Windows

Looking Back, Leading Forward

A half-century of innovation at Carolina’s Health Sciences Library
Dear Friends,

While we were finalizing the stories for this issue of Windows, the COVID-19 pandemic that has raced around the globe made its effects felt right here in Chapel Hill.

As I write, the campus has vastly reduced its operations in response to this new threat and the University Libraries has begun to deliver all our services remotely. I could not be more proud of the Library staff members who found quick and creative ways to ramp up our virtual chat and email reference services, to acquire and deliver more electronic materials than ever, to partner with the faculty and students who suddenly needed to teach and learn in an online environment, and to support one another in this uncertain time.

It has also been a chance to appreciate anew how vital the Health Sciences Library is to the UNC Health system and to health care providers around the state. Within days, HSL staff prepared an online guide to COVID-19 resources (guides.lib.unc.edu/COVID19), bringing together the most up-to-date and authoritative information for medical professionals and consumers. They have also been researching and responding to questions about everything from emergency cleaning guidelines to Medicaid coding changes for COVID-19.

This issue of Windows shares with you what I have an opportunity to witness not just in an emergency, but every single day—how the HSL, under the direction of Dr. Nandita Mani, is a true partner in every sense of the word to health care providers and patients, to teachers and students and to the researchers who are solving urgent challenges in North Carolina and around the world.

None of this work—or any other achievement that you read about in Windows—would be possible without the dedication and loyalty of many Friends of the Library. As we move together into an uncharted future, I know that the University Libraries will continue to have an essential role to play. I am so grateful that you are part of this story.

With deepest thanks,

Elaine L. Westbrooks
Vice Provost for University Libraries and University Librarian

On the cover: UNC-Chapel Hill’s Health Sciences Library

Preservation ambassador
A "dream project" takes digitization expert Kerry Bannen from Chapel Hill to Senegal

Health Sciences Library celebrates 50 years
• Health information for all of us
• Healing the world
• A new generation of collaboration
• Meet Rebecca Carlson

Lifelong learners, lifelong supporters
Claude and Sarah Snow’s $2.6 million planned gift to Carolina includes support for the University Libraries

from the
University Librarian
Archivists highlight campus and culinary stories in new books

Two University Libraries archivists are sharing their research talents with Carolina aficionados and local foodies in the form of two recently published books.

University Archivist Nicholas Graham is co-author with former University Historian Cecelia Moore of “UNC A to Z: What Every Tar Heel Needs to Know about the First State University” (UNC Press). In more than 350 entries filled with fascinating facts, interesting stories and little-known histories, Graham and Moore take readers around campus and through time—from the Pit and the Old Well, to student traditions such as the Cardboard Club, the Cake Race and High Noon. Learn more from the publisher: go.unc.edu/UNCAtoZ.

Meanwhile, Patrick Cullom, visual materials processing archivist, chronicles Durham’s restaurant history along with co-author Chris Holaday in “Classic Restaurants of Durham” (Arcadia). Their book profiles fifty longtime restaurants that have helped shape the city’s food scene, from legendary barbecue spots such as Bullock’s and Dillard’s to fine dining at Nana’s and Magnolia Grill. Learn more from the publisher: go.unc.edu/DurhamRestaurants.

University Libraries launches strategic framework

Telling assembled staff that the University Libraries is on “a journey of reinvention,” Vice Provost for University Libraries and University Librarian Elaine Westbrooks in November unveiled a new strategic framework to guide the work of the organization.

Central to the framework are its three pillars: preservation of the historic record, especially that of the state and the University; ensuring student success; and advancing the research enterprise.

“Our vision is nothing less than to set the standard for the public university research library in the digital age,” said Westbrook. She called the framework “a promise to our constituents on campus, and a promise to the citizens across the state, letting them know what they should expect of us and letting them know that they can count on us.”

Specifics of an implementation plan will take shape in the months to come, including initiatives related to data science; promoting sustainable scholarship; philanthropic growth; diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; and global engagement.

Learn more about the University Libraries’ new strategic framework at go.unc.edu/LibraryPlan2020.

