

# LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FALL EDITION 2025



Dr. Mun Choi speaks to the crowd at the Capital Campaign Kickoff Celebration on September 5. Also pictured are Todd Graves, B.S. '88, chair of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators, and Michael Williams, B.A. '95, J.D. '98, member of the UM System Board of Curators. Members of the Golden Girls and Mizzou cheerleading squad added to the festive atmosphere.

## POWER THE ROAR AT MIZZOU LIBRARIES

During the first week of September, campus was a buzz with the beginning of the fall semester, a big football rivalry game against the University of Kansas, and the announcement of Mizzou's new capital campaign. Dr. Mun Choi, Chancellor of the University of Missouri, revealed the campaign tagline, "Power the Roar," along with an ambitious goal of \$2 billion in gifts and bequests. Since that announcement, I've been hearing three questions: What is a capital campaign? What's the goal for Mizzou Libraries? And how can I participate?



**SCAN ME**

SCAN HERE TO DONATE OR  
USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

So, what is a capital campaign? We often thank donors for giving us a license to dream, and in some ways a campaign can be seen as an obligation to dream and a chance to turn dreams into reality. Accordingly, library leadership has been busy dreaming about investments and impact, identifying services,

collections and spaces that will be needed to meet the demands of future scholars and putting dollar figures on those aspirations. It's been a lot of fun for us, as we anticipate the impact donors will have on our Libraries, and in turn, the impact Mizzou Libraries will have on the Mizzou experience. We've put a lot of thought into this, and we'd be delighted to share details with you - we'll buy the coffee!

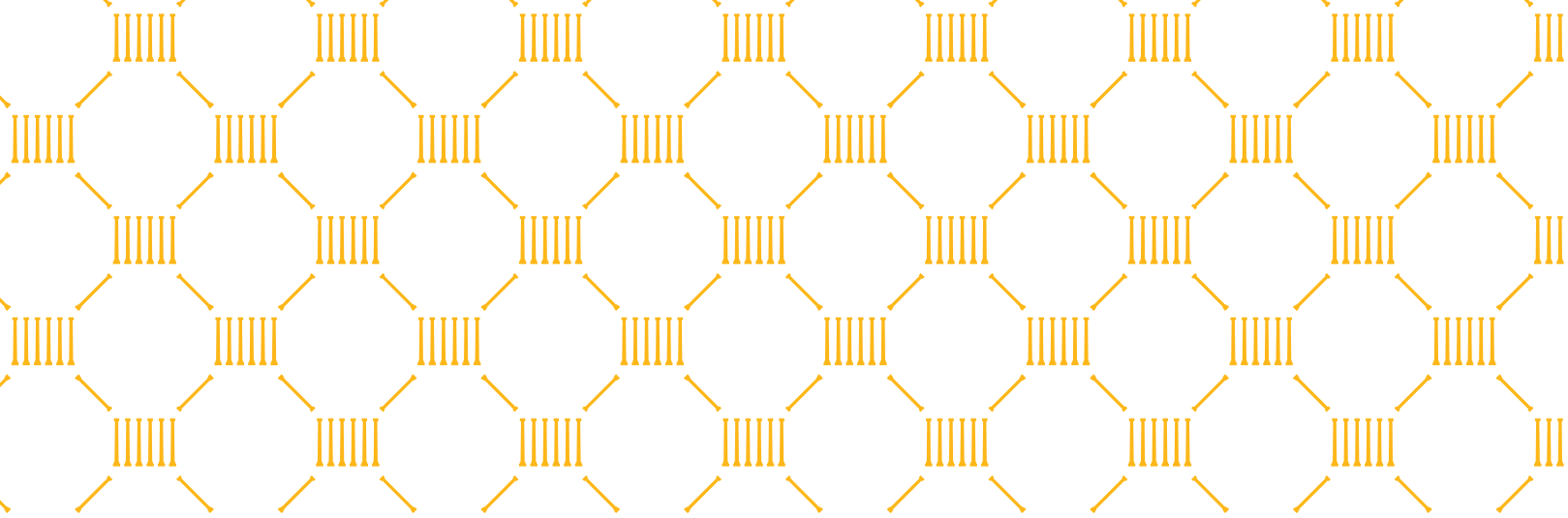
The Libraries portion of the campus goal is \$20 million, and within that goal are opportunities to have an impact with gifts from \$100 to \$5 million or more. Goals are more easily measured when you can put numbers on them, but our true goal is to ensure that we make the necessary investments in our libraries to fuel the scholarship our campus is capable of. This is a unique moment in time for libraries and information infrastructures, as what is possible is changing daily. Great universities will rely on libraries that are resourced to stay current with collections and services, so during the campaign we are turning to our alumni and friends to help us meet the challenges of this unique moment.

