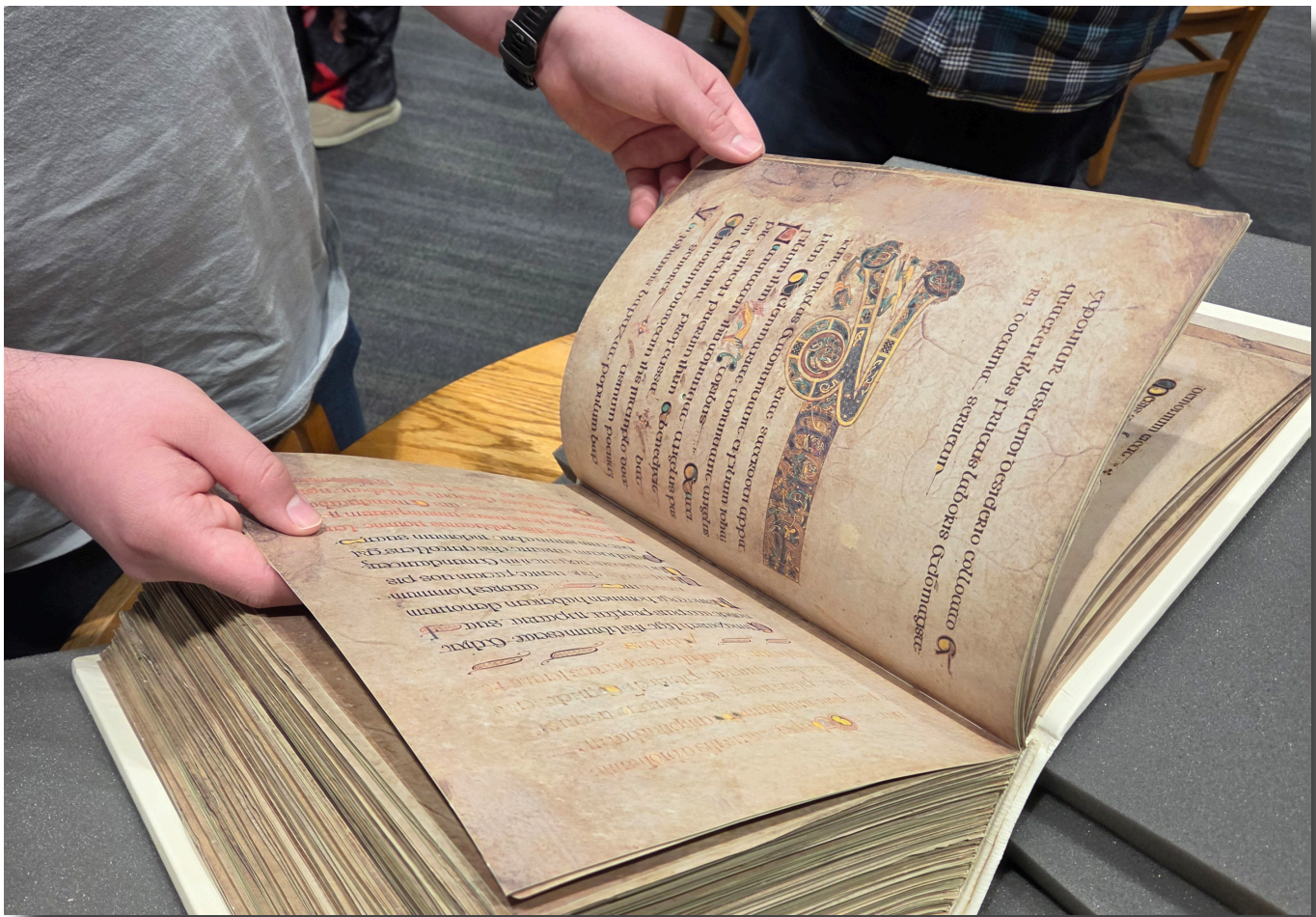


Spring 2026
Volume 8, Issue 1

The Archival Advocate

Columbus State University Archives and Special Collections

ACQUISITIONS ARRIVE FOR NEW RARE BOOK LIBRARY AND READING ROOM



Also in this Issue:

Reflecting on our 50th Anniversary

Enjoy a recap of our year-long celebrations of 2025.

In Memoriam: Remembering Dr. John Lupold and Billy Winn

Read about the legacies of two legends in the local history community.

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

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Gabriella Galarza
Ava Jasso
Andy Knap*



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Featured Image: Group of school children visit the Bradley Theater, 1961.

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Letter from the Director: Global Perspectives Abroad

This summer we're partnering with the Department of History, the Schwob School of Music, and the Center for Global Engagement to take students to Ireland.

In addition to complete cultural immersion studying the rich heritage of Ireland, the three-week program will emphasize global perspectives in archival practices and museum curation. Students will interact with centuries old manuscripts dating back to the 800s and will have special behind the scenes access to Ireland's top repositories including the renowned Long Room Library at Trinity College, home to the world famous *Book of Kells*.