Students receive Library awards for creative projects

The University Libraries has granted Incubator Awards to eight Carolina students for research and creative arts projects at the University Libraries. The award provides stipends for creative projects that draw inspiration from special collections materials.

Read about the winners and their performing and visual arts projects at go.unc.edu/Incubator2020.

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Blackness within the UNC-Chapel Hill community

Cortland Gilliam
Blackness within the UNC-Chapel Hill community

Willow Liu
Dancer Merce Cunningham at Black Mountain College

Renee McGee
Kay Kyser Tribute Project

Sally Ann McKinsey
Cultural responses to illness and death in the American South

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In a 1974 photo from Carolina that Ken Burns used in the “Country Music” documentary, Johnny Cash holds up an American flag. (From Hugh Morton Photographs and Films #P0081, copyright, North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill Library)
Tracing the history of women at UNC

Students in Katherine Turk’s honors seminar in American history began the spring semester anticipating an archival adventure. Under the guidance of Sarah Carrier, North Carolina research and instructional librarian, and Rachel Reynolds, special collections exhibitions coordinator, the class was preparing to use collections from the Wilson Special Collections Library to create “Climbing the Hill: Women in the History of UNC”—a full-scale exhibition about the history of women at Carolina.

Although the COVID-19 emergency upended those plans after just a few meetings, the class did go on. Thanks to quick action by University Libraries scanning experts, students were able to view and learn from archival documents online. The class changed its focus to a digital exhibition with the assistance of Lara Lookabaugh, a doctoral student in geography and Carolina Humanities for the Public Good Fellow working with the class. Wilson Library will produce an exhibition with the original items at a later time.

Visit the virtual exhibition at go.unc.edu/ClimbingTheHill.
A journey for knowledge

University Libraries leaders rolled last fall with the Tar Heel Bus Tour

Story by Michele Lynn, Illustrations by Nicole Basile

Initially launched in 1997 and reactivated last year, the Tar Heel Bus Tour (tarheelbustour.unc.edu) takes Carolina faculty members and senior administrators on a journey to learn about North Carolina.

Last October, Elaine L. Westbrooks, vice provost for University Libraries and University librarian, and María R. Estorino, associate University librarian for special collections and director of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, were among the 90 campus leaders who participated in the three-day trip. While on the road, they learned about issues of concern to North Carolinians and met Tar Heels working to bring about change.

“This trip was transformational. I was able to see the University’s impact on the communities that we visited, as well as meet many faculty members. Every time we re-boarded the bus, I sat next to somebody new and used the opportunity to advocate for the University Libraries.

“The most important takeaway was that we need to continue to get out of the Triangle and into communities to help people understand the power of libraries and how we can be a force for change. Whether it was talking to the nutrition department in Asheville about how they do research and then share and preserve that data or meeting with the principal chief of the Cherokee about preserving their culture and history, I always asked, ‘What value can we add and what can we learn?’

“I felt like this was a call to action. As a research library, we are a service organization whose primary focus is the University’s students, researchers, and staff. At the same time, we have made a commitment to the preservation of the history and complex culture of this state. We need to be sure that North Carolinians know about the University Libraries and how we can help them accomplish their goals.”

Seeing the places where our students come from was really transformative. In some places, it was inspiring and in other places, it was more complex because of the challenges those communities face. Being able to understand the great diversity of North Carolina allows us to better serve students.

“Something that really lingered with me from the tour is that at Carolina, our job is not to help people become Tar Heels. It is to let students from those communities redefine what it means to be a Tar Heel and to create a shared definition of what it means to be a North Carolinian today.

“As part of the College of Arts and Sciences’ participation in the Coasts, Climates, the Humanities, and the Environment Consortium, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, faculty and students are collaborating on Voices of Resilience and Recovery in Robeson County. It’s a project to amplify stories from residents who have experienced recent hurricane flooding. The Library was invited to be part of the conversation on how to incorporate historical memory into that project.

