A highlight of the fall and early spring semesters was the installation of Victorious Secret: Elite Olympic Champions as Dancing Bikini Girls, an artwork by Angela Lorenz, in Olin Library’s lobby. This series of three triptychs is based on the famous floor mosaics in an ancient Roman villa in Piazza Armerina, Sicily, from 300 CE. Often popularly known as “dancing bikini girls” because of their scanty outfits, the Piazza Armerina mosaics actually depict women athletes. In Victorious Secret, Angela Lorenz uses buttons and hairpins—mundane articles associated with women—to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Title IX and reclaim the “bikini girls” as the elite athletes they really were. During the artist’s visit to Wesleyan in mid-November, she gave a public lecture about Victorious Secret placing it in the context of her previous work, and met with Wesleyan students, faculty, and staff. Wesleyan’s stop on the Victorious Secret tour, which includes Dartmouth, Yale, and other venues, was jointly sponsored by Friends of Wesleyan Library, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Athletics Department, and Special Collections & Archives. 

Best known as a book artist, Lorenz lives in Bologna, Italy, and Maine. Much of her work draws on literature, history, and artifacts from a wide range of time periods. Special Collections & Archives began collecting her work in the late 1980s and now holds more than 20 of her books. Among my favorites is Life, Life, Eternal Life, a fantastical blend of the popular board game and John Bunyan’s religious tale that has never been out of print since it was first published in 1678. (Younger readers may prefer to think of Candyland, a game similar to Uncle Wiggly.) Much more than a standard game or a reprint of a text, Life, Life, Eternal Life represents more than a decade of inquiry into “relics and souvenirs, tourism and pilgrimage in various cultures and religions in history,” as the artist writes on her website. The result is handmade out of silk and linen, with myriad antique textile fragments and trinkets, including pen nibs, ink bottle, lens, safety pins, buttons, gum wrappers, needle threader, and others. Players spin a teetotum, an alternative to dice that resembles a top or dreidel, pick up cards that give directions, and move about the game as they try to be the first to reach Heaven. Every detail of Life, Life, Eternal Life has been meticulously researched, from the religious climate of John Bunyan’s era, to the time he spent in prison, to the details of the novel. Best of all, it is fun to play, and the winner gets to wear a crown. For more information about the game, see: angelalorenzartistbooks.com/opere/piligrim.htm.

— SUZY TARABA, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES —
IN HONOR OF ERHARD FROM ALPHA DELTA PHI

Traveling the world physically via two feet and a backpack or mentally via words and wordplay, Erhard epitomizes Wesleyan and the microcosm of the larger community that is Alpha Delta for me and many others. He is a fixture of my undergraduate and graduate experience at Wesleyan and I’m glad that as my sibling and fellow Alpha Delta alumni board member, he’ll remain a part of my life well past this start to his new adventure.

Erhard creates connections and is always interested in sharing the journey. In addition to being a bottomless well of support as our faculty advisor, ... he was most often there to share lunch, terrible puns, and the stories of the day. Also, everyone should have him read German poetry aloud. It’s the best when read by Erhard.

I’m excited to see him embark on this next part of his journey, because he always seems to be starting new chapters, even for other people. A potential lesser known aspect of his skill set is his ability to bring people together, legally.

Erhard has been the officiant at more than 20 wedding ceremonies, ushering in the next stage of the lives of many of my friends and loved ones. I’m excited to celebrate his own milestone this time. I’m excited to see him embark on this next part of his journey, because he always seems to be starting new chapters, even for other people. A potential lesser known aspect of his skill set is his ability to bring people together, legally.

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In addition to being a bottomless well of support as our faculty advisor, he was most often there to share lunch, terrible puns, and the stories of the day.

— DIANE KLARE, INTERIM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

T HANK YOU TO ALL THE FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT WESLEYAN LIBRARY THROUGH DONATIONS OF MONEY, BOOKS, AND TIME. WITH YOUR HELP WE ARE ABLE TO SPONSOR SCHOLARLY AND CULTURAL EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY, PLUS SUPPORT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, AS WELL AS OTHER DEPARTMENTS.


This spring, we are looking for additional sponsors to bring a residency to Wesleyan that combines papermaking and printing with a focus on Wesleyan’s Poor Vets Veterans program, which has welcomed 10 veterans into the student body this year and will continue for the next three years. Drew Cameron, an artist and Iraq War veteran, has developed a mobile paper-making mill and worked with thousands of people in an open forum collaborative art-making process, bringing together students and veterans to transform clothing rags into paper, prints, books, and art.

If you would like to help sponsor this project or our other exhibits and talks this spring, join the Friends, volunteers, or donate books, please contact Jennifer Hadley at libfriends@wesleyan.edu. We look forward to hearing from you and keeping you up to date on the great things that are happening at the library.

— JENNIFER HADLEY, FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY

C ONGRATULATIONS TO MARDI HANSON-D’ALESSANDRO WHO RETIRED IN DEC. 2014, AFTER WORKING 26 YEARS IN THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM. HER ASSOCIATION WITH WESLEYAN ACTUALLY GOES BACK TO 1975 WHEN SHE HAD A SUMMER JOB IN THE ART LIBRARY, AND she fondly recalls walking across campus on her way to school, but she began her official Wesleyan career in August 1988, working in the Serials Department of Olin Library. In 2000, she moved to the Art Library where she oversaw the circulation and reserve functions. She worked there until summer 2014, when she moved to the Science Library after the Art Library was absorbed into Olin, overseeing the Open Forum Collaborative Art-Making program, which has welcomed 10 veterans into the student body this year and will continue for the next three years.

MARDI HANSON-D’ALESSANDRO

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