

# River Campus Libraries **Snapshot**

2018–2019



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**



# From the Dean



We spend a lot of time thinking about where and how we expend our energy and resources. Our focus on enriching education, enhancing research, expanding collections, creating new spaces, and engaging community that foster collaboration and idea generation is reflected in the [River Campus Libraries' 2018–2025 Strategic Plan](#). This publication highlights how that vision is coming to life.

In the past year, we celebrated the opening of a new creative problem-solving space and announced our plans for another new space, which will equip students with the expertise, technology, and tools to experiment with perceptions of reality. We received Congressional papers and shared rare pieces from our special collections—in print and song. And we preserved unique original works for future study.

I'm happy to share these examples of how we provide transformative experiences for students and faculty to achieve their scholarly aspirations.

## **Mary Ann Mavrinc**

Vice Provost

Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly Dean  
University of Rochester Libraries

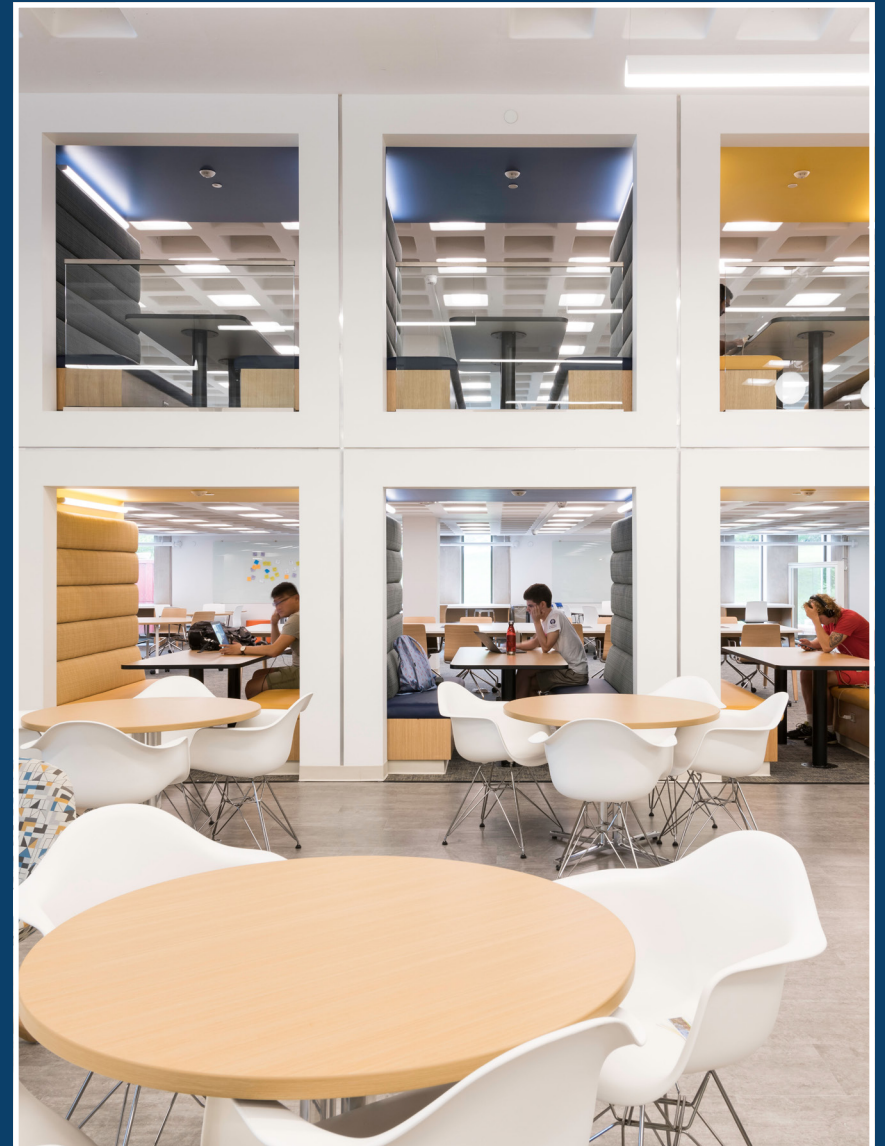


# Idea Exploration

University students asked for a collaborative space where they could bring their creativity and turn it into something that benefits the campus, their community, or parts of society beyond Rochester. We gave them the [Barbara J. Burger iZone](#).

