



# CLARK LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Should a library be a static entity that each new class of students must learn how to navigate successfully? Or should the library change as our students change?

The learning environment and University of Portland students are significantly different than 10 years ago, or even 5 years ago. Our work this year has taken as a guiding star the idea that we should be listening and learning to understand the needs of today's students. The library can better contribute to student success if we consider our space and services as open to change. Thus, we found ways for our students to help guide the evolution of the library, including more expressly reflecting student identity and creativity. Take a look at the article on page 5 to learn more about student art exhibits in our Dr. James T. Covert Gallery and student curation of library resources for book displays.

Students also contributed significant feedback on a big transformation coming to the library next year. In early 2024, the library's Digital Lab will move to the new Shiley-Marcos Center for Design & Innovation. This exciting change will bring new energy to the library's multimedia lab, as it co-locates with makerspaces and art studios in a new student hub. It leaves behind a gap in a prime location on the library's second floor. We asked students what they would like to see move into that area. Among joking suggestions for a cat playroom and mochi bar was much appreciation for the library's blend of academic and social space, and a desire to see a comfortable "academic lounge" that would bring students together as they



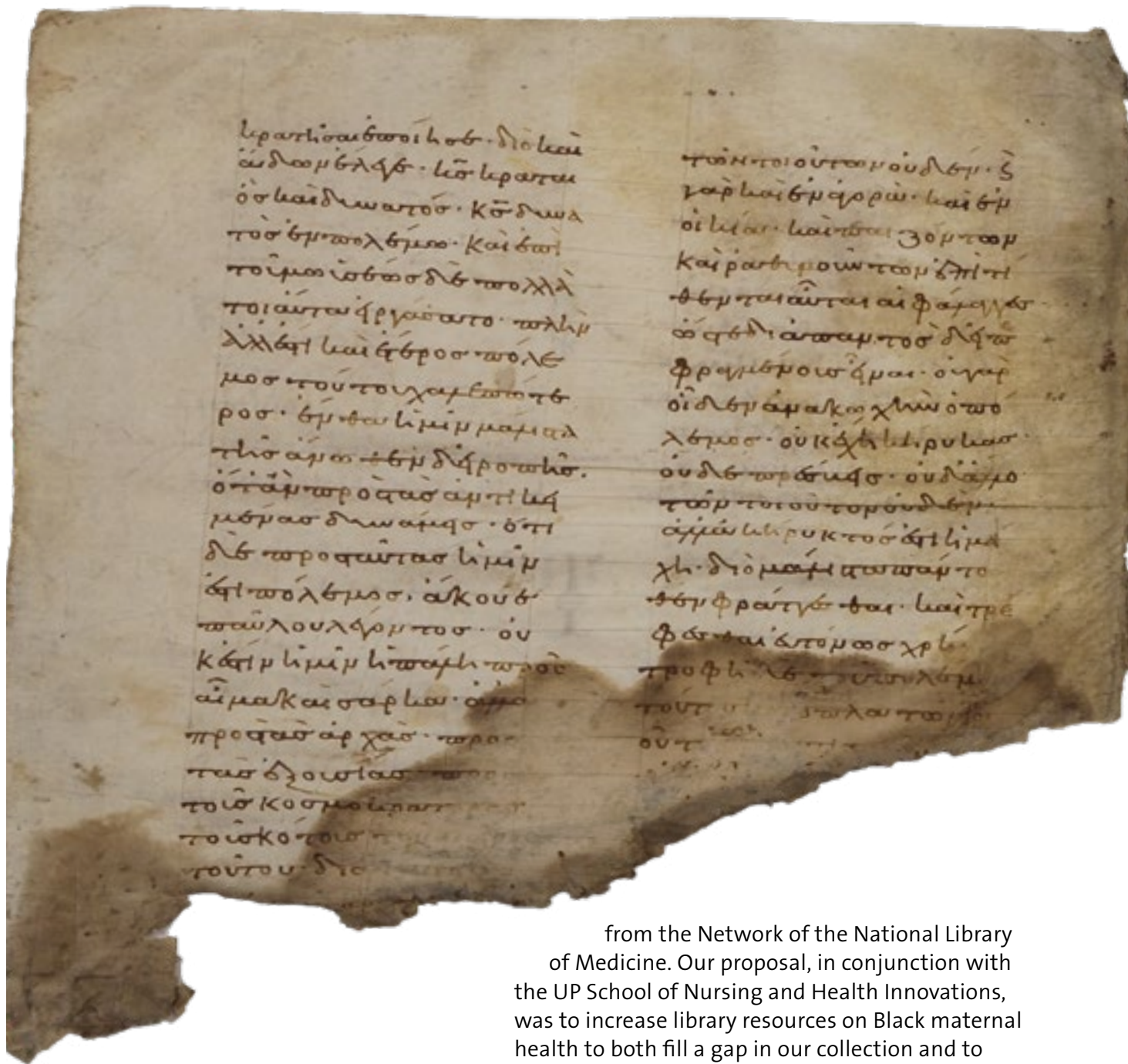
tackle coursework and research. The plan for the new library space is not yet set, but we are looking forward to creating a welcoming environment for UP students as well as more opportunities for their input to guide our direction.

