PROJECT GADO

Thomas Smith graduated last year from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in Anthropology and Cognitive Science. The summer before his senior year he was working on an East Baltimore oral history project and sought out illustrations from the photo archive of the *Afro-American* Newspaper.

There he found fellow students beginning the slow process of manually scanning the photo collection as part of the Johns Hopkins Center for Africana Studies' Diaspora Pathways Project .

Currently, Smith explained to *Baltimore Sun* Technology Reporter Gus Sentimentes last month, archival digitization "can be incredibly disruptive [with] high upfront costs". Maryland State Archivist Edwin Papenfuse concurred that "all of the solutions to this point have been very expensive".

Smith tackled devising an automated way of overcoming that obstacle. He went to work in the basement of the University's Center for Social Concern and built a robot capable of lifting and scanning both sides of a photograph. The premise of his project was that "if you lower the cost enough, you can take the risk out of digitization." His initial product worked for the Afro Archives.

@*Johns Hopkins, Homewood Campus*

Welcome to Homewood!

Kelly Spring, Special Collections & Archives
Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Homewood Campus, Johns Hopkins University

The Spring Collaborative meeting will take place Friday, May 11th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library on the Homewood Campus of the Johns Hopkins University. Highlights of the meeting will be a presentation on *Project Gado* [see left column] and the JHU Special Collections digitization unit. For those who care to stay, a tour of the library will follow the meeting.

The tentative agenda is as follows:

Time	Event
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Coffee & Tea
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Welcome
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Project Gado
10:45 am - 11:00 am	break
11:00 am - 11:30 am	JHU Special Collections Digitization Unit
11:30 am - 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Business Meeting
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Optional Tour

PLEASE RSVP via *http://anyvite.com/events/home/rekmvg4rdj* . Directions to campus are available through the *anyvite* page.

Lunch:

When you respond, you will see a drop down menu titled "*Item to Bring*" which is where you may select from the three boxed meals which listed on the on the *anyvite* page. Boxed lunches will be $6.00, payable in cash on the day of the meeting.

Participants are welcome to bring their own brown bags or to visit one of the many local eateries across Charles St. from the library.

Parking:

Parking for the meeting is available in the university's San Martin Garage ($9.00 all-day fee - accessible from San Martin Dr. off of University Pkwy.), or in its South Garage under Mason Hall ($15.00 all-day fee - accessible from Wyman Park Dr. off of Art Museum Dr.

Metered parking is available along Charles St. and University Pkwy. and on the University's North Lot on San Martin Dr. with free parking south of 29th St.   HOWEVER, some streets are cleared for rush hour traffic and towing is strictly enforced. CAUTION!!! Please read all parking signs before leaving your vehicle.

The Path to Brody Learning Commons, Through Milton S. Eisenhower Library

Margaret Burri, Associate Director
Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University
{from "The Path to Brody, Part I"; and "Who's in Brody
 - Special Collections" on the *Sheridan Libraries Blog*, 2012}

JHU will soon open the Brody Learning Commons (BLC) alongside the Milton S. Eisenhower Library (MSES) at the heart of the Homewood campus. Over fifty years ago, much like today, the university was in need of a building with the latest technology, designed with users in mind and intended to be the heart of the campus. The solution then was the MSES.

Looking at the building today, it's hard to imagine that these were the goals for it, but that is what the architects had in mind. Really, condemning us to life underground truly was not the architects' intent. When it opened, the Baltimore Sun noted the clever way the architects introduced light through the south-end windows, and provided living-room like sofas and chairs in the lounge areas. An earlier Sun journalist described during the design phase that "Color will be used on wall surfaces and books sacks and furniture along with good fluorescent lighting to brighten up the area where no natural light will penetrate" (July 22, 1962).

Much like today, the architects were challenged to replace a library (in Gilman Hall) that students interviewed by the *News-Letter* in 1960 described as "deplorable...monstrously crowded...full almost to the point of overflowing...archaic...disgusting... [and] hardly conducive to efficiency" (*News-Letter*, October 21, 1960).

When the MSEL opened in 1964, it contained a cutting-edge computing center featuring the latest in IBM mainframe technology. The two IBM 1401 mainframes were connected to APL and the Welch Medical Library, launching a history of collaboration with our library colleagues that continues to this day.

What about the people side? As time went on, we became victims of our own success. We definitely became the heart of the campus, but the comfy lounge areas gave way to study carrels made necessary by growing student enrollment, and the "good fluorescent lighting" never really met expectations. The time had come to find a way to return to our original intentions. And thus the path to Brody began.

The BLC will be student-focused space, full of natural light, group study space and a bigger café. We have, though, carved out some space for two departments that you'll definitely want to check out when the building opens: Special Collections and Conservation and Preservation.

