Leading Edge Technologies Spark Archaeological Fieldwork

Jordan Tynes, Manager of Scholarly Innovations

For the past two summers, Jordan Tynes, Manager of Scholarly Innovations in Library and Technology Services, has traveled to Greece to explore the application of new technologies to archaeological fieldwork. Joining Bryan Burns, Associate Professor of Classical Studies and co-director of the excavations at ancient Eleon, this new collaboration has generated exciting results, thanks to the funding provided by the Friends of the Library. Entitled Digital Eleon, the project has developed new work with three-dimensional modeling and fabrication through the creation of a mobile technology laboratory. Major pieces of equipment featured in this package include a scanner capable of creating 3D models within a 0.1 mm accuracy, two high-end drones for aerial imaging, a suite of software, as well as on-site support provided by Jordan and two students from the Knapp Internship Program. Portability of this technology activated innovative imaging techniques with a compelling case-study of archaeological remains in Greece.

Ancient Eleon is the most significant archaeological site in a large agricultural valley of central Greece, where the excavation has uncovered material from the Late Bronze Age (1700-1100 BCE), the Classical era (500-400 BCE) and the period of the Ottoman Empire (1400-1600 CE). For the past five years, the research team has included Wellesley students and alumnae, alongside an international team of graduate students, scholars, and archaeological professionals. The excavation is now focused on a group of burials that are contained within an architectural enclosure. The complex history of this area – with tombs that housed multiple burials and a construction of numerous phases – presented new challenges for documentation and representation. Bryan and his excavation colleagues were excited by the possibility that digital models could recreate daily progress of the excavation in full three-dimensional detail, preserve an accurate record of fragile remains before removal, and replicate significant artifacts for study anywhere in the world while the original objects remain in Greece.

In summer of 2015, Jordan joined the effort to improve aerial photography at Eleon and began productive...
I’m happy to be sending you my first report as co-chair on the cusp of spring. The Wellesley campus is certainly lovely in all seasons as I have now had the chance to see, but the physical beauty surrounding me at the College is just icing on the cake, so thrilled am I to be at Wellesley.

Library and Technology Services does so much to enable the excellent education the College provides; there’s hardly an aspect in which LTS is not involved. Going one level further, there is hardly an aspect of LTS in which the Friends of the Library have not played a part. I have seen the first results of the digital documentation of the archaeological excavation in Greece that the Friends so generously supported, making it possible for LTS staff to work with faculty and students this past summer, using drones to help map the site and producing three-dimensional models that support continued study of the site. Having worked in Greece with archaeologists, I know that this is cutting-edge stuff!

Another project that the Friends recently made possible is one that married old and new technologies to support the research of our students and scholars. Our Special Collections include Giacomo Lauro’s *Splendore dell’antica e moderna Roma*, published in 1641 and a key work in understanding the influence of ancient Roman monuments on later art and architecture. We were able to have this volume professionally digitized so that it can continue to be used without endangering the physical book itself.

As I learn more about the collections of the Wellesley libraries, I am continually amazed at their breadth – astounding for a college this size – and testament to the knowledge, dedication and support of librarians, alumnae, faculty, and administration over time. While digital resources have been a part of library collections for decades, we now see more and more books, journals, images, records, etc., being made available only in digital formats. Addressing the preservation of and continued access to these resources is a challenge for us, as is determining the best balance of formats so that library collections can respond to current research needs as well as maintain the scholarly record.

Libraries have changed dramatically since I started in the profession; working through the changes is exciting and one of the things that keeps me in it! Another is the opportunity to collaborate with people who also care about libraries, such as the Wellesley FOL and my capable co-chair, Kerry Carwile Masteller. I look forward to many more changes of seasons with you all.
Welcome To Karen Bohrer, Director of Library Collections

Diane Speare Triant ‘68

Karen Bohrer was born in Connecticut, the daughter of dairy farmers and the first in her family to attend college. Her mother – an avid reader – took her on weekly visits to the public library, engendering in Karen a love of books and library spaces. After receiving her MLS degree and gaining proficiency in four languages, her extensive professional experience included library positions in Chicago, Connecticut, and Athens, Greece, where she was Head Librarian at the American School of Classical Studies. Karen’s most recent position prior to Wellesley was at Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she managed collections assessment and development. She shares some of her thoughts and goals:

Q: How/when did you decide to enter the library sciences field?

Librarianship seemed like a calling more than a reasoned decision. I attended St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland, whose unique program requires students to read widely in a number of disciplines…I didn’t have a clue as to what I would do when I graduated and then, in my senior year, it just hit me and I enrolled in the masters in library science program at Catholic University. I’ve never looked back.

