

The Denison Dispatch



An E-Newsletter from the Ella Strong Denison Library, Scripps College



Slocum Seniors Celebrate Books

Established in 1936 by M. S. Slocum to encourage book collecting, the annual Slocum Competition invites Scripps seniors to share their curated book collections with the community. This year's five participants and their areas of collecting are:

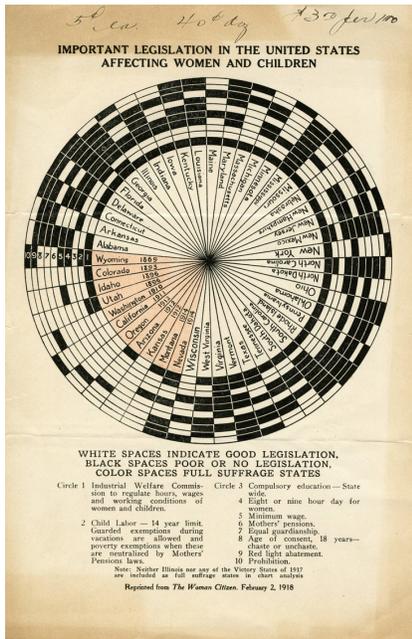
- Helen Anderson, *Books by and about Steinbeck*
- Kate McHale, *Better Together: Female Friendships and Love in Woman-Authored Fantasy and Science Fiction*
- Alexandra Rivasplata, *The Love We Lose and How it Shapes Us*
- Sarah Seaver, *"Neither Male nor Female": The Queer Face of Early Christianity*
- Kris Torres, *No Soy de Aquí Ni Soy de Allá: A Nuyoricana Awakening*

In late March, Slocum seniors met with this year's panel of judges, which included Professors Patrick Van Horn and Pamela Bromley as well as Stephen Tabor, Curator of Rare Books at the Huntington Library. In early April, the seniors enjoyed an outing for high tea and a special behind the scenes visit at the Huntington Library.

Slocum participants write an essay and annotated bibliography and display their collections in Denison Library. The Slocum exhibition may be viewed through Commencement Day, June 14, and the winner's name will be announced at the awards ceremony that afternoon.



DENISON LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS VENTURE BEYOND SCRIPPS COLLEGE

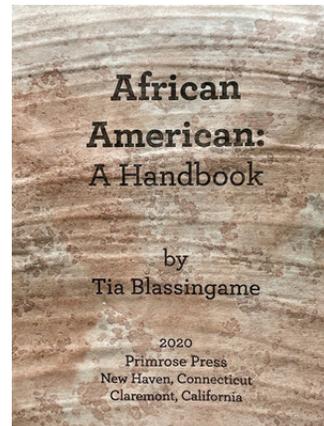


During the course of this academic year, a number of items from the library's collections were loaned or are currently on loan to other cultural heritage institutions for exhibition.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County included several pieces from Denison's Women's Suffrage Collection in its exhibition, "Rise UP LA: A Century of Votes for Women," from April 1 through October 10, 2021. On the left is a flyer from 1918 showing the legislative status of the suffrage movement two years before the 19th Amendment was passed.

Currently, three of our artists' books are part of The Bainbridge Island Museum of Art's exhibition, "Boundless," which is on display until June 22. Eleven of our artists' books by Asian American authors and artists are part of "Arts and Voices: Asian American Artists Books at the Claremont Colleges Libraries" on the third floor of the Claremont Colleges Library through June 17.

This summer, the Craft Contemporary Museum in Los Angeles will feature three of Denison Library's artists' books by Scripps College Professor Tia Blessingame in its exhibition, "Many," from May 29 through September 11.