Special Collections has always had a strong presence in the Eisenhower Library. During the current building's planning stages, a February 20, 1959 press release touted that "Special provisions

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The original robot was named "Gado" ("inheritance" in the West African Hausa language). Sponsored by the JHU Sheridan Libraries and the Abell Foundation, innovation has continued in Project Gado, the goal of which is to create a more user-friendly version of the machine, the Gado 2 to be sold as a kit, which other archives can assemble and use. It will remain open source, and will continue to cost $500 or less to build.

The Project is seeking "other small archives who want to digitize their collections" Smith told the *JHU Gazette* last year. "The ideal user is an archive with a large volume of relatively uniform materials and few human resources. The machine is perfect for something like a newspaper, since the paper's business process resulted in a lot of images produced and stored at much the same size and in much the same way."

Dr. Papenfuse professes himself "very impressed with the thoughtfulness with the way [Gado] is put together". Earlier this year, Project Gado moved into the old Eastern High School on 33rd St. as part of Ebers Smith and Douglas Associated, LLC, an early-stage high technology company operating out of the Baltimore Development Corp's. Emerging Technology Center.

will be made for the University's collection of rare books which are now scattered in a number of locations." When MSEL opened, Special Collection was indeed a jewel in its crown, with exhibit space for the rare and valuable materials set aside on M-Level--right where our General Reference Collection is now. Over the years, as the building underwent various renovations, the department moved to is present location on A-Level, where it was much less visible.

In the the BLC. Special Collections will have a new, larger, brighter reading room (not to worry--we will control UV light), a special seminar room named after long-time professor, Richard Macksey, which will also house his extensive book collection, which he is generously donating to the library; and a video monitor highlighting lots of our most exciting collections.

@*University of Baltimore*
Website Launched

Aiden Faust, Special Collections & Archives
Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore

Langsdale Library Special Collections recently launched a digital initiatives page as a part of the university's new website. This page brings together and highlights various ways digital content from our collections are being contributed to online projects.

Among the projects described are Special Collection's Historypin, Flickr, and CONTENTdm sites. Our Flickr account has received over 30,000 page views since its creation two years ago. Historypin is a more recent endeavor and so far, our contributions

include images of markets, schools, firehouses, landmarks, public housing, and residential areas from 20th century Baltimore. In CONTENTdm, we've recently added 29 video clips from the WMAR-TV news collection.

Each of these digital initiatives supplements the department's mass digitization effort, known as *Archives 24/7*, which has been ongoing since 2006.

@*The Pratt*
Website updated

Michael Scott, Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage Project
State Library Resource Center, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage Project (MDCH) launched its new website on Maryland Day, Monday, March 26. The url is the same, *www.mdch.org*, but we've made some significant changes to the look and functionality of the site.

@*Salisbury University*
Documenting Destruction

David Ranzan, Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture /Blackwell Library, Salisbury University

From March 6-8, 1962, a deadly storm struck the Atlantic coast, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage. Featured in the exhibit are oral histories with firsthand accounts of the event, pictures and news articles from the week of the storm, as well as facts that may surprise you about the storm of the century.

The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture commemorated the 50th anniversary of Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962 with the online exhibit
The Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962: Remembering the Nor'easter that Devastated Delmarva's Coast. To view the exhibit, visit http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/archives/exhibits/digitalexhibits.asp

Content for the exhibit was created by History graduate assistant Nikole Delosier, edited by English intern Kelly Jenney and designed by University Archivist David Ranzan.

In addition to completely revamping the design, we've streamlined the navigation to improve access to collections and partnership information.

We've also upgraded to the newest version of our digital collections management software, CONTENTdm. The changes to the CONTENTdm user interface enable easier searching and viewing of MDCH collections.

@*University of Maryland, Baltimore*

Libraries'Bicentennial

Richard Behles, Historical & Special Collections
Health Sciences & Human Services Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore

The University of Maryland's Health Sciences & Human Services Library, the first library of the University of Maryland, traces its roots back to the year 1813.

Our Bicentennial Task Force already has begun considering plans for our 2013 celebration, and we expect to report on more details as they emerge.

In 1813, the School of Medicine's faculty purchased the private medical book collection from the estate of their deceased colleague Dr. John Crawford (1746-1813) following his death in May.

A native of Ireland and Alumnus of Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. Crawford served as a British Ship's Surgeon and Surgeon Major in the West Indies before coming to Baltimore in 1796.

In Maryland, he became a principal founder of the Baltimore General Dispensary and introduced vaccination to the city in 1800. He was also a principal founder of the Maryland Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge and was a Director of the Baltimore Library.

In 1801, Dr. Crawford became Rt. Worshipful Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Maryland. He also helped to establish the state penitentiary and to found the Bible Society.

Dr. Crawford's was the university's first library collection, and it remains intact today as our Crawford Historical Collection. He is buried in Westminster Churchyard, now on the University of Maryland's founding campus.