“Having been in Robeson County on the bus tour and heard from residents who survived two hurricanes, I was much better able to be part of that conversation and imagine how the University Libraries could play a role. As a result, Wilson Library will support this new project by hosting a research fellow who will help integrate special collections materials into the project’s community conversations and develop a guide to researching environmental history in the Wilson Special Collections Library. That’s just one small example of how this trip impacted our work.”
Carolina’s Health Sciences Library—literally and figuratively—is an anchor for the University’s health affairs corridor. Perched on Columbia Street, just uphill from the rest of campus, the HSL sits amidst the schools of nursing, medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy, and only a brief walk to the hospital complex.

When the HSL opened in 1970 in the brick courtyard of MacNider Hall, it represented a major evolution for Carolina’s medical library collections, which had previously been divided among the various schools and units. The brand-new building—then only two stories tall—boasted all the modern technology: teleype equipment to link to other health sciences libraries, Xerox copiers, microprint readers, tape recorders and projectors.

But the future of search and the power of connection in medical librarianship was already on the mind of Myrl Ebert, the HSL’s first director and an early force behind the transition to a new state-of-the-art facility. As a committee member advising the National Library of Medicine’s MEDLARS project (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System), Ebert was ahead of the game. MEDLARS (now MEDLINE) was the first large-scale database to make medical literature searchable for the public.

In this last half-century, no area of librarianship has changed more than the health sciences, says Elaine Westbrooks, vice provost for University Libraries and University librarian. “Fifty years ago, when the library was formed, the world was a different place. Technology has transformed the delivery of health care,” she says.

Librarians today are a vital part of how we accelerate biomedical discovery, zero in on precision medicine and make the most of data science. Librarians are at the center of understanding and discovery, and in no place is that truer than at Carolina.

“Today, we are often described and seen as a scientific information center,” says Nandita Mani, associate University librarian for the health sciences and director of the Health Sciences Library. “Our work focuses to a great extent on research, data and helping people make better health care decisions, whether that person is a patient, clinician, researcher or any other health professional.”

Fifty years after the HSL opened its doors, Carolina’s health affairs librarians carry on the tradition of creating, mastering and teaching new technologies in health information. In 2020, that means working with virtual reality and artificial intelligence, democratizing access to medical literature and partnering with health affairs schools to create new curricula.

Librarians also travel to visit global partners and make connection possible across continents. “How librarians contribute locally and globally to the information ecosystem is in constant evolution,” says Mani. “Our role will grow ever more critical as we partner with students, researchers and clinicians to improve the human condition around the world by connecting people with evidence-based information.”

For Westbrooks, the possibilities are endless. “Our big questions are: What are the health care challenges that are happening here and throughout the world? How will we provide solutions? How can we best support and partner with the researchers who are the ones doing that work? What can we do?”

"a scientific information center"

Health Sciences Library stories continue on next page.
Health information for all of us

Is a glass of red wine as good as a trip to the gym? Is dark chocolate a health food? A quick Google search suggests as much.

Tantalizing headlines might convince you to read or click, but, often, they are full of misinformation and only loosely based on the research.

Health literacy lies in the ability to cut through the noise and find the facts when it comes to our health care decisions and behaviors. Four librarians from the Health Sciences Library recently used a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to help rural and underserved communities in North Carolina become better consumers of health information.

Through the grant, Engaging for Health in Rural North Carolina Communities, they visited five public libraries across the state to train local librarians on accessing credible health information. In doing so, they empowered the participants to become stewards of health literacy for the people they serve.

“Public librarians are not always familiar with health resources, and they might be uncomfortable providing health information to their patrons because they don’t want to point them to the wrong resources,” says Terri Ottosen, community engagement and health literacy librarian at the HSL.

“We led workshops to show them how to use credible online sources like MedlinePlus.gov and NCHealthInfo.org, and to provide consumer health information services at their library. When patients and families have reliable health information, they can be active participants in their own care,” says Ottosen.

Megan Fratta, community outreach and global health librarian at the HSL, says another part of health literacy is understanding how to evaluate a health news story—something even researchers, health care providers and seasoned journalists might not be trained to do. As part of her job, she teaches workshops about interpreting scientific studies.

“We look at health news in the media—how these stories go from research studies and findings in published journal articles to sensational headlines like ‘chocolate cures dementia.’ We trace the process information goes through as it gets distorted,” says Fratta.