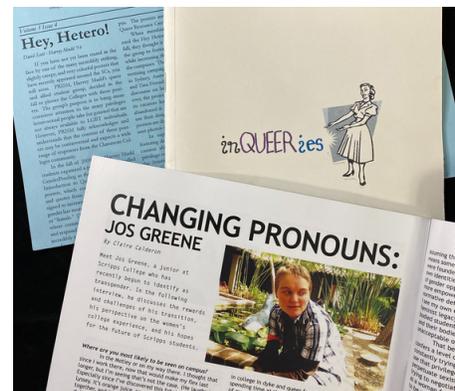


Joss Greene Papers Document the Transgender Student Experience at Scripps in the early 2010s

In 2021, Denison Library received a donation from Joss Greene '11, whose advocacy for gender-neutral bathrooms and LGBTQ+ rights and allyship is now documented in the archives. Greene's papers highlight campus activism and education through fliers, programs, speeches, student publications, and photographs. While at Scripps, Greene majored in History and Gender and Women's Studies, and he received a PhD in sociology from Columbia University in 2021. Greene was the student commencement speaker for his graduating class at Scripps as well as at the Claremont Colleges' Queer Resources Center's Lavender Graduation ceremony, and those speeches are part of his archives.

Scripps College approved its trans-inclusive admissions policy in 2014 following the creation of a petition signed by over half of the college's student body that autumn.

The collection is now processed and available for research; the finding aid may be consulted online at: <http://pdf.oac.cdlib.org/pdf/cuc/den/dmss0979-greene.pdf>



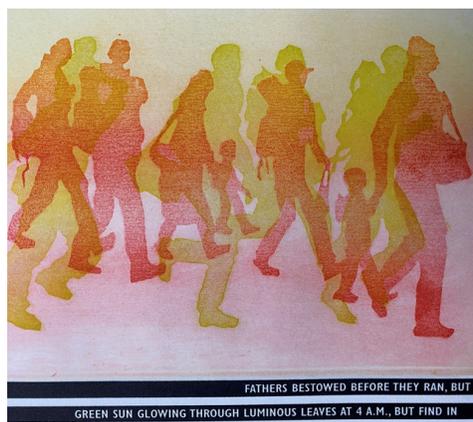
Rare Book Terminology: Frontispiece

The illustration opposite the title page of a book is called a frontispiece; often, but not always, this image may feature a portrait of the book's author.

One of Denison Library's most distinctive frontispieces is the portrait of Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753-1784) featured in her *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, published in 1773 in London by A. Bell and sold in Boston by Cox and Berry. She was born in West Africa and came to the United States as an enslaved person on a ship named *Phillis*, for which she was later named. Emancipation came for her shortly after the publication of her book, and she is widely recognized as the first published African American poet in United States history.

The frontispiece is the first in American history to depict a woman writer as well as a woman in the act of writing, and some have attributed the work to Scipio Moorhead, an enslaved artist of African descent who was living in Boston at the time of the book's publication.

Denison Library's copy was a gift from John Perkins in the 1940s.



ON THE LIBRARY'S BOOKSHELVES

They Run

Marsha Pomerantz and Claire Illouz

(2016)

Thirty copies were made of this elongated, rectangular-shaped volume featuring etchings and engravings by Claire Illouz which hauntingly illuminate the text of Marsha Pomerantz' poetry about the panic and flight for safety experienced by displaced persons. The images and text capture the speed, dislocation, tragedy and hope of those who flee:

"They used to run with / baskets and satchels and duffels, now / backpacks and laptops and iPods."

Surprise! Can You Find the Book Sculptures Around the Library?

Over the last few weeks, some of you may have noticed two ceramic pieces that appeared in Denison Library's outdoor spaces. The larger of the two resembles an open book, and it rests on the window ledge of the eastern wall of Valencia Courtyard. The other may be suitable for fairy-sized visitors: a small, organic looking branch decorated with leaves and colorful miniature books was tucked along the library's north side facing Clark Hall. The creators of these two pieces have not revealed their identities to library staff, but we are delighted that the library and its collections are a source of inspiration for these artistic endeavors.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
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