

# Among *Friends*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OF BROWN UNIVERSITY  
VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1 • SPRING/SUMMER 2010



## Students and the Library

- Creating a 21st Century Library
- The Library's Team of Student Workers
- Rewarding Student Research



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Cover: Students studying and relaxing in the newly renovated sections of the Rockefeller Library. Library visitors investigate the "Surface," the touch screen computer where the Garibaldi panorama can be accessed.

## From the University Librarian's Office



# Blending the Past, Present and Future

One of my greatest joys is to see Brown students using our libraries across campus — studying, socializing or just taking a moment to rest and reflect on life. Whether it is late nights at the Sciences Library cramming for an organic chemistry exam, study breaks in the lobby of the Rockefeller Library, or joining classmates for a seminar at the John Hay Library, the University libraries have brought generations of Brown students together and helped them mature as scholars and thinkers.

In this magazine, Paul Sorensen, who with his wife Joan has given generously to modernize the central reading room of the first floor of the Rock, argues that any first rate university is only as good as its library. That's true. And I ask what good is the Library if it does not meet the day-to-day and ever expanding academic needs of the University's faculty and students? The Brown University Library strives to support the changing patterns of teaching, learning and research by combining traditional and modern resources and services with emerging information technology in inviting, collaborative spaces. We, as no other entity on campus, represent a convergence of the physical and virtual, a blending of the past, present and future.

Now more than ever, students need libraries as study spaces where individuals and groups can meet, to provide relevant and authentic sources (an antidote to websites of dubious veracity), and to offer friendly and knowledgeable librarians who answer questions and guide research. And because of our massive online collections and services, the Library is available to Brown students and faculty anywhere, anytime.

Beyond the undeniable importance of bricks and mortar, collections, services and the growing array of online offerings, we recognize that these are not our end-goal. Rather, the Library thrives because it is integral to the academic life of Brown's students and faculty. We take pride in the fact that Brown students draw on our resources to create their own papers and research projects; they initiate new multimedia projects using elements of our collections and the latest technologies; and they flock to the libraries at all hours of the day and night. Students are the reason the Library exists.

This latest issue of *Among Friends* is an acknowledgement of our students' ongoing contribution to the libraries and our *raison d'être*. I close with a small hope that, despite the sea of change taking place within the academy and throughout society, Brown students will never stop interacting with the past in order to envision the future.

Harriette Hemmasi

Harriette Hemmasi  
*Joukowsky Family University Librarian*





## View from the Chair

Generally, the focus of the Friends of the Library has been on what I would call the “supply” side of the equation rather than the “demand” side. The Friends of the Library have not given much attention over the years to the student side of the library/student equation. We have been concerned with University collections and resources of the Library, including buildings, furniture and other library amenities. In recent years we have discussed digitization and online access, off-site storage and the competition for resources between hard copy and electronic material. Although the goal always has been to make the Library “better,” more accessible, and more useful, we have viewed the Library from the perspective of the library staff and as alumni, not from the perspective

of students.

In part this is because most of us do not know what it is like to be an undergraduate or graduate student in this century. Libraries and the demands on libraries have changed dramatically over the last few decades, and so have the needs of students. We know from our Friends’ participation that the Brown librarians work extremely hard to satisfy the needs of students and professors. We appreciate that, as substantial as the resources are that are devoted to the libraries, the available resources are stretched to the limit and not all needs can be completely satisfied.

The question we ask as Friends of the Library is whether there is anything more we can do to help on the “demand” side. We and the Library invite users of library services to provide us with information as to

how the Brown libraries are fulfilling or not fulfilling the needs of its users. Students, how are you using the Library? What do you look for? How accessible is the information you need? What, if anything, could the Library do to improve your ability to use its resources? The Library exists to serve the needs of students, and the University Librarian wants student input. Access to such information could help the Library and the Friends in its mission to support the Brown libraries in the decades to come.

