

## Cheng Library Welcomes Middle and High School Researchers

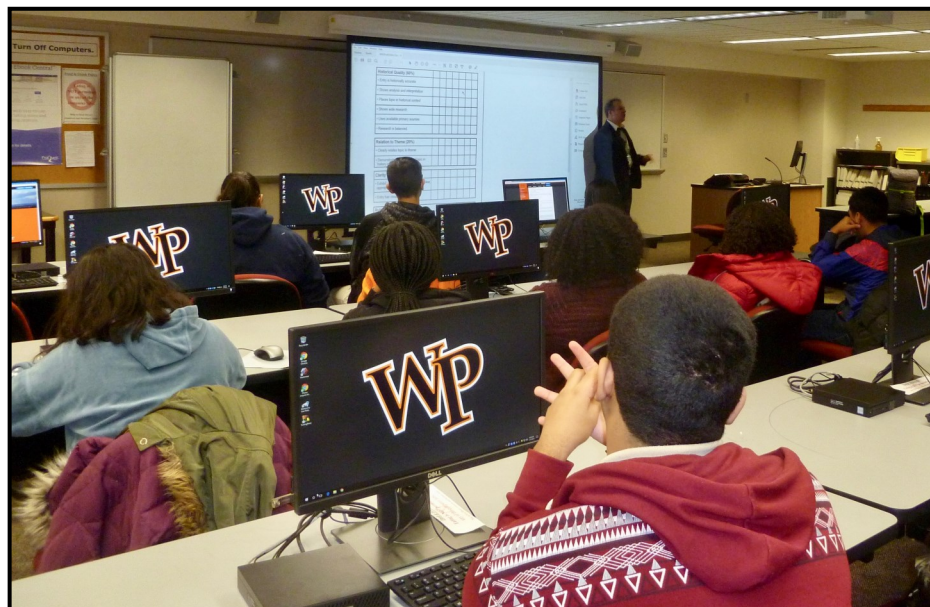
Each year the Cheng Library's popular user instruction program provides orientation and research sessions to hundreds of classes on campus, offering everything from an introduction to library resources and services for Pioneer Success Seminars to advanced research techniques for graduate seminars.

In addition, the Library also welcomes visiting classes from local middle schools and high schools, and provides students with help in using academic library resources for special assignments and projects.

This year the Library hosted sessions for classes from Eastern Christian High School in Haledon, Henry B. Whitehorn Middle School in Verona, and John F. Kennedy High School and Eastside High School in Paterson. Three of the classes visited during the January break between the University's fall and spring semesters.

Reference librarian Richard Kearney taught the classes, three of which focused on preparing entries to compete in this year's New Jersey History Day contest. Kearney has served for 18 years as a judge in the event's final qualifying competition held at William Paterson each May. His expertise was valuable for the students, and he began each session by describing the qualities judges look for when evaluating entries.

"I try to give the students a peek behind the scenes, to demystify the judging process, and to set them at ease so they can approach their projects with a sense of confidence and a spirit of adventure," Kearney said. "When students get excited about and interested in their topics, the research can be enjoyable. When it's



Richard Kearney instructing students from Eastside High School in the Cheng Library classroom.

time to put the pieces together for an entry, whether it be an exhibit, a documentary film, a website, a performance, or a paper, I emphasize that the key to a great entry is the interpretation or the specific story they want to share with others."

During the sessions, students explored a wide variety of information sources, including reference materials, books, article and image databases, government document collections, multimedia resources, statistical compendia, and web-based digital collections of primary sources.

Students from John F. Kennedy High School visited the library for an orientation to sources in literary criticism to support their study of the classic novels *Wuthering Heights* and *The Great Gatsby*. The students made use of critical essays and other resources focused on the novels, the authors, and the historical and cultural context of their work. The availa-

bility of so many of the library's resources in electronic format meant that the students could save copies of relevant items to refer to after class.

At the Cheng Library, Richard serves as the history subject specialist and liaison to the History Department. He has created research guides related to New Jersey History Day and all aspects of world history, United States history and historical methods.

Kearney hopes the on-campus experience will help students acquire new research skills and give them a appreciation for what they can anticipate when continuing their education in college.

In addition to introducing the students to these valuable academic materials, Richard commented, "I also want them to think of the staff of the Cheng Library as a good neighbor, a local resource they can trust when they need assistance with the kinds of materials and services we offer."

## Three Library Exhibits Feature Artwork from the University Galleries

The Cheng Library has an active and creative group of staff members who volunteer to participate in developing exhibits for the display cases located throughout the Library. Usually these exhibits are organized around a theme or holiday and feature noteworthy books from the Library's collection.