Health literacy is key to reducing health care disparities and inequities in care for underserved communities, says Ottosen. Basic health literacy skills can empower patients by equalizing their access to health information, helping them advocate for themselves and improving their health outcomes.

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Back at Carolina, the group educates students, faculty and providers about speaking in “living room language.”

“It’s a common term in this field. It means, how will you explain this to your nine-year-old cousin in your living room?” says Ottosen. “The entire burden cannot be on patients and families. It’s also on the system and the providers to talk to patients in ways they can understand so that they’ll adhere to the care they need. There has to be mutual awareness here.”

In the future, the team hopes to expand the reach of the HSL’s health literacy efforts throughout the state, especially to public schools. “I know this is just the beginning. I’ve been on the consumer health literacy side of librarianship for a few decades, and we’re all about empowering the individual. Information is power, and information is our passion,” says Ottosen. ▲

Basic health literacy skills can empower patients by equalizing their access to health information, helping them advocate for themselves and improving their health outcomes.
Better-informed caregivers give better care, says Irving Hoffman, P.A., M.P.H., a professor at the UNC School of Medicine, director of international operations for the Institute of Global Health and Infectious Diseases (IGHID) and international director of UNC Project-Malawi.

For the two decades he has been at Carolina, Hoffman has built a career around improving health care, research and training in the areas of the world where Carolina has pledged to be a force for good. He recognized that to make a true difference in global health, those areas needed access to the kinds of information and resources that medical professionals have at UNC-Chapel Hill.

As Carolina’s researchers, practitioners and students build partnerships with governments and universities around the world, the HSL has become essential to improving the delivery of patient care in the developing world.

“IGHID has academic centers around the world—in Malawi, Zambia, Vietnam, Nicaragua, China, Liberia, South Africa and more,” he says. “It was clear early on that we needed the support of our Health Sciences Library in these places where those services didn’t exist.”

The HSL and its librarians have worked to extend the use of search engines and clinical guidelines and access to medical literature. They also provide via web-based training and in-country visits to support those delivering medical care, and to assess the information and training needs.

“Our Health Sciences Library is important to the members of our medical community, which includes medical students, nursing students, mid-level practitioners and clinical officers, lab technicians, anesthesia techs, those visiting other countries on rotations and for other Carolina projects—the list goes on and on,” says Hoffman.

“Because of this kind of dedication, other countries have the real-time access to important and credible health care guides and materials just as we do here at UNC Hospitals, and that has a direct influence on patient outcomes and patient lives.”

To learn more about the HSL’s global reach, see “Building capacity through collaboration” in the fall 2019 issue of Windows and online at go.unc.edu/HSLMalawi ▲

For half a century, the Health Sciences Library has been a step ahead of the way we work, finding inventive and dynamic ways to partner with researchers and clinicians as new technologies and teaching methods transform health care all over the world.

In early 2020, the third floor of the HSL became home to some of Carolina’s most innovative projects in health affairs.

“This affords our partners the opportunity to better integrate the expertise of our team and utilize cutting-edge resources and technological developments in instruction and research,” says Nandita Mani, associate University librarian for the health sciences and director of the Health Sciences Library.

Mani continues: “It further exemplifies how the library is a connector—linking our students, faculty and researchers to collaborative opportunities based on common goals and information needs. Having these partners together in our space is also a great way for serendipitous collisions of inquiry to occur.”

These projects will make use of this new collaborative opportunity. ▲

Health Sciences Library stories continue on next page.

A new generation of collaboration

Global Women’s Health, Project LABOR

An initiative of the School of Medicine, where a team of clinical researchers will study ways to improve pregnancy outcomes in resource-limited settings thanks to a $14 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Limiting Adverse Birth Outcomes in Resource-Limited Settings (LABOR) study will focus on the period of pregnancy between the onset of labor through delivery in three developing countries, including UNC-Chapel Hill’s flagship partnership in Zambia.

Carolina’s Office of Interprofessional Education and Practice (IPEP)

A campus initiative that integrates interprofessional learning and collaboration in the health affairs schools, and schools of social work, business and education, to break down silos and enhance team-based and holistic delivery of care.