Jeffrey Schreck '73  
Chair

## Exhibits Calendar

### Commemorating the Past and Creating the Future 100 Years of the John Hay Library, 1910-2010

John Hay Library, Main Gallery  
April 12 – June 4, 2010

This exhibit will include materials tracing the history of the John Hay Library at Brown University, primarily focusing on the building of the Library and its evolution from the University library to the Special Collections library.

### Melchor Pérez de Soto, A Private Book Collector Ahead of His Time

John Hay Library, Main Gallery  
Mid-June – July, 2010

Melchor Pérez de Soto, a Mexican astrologer and architect, built one of the most impressive private collections of printed books in 17th Century Mexico. According to an inventory of its library made by clerks of the Inquisition, the collection contained 1,592 volumes, covered various disciplines, and represented authors from the classical to contemporary periods.

During the last five years of his life, the Holy Office gathered evidence on perceived heretical activities carried out by Pérez de Soto which included practicing astrology and owning prohibited books. He was arrested by the officers of the Inquisition on January 13, 1655,

and spent several weeks in solitary confinement. He was found dead in his cell in the prison on March 17 of the same year.

This exhibit illustrates the depth and breadth of the Pérez de Soto private collection and provides a glimpse into one of the finest minds among humanists in colonial Mexico.

For library hours and updated information on library exhibits, visit:

<http://library.brown.edu/libweb/hours.php>  
<http://library.brown.edu/exhibits>



# Spring Events



## Why Theater?

*Sixth Annual Don Wilmeth Endowed Lectureship  
in American Theatre*

Lynn Nottage '86

Salomon Hall 001  
Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7 p.m.

Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Ruined* has also received an OBIE, the Lucille Lortel Award, New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Play (Manhattan Theatre Club, Goodman Theatre). Other plays include: *Intimate Apparel* (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play; Roundabout Theatre, CENTERSTAGE, South Coast Repertory); *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award; Playwrights Horizons, London's Tricycle Theatre); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy; Las*

*Meninas; Mud, River, Stone; Por'knockers; and POOF!*

Nottage is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2007 MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant," the National Black Theatre Festival's August Wilson Playwriting Award, the 2004 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Drama, the 2005 Guggenheim Grant for Playwriting, as well as fellowships from the Lucille Lortel Foundation, Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists and New York Foundation for the Arts.

Her most recent publications include: *Ruined* (TCG), *Intimate Apparel and Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine: Two Plays* (TCG) and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy and Other Plays* (TCG). She is a member of The Dramatists Guild, an alumna of New Dramatists and a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, where she is a visiting lecturer.

[www.lynnnottage.net](http://www.lynnnottage.net).

## An Afternoon with Maryalice Huggins and Jane Leikin

Maryalice Huggins, author  
Jane Leikin, soprano

Lownes Room, John Hay Library  
Monday, May 10, 2010, 4 p.m.

Maryalice Huggins, author of *Aesop's Mirror*, will be guest speaker, and Jane Leikin, soprano, will entertain with a few French songs at the annual Mel and Cindy Yoken Cultural Series lecture.

## RIPS Celebrates 125 Years

The Brown University Library joined the R. I. Philatelic Society in observing the Society's 125th anniversary at a celebration at the John Hay Library on February 2, 2010. The RIPS is recognized as the oldest continuously running philatelic society in America.

During the day, Society members and the USPS manned a temporary U.S. postal station in the Hay lobby where a special commemorative cancellation and cover were sold. An evening reception offered guests a rare opportunity to view the Library's extensive philatelic collections.

For over 30 years, members of the RIPS have volunteered to catalogue, update and prepare exhibits for these world class philatelic collections, and the John Hay Library was a natural choice for both entities to celebrate this 125 year legacy.