Recently, the Library collaborated with the University Galleries to present three exhibits. All of these exhibits included items from the collections of the University supplemented with relevant books from the Library. The Library staff scheduled and designed the displays in association with Kristen Evangelista, Director of the University Galleries.

An exhibit of Artists' Books featured several individually created books that are also works of art. These items are in the University's collection but are rarely displayed. The exhibit also included library books related to the history of books, bookmaking and typography.

A second exhibit featured items from the University's Tobias Collection. This large collection of African art was donated to the University by Joan and Gordon Tobias. The exhibit in the lobby case of the Cheng Library showcased a diverse and expressive selection of items from this collection. The items were chosen by



One portion of the Library display with items from the University's Tobias Collection.

Meghan DeMora, graduate assistant.

The artwork displayed included a reliquary guardian figure designed by the Kota People of Gabon, covered baskets, wedding baskets, spirit figures, carved masks, decorated gourds and other household implements. These items were noteworthy for their ethnographic significance as well as their artistic value.

A third collaboration took place during the fall 2017 semester and coincided with the University's "Food for Thought" series. This display featured

food-related artist books from the University as well as books from the Library about food preparation, recipes, cultures, foraging, and the farm-to-table movement. This display in the Cheng Library was coordinated with an exhibit in the University Galleries titled "Breaking Bread: Artists Explore Food Practices."

The staff of the Cheng Library welcomes opportunities to work with other University departments in developing library displays. Please contact the co-chairs of the Library Exhibits Committee, Leah Marie Zamora and Patricia Moore.

## Gary Marks, Jr. Appointed Reference and Outreach Librarian

Gary Marks, Jr. joined the Cheng Library faculty on September 18, 2017 as the Reference and Outreach Librarian. In this position, Gary is responsible for leading the Library's outreach efforts, coordinating the Liaison Program, and providing reference and research instruction. Gary serves as the Library Liaison to the Political Science and Geography & Urban Studies departments. He is also the Library's contact for the University's co-curricular and extracurricular units.

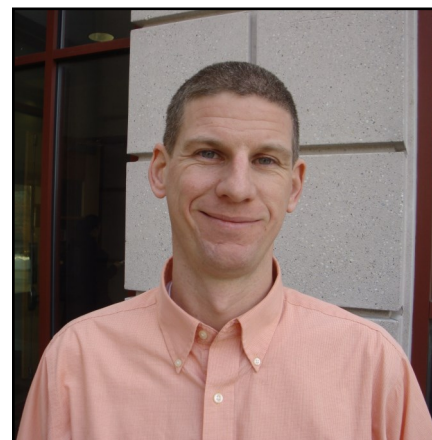
Gary has a B.A. degree in History and Political Science and an M.A. in Public Policy & International Affairs, both from WPUNJ. He also received a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Rutgers, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy, Law & Administration with an emphasis on Higher Education Policy.

Gary began working in the Library as a student assistant in 1997, and has continued his service at the Cheng Library since then working in both Lending Services and Interlibrary Loan prior to his current role in Reference. Outside of the Library, Gary was an Adjunct Instructor for Pioneer Success Seminar and Political Science.

Gary is on the University's Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Committee and serves as the Library's representative on the Faculty Senate Governance Council. Statewide he was appointed Legislative Representative to the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association's College and University Section.

About his new position, Gary commented, "I am very excited to continue my work at the University, and in my

capacity as Outreach Librarian, I am looking forward to building strong relationships between the Cheng Library and the campus community."



Gary Marks, Jr.  
Reference and Outreach Librarian



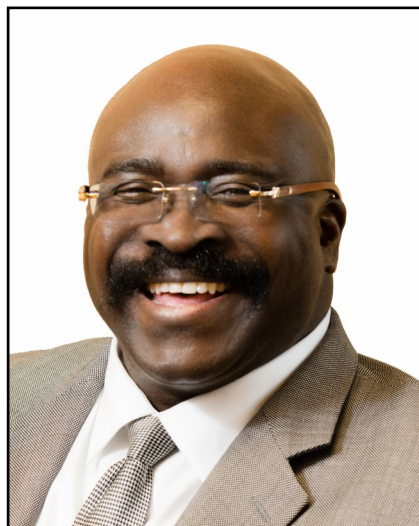
# Adapting to Today and Tomorrow at Cheng Library!