Thank you for supporting the Clark Library! And come visit - our library doesn't just welcome UP students, staff, and faculty, but alumni and friends as well. We are looking forward to the coming year and we invite you to share it with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xan Arch', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Xan Arch





## ILLUMINATING OUR COLLECTIONS

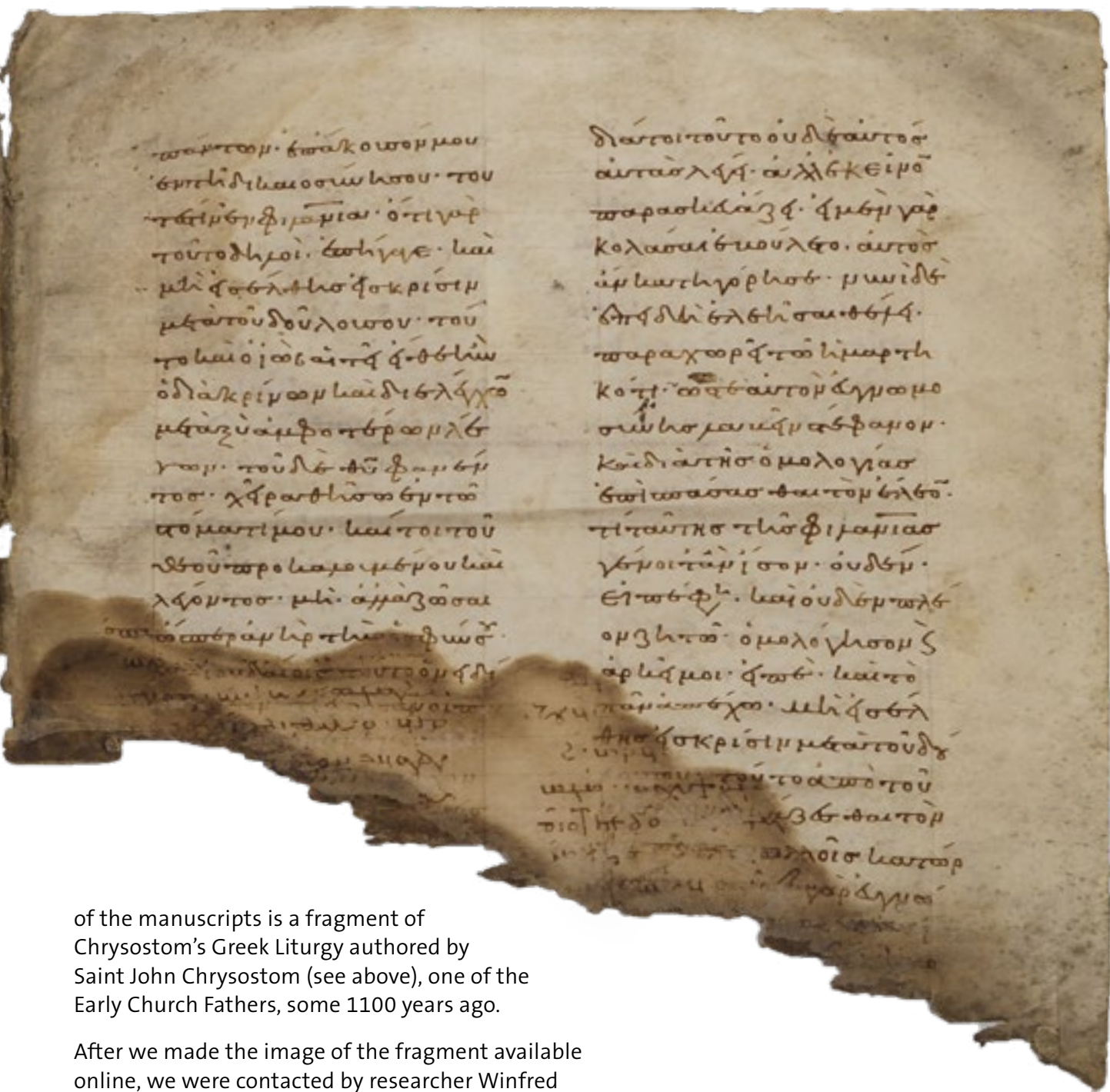
When we think of libraries, we may think of long rows of books on shelves, representing centuries of human knowledge. However, a library's collection encompasses so much more. We continue to diversify and increase equitable access to scholarly resources — not only through our print books, but new and different types of content as well.