Students will also participate in hands on micro-internships at the South East Technical College Archives in Waterford, culminating in a final project hosted online by the Digital Repository of Ireland.

<https://dri.ie>

This is yet another amazing opportunity our students will have that few other (and much larger) institutions are able to offer. It further distinguishes the Archives not just as a leader in our region at home in the United States, but now internationally as well. As we continue to cultivate partnerships in Ireland, we hope to continue this cultural and professional exchange hopefully soon leading to us hosting Irish students and scholars in the CSU Archives right here in Columbus, Georgia.

David M. Owings
Director, Archives and
Special Collections



*Section from the Great Charter
Roll, c1372*

*Features the earliest illustrations
of mayors from the royal cities of
Dublin, Waterford, Cork and
Limerick and very rare
contemporary illustrations of
King Edward II of England.*

An Overview of the Program:

What students will experience

In the three-week long study abroad program, students will have the opportunity to live and study in two very different and captivating regions of Ireland. During the first week of the program, students will stay in the small rural community of Gleann Cholm Cille, County Donegal, where they will take Irish language and culture courses at Oideas Gael, an education center founded in 1984. While there, students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the Irish language and partake in a number of experiential learning activities such as hiking the majestic Slieve League Cliffs, enjoy a sheepdog demonstration, learn about traditional beekeeping, explore the beautiful beaches of Silver Strand, and discover various historical and archaeological sites.

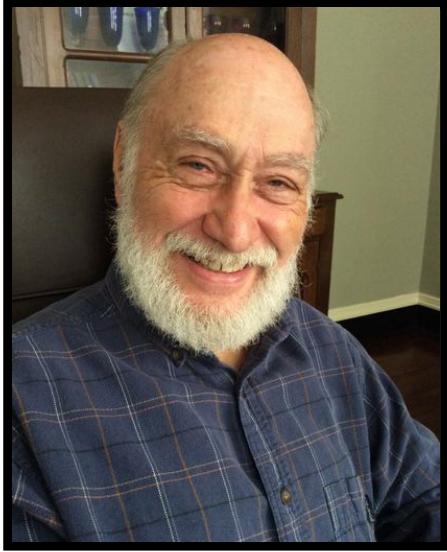
For the next two weeks, the program will shift to Ireland's oldest city, Waterford, located in the sunny southeast. The city, founded by the Vikings in the 10th century, offers world-class museums, stunning architecture, and a rich offering of medieval history to learn. Excursions from Waterford will include Kilkenny, Dungarvan, Ardmore, An Rinn, and more.

The program will end with a weekend in Dublin, exploring Ireland's capital city. Students will stay in the heart of the city at Ireland's oldest and most prestigious University: Trinity College. While in Dublin, students will: experience the world-famous *Book of Kells*; explore the development of Irish material culture through the ages at the National Museum, linking artifacts to key movements in art and history; revel in the collections of the National Gallery; and reflect on the Irish struggle for independence at the Kilmainham Gaol where Irish revolutionaries were imprisoned and executed, including the leaders of the Easter Uprising of 1916.



The Long Room Library at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

In Memoriam: Remembering Dr. John Lupold



Earlier this year the Columbus community sadly lost one of its most important local historians: Dr. John Samuel Lupold (May 16, 1942 — February 26, 2026). Dr. Lupold joined the faculty of Columbus College as an associate professor of history (and later Chair of the department), where he would remain a fixture for 33 years. During his tenure, he made a lasting impression on his students, many of which still tell fond memories of lessons learned in his classroom. His enthusiasm and passion brought history alive to his students. His lively approach to the study of history inspired many of his students to go out into the community and document local history for themselves.

He was also one of the founders of the Columbus State University Archives. He was instrumental in cultivating its early collections as a local history repository, including oral history projects, and worked tirelessly to promote the dissemination and accessibility of the Archives to researchers.

In addition to his service in the classroom and contributions to the Archives, Dr. Lupold was a historian of great renown and prolific author who received numerous local, state, and regional awards for his work. He will always be remembered as one of our most important local history leaders and scholars. He deepened the understanding of our history in ways few can ever hope to rival. He was also a leading proponent for adaptive reuse and ensuring Columbus' historic architecture was saved. His efforts is one of the leading reasons Columbus can enjoy its historic downtown as it exists now.



Dr. John Lupold gestures towards Columbus along with his daughter Jennifer Pearsall, August 13, 2025.

In Memoriam: Remembering Billy Winn



Just a month after Dr. Lupold's passing, Columbus lost another local history icon: William “Billy” Waddell Winn (September 9, 1938 – March 17, 2026). Billy lived a life shaped by curiosity, storytelling, and a profound love for place—especially his hometown of Columbus, Georgia. An accomplished journalist, author, historian, and mentor, Billy leaves behind a legacy defined as much by his words as by the generosity of spirit with which he shared them.