**Open since August 2018**, iZone is a two-story creative problem-solving hub that empowers students to explore their ideas. One of its greatest assets is its director, Julia Maddox, who was recognized in *Library Journal*'s list of "[Movers & Shakers 2019–Innovators](#)."

With the help of her team—and extensive student input—Maddox has created a culture that goes beyond the “a-ha” moments. This is exemplified in part by [Rochester Creators](#), which helps students research, write, and publish their first book, as well as Screw-Up Nights, a recurring event, where members of the University community [share stories of failure and how they grew](#) from those experiences.



# Women in Power



History has mostly seen men holding leadership positions in the world's governing bodies—especially at the highest levels. This past year we highlighted two women who broke the paradigm: Queen Victoria and the Honorable Louise Slaughter.

Queen Victoria reigned as monarch of the United Kingdom of Britain and Ireland from 1837 to 1901. From March 27 through October 5, 2019, the [Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation \(RBSCP\)](#) presented hand-drawn illustrations, etchings, letters, photographs, and other ephemera in the exhibition [Victoria: The Ruling Image](#).

In May, RBSCP received the official [Congressional papers of the late congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter](#), who served as a representative for New York's 25th congressional district from 1987 until her death in 2018. During her 16 terms, she was highly regarded as a champion for women's rights, higher education, the arts and humanities, federally funded research, and other issues. The collection, a gift from Slaughter's family, will be accessible in the coming years.



# AR/VR

Augmented reality (AR) results when digital elements are added to our physical worlds. AR is being used at the University to **teach in new ways**, such as when coffee mugs and Popsicle sticks become virtual reactors and piping, allowing students to simulate a real-life, sprawling chemical plant.

Virtual reality (VR) changes our world, giving us an immersive, interactive experience, which is helping the University pursue breakthroughs in a number of fields, including **neuroscience**.

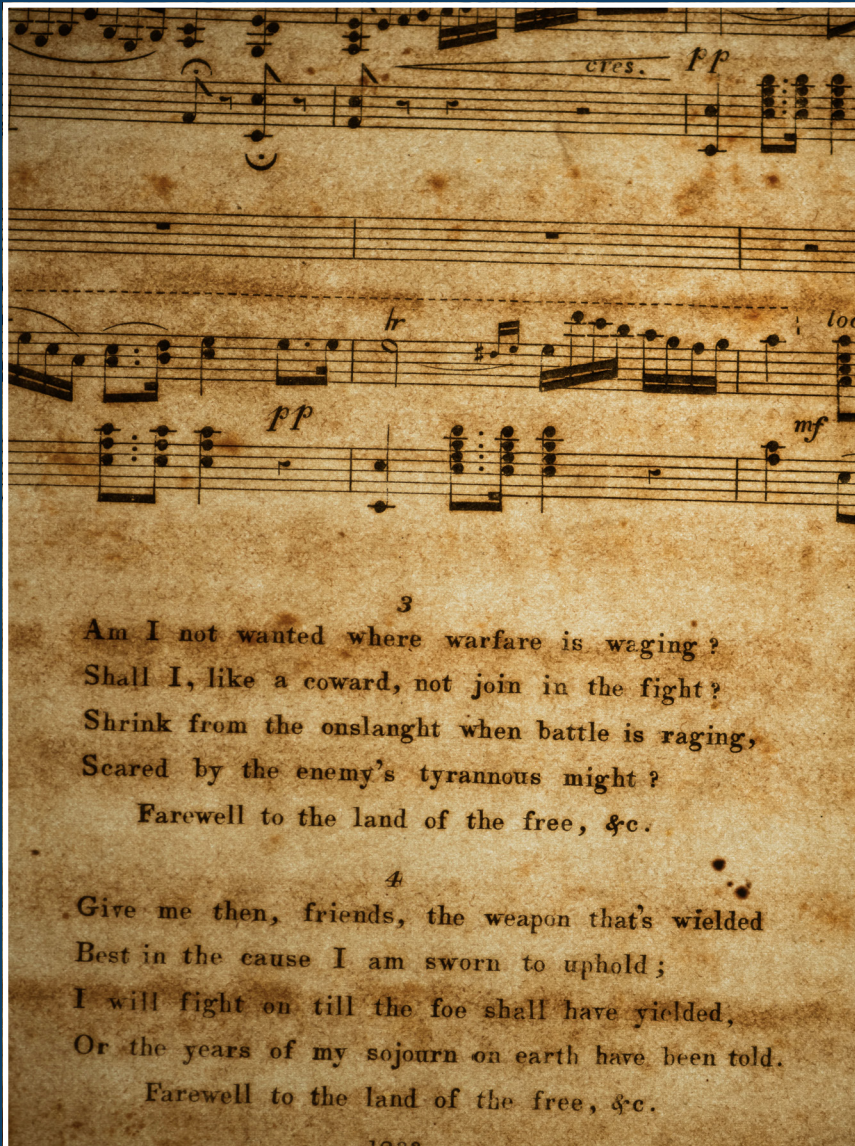
Extended reality (XR) is how we refer to the world of AR, VR, and everything in between. This will be the realm of **Studio X**.