Our collection expanded in a meaningful way after we received a Collection Equity Award this year

from the Network of the National Library of Medicine. Our proposal, in conjunction with the UP School of Nursing and Health Innovations, was to increase library resources on Black maternal health to both fill a gap in our collection and to support future nurses working in racially diverse communities. We were proud to receive the award and add print and electronic books that will advance student understanding of health inequities.

Clark Library's archival digital collections continued to grow as well. To supplement our previous digitization of *The Beacon* newspaper and *The Log* yearbook, now freely available online, we are currently digitizing *Portland* magazine starting with the 1980s. This flagship, award-winning publication has a wide readership and connects alumni with their alma mater.

Our digital collection of medieval manuscripts also received some new attention. One



of the manuscripts is a fragment of Chrysostom's Greek Liturgy authored by Saint John Chrysostom (see above), one of the Early Church Fathers, some 1100 years ago.

After we made the image of the fragment available online, we were contacted by researcher Winfred Belcher from Oklahoma who had found another fragment from the same Liturgy. Belcher's discoveries were featured in newspapers around the region. He was also able to tell us more about our fragment: "These two 10th-11th Century fragments combined appear to be a part of the only extant manuscript of St. John Chrysostom's 'Exposition on Psalm 119-150' in the U.S. which Chrysostom originally delivered as sermons in the year 398 A.D. while he was Bishop of Constantinople." The

Visit [library.up.edu/dc](https://library.up.edu/dc) to explore our digital collections.

availability of our medieval manuscripts online has been a boon to many researchers, and we were pleased to augment our own understanding of the manuscripts.

As our library collection expands, it more fully serves the needs of today's students and allows for collaborations around the world that illuminate the richness of the past.





Soleia Quinn '24, during the reception for her Covert Gallery exhibit *Portraits of Everywoman*

## STUDENT CREATIVITY AND SCHOLARSHIP

To create a library space that is central to the student academic and social experience at UP, the best experts are the students themselves. We took the collaboration between the library and UP students to a new level this year, with projects that elevated student creative expression, thoughtful curation of resources, and peer research support. These projects were exciting opportunities for the students involved as well as a way for the library to showcase the skills of our academic community.

