New Leadership for Special Collections and University Archives

Sonia Yaco has accepted the position of associate director of Special Collections and University Archives effective August 13.

In this position, Yaco will provide vision, leadership, and direction for a team of professional archivists and conservation specialists with the goal of strengthening the visibility, accessibility, and impact of Rutgers University–New Brunswick’s nationally and internationally recognized special collections and university archives.

“I am delighted to join the talented team at Rutgers,” Yaco said. “I am particularly impressed by their passion for preserving and sharing their rich collections related to New Jersey history with the campus and broader community.”
An exhibit celebrating the recent donation of the archives of the Medical Society of New Jersey is on display now at Smith Library • The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project received a $219,609 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize a second round of historical New Jersey newspapers for the Library of Congress • Krista White, digital humanities librarian at Dana Library, received a $33,130 Rutgers–Newark seed grant for her Digital Scholarship as Modular Pedagogy project • New Brunswick Libraries have a new mail van with attractive new branding • Fresh carpeting was installed at the Math/Physics Library over the summer • Therapy dogs visited LSM during Stressbusters in the spring • Our faculty were featured prominently at this year’s American Library Association conference, presenting on topics ranging from button making as an outreach tool to boot camps for graduate student success • The Chang Library has new modular furniture • @Rutgers_SCUA: Social Media and Archives is on display at Alexander Library through October 1 • New steps were installed in front of the Paul Robeson Library • Online access to The Economist and The Wall Street Journal is now available to the Rutgers community • His Master’s Voice: Nipper & the Rise of the Victor Talking Machine Company was on display at Robeson Library • Photographs from the Institute of Jazz Studies’ collections were showcased in the PBS documentary The Jazz Ambassadors: The Untold Story of America’s Coolest Weapon in the Cold War.

Bringing the Librarians to the People

Last spring, the Health Sciences Libraries announced an initiative to expand their services in support of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences in Piscataway. The goal was to better serve students in the health and life sciences, whose schools are in close proximity to the Library of Science and Medicine on the Busch campus.

A dedicated service point for these students has been established on the third floor of the library, where librarians from the Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences will be regularly stationed starting this fall. Students can find them on duty there Monday through Thursday and will be able to make arrangements for consultations on Fridays, as well.

Welcome Home, Count!

The Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) at Rutgers–Newark made headlines this summer when it announced perhaps its most noteworthy acquisition to date: the complete collection of legendary pianist and bandleader Count Basie.

With nearly 1,000 artifacts, the Count Basie Collection includes Count Basie’s pianos, Hammond organ, photos, correspondence, concert programs, business records, and press clippings, in addition to clothing, accessories, scrapbooks, and audiovisual material.

“It is only fitting that the Count Basie Collection will be housed at the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies,” said Wayne Winborne, executive director of the institute. “Count Basie was a native New Jerseyan, born and raised approximately 40 miles south of IJS in Red Bank.”

More than three decades after his death, Basie remains one of the most popular and recognized figures in American music. His career, which spanned more than 60 years, helped legitimize jazz as a serious art form and solidified the link between jazz and the blues. He became the first African American to win a Grammy in 1958—the first of nine he was awarded over the course of his career—and received numerous honors for his humanitarianism and philanthropy.

“We knew that those crates were hiding stories of historical significance,” said Basie estate representative Joy Rosenthal about bringing the collection to the institute, where it will be cataloged, preserved, and made available to the public. “To have all of this take place at the state university of New Jersey, where Basie was from, is an added bonus. It just comes full circle.”

The collection will become available for research in the near future. For the latest updates, visit libraries.rutgers.edu/jazz.

Our New Faculty and Staff

Timothy Domick, Manager of Operations, Dana Library
La-Tira Shaw, Administrative Assistant, Dana Library
Sonia Yaco, Associate Director, Special Collections and University Archives
Elizabeth York, Electronic Resources Librarian, Shared User Services