Carolina Health Informatics Program (CHIP)

An interdisciplinary research and training program of the School of Information and Library Science that applies computer and information science to human health.

CHIP is a community of students, researchers and practitioners working together to improve the health and lives of people through informatics and offering detailed workshops and trainings in the rapidly changing field of informatics.
Like many librarians in the clinical, academic and research engagement department of the Health Sciences Library, I have clinical responsibilities at the UNC Medical Center, and I’m involved in research, education and clinical practice. I’m the liaison to the Eshelman School of Pharmacy and to the department of surgery in the School of Medicine. I’m also one of the HSL liaisons to the office for Interprofessional Education and Practice, which is located here in the library. We all work hard to stay relevant for our users and stay on the cutting edge in terms of tools and resources. I am part of a team exploring artificial intelligence tools in comprehensive searching, another exploring new methods of clinical librarian engagement and a third that is expanding our support of global health initiatives.

What I’ve learned in my years as a health sciences librarian has made me passionate about reducing health disparities and increasing women’s access to quality care. Once I saw data about how socioeconomic status, race and other factors impact health care, I wanted to find ways to be part of improving these disparities. I’ve helped faculty with grant proposals in this area, I’ve collaborated on several systematic reviews about health disparities and equitable health care, and I continue to look for other ways to contribute.

I attend two weekly case conferences for the department of surgery, one for upper gastrointestinal (GI) surgery and one for colorectal surgery. In these meetings, the medical team discusses upcoming cases for the week and any issues that have arisen with patients in the hospital or complications from procedures. I’m there if they have questions about current evidence or rare diagnoses or a combination of treatments and medications.

Another way I help is by supporting residents. As the attendees ask them questions about the cases they’re presenting, uncertainties might come up. I can provide information in the moment. I also block time immediately after the conference to conduct literature searches and send that information back to the team as quickly as possible.

“Having Rebecca attend the GI surgery weekly case conferences is a privilege. This is a time when we gather to review the details of our patients and their illnesses, and to discuss the thought process behind our operative plans. This process, paramount to clinical care and surgical education, results in dialogue involving students, residents and faculty, often inspiring important questions. Rebecca helps to support our evidence-based practices and streamlines the incorporation of research into these lively discussions, resulting in a well-rounded educational experience.”

Nicole Chaumont, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery

Carlson (second from right) participates in a case conference at the department of gastrointestinal surgery with (left to right) surgery resident Lawrence “Jack” Wood, nurses Lisa Prestia and clinical GI surgery fellow Ivy Haskins.
As academic librarians, we work regularly with graduate research assistants in the HSL from a variety of UNC-Chapel Hill schools, including the School of Information and Library Science and the Gillings School of Global Public Health. We consult with them, provide advice and offer recommendations about research and searches. In my position, I also work closely with students and fellows at the Eshelman School of Pharmacy and with residents and fellows in the department of surgery. For example, across the past year I have collaborated with Nick Nelson, a post-doctoral fellow in the School of Pharmacy, on two scoping reviews relating to pharmacy education research.

My primary role is as liaison to the Eshelman School of Pharmacy. I collaborate with faculty to design and provide curriculum-integrated instruction; participate in the scholarship of teaching and learning; and provide research and scholarly communication consultations, expert literature searches and other services in support of teaching, clinical care and research. One of my most important roles with the School of Pharmacy is to contribute to its top-ranked Pharm.D. program. I sit on the curriculum and assessment committee; teach lectures on literature searching, evidence-based practice and drug information; and teach seminars for faculty.

Carlson (left) confers with Shannon Delaney, a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science and a graduate research assistant at the HSL.

During her office hours at the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Carlson (right) shares search techniques with Pharm.D. student Yimo Wang.

“Health sciences librarians truly are partners. We contribute expertise to health research, education and clinical practice, and we work each day to demonstrate our value and impact. For instance, we partner with researchers in ways that often lead to co-authorship on publications. In spring 2019, I worked with faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill and with other institutions across the country to help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) update the HPV clinical practice guideline. My role was to develop comprehensive search strategies that would find everything that had been published since the previous guideline and then help streamline the screening of that literature. There were around 10,000 publications since the last update. Since they couldn’t read everything in five months, I used automation tools to prioritize citations for them to review, helping them use their team’s time most effectively.

