SCOTT FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS AND CALL FOR 2024 APPLICATIONS

We welcome applications for the 2024 James W. Scott Research Fellowships! This program aims to promote awareness of and innovative use of archival collections at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies (CPNWS). Up to $1000 is available to support significant research by individuals in doctoral programs or who have completed their PhD. Curious to apply or find out more? Visit CPNWS’s Scott Fellowship webpage for more information about the Fellowship and application process (the deadline for applications is January 31, 2024).

The Scott Fellowships provide exciting opportunities to consider and learn about archives and regional history from a range of different perspectives. All Fellows are asked to share a presentation about their research, and these in turn—through audience discussion and by informing subsequent research—inspire new awareness of and creative uses of archival holdings. In this newsletter, we are delighted to highlight and invite you to explore recordings of presentations from the three most recent Fellowship recipients which are now available online in WWU’s institutional repository, CEDAR.

Dr. Helen Knowles (2020 Fellow) visited campus in Spring 2022 from the State University of New York at Oswego, pursuing research on Pacific Northwest broadcasting pioneer Rogan Jones and the landmark 1936 U.S. Supreme Court case of KVOS v. Associated Press. Her research presentation, drawing on work conducted with the Rogan Jones Papers archived at CPNWS, was entitled “‘Command the Air and You Command the Market’: The Story of KVOS v. Associated Press (1936).”

Dr. A. Longoria (2020 Fellow) is the Chair of Secondary Education at WWU’s Woodring College of Education. Their research resulted in a wonderful Spring event entitled “In Conversation with Robert Ashworth and Betty Desire: Unboxing a Local Queer History, 1975-1995.” This was the division’s first public program since 2020, featuring presentations by Dr. Longoria and graduate student Astrid Willis about archival findings, and a facilitated conversation with long-time Bellingham residents about the history of LGBTQ+ activism and Queer community. (Story continues on p. 4)
Greetings from Archives & Special Collections! Our Director, Elizabeth Joffrion, is currently on sabbatical, and we wish her the very best with research and writing until her return in Spring 2024.

The staff of A&SC are pleased to bring you the Fall 2023 edition of our newsletter, The Primary Source. In this issue we highlight some of the many ways that donations of both financial resources and collection materials impact and help further our mission. We also welcome a new colleague in University Archives & Records Management, as well as two new student employees and one who is returning for their final quarter at Western. Additionally, we are pleased to share some new connections we have made through our teaching and learning activities.

Fall Quarter always brings a blend of excitement and anticipation for the coming academic year. Our team is keeping busy with a wide variety of activities, including supporting our researchers, promoting a new exhibit of artists’ books, planning for public programs in Winter and Spring 2024, and working on behind-the-scenes projects including collections management and collection development, archival processing, and platform migration.

If you are interested in discussing or scheduling a class visit, or talking about possible assignments, please contact us at archives.speccoll@wwu.edu.

We wish you the very best this year, and hope to see or hear from you in the coming weeks and months.

With warm regards,
Archives & Special Collections staff

Transcending illusory boundaries is a central goal of the world’s great spiritual traditions. Created by Nepali-American artist and Bellingham resident Jyoti Duwadi, the works in this exhibition invite us to meditate on how everything in nature is like a word or phrase in a much larger narrative—an endless story that binds us all together.

The exhibition is free and open to the public, and will be available for viewing Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed weekends and holidays) in Special Collections (Wilson 6th floor). For more information or to inquire about group/class visits to view the exhibit, please contact Special Collections Librarian Michael Taylor (taylo213@wwu.edu) | (360) 650-3097.
Donations Enrich Student Learning

Special Collections is a place where students can travel abroad and back in time, virtually, right at the heart of campus. And thanks to donations of rare materials over the past year, students can now visit several new destinations.

Among these gifts are three large volumes of photographs from Japan and India. Produced in the late-nineteenth century, the hundreds of black-and-white and hand-colored images were pasted into blank books made in Tacoma around the same time, probably indicating that the photos were collected by someone from Washington. The two volumes on Japan were displayed in a recent Special Collections exhibition, *Looking Abroad: Photography, Tourism, and Empire, 1870-1920*, which explored the links between such images and colonialism. Professor Gianna Carotenuto (Global Humanities and Religions) brought her classes to view the exhibit several times before it ended in July, and she returned this quarter with her class on “Representations of Otherness.”

Some of Dr. Carotenuto’s students are writing papers about the images from Japan. Others are researching architectural photographs and studio portraits from the Middle East preserved in a fascinating album donated by archivist and educator Richard Pearce-Moses. Why were these pictures created? What are your initial assumptions about the people or places portrayed? Does more information fundamentally change the way you see the images? These are among the questions the students are considering as they develop their skills in interpreting primary sources.

Another donation that directly supports student learning is a copy of *The Floure and the Leafe*. It was the last book printed at the Kelmscott Press during the lifetime of its founder, William Morris, the leading designer of the British Arts and Crafts movement. A socialist, Morris rejected the Industrial Revolution and the many forms of ugliness that came with it, including ugly books. A return to the spirit of craftsmanship that existed in the Middle Ages, he felt, was needed. Students in this quarter’s “History of the Book” class were excited to see this example of his work during a lecture on books and the Industrial Revolution.

John Thompson of WWU’s Office of University Communications donated the book in memory of his mother, Neville Thompson, who passed away in October. After retiring from a career as a rare book librarian, Neville volunteered with the Northwest Regional Branch of the WA State Archives, located on south campus. A&SC staff have fond memories of her and are so grateful for her contributions to Western and the Bellingham community.

If you have rare materials that you’d be interested in donating or ideas for other ways that you, too, can contribute, we’d love to hear from you.
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Janna Haider (2023 Fellow) is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the most recent Scott Fellowship recipient. Her research at CPNWS informs a larger doctoral dissertation regarding the Ghadar Party and Indian nationalism in the early 20th century, as a global project based in the Pacific Northwest. Her presentation, “Racing Silences: Lumber, Labor and Atemporalities in 1910s and 1920s Whatcom County,” discusses the history and narratives of race, racism and organized labor in Bellingham and the larger region with specific reference to the 1907 race riots, and the challenge of silences in the archives about South Asian and non-white workers and race.

Still image from recording of Janna Haider’s presentation.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our volunteers and student employees for all they do in support of Archives & Special Collections. We would also like to thank the many individuals, families, and organizations who have made generous monetary gifts and contributions of collection materials.