Coming to the Carlson Science and Engineering Library in fall 2020, Studio X will be equipped with the tools, technology, and expertise for students and faculty members to experience, explore, and experiment in all realities.





# Douglass Rediscovered



It's 1847. Frederick Douglass, who had been living in England for two years to avoid being recaptured after his escape from enslavement in Maryland, is preparing to head back to the United States. Englishwoman Julia Griffiths, a close companion and fellow abolitionist, marks the occasion with music she composed and lyrics penned by her brother, T. Powis Griffiths.

The Griffiths' titled their creation "[Farewell Song to Frederick Douglass](#)." Only two copies of the sheet music are known to exist. One is at The British Library. The other is now held by the [Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation](#).

On December 3, 2018, the Griffiths' song was performed in [a special tribute to Douglass](#) at Hochstein Performance Hall in Rochester. Six months later, the River Campus Libraries won "Best of Collections-Focused Films" at the 2019 Association of Research Libraries Film Festival.

# Digitization

Nothing lasts forever. But the [Digital Scholarship Lab \(DSL\)](#) and the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation (RBSCP) are working to ensure historically significant, one-of-a-kind, and rare materials remain accessible for generations.

We saw several examples of these efforts during the past year.

Working with Rochester Professor Joanne Bernardi, the George Eastman Museum and the Toy Film Museum in Kyoto, Japan, the DSL created a Digital Cinema Package of [Tokkan Kozo](#), a 1929 Japanese silent film, enabling audiences to view the film for the first time in decades.

Thanks to the support of the Friends of the University of Rochester Libraries, the RBSCP acquired and digitized [52 letters sent from writer, reformer, and artist Charlotte Perkins Gillman](#) to her close friend Martha Luther Lane.

And together, the DSL and RBSCP digitized the [University's NAMES Project AIDS memorial quilt](#) that was first displayed in the Goergen Athletic Center Field House in 1994.



# Around the University

Over the last year, libraries outside the River Campus welcomed new people taking on important roles.

For the last 28 years, Lu Harper led the Memorial Art Gallery's Charlotte Whitney Allen Library. Now, Eboni Jones is at the helm. In December 2018, Jones started the new position of Curator of Interpretive Resources. She will still oversee the library and archives, but will also have the opportunity to help create educational experiences in the museum.



"I have had a lifelong love for museums and libraries and now have started a career that marries them in such an innovative way!"

—**Eboni Jones**

Sadia Hussain joined the staff of the Sibley Music Library as its first Library Technology Analyst/Software Engineer, in January 2019. Her work involves identifying needs and opportunities for technology-based information resources, as well as the design, development and installation of those resources with consideration for scope, requirements and specifications.



"This position allows me to use my technical expertise for projects with higher impact. Also, I really like Sibley's culture; it's a great fit for my personality and my values."