Born and raised in Columbus, Billy was a lifelong product of the city that would later benefit so deeply from his voice. He attended Columbus High School and later pursued higher education at Emory University and Georgia State University, experiences that expanded his intellectual horizons and set him on a path that would eventually define his profession. In the 1960s, his adventurous spirit led him far from home to Alaska, where he worked as a park ranger and embraced the rugged outdoors he would love for the rest of his life.

It was not long before Billy returned the south and joined *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* where he covered a wide range of stories, including the civil rights movement. His keen eye for detail and his natural gift for narrative quickly distinguished him. Billy later served as editor of *Atlanta Magazine* before ultimately returning home to Columbus in 1986. There, he joined the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* as a senior writer and eventually became editorial page editor.

Billy Winn's contributions to our understanding of local history were profound and enduring. Through books such as *The Old Beloved Path, Line of Splendor: The Life and Times of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Columbus, Georgia, 1828-2008*, and *Triumph of the Ecunnau-Nuxulgee*, he deepened our knowledge of the Chattahoochee Valley especially in regards to Native American life.

Above all, Billy was a storyteller. Whether around a campfire, at a dinner table, or on his porch with a guitar close at hand, he could spin a yarn that captured attention and sparked laughter. Many of those stories were true; some were improved by time and delivery—but all were told with warmth and intention. Storytelling was not just Billy's profession; it was his way of connecting.

Archives Establishes New Rare Book Library and Reading Room



Antiquitatum Romanarum Inscriptionum et Monumentorum quae Romae in Saxi et Marmoribus Visuntur, 1602.

The Columbus State University Archives and Special Collections recently expanded its activities into a new Rare Book Library and Reading Room. This new initiative provides increased avenues of student engagement and instructional activities as we utilize our existing impressive rare book collection as a teaching instrument to inform students' understanding on a variety of topics ranging from French monarchy to Ancient Roman antiquities (both featured here). It will also serve to illuminate book making as an artistic craft featuring hand-laid paper, intricate inlays, hand stitched leather bindings, and hand painted colored illustrations and marbling.

The Rare Book Library provides students a unique opportunity to engage with the past in a tangible way. By interacting with these centuries-old tomes—some nearly 500 years old—students experience history not as an abstraction, but as a physical presence. In doing so, the Rare Book Library transforms learning into an active, memorable experience that connects students directly to the voices and ideas of the past.



Histoire de S. Lovys IX Dv Nom Roy de France, 1668.

New Acquisitions Arrive for the Rare Book Library

Unveiling the *Book of Kells*



Folios 4 and 5 displaying the Canon Tables, also called the Concordance of the Gospels.

In addition to utilizing our strong existing collection of rare books and manuscripts, this year we have made a concerted effort to acquire new items to form an intentionally curated teaching collection. A rare book teaching collection is a group of rare, unique, or historically significant printed materials assembled to support hands-on learning. Our goal is to provide a collection with representative examples of different types of physical characteristics, production methods, provenance, and historical contexts of books and related artifacts. These collections support interdisciplinary instruction—such as history, literature, art, music, and more.

An important recent addition to the Rare Book Library's teaching collection is a complete facsimile edition of the world renowned *Book of Kells*. This incredibly important manuscript has a storied history dating back to the early 800s. Written on velum, the manuscript consists of 340 folios (pages) representing the four Gospels of the New Testament in the Vulgate Latin. While its exact origin is still debated, the general consensus is that it originated in a monastery on the island of Iona (part of modern day Scotland). The Iona monastery was founded in 561, by Saint Colum Cille. In 806, there was a devastating Viking raid on Iona, which resulted in the monks fleeing to Ireland, ultimately settling at Kells in Meath, Ireland.

It would not remain safe for long though. Viking raiders made it to Ireland and stole the book in the early 1000s. The book was recovered, but without its ornately decorated golden and bejeweled cover. The safety of the book would again be jeopardized in the 1650s when Oliver Cromwell raided Ireland to ensure the island's loyalty to the newly-formed parliamentary government in England after the English Civil War. It was sent to Dublin for safekeeping with it eventually being placed in the halls of Trinity College where it remains to this day.

It's not just the saga of survival that makes the *Book of Kells* famous. Its renown also derives largely from the unparalleled impact of its lavish decoration, whose extent and artistry are incomparable; abstract ornamentation and images of plants, animals, and human figures punctuate the text, glorifying Jesus' life and message while keeping his attributes and symbols constantly before the reader.