Regarding campaign participation, if you've made a gift to Mizzou since July 1, 2022, you're

already participating. Thank you! July of 2022 was the beginning of the silent phase, and we hope to reach the finish line by June 30, 2031. All gifts during that time count toward Mizzou's campaign goal. Making time in your schedule to meet and discuss what's happening at Mizzou's libraries is the best way to get involved. If this is the right time in your life to think about increasing your library philanthropy, please reach out to me or Matt Gaunt, director for development, Mizzou Libraries, to learn more about campaign giving opportunities. We can help match your goals with ours and provide insights into ways you can structure your gift to make it work for your individual situation. We hope to see you soon.

Thanks for thinking of Mizzou Libraries!  
Sincerely,

**Kara Whatley, Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian**



**JILL KLINE,**  
MIZZOU STUDENT SUCCESS LIBRARIAN

## FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS VIEW LIBRARIES AS AN ESSENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCE

**A**s a first-generation student, I have always been passionate about supporting first-generation students! After joining Mizzou as a student success librarian, I started supporting first-generation student initiatives. Eventually, I became a member of the First-Generation Student Success Advisory Board, which meets regularly to ensure we continue supporting our first-generation students best, promoting services, starting initiatives, and creating goals for the First-Generation Student Initiatives coordinator.

When students in Tri-Alpha, the first-generation honor society, answered a question about which campus resource impacted them the most, they all answered the library. One student wrote, "The library and the helpfulness of the faculty! The library has been an amazing resource as someone who needs to study and lives in a place with multiple roommates. The faculty has helped guide me throughout my years here and point me in the direction I needed."

In the past year, I have built tools and initiatives at the library that support our first-generation students both directly and indirectly. I've

presented at student events, to student parents, and at tabling events to share library tools with first-generation students, and I am so excited that they have found our resources helpful!

Here are a few resources that might be helpful for first-generation students or faculty and staff who are interested in discussing how to support first-generation students better:

A new library webpage for first-generation students sharing resources and tools that are curated specifically for first-generation students. Find it here: [libraryguides.missouri.edu/firstgen](https://libraryguides.missouri.edu/firstgen)

The NEW Wellbeing Collection on the first floor of Ellis Library includes resources for first-generation students and other campus groups, as well as books for leisure reading.

A Faculty and Staff First-Generation Initiative, where any faculty or staff member can join our reading group. We meet to discuss articles on first-generation topics monthly, and one book per semester.

## BRINGING THE LIBRARY TO STUDENTS — WHEREVER THEY ARE

**D**id you know that nearly 80% of students begin their research outside the library website — often on platforms like Google Scholar or publisher websites? Thanks to Lean Library, Mizzou Libraries are meeting students where they are.

We're proud to introduce Lean Library, a powerful browser extension that connects students, faculty and staff to library-licensed resources — no matter where they start their search. Whether they're browsing academic articles on the open web or exploring scholarly

databases, Lean Library ensures seamless access to materials the library already provides.

If Mizzou Libraries has access to the article or book, Lean Library will offer a direct link. If not, users can request the item instantly through our resource sharing service — at no cost to them. And if they need help, our live chat service is built into the extension.

This tool is more than just a convenience — it reflects our commitment to removing barriers and streamlining research.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONTEST AWARD WINNERS

The University Libraries Undergraduate Research Contest seeks to recognize and reward outstanding research conducted by undergraduate students at the University of Missouri.

This year the winner of the first-place prize of a \$500 scholarship is Nina Schmolzi, a senior studying anthropology. Her project was “Tracing

Routes Through Roots: Unraveling the Bantu Migration Through Linguistics and Archaeology.” The second-place winner and recipient of a \$250 scholarship is Benjamin Peter, a senior studying electrical engineering. His project was “Robust Defense Against Extreme Grid Events Using Dual-Policy Reinforcement Learning Agents.”

Additionally, Jackson Huenefeldt, a senior studying chemical engineering, was given an honorable mention for his project, “Sounds of the Energy Transition.”

The Undergraduate Research Contest is funded by the Friends of University of Missouri Libraries.