# New Spaces... To Study and Reflect



Left: The recently renovated Finn Reading Room in the Rockefeller Library

Below: Artist George Hartman's rendering of the John Hay reading room renovation

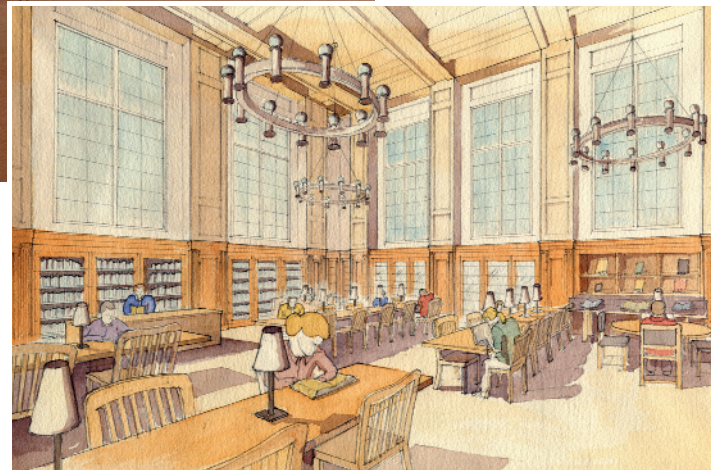
As part of Brown's capital campaign, "The Plan for Academic Enrichment," the Brown University Library has received several gifts over the past five years that have enabled it to improve study spaces in the Rockefeller, Sciences and John Hay libraries.

Fortunately, the necessary revitalization of the Library's physical facilities continues. Long considered something of an eyesore among students and faculty, the Rockefeller Library is being given a second life thanks to two sets of donors with longstanding connections to Brown.

"The Rockefeller Library has been a central meeting spot for students at Brown for decades, but unfortunately it has begun to look unattractive and outmoded," said Harriette Hemmasi, Joukowsky Family University Librarian. "As part of the campaign, several key library supporters have stepped forward to provide the financial backing necessary to create a state-of-the-art space."

Made possible by a donation from the Finn family, the new David and Laura Finn Reading Room on the first floor of the Rock has become a favorite spot for Brown students to cram for finals, work on research projects, or relax with a magazine. The space boasts comfortable chairs and couches, enclosed rooms for group study, a row of desks along the Library's north wall and tables for collaborative work. It also offers stunning views of College Hill and the Providence skyline.

Complementing this space will be the modernization of the central reading room just adjacent to the Finn Room. Funded through a recent gift from Joan and Paul Sorensen (see page 10) the space will be reconfigured in an open and inviting fashion to suit student needs.



Across the street from the Rockefeller Library, plans are underway to restore the reading room and University Archives housed in the John Hay Library. The historic reading room will be returned to its original beauty and grandeur and the University Archives will also become a place for study and contemplation. With the renovation of both the reading room and the University Archives, the John Hay Library will once again become a central study environment on campus. It will be available to current and future generations, promoting engagement with scholarly resources and providing an elegant and inspiring place for study and research. Reminiscent of the great reading rooms in libraries such as the New York Public Library, the restored reading room and University Archives in the John Hay Library will return to Brown both memories and evidence of its great history.

"By opening the physical space in the John Hay, we are signaling the opening of the collections and their use by one and all. My hope is that by restoring these grand rooms to their original views and uses, we can provide students with a tangible link to Brown's past while also furnishing researchers with the tools to meet the demands of modern research," Hemmasi said.

# In Their Own Words: Student Workers in the Brown Library

More than 250 students work at the Brown Library each year. They page books, answer interlibrary loan requests, help preserve elements of the special collections and digitize priceless treasures for multimedia projects.

*Among Friends* checked in with three of these student assistants to find how they help out at the Library and how their work experiences have impacted their own research.

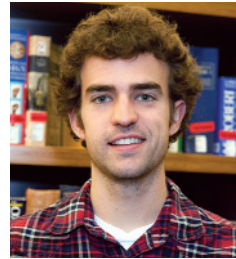
## Francesca Zetar '12



The people I work with at the library have truly become a wonderful family to me and I feel so lucky to know each and every one of them.