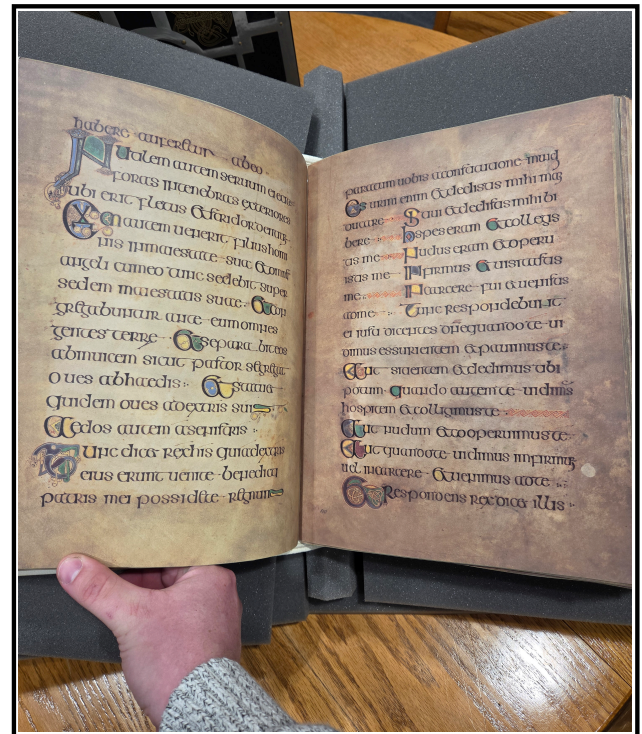
As stated on the previous page, there is indeed only one world famous *Book of Kells*, which resides in the care of Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. As one of the most important medieval manuscripts that surviving to this day, it is closely guarded with strict access and preservation controls in place to ensure its safekeeping. While it can be viewed in a dark room under glass (similar to how the US National Archives displays the Declaration of Independence), it cannot be viewed up close, not even by scholars or researchers.

While not the original, our facsimile edition represents the culmination of an enormous amount of work and effort to ensure a completely accurate reproduction to make the manuscript accessible to scholars and students of all types.

This edition, produced in 1990, is the only one officially commissioned by Trinity College. Only 1,480 copies were ever produced by the Fine Art Facsimile Publishers of Switzerland. The facsimile edition took ten years to produce, and is considered to be indistinguishable from the original. The pages of the facsimile are identical in size and shape to the original manuscript pages and the accuracy even extends to duplicating damage and holes (including worm holes) that appear in the original.

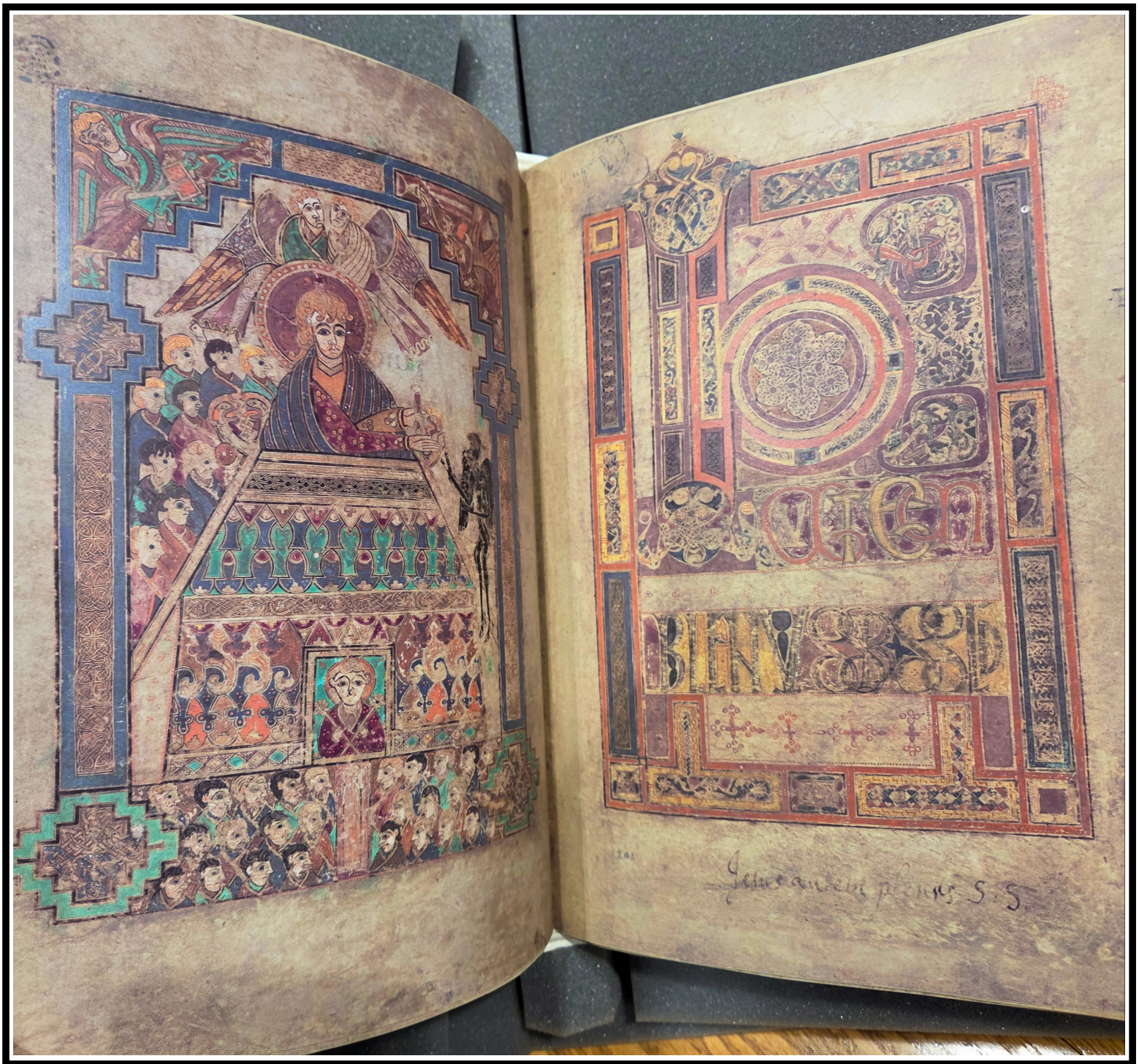
The process required the manufacture of a special photographic book cradle to ensure the safe handling of the original volume. Kodak Ektachrome color transparencies were electronically color-corrected and then sent to a lithographer, who performed further adjustments by hand using as many as ten printing inks per page. As the lithographer refined the color balance, proof pages were continually compared with the original manuscript to fine-tune accuracy. Once the pages were duplicated, they were sewn into gatherings and hand-bound. Because the original bindings no longer survive, a conservative white skin binding was chosen rather than speculating on the original's color and decoration.