I think it’s important to make visible the many ways that health sciences librarians can contribute to the outcomes of research, education and clinical practice at the University of North Carolina and beyond.”

Wendy Cox, Pharm.D.
Associate Dean for Professional Education,
Eshelman School of Pharmacy

The Health Sciences Library and the pharmacy librarian are invaluable partners to the work of the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. Rebecca provides expert information services to faculty, staff and students; supports the curriculum through her teaching and participation on the Curriculum and Assessment Committee; and partners on research for continued educational innovation.”

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Carlson (left) confers with Shannon Delaney, a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science and a graduate research assistant at the HSL.

During her office hours at the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Carlson (right) shares search techniques with Pharm.D. student Yimo Wang.

“Health sciences librarians truly are partners. We contribute expertise to health research, education and clinical practice, and we work each day to demonstrate our value and impact. For instance, we partner with researchers in ways that often lead to co-authorship on publications. In spring 2019, I worked with faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill and with other institutions across the country to help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) update the HPV clinical practice guideline. My role was to develop comprehensive search strategies that would find everything that had been published since the previous guideline and then help streamline the screening of that literature. There were around 10,000 publications since the last update. Since they couldn’t read everything in five months, I used automation tools to prioritize citations for them to review, helping them use their team’s time most effectively.

I think it’s important to make visible the many ways that health sciences librarians can contribute to the outcomes of research, education and clinical practice at the University of North Carolina and beyond.”

Wendy Cox, Pharm.D.
Associate Dean for Professional Education,
Eshelman School of Pharmacy

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A “dream project” takes digitization expert Kerry Bannen from Chapel Hill to Senegal

To pursue her dream of being a photojournalist for National Geographic, Kerry Bannen earned a master’s in fine arts in documentary photography from the University of Wales, Newport.

“Then circumstances changed, and I fell in love with libraries,” says Bannen, a digitization workflow supervisor at the University Libraries since 2012. But a recent “dream project” allowed her to combine her passions and bring her skills to a global stage.

Last October, Bannen joined two UNC-Chapel Hill professors on a grant-funded 10-day trip to Senegal to preserve endangered manuscripts. These documents, in Arabic and the Senegalese language Pulaar, were created by influential Islamic scholars of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

This project—a collaboration among UNC-Chapel Hill, the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library, and the West African Research Center (WARC)—is designed to “provide easily accessible resources that will improve the quality of scholarly research and make available teaching materials on Muslim West Africa in general and the Haalpulaar (those who speak Pulaar) history, language, society and culture in particular.”

Before embarking on the 24-hour voyage from the Triangle to Dakar, Senegal, Bannen began a different kind of journey. “I wanted to make sure that I knew the expectations for me in a country that is 95% Muslim with a completely different culture than I’m used to,” she says.

In addition to participating in a Facebook group for expats and visitors to Senegal, Bannen learned greetings in Wolof, one of the local languages, as well as French, which is widely spoken in the West African country. “I knew we would be meeting with imams and going to mosques so I learned what I needed to do to show respect,” she says.

She succeeded, says Mohamed Mwamzandi, teaching assistant professor in Carolina’s African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD) department, one of the project leads. Mwamzandi says that in addition to being culturally sensitive and aware, Bannen provided critical technical expertise.

“Kerry has excellent skills in digitization and was a very easy partner to work with,” he says. “When the British Library received the first 100 images that Kerry had digitized, their staff told us the images were perfect.”

While working in Senegal, Bannen called upon the skills she has developed on the job. “Working at UNC with photos, rare books and manuscripts, I have had a lot of practice in creative problem solving,” she says. “I’m used to figuring out the best way to get a good image based on how the object can be manipulated and then reverse engineering a process to achieve our goal.”

In addition to doing hands-on digitization work, Bannen helped increase the capacity of the team in Senegal, training them to get the best images possible and meet the standards set by the British Library.