Q: How did your career trajectory take you to Greece?

I had left a position as a library director in a small public library [when] I saw a posting for the position of Library Director at the American College of Thessaloniki…I interviewed for the job here in the US and accepted it without first visiting, staying six years! When the position of Head Librarian for the Blegen Library at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens came open, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to work for that venerable research institution in the capital city.

Q: At Wellesley, what will be some of your priorities?

I’ve only had the honor of being Director of Library Collections for a few months so my priority has been getting to know the Wellesley culture, the collections themselves, and understanding how all my colleagues in Library & Technology Services contribute to the success of LTS as a whole…I want to help put in place methods for evaluating the library resources so that we can be sure we have those that best support teaching and learning at the College. It’s an exciting time to be working with library collections, given the changes in formats (mainly print to digital), developments in scholarly communication such as open access, and changes in the technology that supports research and pedagogy.

Q: What do you consider the greatest strengths of Wellesley’s collections?

Wellesley has an exceptionally fine collection…so strong in so many areas. I must call attention to Special Collections with everything from incunabula to the Browning collection to artists’ books. Our archives and digital collections are special treasures. We work hard to make our unique resources “discoverable” to scholars worldwide.

Q: Describe the collaborative library efforts in which Wellesley participates and how they might influence your collection policies.

Wellesley belongs to several consortia (the Boston Library Consortium, the Oberlin Group, etc.) which enables discount subscriptions to online resources and facilitates the borrowing and lending of materials among member libraries. In the case of the Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (EAST), it allows Wellesley to participate in a shared print cooperative which guarantees that at least one copy of all the circulating books currently held in the consortium will be retained and will be available for loan to any other EAST library. This will allow member libraries to focus their collections and may minimize the need for mass conservation and remote storage of unused volumes.

Q: In your opinion, what is the most major challenge facing academic libraries today?

Being able to acquire and support (through technology infrastructure and space) the resources an academic community needs within the bounds of stagnant or decreasing budgets.

Q: As co-chair of the Friends, what is your vision for the group over the next several years?

The Friends of the Wellesley Library is a strong organization of dedicated people who do so much to support the Library and I am honored to be co-chair. I envision a group whose membership grows as we work together to…publicize the outstanding resources and excellent services of the Wellesley Library.

Q: What do you love most about your job?

The intellectual stimulation inherent in being in some way responsible for the whole of human recorded knowledge.
experimentation with 3D modeling. This relates to his current research which aims to utilize new media and digital fabrication as a facilitator of interdisciplinary collaboration across campus. Jordan also supervises the Knapp Internship Program, which asks students to directly support innovative technology projects across campus by contributing directly to projects, providing instruction sessions on tools, and developing documentation to help the Wellesley community with their work in new media and fabrication.

Jordan and the Knapp Interns have been supporting Clapp Library’s makerspace in the Knapp Media Center since spring 2014, which quickly created new learning opportunities for Wellesley’s students, faculty and staff. 3D printers are used to fabricate objects that relate to coursework and research. Many users, however, quickly realized that the library lacked original materials to manufacture with the printers. One important feature of the FOL funded portable laboratory was 3D scanning hardware and software. This has enabled the creation of original 3D models of nearly any object or landscape in any location, given the tools’ relatively small form factor. The resulting products allow students and faculty to engage with materials from anywhere in the world, creating 3D prints in our on-campus labs, as well as experiencing remote locations and objects in virtual reality environments.

Another important aspect of the new portable laboratory is the quality of the materials generated by the technology. The Digital Eleon team returned from Greece with massive amounts of highly accurate 3D data that can be used to make objective and quantitative observations about the site and archaeological process. This has significantly expanded the capacity to remotely engage with materials and features from the site in Greece. Other courses at Wellesley have begun to find similar uses for the portable laboratory, opening exciting new opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations in Knapp’s makerspace and beyond.

Jordan Tynes uses a 3D scanner to digitally capture an artifact currently on display at the Archaeological Museum of Thebes.
Tucked into one side of the Jewett Arts Center, the Art Library, only steps away from the recently remodeled Davis Museum, is a part of Wellesley’s Library and Technology Services. Its collection of 90,000 volumes as well as access to innumerable online resources is heavily used by students and faculty as well as by the staff of the Davis Museum. In addition, members of the public are welcome to use library materials but may not borrow them.

Brooke Henderson, Art Librarian, collaborates closely with library colleagues and faculty to ensure that collections are available to support student and faculty research and curricular needs. For instance, a logical decision was made that Special Collections would house artists’ books, while the Art Library is home to large photo books.