If you are interested in seeing the Archives' new copy of the *Book of Kells*, please contact us for an appointment.



Above Left: A student views the *Book of Kells* as part of an Archives open house event for the English Department.

Above: A view showcasing the richly adorned text of the Gospels.



The *Book of Kells* features many beautifully illuminated pages such as these two featured here. Folio 202 (left page) illustrates the temptation of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke where Satan urges Jesus to throw himself from the roof of the temple in Jerusalem to demonstrate that the angels will save him.

Folio 203 (right page) displays elaborately decorated text indicating "*Iesus autem plenus spiritu sancto*" Latin for "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit."

Reflecting on Our 50th Anniversary

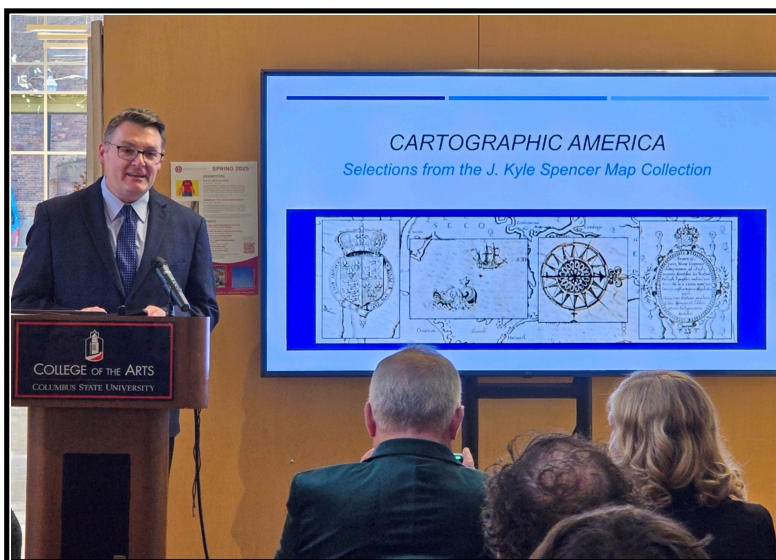


What an amazing year 2025 was; it will certainly be one for the record books!

We began our 50th Anniversary year in 2025 with a celebration of the J. Kyle Spencer Map Collection and the recently published *Cartographic America* hardcover book: the first in a new line titled The Tapestry Series published by our very own CSU Press. The Tapestry Series celebrates the interwoven connections between the arts and humanities and will be a great conduit for promoting the collections of the Archives in print format.

As part of the kickoff events, the Department of Art exhibited selected maps from the J. Kyle Spencer Map Collection, and hosted a gallery talk by authors Dr. Eric Spears and David Owings.

The book and coinciding public exhibition, draws from the best of the Spencer Map Collection that collectively charts nearly 300 years of American historical geography from the late 1500s to the late 1800s. Both document the evolution of the Americas from European contact with indigenous peoples through the rise of colonial empires, to the formation and independence of the United States. Each map has its own fascinating story, offering visitors a window into the past through the lens of historical geography.



Cartographic America authors Dr. Eric Spears and David Owings give a gallery talk to attendees.

In March 2025, Dr. Bryan Banks and local artist Cathy Fussell presented on the legends of tunnels in Columbus. Jack Schley also shared his research on the Marquis de Lafayette’s travels through Georgia as part of the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's farewell tour of the Unites States.

