalism, Library Research Strategies through Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (with more in between). Among the WWU faculty we count on welcoming back is Dr. Anika Tilland-Stafford (Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Honors Program). Professor Tilland-Stafford began teaching at Western in Fall 2016, and has incorporated a field trip to the Archives Building into every class she has taught on campus since that time.

"[The archives visits] greatly enrich my courses. Being able to link the social movements we study in class to primary documents in the local context facilitates my students’ appreciation for history and historical research as well as a sense of the subject matter having real life applications where they live."

~ Dr. Anika Tilland-Stafford

We are also delighted to work with Dr. Kathryn Vulić, who nearly every quarter brings her students to Special Collections to learn from medieval manuscript fragments, facsimiles, and leaves from early printed books (incunabula) in our collection. Through a series of hands-on lessons, students learn about early book history, and also develop skills in paleography (deciphering early handwriting) and codicology (the study of manuscript books) to help them understand how to identify and read early texts. These lessons give students a firsthand understanding of what reading and writing meant to earlier cultures.

The archival resources students consult vary depending on the focus of their class and projects, but in the past have included records from local/regional women’s clubs and organizations, feminist and LGTBQA+ activist publications, and historical copies of the local “alternative” newspaper Northwest Passage. We welcome the excellent questions, endless curiosity, and unique perspectives that Dr. Tilland-Stafford and her students bring, and we look forward to working with them again this spring!

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As Director of Heritage Resources, and on behalf of my staff, I’d like to express our sincere appreciation to our many supporters and patrons. This newsletter, distributed to over 600 recipients locally and around the world, is our way of thanking the many individuals who have visited our repositories and used our collections or services. These community relationships are central to the mission of Western Libraries and Heritage Resources, and fundamental to the growth and development of our collections, our financial sustainability, and the success of our programming efforts.

As you will learn in this edition of Heritage Highlights, we are continuing to grow and change in ways that enhance our mission to bring quality research and teaching opportunities to our staff, faculty, students, and the broader community. In the past year and in support of that mission, we have curated exhibitions on wide ranging topics including the History of the Book, mountaineering through the lens of race, class and gender, and our current offering on “Beat Poets” in the North Cascades. We have hosted nearly a dozen speakers, including the groundbreaking mountaineer and toxicologist, Arlene Blum, and have held around 70 classes from across campus and throughout the community.

Your support is vital to the fulfillment of our mission to collect significant research materials and to provide high quality instruction, public programming and services. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that Heritage Resources will be a focus of our annual Western Give Day fundraising event. On May 30, 2019, please consider logging into the Give Day site via the linked image below and offering a contribution. You may also donate any time by contacting me directly (Elizabeth.Joffrion@wwu.edu or 360-650-3283). Your gift will preserve and provide enhanced access to our historical collections for students, faculty, scholars, and community members. I would be pleased to speak with you personally about how you might provide financial sponsorship for the activities we support.

Thank you again for your interest in our work,

~ Elizabeth Joffrion, Director
Like every community and educational institution across the United States, Western's history is intertwined with struggles of civil rights and social justice—the effects of which permeate the campus both physically and intellectually. Records in the University Archives document the ways in which these national issues have materialized in local contexts. One of the more popular angles for approaching this has been Western's former College of Ethnic Studies.

This year will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the College of Ethnic Studies at Western (discontinued in the late 1970s). Students conducting research in the records of Heritage Resources and the University Archives can resurrect the history of this groundbreaking college, which was one of Western's experimental "cluster colleges" along with Huxley and Fairhaven. Students have engaged with this material as part of class assignments, personal research, and journalistic reporting. In doing this, they can discern the social and organizational forces that gave the College its efficacy. Using primary sources from University Archives, students can research the lineage between the national Civil Rights movement—in the form of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)—and Western's Black Student Union (BSU), as well as the impact of BSU activism in making the College of Ethnic Studies a reality. As they do so, they encounter, in a historical frame, many familiar issues of social justice, equity, access, and representation.

Excerpt from "A History of W.W.S.C.’s Black Student Union, University Archives.

For more information about or to access these resources, please contact University Archivist Tony Kurtz, at Tony.Kurtz@wwu.edu or (360) 650-3124.
In addition, we have recently made some new connections with Western’s growing programs in Jewish Studies and Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Two months ago, David Schlitt joined Heritage Resources as Judaica Project Archivist, and he has spent much of his time since then digging through boxes and unearthing treasures that came to WWU through a recent transfer from the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

The enthusiasm shown by faculty and students for this new material, and the speed with which teaching and learning support has become vital to David’s work, has been a wonderful surprise. Earlier this spring, Dr. Sarah Zarrow brought her Holocaust & Local History class to Special Collections, where they had an opportunity to learn about these new collections and survey a range of materials relating to the Holocaust and the diverse communities affected. As they began to brainstorm research topics for the term, Professor Zarrow’s students browsed sources covering localities from Warsaw and Lodz to Salonika and Athens, from Algiers to Hamburg, and more. As their research progresses, we’ll look forward to welcoming Professor Zarrow’s Holocaust & Local History students back to the sixth floor of Wilson in support of their important work.

We continue to be honored and inspired when we hear these anecdotes from our colleagues and patrons about their eye-opening experiences in our facilities and working with our collections. As one of our regular researchers and a senior in English Literature at Western has put it:

Access to Heritage Resources’ unique collections and fascinating Distinguished Speaker Series enriched my undergraduate studies. These materials and lectures sharpened my cultural knowledge of Western, Bellingham, Washington State, and the Pacific Northwest. ~ Marielle Stockton

Interested to find out more about teaching and learning with Heritage Resources? Please contact Heritage.Resources@wwu.edu or phone (360) 650-7534. You may also visit our instruction page at https://library.wwu.edu/hr/instruction.

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.