Debbie Nelson, who is like a mother to me, is one of the most nurturing people I know and I truly can't imagine my life at Brown without her. I am so grateful to Steven Lavalley for always being encouraging of my cooking adventures. It is because of Tom Allen that I am obsessed with cooking (in particular *Cooks Illustrated*) and why I enjoy working the early morning shifts with him — he truly has a wealth of knowledge and it is always a joy to learn from him. And my Sci Li evenings would never be the same without James Schlageter; with his chic sense of style, great stories to share, and a big smile on his face, he never ceases to make every evening at the SciLi a moment to remember.

All of the library's resources that I now use on an almost daily basis are due to my working at the library, and those resources have certainly made it much easier for me to do my academic work.



## Gregory Anderson '10

I started working for the library in February of 2008, the beginning of my third semester at Brown. My tasks at the library depend on the shift, but most commonly I answer directional, informational and reference questions from patrons, page books for reserve, check books in and out, and help library staff with their daily duties.

The most rewarding part of working at the library is when someone comes in and has a small snippet of a bibliographic reference and I use the library databases to find the full reference or even the full article.

I use the library almost every day. My favorite place to work is the Rock second floor cluster, near the window so you can look out at the city. For collaborative work, I almost always use the Sciences Library because it has great group spaces and a more relaxed atmosphere. For quiet reading and study, though, you can't beat the Orwig or Hay reading rooms.

## Daniel Towne '12

I started working for the library last fall as a student assistant in gateway services in the Friedman Center of the Sciences Library. My job consisted of trying to help students with whatever questions they had, getting DVDs from the entertainment collection, getting books on course reserve, checking materials in and out.

I like to study in the Friedman Center when I have to work, but wouldn't mind seeing people I know, since the Friedman is a little more social than the stacks. That being said, if I really need to get a lot done or need silence to focus, the stacks are the place to go.

I think it's one of the best jobs on campus, without a doubt. The people are great, you get to know more about how the library works and what resources are available there, you get to interact with students and faculty, and there's also usually time to get some homework or studying done as well.





# Undergraduate Research Awards: Rewarding Student Research

Beginning three years ago, the annual Undergraduate Research Awards recognize and reward excellent student papers and academic work that draw on resources at the Brown University Library. Over the years, the awards have honored everything from studies of the role of the Black Sun Press in the modernist movement to the conventicle acts in Charles II's England to the work of William Faulkner.

Contemporary Haiti through a Historical Lens," Shen set out to present information on the many people, locations and events critical to that conflict. To this end, Shen worked closely with Scholarly Resource Librarians Dominique Coulombe and Patricia Figueroa at the John Hay Library and with Kim Nusco at the John Carter Brown Library, which has the largest collection of original material on Haiti's revolutionary period in North America.

"Through this research I have gotten to know university librarians and specialists, which has been wonderful," Shen said. "The project created a rare opportunity to become incredibly familiar with the academic resources at Brown."

"Winning the award was exciting not only because it recognized the multi-faceted approach I had tried to use in building the website, but also because it supported the research I did this past summer in Haiti," Shen added.

Miller's award-winning paper, "American Disposables: Equality, Convenience, Amnesia," examined the cultural impact of America's transition from durable to disposable consumer goods. Miller's paper was written for Professor Thomas Jundt's history course "Consumer Culture in America," and focused on a set of products including plastic ballpoint pens, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins and furniture made of plastic to explore how they affected family and cultural histories, hygiene, gender equality, and even the way romances are conducted.

Miller argued that the convenience and affordability of disposable products means that Americans no longer turn to concrete objects passed down through generations to gain insight into their family histories. In his research, Miller consulted the Library's collection of 1940s- and 50s-era magazines on microfilm, as well as Sears and Roebuck catalogues from the 1930s and 40s and referred to print works on plastics, consumer culture and business history.

The review committee members commented that reading Miller's research paper moved them "to view history since World War II, and the present, in a new and expanded way."

This year's recipients have yet to be named. A six member review committee comprised of Brown faculty members and librarians is still sifting through applications to determine which students will be the recipients of the two \$750 prizes. Last year, in partnership with the Office of the Dean of the College, the library selected Kona Shen '10 and Forrest Miller '10 to receive awards for their print and online projects.