In April, we hosted a genealogy and family history workshop partnering with the Muscogee Genealogical Society. We also featured an artist talk with Kenny Gray bringing his *My Southside* exhibit to the main campus Schwob Library Forum (the Library's main event space on the 1st floor).



Dr. Bryan Banks and Cathy Fussell present on the myth of Columbus' secret tunnels.



Above Left: Jack Schley presents on the Marquis de Lafayette's travels through Georgia.

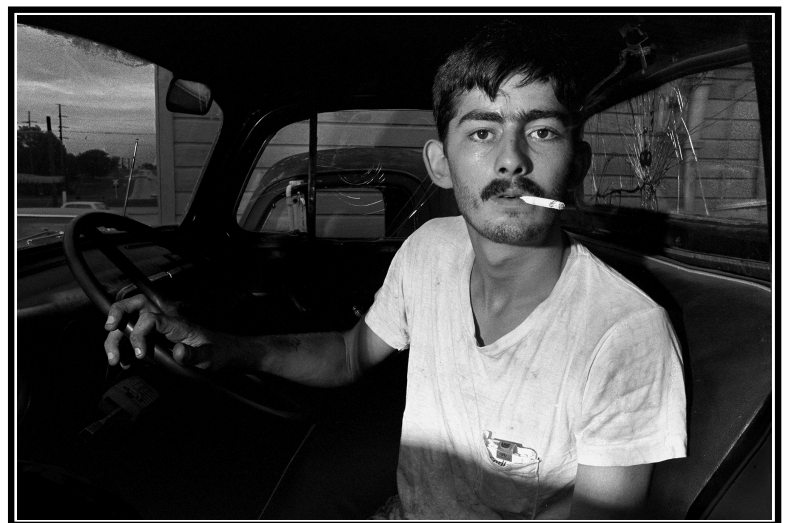
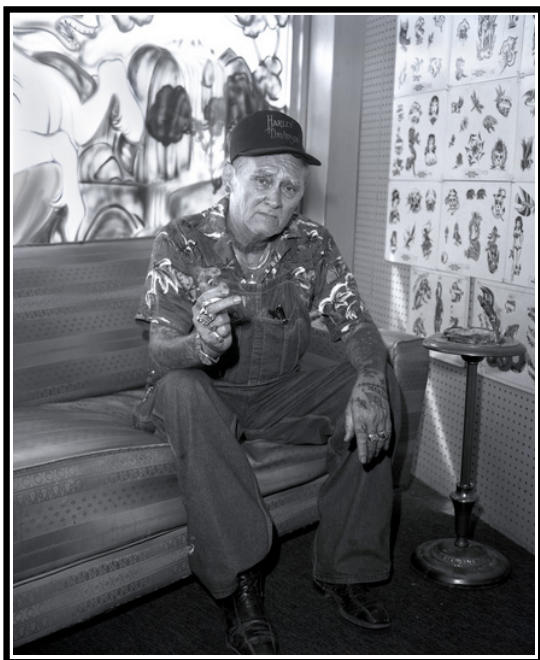
Above Right: Genealogy and Family History day workshop.

Reflecting on Our 50th Anniversary

Kenny Gray's *My Southside* exhibit featured a series of photographs capturing the Southside of Columbus in the 1970s and 1980s. Kenny's work documented the everyday lives of people from backyards and kitchens to tattoo parlors and bars. His work presented images that were simultaneously both works of art and glimpses of a community frozen in time. He also gave a gallery talk to students and community members that month on April 28th.



Kenny Gray installs images in the main campus Library Forum as part of his *My Southside* exhibit.



Two of Kenny's most iconic images

We ended Spring Semester 2025 with a record breaking 50 foot scrambled dog to commemorate our 50 years while also celebrating Columbus' culinary heritage. The scrambled dog is one of Columbus' most iconic dishes with a long history dating back to the early 20th century and local figure Firm Roberts. Over the decades, it has become a local staple associated with Dinglewood Pharmacy and many other area dining establishments.



Two images capturing the immense scale of the 50 foot scrambled dog.

Coinciding with the university's final exam week, the event provided a welcome escape for students to take a break from exams and have some fun to de-stress. University employees and community members also took part in the fun that included giveaways, games, and even a hot dog eating competition. The scrambled dog itself was engineered by Scott Ressmeyer and his team from Country's BBQ.



Scenes from the 50 foot scrambled dog event and hot dog eating contest, May 1, 2025. The 1st place winner of the contest was Carl Robertson, who won a \$100 Country's BBQ gift card for eating the most hot dogs in ten minutes.

After taking a much-needed break over the summer, the Archives picked our celebrations back up in September with our first ever local history lecture series. Talks included Jack Schley on the Fontaine Family Archives, Mike Bunn's on little known Civil War era stories from Columbus, Coulter Fussell's Chattahoochee River inspired quilts, and Mona Pierce's work on preserving African American cemeteries in Harris County. And in October we hosted a special Georgia Archives Month reception with a talk by State Archivist Dr. Christopher Davidson. We ended the year with a grand finale in November celebrating the founding of the Archives with special recognition and talks by Dr. John Lupold, Callie McGinnis, Merryll Penson, and Reagan Grimsley. While not able to attend in person, Dr. Lupold provided pre-recorded audio remarks, and Merryll Penson provided a written statement.