## *A Message from the Dean of Cheng Library, Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah*

Welcome to Spring 2018 and with the New Year, let us articulate some hopes for the rest of the academic year and beyond at Cheng Library. We remain your favorite academic space, with Fall 2017 attendance remaining strong. We are proud of the services and resources we offer, and the targeting of collections to provide the best bang for our bucks even in a challenging information marketplace. But we know, as Danuta A. Nitecki ("Changing the Concept and Measure of Service Quality in Academic Libraries," 1996) points out, that in light of funding challenges in higher education and the difficulties of creating library collections singularly adequate to support campus teaching and research, "a measure of library quality based solely on collections has become obsolete."

This compels libraries to pay greater attention to evolving user dynamics and demands, and changes in student and faculty behaviors and expectations. We continue to do so and to respond accordingly, always seeking the right balance. Our ongoing collection improvements and rightsizing activities represent such an attempt, as we work on providing you with materials that have greater relevancy to your academic and research pursuits, while ensuring the effectiveness of your engagements with the Library and appreciation of the environment within which you operate once you are within our walls. The evidence does indeed support Heather B. Terrell's ("Reference is Dead, Long Live Reference: Electronic Collections in the Digital Age," 2015) observation that library use is increasing probably because "users want access to computers, instruction in technology, study spaces, or just a place to be that's not home, not school, and not work."

This evolving perception of the contemporary academic library user and the associated demands it places on library operations cannot be overemphasized. As Darlene Weingand (Customer Service Excellence, 1997) puts it, "If a library is going to survive – and thrive – in this new electronic environment, it will have to let the market (its customers) define value." Our customers communicate regularly their desire to see more current, relevant, and easy to access content. They prioritize comfortable environments and flexible spaces that suit their learning and study styles and preferences, and they want effective and friendly services as well as guidance and support in their research and academic pursuits. So we focus on streamlined collections, adaptable and collaborative spaces, greater participation in instruction



Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah  
Dean of Cheng Library

and student success activities, and spaces better suited to student learning, research, and socialization. The goal is to position the vital real estate, resources, personnel, and expertise of the library to most effectively support the core academic functions of the University.

To that end, we weeded our reference collection at a diligent pace over the past semesters. We expanded our electronic holdings and converted many print subscriptions and titles to digital. We did so to improve your anywhere and anytime access to these information sources. The growing professional consensus in the field of librarianship recognizes that in a 24/7 web world, our patrons are better served by reference collections that are predominantly electronic and always accessible when needed. We are also weeding the circulating collection to bring our collections in greater alignment with S. R. Ranganathan's five laws of library science, librarianship's foundational philosophy: books are for use, every reader their book, every book its reader, save the time of the reader, the library is a growing organism. It is a nod to Donna J. Baumbach and Linda L. Miller (Less is More, 2006), who wrote: "In this age of rapidly changing information, it is imperative that we keep our collections up to date. This means selecting and purchasing new materials and discarding or recycling others. Weeding has many benefits. As you weed, you will get to know your collection better and you will be better able to get the right 'stuff' into the right hands at the right time."

We deselect and refresh to underpin the importance of use to our collection develop-

ment decisions. We make sure that the materials we collect and retain are in line with user information and knowledge needs, and are processed to guarantee ease of access. We are guided by the realization that carefully selected and maintained collections save users time and reduce the chance for irrelevant retrievals. Our efforts are ultimately in recognition of changing times and evolving user expectations and demands. We also take into consideration the caution Alex D. McAllister and Allan Scherlen (Weeding with Wisdom: Tuning Deselection of Print Monographs in Book Reliant Disciplines," 2017) ask us to exercise when they note that weeding library collections should always be done with sensitivity to disciplinary differences. We are proceeding carefully and intentionally and regularly seek faculty input.

At the beginning of the Fall 2017 semester, I expressed the hope that we could achieve greater enhancements to your experience in your favorite academic gathering and meeting space, Cheng Library. The University is working on that and will hopefully soon begin carpeting of the library to improve the environment in which you work, learn, and socialize. As resources allow, we will seek transformations that further enhance your experiences in the library, and we will always have at your disposal the unparalleled expertise of our library faculty and staff, who have always demonstrated their commitment to serving and satisfying you, the library patron, in a manner that enriches your experience and helps you succeed at William Paterson University. These colleagues of mine embody a spirit of service that Karl Albrecht (The Only Thing That Matters: Bringing the Power of the Customer into the Center of your Business, 1992) captured as "an attitude, based on certain values and beliefs about people, life, and work, that leads a person to willingly serve others and take pride in his or her work." They understand that structures and organizations matter, but know that it is the people involved who are most responsible for achieving the results we desire.