Shen created a web-based timeline of the Haitian revolution so students could access a single comprehensive resource to understand that nation's complex revolutionary process. Inspired by her experience in Professor of Africana Studies Barry Bogues' group independent study project "Haiti, Past and Present:



Forrest Miller '10 and Kona Shen '10, 2009 recipients of the Undergraduate Research Awards

## Bryson Dance Collection

Tom and Antonia Bryson ('72, '74) recently donated their remarkable collection of books, photographs, programs and ephemera relating to the history of dance to the Brown University Library. The roughly 2,000 books will be housed in the John Hay and Rockefeller Libraries and made available for use by the Brown community. The collection took the couple decades to build and emerged out of Mr. Bryson's love of books and Mrs. Bryson's love of dance.

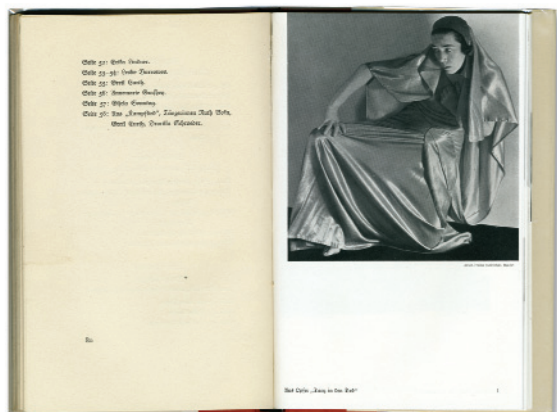
Its holdings are primarily concerned with ballet and modern dance, and seek to trace the expansion of the two art forms throughout the 20th century. Starting with the work of iconoclasts like Isadora Duncan and Loie Fuller at the dawn of a new era, the collection winds its way through the birth of modern dance in the United States and Germany, the resurgence of ballet in countries like Russia, up through the dance boom in the 1970s and 80s. Among the languages represented are works in French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Hungarian, Hebrew, Swedish, Dutch and Japanese.

Notable items include biographies of the likes of Vaslav Nijinsky and Maude Allen, works of criticism by luminaries such as Verlag von Walter Sifert and Paul Taylor, photographs documenting such



influential figures in twentieth century dance as the New York City Ballet and Martha Graham, as well as programs from the Ballet Russe.

"Though dance is in one of its periodic fallow periods, there was a 100-year run that began with a huge creative burst," Mr. Bryson said. "This collection tries to capture the incredibly productive period of dance in the twentieth century."



Above right: From George Barbier's *Designs on the Dances of Vaslav Nijinsky* (London: C. W. Beaumont & Co., 1913)

Above: Mary Wigman, from *Deutsche Lanzaunft* (Dresden: Carl Reibner, 1935)

Right: Fernand Léger's curtain for a scene from "La Création du Monde," from *Les Ballets Suédois...* (Paris: Editions du Trianon, 1931)





## A Late Scholar's Gift

Michael Bhatia '99 was recognized as a highly accomplished scholar of Afghanistan. His promising career was tragedy cut short when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in May 2008, while serving as a civilian member of a U.S. Army Human Terrain Team.

In addition to being an undergraduate at Brown, Bhatia was a visiting fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies from 2006 to 2007. He co-authored *Afghanistan, Arms and Conflict: Armed Groups, Disarmament and Security in a Post-War Society*. He was an Oxford University doctoral candidate at the time of his death.

"He had one of probably the best conventional libraries of international relations that I've come across," James Der Derian, professor of international studies, told the *Brown Daily Herald*.

Bhatia's family recently donated the over 700 books and papers in his collection to the Brown University Library. In addition to his scholarly books, Bhatia's collection included his own papers, conference proceedings, and other writings. There are also posters from the first election in Afghanistan that have been preserved and will be stored in the University Archives in the John Hay Library.