“Kerry is an important part of the whole project. Without her, we couldn’t have done the work.”

Bannen says that she learned as much as she taught. “I learned so much about Islam and about Africa,” she says. “Before this trip, I hadn’t thought about where materials are kept in places where libraries and cultural heritage institutions aren’t readily available and funded like they are in the United States. In Senegal, many pieces were just kept in a bookcase in a mosque and may be deteriorating.”

Bannen hopes to work on similar projects throughout the world. “When there is an endangered archive in another country, I hope to be the person who can help preserve those documents,” she says.

Story by Michele Lynn

Manuscript scanning setup and training at the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal

Goals and art on Goree Island

Preservation ambassador
Lifelong learners, lifelong supporters

Claude and Sarah Snow’s $2.6 million planned gift to Carolina will support University Libraries, SILS, athletics

Lifelong supporters

For All Kind: the Campaign for Carolina is the fifth fundraising campaign Claude Henry Snow Jr. ’76, ’78 (M.A.) and Sarah Turnbull Snow ’04 (M.S.I.S.) have contributed to in support of their alma mater—this time, in the form of a bequest.

“We’ve given as we are able through all four previous campaigns, and now this one,” notes Claude. “In one sense, that should probably demonstrate our love for Carolina, and it also shows we’re experienced givers,” he adds, laughing.

The Snows love Carolina—so much that they moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to Chapel Hill to be closer to their alma mater, reinforcing their commitment to the University they hold dear. In addition to supporting five consecutive fundraising campaigns, the Snows have served on more than a dozen University boards and committees over the years, and both have served on the Friends of the Library Board.

“We were coming here four to five times a year, not counting football and basketball,” shares Sarah. “We kind of laughed and said, ‘Why are we doing this? Let’s just move to Chapel Hill.’ And here we are.”

Twenty years later, they’re still here in Chapel Hill, supporting Carolina.

The Snows’ planned gift, totaling more than $2.6 million, is allocated to three entities on campus: University Libraries, the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) and the Rams Club.

The Snows have given to the Library in all five campaigns. Their most recent planned gift supports the Southern Historical Collection at the Wilson Special Collections Library. Claude was a work-study student for the Library in this collection throughout his four years as an undergraduate studying history at Carolina.

“The Library touches the entire campus, and it impacts both undergraduate and graduate students,” Sarah says. “You cannot be a student at Carolina and not, at some point, have an interaction with the Library.”

Their gift to the University Libraries allows for much flexibility for future leaders, highlighting the Snows’ trust in Carolina.

Lifelong learners

The Snows recognize the importance of supporting Carolina, in part, because of how their liberal arts education and graduate student experience have positively impacted their lives and careers. Sarah and Claude both started their careers in network computing and communications.

“Having a background in liberal arts gave us the ability to constantly learn and to continually want to learn,” explains Sarah, whose work in the technology field required constant effort to keep up or risk being obsolete.

Ultimately, Claude took a different path when he joined Deloitte & Touche. He said his graduate studies helped him become a successful management consultant.

“Across my life, it’s made me a better strategist and operations analyst. I was going into troubled companies, re-strategizing particular areas and creating new operating models. I was almost always successful, and I credit that to really honing my analytic and strategic thinking skills while in graduate school.”

Nowadays, when the Snows aren’t volunteering as board members or serving on committees, they spend their time reading, traveling and playing with their three grandchildren.

“We are blessed, the idea of a planned gift appealed to us,” says Sarah. “We can delay the monetary outlay until we are no longer around, and our bequest will benefit others going forward.”

“Carolina has a special meaning to us because we believe in many of the things the University has come to stand for and the good works that it does,” adds Claude.

To read the full story about Claude and Sarah Snow’s gift to Carolina, visit go.unc.edu/WindowsSnow.

To explore the impact your gift could have on Carolina’s libraries, contact Blue Dean, executive director of Library development: blue.dean@email.unc.edu or 919-843-0141.
Undergraduates used archival collections in Wilson Library this spring to develop an exhibition about the history of women at Carolina. The COVID-19 pandemic moved the class online. See page 6.

Photo by Johnny Andrews, University Communications