—**Sadia Hussain**

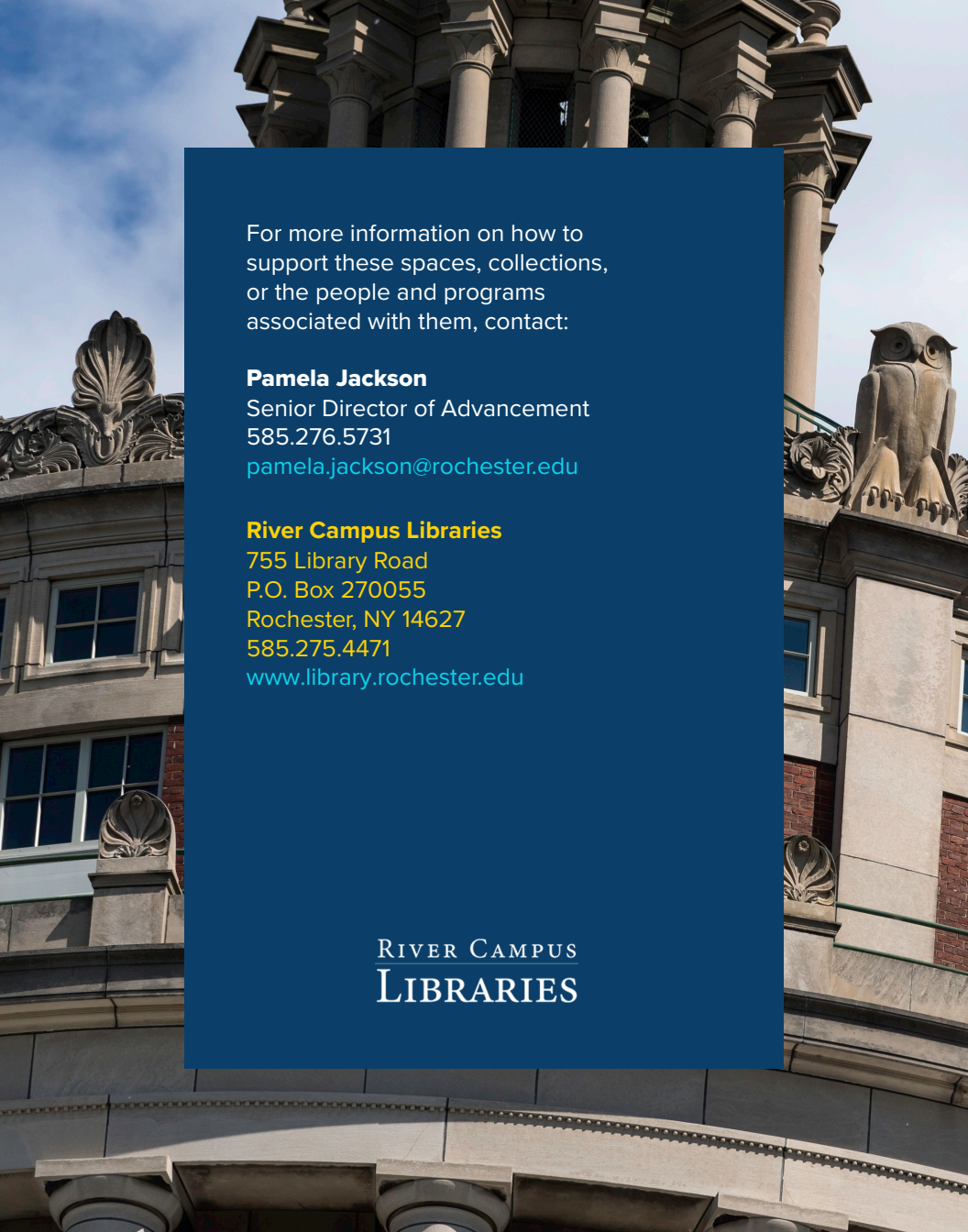
In May 2019, Meredith Gozo became the new Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts for the History of Medicine Collection at Miner Library. She is both a steward and advocate for the use of paper collections and rare books, such as 16th-century anatomical atlases or correspondence between faculty and outside researchers from the 1950s.



"I'm excited for the opportunity to continue capturing the history in an environment where growth, scholarship, and inspired clinical practice are happening all around me."

—**Meredith Gozo**





For more information on how to support these spaces, collections, or the people and programs associated with them, contact:

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