"The Bhatia collection provides a fascinating lens into the depth and breadth of Michael as a scholar, and one committed to understanding the world and its myriad interconnectivities," said Ian Straughn, Interim Joukowsky Family Librarian of Middle-Eastern Studies. "In many ways his papers, particularly the collections of articles which he has annotated with marginalia and commentaries, serve as a demonstration of the various fields of knowledge that one must begin to master in order to engage with the challenges of globalization. The portrait that they convey is of a man steeped in the cosmopolitanism of the academy but unencumbered by the clichéd armchair distance of the ivory tower."

Bhatia had developed unusually deep expertise by serving as an intern with the U.N. High Commission for Refugees in Saharan Africa before graduating magna cum laude in international relations from Brown in 1999 and by working for nongovernmental organizations in Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and East Timor. At Watson, Bhatia taught a senior seminar called "The U.S. Military: Global Supremacy, Democracy, and Citizenship."

Sasha Polakow-Suransky '01, associate editor of the journal *Foreign Affairs* and a student at Oxford at the



The family of the late scholar Michael Bhatia '99 has donated his library of over 700 books on international relations to the Brown Library.

same time as Bhatia, described him as "one of the most promising diplomats" in America and "one of the most formidable and unconventional minds ever to emerge from the Van Wickle Gates."

The Human Terrain System systematically embedded social scientists and anthropologists like Bhatia with combat troops in order to help the troops better understand the cultural dynamics in which they were operating. Bhatia used his expertise on humanitarian intervention, peacekeeping and the culture of Afghanistan to mediate disputes and negotiate solutions with local tribal elders.

"Michael's archive — his paper-trail if you will — is a constant reminder that scholarship and the production of knowledge is deeply embedded in facing so many of the challenges of becoming global citizens. People may carry a particular passport but this is only one small part, only one form of identity, that makes up the whole of their life," Straughn said.

For more information about giving to the Library, email Gillian Kiley at [library\\_gifts@brown.edu](mailto:library_gifts@brown.edu) or call 401-863-1518.

### *Joan Sorensen '72, P '06 and Paul Sorensen '71, ScM '75, PhD '77, P '06*

Brown University recently announced a \$1 million gift from Joan and Paul Sorensen for the revitalization of the Rockefeller Library's first floor central reading room. "Never underestimate the positive impact on learning provided by a well appointed, comfortable place to study," Paul Sorensen said.

Their philanthropy will help an outdated space become a vibrant new area for research and study, and this is but one of the many ways in which the Sorensens have been giving back to the Brown community for

decades. Joan Sorensen, a member of the Corporation, co-chair of the Brown Annual Fund and vice-chair of the Boldly Brown Campaign, is a member of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC), an external advisory board appointed by President Simmons, and also the Friends of the Library and the John Carter Brown Library Associates. Paul Sorensen serves on the Engineering Advisory Council, another external advisory board appointed by President Simmons, and also serves on the Board of the Brown Sports Foundation.

"I love libraries," Joan Sorensen said. "I spent countless hours in them as a student. I worked at the John Hay Library for a summer job as an undergrad. I have three sisters and two children who went to Brown, so I know what an important role the libraries play in the lives of students."

"I went to the library every night after dinner," Joan Sorensen remembers. "I needed a place with complete peace and quiet and always studied on level 2 of the Rock. It also happened to be a great place to socialize and at certain times of the night, we'd all take a break in the lounge."

An engineering major, Paul Sorensen spent the bulk of his time at the Sciences Library, but he visited the Rock regularly to research material for his liberal arts classes.

"The reality is that libraries are central to great universities — those without first rate facilities are at a disadvantage in competition for top students and faculty," Paul Sorensen said.

The Rockefeller Library is used heavily by students and faculty, and shows resulting wear and tear. Changing technology has also rendered many parts of the library obsolete and inadequate.

"I once was told by a student tour guide that he would not take prospective applicants inside the Rockefeller Library because it looked shabby," Joan Sorensen said. "Well, I looked at the space and thought shabby was an understatement to say the least!"

Through the ongoing Boldly Brown Campaign, the Rockefeller Library is being given a second life. However, as the Sorensens are quick to note, the campaign ends December 31, 2010 and the Library still has a way to go for it to reach its \$35 million goal.