In conclusion, it is common knowledge that all libraries operate within the context of the missions and aspirations of their parent institutions. Cheng Library is no different. Our mission remains to contribute to the success of an academic enterprise with ever-changing participants and evolving expectations, and an information landscape under constant transformation. We adapt, adjust, and operate knowing, as Yogi Berra observed, that "the future ain't what it used to be." That provides an inspiring challenge.

# Library Acquires Access to a New Resource for Historical Research

The Cheng Library recently acquired access to the historical periodicals collection of the American Antiquarian Society, a major research library of pre-twentieth century American history and culture. Founded in 1812 by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas, the American Antiquarian Society is both a learned society and a major independent research library.

The original periodicals have been digitized from the extensive collections of the American Antiquarian Society, and the publication dates of the titles in this collection range from 1684-1876. The periodicals cover a wide range of subjects and provide access to unique materials for research into American history and culture prior to the twentieth century.

The collection represents the largest and most accessible compilation of



books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music, and graphic arts material printed through 1876 in what is now the United States.

Also included are manuscripts and a substantial collection of secondary texts, bibliographies, and digital resources and reference works related to all aspects of American history and culture before the twentieth century.

This collection provides full-text access to more than 7,500 historic periodicals that have been digitized from the extensive holdings of the

Society. The articles are formatted as scanned page images of the original periodicals. The database supports the annotation of individual documents with a personal account, and the export of documents to PDF format.

The American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals Collection can be accessed via the Cheng Library's website. For additional information about this unique historical collection, please contact Richard Kearney, Electronic Resources Librarian, by email at [kearneyr@wpunj.edu](mailto:kearneyr@wpunj.edu).

## Cheng Library Wins "Overall Best" Award for Door Decorating Contest

The Cheng Library was selected as the recipient of the "Overall Best" Award in the University's Homecoming Door Decorating Contest in October.

The Cheng Library has participated in this campus-wide competition for the past three years, and has always received an award for one of the contest's categories. Last year, the Cheng Library won for "Most Creative."

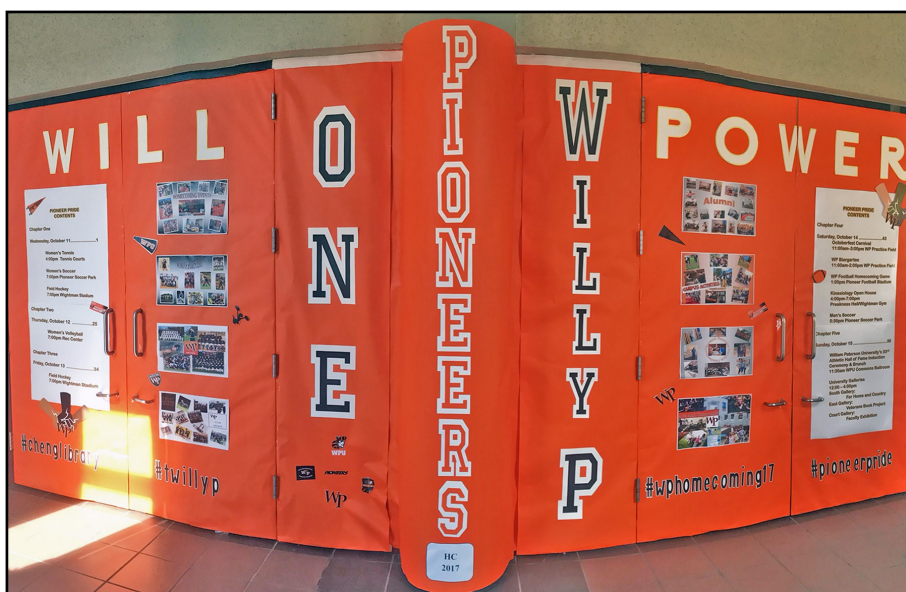
Five Library staff members were responsible for the design, planning, construction, and installation of the decorations:

Patricia Moore, Sherri Tucker, Radha Ravichandran, Leah Marie Zamora, and Gary Marks. They were recently recognized for their ingenuity and creativity.

This year, the decorations incorporated collages that focused on different aspects of student life such as campus activities, athletics and alumni. The

dual themes of Pioneers and "One Willy P" were prominently displayed, and the design featured the creative utilization of the University's brand "Will. Power." A list of events for Homecoming Weekend was also part of the presentation.

Congratulations to Leah, Radha, Pat, Sherri and Gary for this award!



The front doors of the Cheng Library decorated for Homecoming Weekend.

### CONNECTIONS

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