## MIZZOU SUBJECT LIBRARIAN COLLABORATES WITH WRITING CENTER TO ENHANCE GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SKILLS

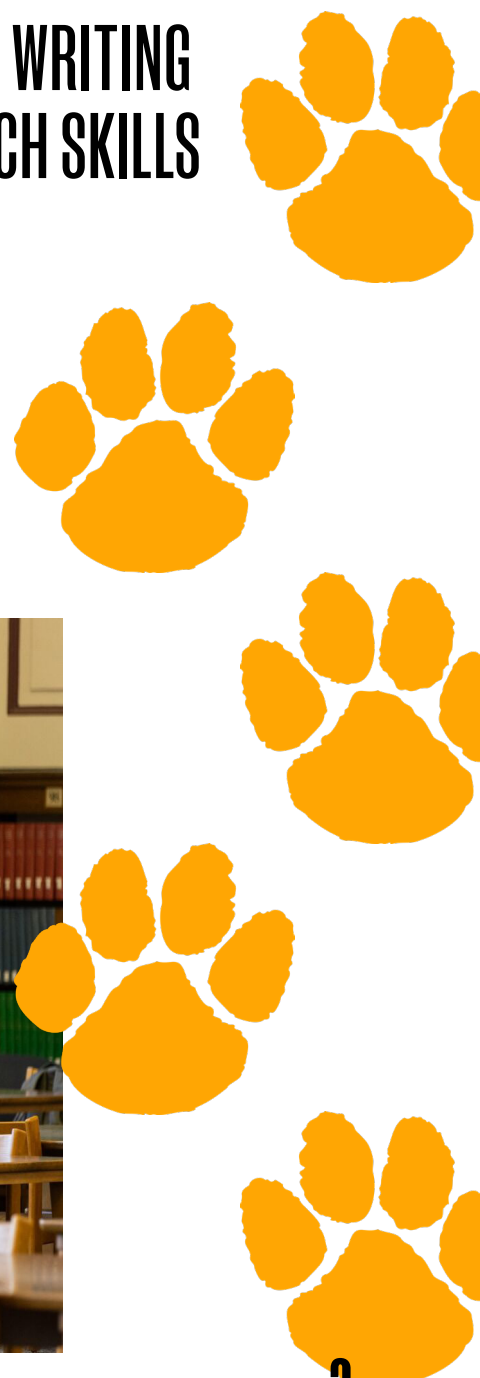
To support graduate students—especially international doctoral candidates—struggling with the demands of academic writing, the Campus Writing Program (CWP) launched the Learn & Write series in fall 2024, partnering with the Writing Center and Mizzou Libraries to offer targeted sessions on graduate-level writing. One highlight was a presentation by Kimberly Moeller, education and social sciences librarian, whose demonstration of Zotero’s citation management capabilities proved transformative for many attendees. Bailey Boyd, assistant director of the Writing Center, praised Moeller’s clarity and practical insights, later inviting her to present again in the evolved GradsLearn series and the January 2025 Disserta-

tion Acceleration and Navigation Group. Boyd emphasized the value of library support, saying, “They’re not just there to help you find books—they can be real partners in your research process.” CWP Associate Director Christy Goldsmith echoed this sentiment, crediting her collaboration with Moeller for improving her own research efficiency and source management.



THEY'RE NOT JUST THERE TO HELP YOU FIND BOOKS—THEY CAN BE REAL PARTNERS IN YOUR RESEARCH PROCESS.

**CHRISTY GOLDSMITH**  
CWP ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



# MEDICAL STUDENTS EXPLORE THE ROOTS OF SCIENCE AT ELLIS LIBRARY

When Dr. Richard J. Barohn, executive vice chancellor for Health Affairs, joined a group of medical students at Ellis Library's Special Collections, his goal was for his students to learn about the history of science. Guided by Dr. John Henry Adams, an instructor and research librarian, the students explored some of Mizzou's antiquarian science books in the fourth-floor classroom.

"Isaac Newton once said, 'We can see further because we are standing on the shoulders of giants,'" Barohn stated. "This visit gave our students the chance to quite literally meet those giants whose discoveries continue to shape their training."

Students were invited to handle rare and historic volumes, a privilege once reserved for gloved hands but now safely done with clean, bare hands thanks to modern preservation practices. They began with a first edition of *Galileo's Dialogo* (Florence, 1632), in which he used the newly invented telescope to confirm that the Earth revolves around the sun. They then examined two of Isaac Newton's works: *The mathematical principles of natural phi-*

*losophy* (London, 1729) and *Opticks* (London, 1730) — one on gravity and another on optics.

The journey continued into the realm of medicine. Students read an early edition of Thomas Willis's *Practice of physick* (Long, 1684), an anatomy book, where he described the intricate blood vessels of the brain — now known as the "Circle of Willis." They also explored a first edition of Charles Bell's *The Nervous System of the Human Body* (Washington, 1883), detailing the anatomy of the facial nerve and the clinical features of facial paralysis, now universally known as "Bell's Palsy."