Art publications, especially journals, are part of the steady shift to electronic publishing. While the quality of images was initially not as good as desired, that has changed dramatically in the past few years. As the ability to display images has improved, faculty have become more receptive to digital journals, recognizing that students strongly prefer having remote access to information. The old “slide library” is managed by the Art Department and is now digital and available on ArtStor, an online digital database of art images.

Brooke provides classroom instruction that can range from a 15-minute “meet and greet” to a full class session, depending on what the faculty member wishes. Each class is carefully tailored to the subject being taught, and regardless of the amount of time spent, she finds that the exposure is invaluable in making the students aware of what the library offers, and is bringing them in.

Brooke spoke about the pleasure of working with student assistants both during the year and during the summer. The Art Library hires students to work at the Circulation Desk during the day as well as evenings and weekends and to perform other needed tasks. The Davis Museum hires student curatorial interns during the summer who use the library to do research for the staff, often in preparation for an exhibition; during the academic year, the museum employs students to serve as guides to the public.

In addition to her role as head of the Art Library, Brooke is responsible for supporting the collections in Art and Architecture, Classical Studies, French and French Cultural Studies, Italian Studies, Media Arts and Sciences, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Philosophy, and Women’s and Gender Studies.
In November, 2016, the Friends of the Library agreed to fund the full digitization of Lauro’s *Splendore dell’antica e moderna Roma*, 1641, which will allow this splendid volume to play a greater role in the Art Department’s curriculum and also to feature in the Davis Museum’s exhibit “Reframing the Past: Piranesi’s *Vedute di Roma,*” opening on February 10, 2017.

The book is a treasure trove, with over 150 plates, many described in Latin, Italian, French, and German. Ruth Rogers, Curator of Special Collections, acquired it specifically to support the Art Department’s many courses on Italy. The volume’s plates are invaluable because they capture ancient Roman monuments as they appeared in the 17th century. The images can then be compared to Piranesi’s more famous etchings of the 18th century in order to assess damage and restorations over time, as well as esthetic innovations in representation.

This past fall, students enrolled in Professor Kimberly Cassibry’s seminar *Roman Monuments: Memory and Metamorphosis* (ARTH 343) were the first to explore the book in depth in Special Collections. They analyzed the pages devoted to the ancient sites they were researching and uploaded images of the plates to a class website they built in support of the Piranesi exhibit. Jordan Tynes, Manager of Scholarly Innovations, and Jen Bartle, Manager of the Digital Scholarship Initiative, both provided key technological support in transferring the images, which include a stunning map of the monuments in their urban context.

Students taking Professor Liza Oliver’s *Art and Architecture of the European Enlightenment* (ARTH 259) this spring will study the plates again from the perspective of 17th and 18th century esthetics and the collectibles market for aristocrats on Italy’s Grand Tour. Students will be the first to take advantage of the volume’s digitization, while the actual book is on view at the Davis Museum. There, the book will appear in a case built to showcase it in the Piranesi exhibit co-curated by Meredith Fluke, Kemper Curator of Academic Programs, and Professor Cassibry. Its installation will include an iPad that Sarina Khan-Reddy, Media and Installation Specialist, will program with the digitized version so that visitors can turn the plates virtually and thereby compare them to the later prints framed on the surrounding walls.

In sum, this one book has already brought together students, faculty, and staff across campus and has fostered both digital and experiential learning. Its full digitization amplifies its ability to support these interdisciplinary connections, with thanks to the Friends of the Library.
Recent Donation To Defray Digitization Cost

The Chicago Wellesley Club recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. To honor the anniversary, after some discussion and cooperation, the board voted to underwrite the expense of digitizing the 1893 Wellesley College Catalogue.

The 1893 Wellesley College Catalogue was displayed at the World’s Columbian Exposition (also known as the Chicago World’s Fair and the Chicago Columbian Exposition). The exposition was held to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the new world.

The digitization was done at the Northeast Document Conservation Center. The catalog, which is too fragile to travel, can now be viewed by all. [http://repository.wellesley.edu/catalogs/111/](http://repository.wellesley.edu/catalogs/111/)

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Thank you for your continuing support!
**FOL Website Changes Coming!**

⭐ How do you use the Friends’ website?
[www.wellesley.edu/lts/fol](http://www.wellesley.edu/lts/fol)

⭐ What information would you like to see added?

⭐ Would you use a Friends’ Facebook page rather than the website? Or would you like both?

⭐ We would love your input! Send your responses to [wfol@wellesley.edu](mailto:wfol@wellesley.edu).