"I've seen the NEASC accreditation report, and increasing support for the library is highlighted as vital to meeting the expanding needs of faculty, graduate and undergraduate programs," Joan Sorensen said.



Paul and Joan Sorensen, seen here at a recent capital campaign event in Boston, have donated \$1 million to help renovate the Rockefeller Library.





Jackie Friedman '08 has a vision for bringing student art to the walls of the Sciences Library.

## Jackie Friedman '08

Jackie Friedman's enduring contribution to Brown and its libraries will be found in the paintings, photographs and sculptures that will adorn the walls of the Friedman Center. It is Friedman '08 who persuaded University Librarian Harriette Hemmasi to allow Brown students to exhibit their artwork in the Sciences Library.

"After the renovation, it was amazing to see how much the Library had changed. It was so warm and exciting, but the walls were still cement walls," Friedman said. "Although most of the art shows will happen after I graduated, I tried to help lay the groundwork."

Working with Hemmasi, the staff at the Friedman Center and professors at the visual arts department, Friedman cobbled together an initial plan that will turn parts of the renovated study center into a forum for the visual arts.

"I think it brings new excitement to the Library," Friedman said. "People are always studying so intensely at the Library, because the courses at Brown are so challenging, that it's important to make them feel more comfortable. Student art on the walls gives it a homier feeling and is a great way to highlight coursework from other disciplines."

In addition to her work promoting student art, Friedman also gives back as a board member of the Friends of the Library. Part of her reason for staying involved is that she believes the Library played a formative role in her evolution as a Brown student.

"There's a fusion between my career at Brown and how I felt at the Library," Friedman said. "When I first came as a freshman, the Library seemed so intimidating. There were millions of books and everyone was so engrossed in their work. But gradually I began to feel more comfortable. I'd come and study with friends and I began to feel more comfortable in my own skin and to feel more confident about myself as a student."

"I was always in the Sci Li basement," Friedman, a double major in History of Art and Architecture and Visual Arts, remembers. "My absolute favorite place to go was all the way to the back of the room. There's a garden there and it's just so peaceful."

"The Library helped me grow, so I'm just happy I could give back," she added.

## Chris Suh's Summer Job

Chris Suh spent part of his last summer working to revamp the "Perry Visits Japan" website. With funding from the Library and the Department of American Civilization, Suh helped Patrick Yott, head of the Library's digital services department and the Center for Digital Initiatives, and American Civilization Professor Susan Smulyan to overhaul the Internet resource. To that end, Suh spent his summer digitizing several Japanese scrolls documenting Perry's visit to Japan that are owned by the Naval War College in Rhode Island and posted Japanese students' essays on the site. Most importantly, Suh collaborated with library staff members to create a whiteboard for the newly designed website that will go live this spring.

"I've always thought of the Library as the place of the past — that's where I could find old books and letters — but during this summer I began to think of it as the place of the future as well," Suh said. "The library staff members helped me acquire digital skills — html, digitizing texts, etc. — and they also taught me a great deal about how to make teaching history more interactive."

Suh adds that working at the Center for Digital Initiatives taught him that there are other ways for students to access scholarly research aside from just printed texts. He came to understand that by creating online forums for scholarship such as "Perry Visits Japan," historians could more easily and more rapidly share their discoveries with a truly global audience. "Presenting historical research on the web can be difficult for historians who haven't really thought about the ways in which people can access information outside print text. The Library, with its knowledgeable staff members, can help historians make the transition from primarily presenting their works in print to presenting them online," Suh said.



Chris Suh '10 spent his summer helping to overhaul the Brown Library's digital archive "Perry Visits Japan."

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## Join us, or renew your membership today!

Active since 1938, the Friends of the Library bring together a community of individuals dedicated to the support and development of the Brown University Library.

### Yes, I would like to join or renew with Friends of the Library

*All members receive the Friends' newsletter, **Among Friends**, and invitations to lectures, exhibits and special events.*

- ☐ \$25 Student Membership
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