Marian Toledo Candelaria, the head of Special Collections, stated, "The books that the School of Medicine students explored are some of the foundational texts of modern scientific thought. Designing relevant experiential learning opportunities is at the heart of what Special Collections offers to the Mizzou community, and students had the opportunity to touch, view and discuss the books that contributed to making the medical field what it is today. We are thankful to Dr. Barohn and his students for

championing Special Collections as an important partner in supporting STEM education at Mizzou."



ISAAC NEWTON ONCE SAID, 'WE CAN SEE FURTHER BECAUSE WE ARE STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS.' THIS VISIT GAVE OUR STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO QUITE LITERALLY MEET THOSE GIANTS WHOSE DISCOVERIES CONTINUE TO SHAPE THEIR TRAINING.

**DR. RICHARD J. BAROHN**  
EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR  
FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

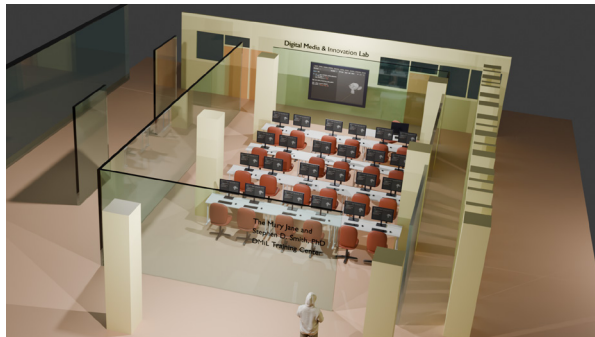
Barohn extended his thanks to the Mizzou Libraries, especially the Special Collections librarians, for making the experience possible. "Their stewardship of these collections ensures that our students can connect with the history of science and medicine in ways that inspire learning for generations to come."



**ABOVE** Dr. Richard J. Barohn, executive vice chancellor for health affairs, (pictured in center) with medical students from the Mizzou School of Medicine.

**LEFT** Medical students observe historical medical books in the Special Collections classroom in Ellis Library.

# DMIL EXPANDS: A NEW ERA OF STUDENT INNOVATION AT ELLIS LIBRARY



**TOP** Rendering of the DMil Expansion

**MIDDLE** The Mary Jane and Stephen D. Smith, PhD, DMiL Training Center has been made possible through a generous gift from the Rev. Ann Evans Self. Ann named the space in honor of her parents, who, along with her grandparents, James E. and Mary Potter Kunkler, inspired her Mizzou philanthropy. The family's generosity across three generations has resulted in major gifts supporting Mizzou Libraries, The School of Journalism, The School of Medicine, The College of Engineering, and The College of Education & Human Development. Their commitment to Mizzou has also included service on numerous boards and committees, and we are truly honored to recognize their love of Mizzou in this important new space in Ellis Library.

**BOTTOM** Students working in the podcast studio

The Digital Media and Innovation Lab (the DMiL) in Ellis Library continues to grow as a hub for student creativity and exploration, and this year marks an exciting new chapter. Thanks to new equipment provided by Mizzou's Center for Academic Success & Excellence (CASE) and a generous donor pledge, we're now positioned to enhance DMiL's resources and expand its vision for the future.

Recently, the DMiL integrated professional-grade audio and video podcast equipment from the CASE Podcast Studio, significantly enhancing its capacity to support student projects. The addition of high-quality microphones, a studio-level soundboard, installed cameras and a camera-switching console means students now have access to advanced audio and video production for podcasts and interviews. Coupled with a professional rack setup, students now have access to cutting-edge tools alongside staff support and training to use them effectively.

At the same time, the Lab is preparing for a transformational step forward: the creation of a freestanding, glass-enclosed classroom adjacent to the DMiL. This flexible, high-tech learning space will house up to 20 high-performance workstations, giving students the chance to develop skills in video editing, 3D modeling, audio editing, VR/AR design and more. Beyond providing structured workshops and class sessions, the transparent design will invite passersby to see innovation in action.

Together, these developments reflect the DMiL's mission to provide equitable access to emerging technologies and to prepare students for a digital-first world, job market and self-directed continuing education. With the integration of new production equipment and the forthcoming classroom space supported by donor generosity, Ellis Library is positioning itself as a central destination for digital fluency at Mizzou. The DMiL will also provide support for teaching faculty who develop assignments that give students the opportunity to develop new skills that will benefit their future studies and employment goals. The DMiL isn't just about giving students tools—it's about giving them the confidence, skills and opportunities to tell their stories, collaborate and thrive in the evolving media landscape.