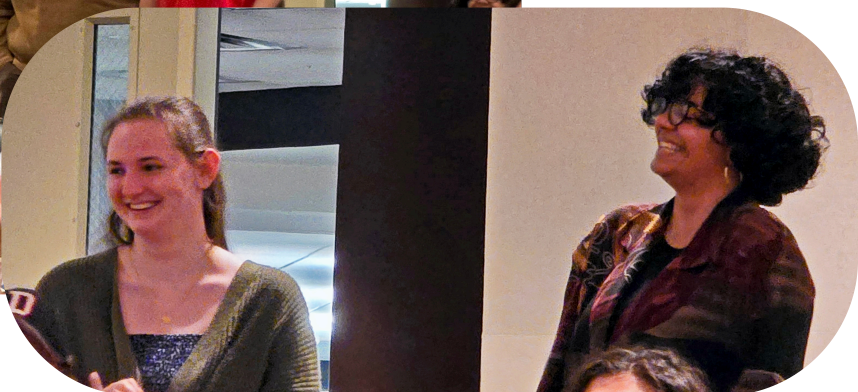


As part of the November finale, we held an all-day open house with behind the scenes tours, Q & A sessions with the archivists, commemorative anniversary giveaways, and a 50th "birthday" cake!



Above: Speakers Callie McGinnis, former Dean of Libraries, (left) and Reagan Grimsley, former Director of the Archives, (right) reflect on their roles as previous leaders of the Archives. Not attending but also recognized for their roles in the growth and success of the Archives were Merryll Penson and Dr. John Lupold.

Below: Archives student assistants are acknowledged and celebrated, (below left) L-R standing: Ava Jasso, Brock Smith, and Andy Knap ; (below right) Avery Blocker and Chloe Curbelo.





Left: Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. provides closing remarks on behalf of the Advocates of the Archives Executive Board.

Below: A few scenes of attendees at the reception following the speakers' presentations.



By all accounts 2025 was a resounding success. Thank you to all of you who supported us this year and in previous years. We could have never achieved so much over the last fifty years without your help and support. The generous support from our friends and advocates over the years has enabled the Archives to flourish and excel in ways our founders in 1975 would have ever imagined. We are all looking forward to the next fifty years!

New Acquisitions Spotlight: Legacy of the Fort Benning International Wives Club

The CSU Archives continues to cultivate new collections related to military history, especially those documenting nearby Fort Benning. With the help of MG (Ret.) Patrick J. Donahoe and his wife, Teresa Donahoe, the staff, student workers, and the Interim Dean of Libraries, had the pleasure of visiting Fort Benning to pick up a large donation from the International Wives Club organization gifted by its former president, Olga Kelly.

Formed in 1975, the International Wives Club provided support to non-American spouses of military personnel stationed at Fort Benning. Its activities included monthly meetings, support for charitable causes, holiday events, international meals, dances, as well as courses in English as a second language, GED classes, and citizenship classes. For many wives, moving to a new home, much less a new country, can be daunting and lonely. This organization sought to ease those anxieties by creating a space to not only make friends, but to share their culture with others. In 2025, the founder and president of the organization retired, and the club was merged with a similar group on base.

The collection consists of the official records of the organization including meeting minutes, army rules and regulations concerning private organizations, by-laws, and constitutions. Photographs and scrapbooks show events such as Oktoberfest, Christmas parties, and fashion shows of cultural costumes. There is also a large collection of flags, dolls, and other ephemera from various countries represented in the group.

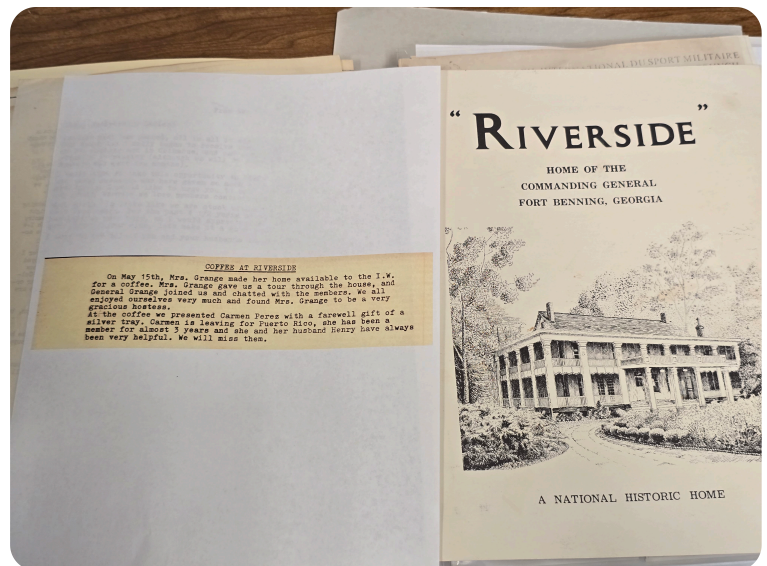


Left and Center: Olga Kelly shows Teresa Donahoe and Archives staff some of the archival documents
Right: Interim Dean of Libraries, Dr. Bryan Banks and student Andy Knap load up the truck with flags.



