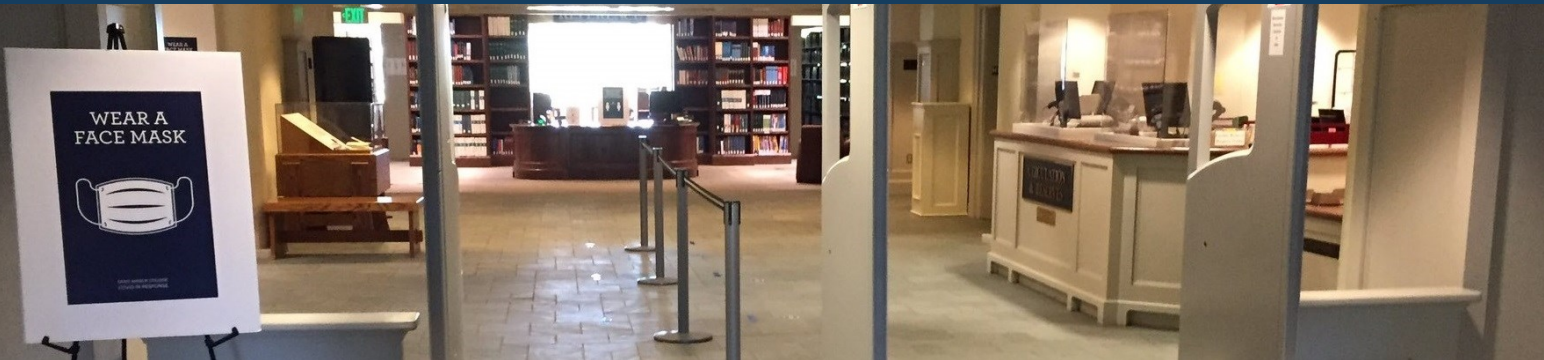


# NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE GEISEL LIBRARY

# VERSO

SUMMER / 2020 / VOL. 2, NO. 1



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Fall Lecture: The Book and Bookish Things**

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020  
Time: 7-8 p.m.  
Location: Online

### **2021 Annual Day Planner** December 2020

### **Verso (vol. 2, no.2)** February 2021

Visit our Friends of the Geisel Library website for details and up to date information:

<https://www.anselm.edu/geisel->

## **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Greetings Friends of the Geisel Library,

As we get ready to start a very different year at Saint Anselm College, I'm reminded in two ways of 'the power of friends.' The first is this group who, in an organized way, we were just getting to know when our lives changed dramatically back in March. As this Newsletter will explain, we will have to do things differently this year. You got an unscheduled preview of this disruption over the past months as we had to cancel anticipated programming. We'll be working our way through the 2020-21 academic year carefully, and as soon as we can, we'll return to our previous plans to engage more fully with you. Stay the course with us!

My second example comes from the many friends I have made during my long tenure in this business. Library communities are mostly very friendly, sharing groups. It has always been easy to call on a director colleague, a mentor, or a friend in the vendor ranks (the 'Dark Side' as we like to say with a smile). Now, more than ever, college librarians have bound together to share ideas, seek solutions, and yes – vent – not only as higher education changes but as Covid-19 rudely interrupts what we are trying to accomplish. I appreciate this 'power of friends' so much, and I am sure each of you has a group that gives you resources and some much needed grounding. We'll be thinking of you, and we'll really look forward to seeing you again – hopefully in the not too distant future.

~ **Charles Getchell, College Librarian**

**FALL LECTURE****The Book and Bookish Things**

The Friends of the Geisel Library will sponsor a virtual Fall Lecture with a Zoom presentation by Keith Chevalier, the Archivist and Head of Special Collections. On virtual view will be a selection of recent acquisitions and rare favorites from our Special Collections. Using examples from each of the four Special Collections, he will discuss strengths of the collections, the notion of rare and unique, and the variety of uses of these items in classes and scholarship.

**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Online

**RSVP by Monday, October 12, 2020:**

[geiselfriends@anselm.edu](mailto:geiselfriends@anselm.edu) | 603-641-7365

We will email you a link to join the live lecture online after we receive your RSVP.

**News****Geisel Library in the era of COVID-19**

We are indeed in strange times as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every level of library services and resources. We completely shut down in-person services at the end of March when the college closed our campus and sent students, faculty, and staff home to finish out the Spring semester remotely.

As a result our spring lecture on April 17th was cancelled and this summer newsletter delayed as we followed the college's health protocols and guidance. We are pleased to share that we reopened our doors to current students, faculty, and staff on Thursday, August 6th. However, the college's current visitor policy prevents us from inviting our Geisel Friends back in the building.