# WELCOME NEW LIBRARIANS



## DYLAN MARTIN

In the fall, Dylan Martin was appointed as a new research and instruction librarian, supporting social sciences and cultural studies while also chairing the copyright team. A Mizzou alum with a B.A. in English literature and an MLIS, Martin began his library career at Ellis Library and has since held roles in archives, community history and institutional repository management at Lincoln University. He also led operations and a major relocation project at Columbia's KOPN 89.5FM, where he served as general manager. Martin brings a rich background in librarianship, media and community engagement, with research interests in copyright, intellectual freedom and community archives.



## DR. JENNIFER BRADY

Last summer, the Mizzou Libraries welcomed Dr. Jennifer Brady as head of the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library. A Springfield native, Brady brings a strong background in education, literacy and community service, holding an Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership from Lindenwood University, an MLIS from the University of Washington, and a B.S.E.d. in English Education from Missouri State. Her library career began with a Girl Scout Gold Award project creating a GED study center and library in a homeless shelter, and she has since worked in both public and academic libraries. Her research and leadership reflect a deep commitment to student success and academic support.



## DR. MARIAN TOLEDO CANDELARIA

The Mizzou Libraries are pleased to announce that Dr. Marian Toledo Candelaria was appointed as the head of Special Collections over the summer. Marian previously worked at the University of Virginia as the manager for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Education and Human Development. Her previous roles include program manager for Rare Book School and writing and multimodal communication specialist at the University of Waterloo. She holds a doctorate in history and Scottish studies from the University of Guelph and a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons University.



## HALEY LYKINS

In January, Haley Lykins was appointed permanent reference/public services archivist for University Archives after serving in this position on a temporary contract since June of last year. Haley previously served as the Samir Husni Magazine Collection processing coordinator for Special Collections and as a student assistant in Special Collections and Physical Processing. Haley has a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri's School of Information Science and Learning Technologies with an emphasis in archival studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mizzou's School of Visual Studies.



# STAFF NEWS

## KILINE WINS MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD



Jill Kline, student success librarian at Mizzou Libraries, has been honored with the Missouri Library Association's Outstanding New Librarian Award, recognizing her exceptional contributions to library and information services in Missouri. In just two years at Mizzou, Jill has significantly enhanced student engagement and academic success through instructional sessions and campuswide events that have reached thousands. Her initiatives include developing innovative learning tools, securing grant funding for a well-being book collection, and leading outreach efforts for middle and high school students.

## GRANGER RECEIVES CHANCELLOR'S STAFF AWARD



Ashley Granger, senior library specialist in cataloging and metadata at Ellis Library, has received the 2025 Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award in the Technical/Paraprofessional category. This annual honor, presented during the University of Missouri's Staff Recognition Week, celebrates staff members nominated by their peers for exceptional service, dedication, and embodiment of Mizzou's mission and values across the University of Missouri System.

## GRAVES AWARDED SINCLAIR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD



Rebecca Graves, education librarian at the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, was honored with the 2025 Honorary Alumni Award at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing's 35th Annual Nursing Banquet, recognizing her outstanding support for nursing education and research. Through her collaborative work with faculty on initiatives such as systematic reviews and COVID-19 best practices in nursing homes, Rebecca has played a vital role in advancing student success from the start of their academic journey. Her approachable teaching style and ability to simplify complex academic processes have empowered countless students, especially those returning for advanced degrees, to confidently implement evidence-based practice strategies.

## GWEN GRAY RECEIVES BUSINESS LIBRARIANSHIP



Gwen Gray, business, economics and entrepreneurship librarian at the University of Missouri, has been named the 2025 recipient of the BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship Award, presented by the Business Reference and Services Section of the American Library Association. Her work has significantly advanced innovation and entrepreneurship at MU and beyond, with impactful contributions to programs such as the I-Corps Program, MU EQ Student Accelerator, Mizzou Venture Mentoring Service and the Entrepreneurship Workshop Series. Gwen's dedication spans local and national initiatives, fostering community partnerships, mentoring students and professionals, and strengthening networks that support long-term growth in the field.

*Mizzou Libraries, Office of Advancement*

University of Missouri

104 Ellis Library

Columbia, MO 65201-5149

# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES ADVANCEMENT STAFF

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*Kara Whatley*



**Vice Provost & University Librarian**

whatleyk@missouri.edu

573-882-1685

*Matt Gaunt*



**Director of Advancement**

gauntm@missouri.edu

573-884-8645

*Shannon Cary*



**Communications Officer**

carysn@missouri.edu

573-882-4703

With assistance from Celia Condon, Graphic Design Intern

Library Connections is a biannual publication of the Mizzou Libraries. If you'd like to support the Mizzou Libraries, please use the enclosed envelope or contact Matt Gaunt for information about giving opportunities.