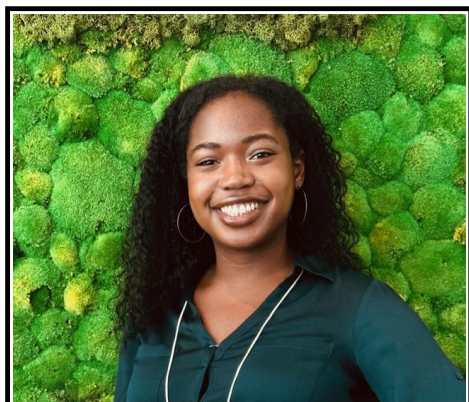
INTERNATIONAL WIVES [13 Dec]
XMAS PARTY 1975
GUEST REGISTER

Dora - Mrs Roberts
William E. Dewberry
Jessie & Let the Moore
Kelly - Edward Duncan
Denna Dowdle
Tenny Appalto - Barry
Luigi & Delia Villegas
Ellen & Bobby Querns
Janina Kattel, John Kattel
Dawn Elman
Choroon Parker
Maria Ines Clayton
Lany Clayton
Sissacoy Milan
James & Dory Oldridge
Susan Rimbach + John C. V2
Roberta & David Steen
Ronald + Darann Johnson
Richard + William Carr



Examples of photographs and documents from the International Wives Club Collection.

Staff Highlights



Adaeze Nwigwe

Hi, my name is Adaeze Nwigwe. I serve as the military history archivist processing unique, new acquisitions for our collections. I am originally from West Palm Beach, Florida and have been enjoying learning about the vast local history here in Columbus. In this role, I am excited to expand the focus on local military history through archival work, oral history initiatives, and other great community events.

My background is in public history as I obtained my MA from the University of Central Florida in the Spring of 2025. I am passionate about illuminating untold stories and sharing them with the wider public. I believe some of our newest collections will do just that and introduce the public to amazing, unseen, and impactful insights.



Gabriella Galarza

Hi, my name is Gabriella Galarza. Here at Columbus State University Archives, I am a Research Assistant. I am a native of the Chattahoochee Valley. I enjoy bridging the gap between community and history. There is so much to learn and always more to be completed.

In the Spring of 2025, I graduated from Auburn University with a MA in History. During my time there, I learned about how to be a public historian. Working with the public is a huge part of my job here. It is truly rewarding when I am able to help the archives become more accessible to the public.

If you have any questions about the archives or you are conducting research I would love to help.

Rare Book Corner: Unraveling the Da Vinci Sketchbooks

Alongside the new *Book of Kells* facsimile mentioned earlier in this newsletter, another noteworthy addition to our teaching collection is a set of four high-quality facsimiles of Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks. These notebooks, once housed in the famous Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan, were seized by Napoleon in 1795 and deposited in the Institut de France. It was there in the 1840s that the aptly-named book thief Count Guglielmo Libri cut-out and smuggled several pages from the notebooks to England. Later they were re-united with the rest of the manuscripts in France. But CSU students don't need to travel to France to see these fascinating artifacts documenting Leonardo's unique genius thanks to these high-quality facsimile produced in Switzerland in 2022.



We previewed these facsimiles with a group of students from the English Department at an event in March. Students from a wide range of majors will benefit from using these books in their classes. Dr. Jonathan Kline, Chair of the Art Department, recommended them due their importance for Art History majors. Our partners at the Coca-Cola Space & Science Center can show visitors their depiction of celestial and planetary orbits, as well as early schematics for heavier-than-air flight. And those on campus in ROTC and our new initiatives in military history will be able to learn about Leonardo's military innovations.

We now own four of the fourteen available volumes and hope to obtain more in the future with your support.



CSU Archives and Special Collections
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 Columbus State University
 Columbus, GA 31907

BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ARCHIVES

The Advocates for the Archives (AFTA) supports the Archives in its mission to document and preserve the history and culture of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley area. Our annual giving program, funded by donor contributions, provides us with critical support for ensuring our collections are preserved for future generations including sending documents to specialized conservation labs for treatment when needed.

Everyone is invited to become an advocate by contributing to the annual giving program. Please consider joining; your donation is an investment in history. The Archives also welcomes physical donations of research materials. If you have, or know of, materials which relate to the history of Columbus or the surrounding area, please contact us. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more information or to make an online contribution to the Archives visit: archives.columbusstate.edu/giving

Giving levels for members include:

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