We regret that the benefits of your Friends membership have been put on hold and are delayed for the time being. All in person events, including our Annual Book Sale in October are cancelled for the coming academic year.

For this reason we are extending your membership free of charge this year. You will continue to receive our bi-annual newsletter, invitations to online programming, and the 2021 annual day planner. However, following the campus COVID-19 protocol for visitors, borrowing privileges and access to our facilities are temporarily unavailable. We thank you for your patience and continued support as we navigate through new procedures to keep our community safe and healthy.

We will of course let you know when full benefits are reinstated. For now, please enjoy this newsletter and our virtual fall lecture in October. As always, you may visit our Friends of the Geisel Library web page for up-to-date information: <https://www.anselm.edu/geisel-library/services/friends-library>.

## DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

### COLLECTIONS AND USER SERVICES

The purchasing of print materials came to a grinding halt in March when we closed our doors due to COVID-19. However, this was an opportunity for us to expand our electronic book holdings. We successfully established new partnerships with publishers and book vendors to acquire electronic books and ensure that our faculty and students were able to complete their spring and summer course work and research from the safety of their homes. While we have reopened our building and most students have returned to campus for the fall semester, we continue to expand our electronic collections to support online learning and 100% access to our resources. Faculty, also called to ensure remote access to their course content, have increased their requests from the library for streaming videos to incorporate into their course work for students. Not all films are available electronically, but thus far we've been able to fulfill all requests for streaming media.

### FRANCO-AMERICAN COLLECTIONS, MONSIGNOR WILFRID H. PARADIS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

#### A Hilltop Heritage

Prompted by the cancellation of Alumni Reunion, Keith Chevalier created a virtual historical walking tour of campus called *A Hilltop Heritage*. While he has given in-person versions of this tour for alumni, students, and others, he decided that having an online tour ready for Reunion in early June would be a nice opportunity for alumni to visit the campus remotely. Using photographs from the College Archives, Keith placed points on current satellite maps of where photographs were likely taken as if a camera in 1893 had built-in GPS. The earliest photograph in this tour is from around 1889 and the most recent is from the 1990s. For the college's 125th anniversary, he created a related walking tour brochure.

The online walking tour, *A Hilltop Heritage*, can be viewed at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2e30798d35ce4f389a4806f3f531edf2>

### REFERENCE AND INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

The Reference and Instructional Services Department has adapted its services this fall semester to follow physical distancing guidelines while maintaining our accessible level of service. The Reference Desk has gone entirely virtual, continuing to offer research help every day of the week by email, phone, text, and online chat, and adding drop-in and scheduled Zoom consultations to substitute for our usual physical reference desk and office appointments. Library instruction is also taking place entirely online this semester, and our reference and instruction librarians are excited to use interactive online teaching methods to continue to teach library research sessions in a personalized way.

Among Reference Department staff, Hannah Cabullo has recently transitioned from Interim Head to Head of Reference & Instructional Services. Rebekah Dreyer, Reference & Instruction Librarian, has been actively involved in the College's newly created Anselmian Network for Racial Justice, and continues to serve on the Sophomore Experience Committee.

### LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

In addition to completing technology intense projects, such as implementing much appreciated *Single Sign-on* authentication to our library research databases, and setting up (for evaluation) a potential alternative one-search Discovery tool... library technical staff have also assisted with making the Library more "pandemic-ready," if we can use that term. Within our Library Sierra system, this meant early on that we were globally reviewing and adjusting due dates on checked out items, and addressing "overdues" that simply could not be remedied when both the library and the campus closed due to Covid-19 precautions. Similarly, since we have re-opened, our Sierra system allows us to implement a 4-day "quarantining" of returned (or checked-in) items, such that items are set aside and not automatically displayed as "Available" until after a 96 hour waiting period.

On the library-building front, we have arrows and signs everywhere! Thus Geisel is no exception to what has become a new norm for social gathering spaces on campus, with newly established one-direction traffic flows for entrances/exits, stairwells, seating patterns, and the like. Add to that face masks on all library users, sanitizing wipes in action everywhere, and frequent cleaning regimens on the scene, and Geisel Library is welcoming community members with all the new precautions that have come to symbolize this remarkable year that will have been... 2020.





Saint Anselm College  
**GEISEL LIBRARY**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Geisel Library, circa late 1980's

## Franco-American Portal

College Archivist, Keith Chevalier serves on a board at the University of Maine that will manage a recently awarded National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant. The NEH grant will fund the development of an online discovery tool to provide access to Franco-American collections across the US and Canada (including our Lavalliere Franco-American Collections).

For more information: <https://umaine.edu/news/blog/2020/04/21/neh-funds-development-of-first-ever-online-bilingual-portal-to-several-franco-american-archives/>