We were delighted to hold our first student shows in the Dr. James T. Covert Gallery. Having the creative drive to fill a gallery with art, plus the animating vision to bring their pieces together around a theme, is significant work for even established artists, so we were not sure if a student would be willing to take

the journey with us to a solo gallery show. However, by providing the artists with library staff assistance and a lot of encouragement, we mounted two separate student shows in fall and spring terms.



Salzburg, Austria by Thayne Covert

The first was doubly special as the artist, Thayne Covert, is the grandson of the gallery's namesake. The opening reception was a chance for the Covert family

to gather and celebrate both Thayne's artistic ability and the legacy of his grandfather, UP history professor James T. Covert. Thayne graduated this year with a degree in mechanical engineering, and his watercolor paintings included depictions of UP and Portland, as well as images from his time studying abroad. In the spring, Soleia Quinn presented *Portraits of Everywoman*, a series of paintings and works on paper. Soleia is a rising senior majoring in English and Psychology with a minor in Fine Arts. Her pieces are centered around the idea of womanhood and use nature and reflections of classical art to create works reflecting the themes of feminism, family, spirituality, and death.

Visit [library.up.edu/gallery](https://library.up.edu/gallery) to see these exhibits online.

*"The library was an integral part of my exhibit. They facilitated everything so I could focus on my creative vision."*

— Soleia Quinn '24

Another new curation opportunity for students this year was creating a themed display. We use these displays to highlight books and media in our library collection and celebrate topics like identity and wellness, with the goal of reflecting student interests. For



Fiona Barbolak '23

the first time this year, we asked for student help in planning and creating one of these displays around a theme of their choice. Fiona Barbolak, a graduate student in the UP Higher Education & Student

Affairs program, curated a display on the topic of Workers' Rights and Advocacy. The resulting collection of resources animated our first floor and was featured online throughout the spring semester.

Fiona is also a Research desk student worker in the library, a group that helps the library create a student-focused environment that supports study and scholarship. This year, we asked our Research desk students to reflect on their library employment and their answers reflected their understanding of how they are part of the library's deep commitment to student service. One student commented they felt that they can contribute to student success by "offering a bridge between university resources and the student perspective; we know how it feels to be new and intimidated by the research process; this helps us relate and better serve the students we work with." Another student remarked, "I have been able to be more present in my campus community and feel like I'm giving back to an institution that has helped me grow immensely since I started school. This was my hope when I applied for the position, so I've been very happy to see that wish come to life." We care for our student employees and want to ensure the quality of their work experience.

### The Ellen M. Leadem Annual Scholarship Award

Thanks to a generous donation, the Clark Library was pleased to nominate outstanding student employees for the Ellen M. Leadem Annual Scholarship. The award recognizes our wonderful library student workers, and honors Ellen M. Leadem, a librarian who, in the words of her family, was



Lily Nguyen '23

"passionate about expanding access to information and mentoring the next generation of librarians." The 2022-2023 recipient was Lily Nguyen in the Clark Library's Circulation department. Lily graduated this year with a degree in Nursing.



## REFLECTING ON OUR HISTORY

Just as the library strives to create spaces and collections that reflect our diversifying campus, our Archives & Artifacts unit, led by the interests of our students, examines and engages our institution's past. Our 2022 campus-wide survey showed a desire from our community members to learn more about the University's history, especially around diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. In response, Archives & Artifacts produced a series of posts for PortLog ([sites.up.edu/museum](https://sites.up.edu/museum)) this year that explore our institutional prejudices, barriers, and exclusions. For example, one article reflected on the University's decision to allow women to register as students for all of its programs. This shift in 1950 marked an important chapter in the University's history. Reflecting on and creating awareness of these moments forms connections with the past as the campus continues to achieve the ideals of its mission.

This spring in a new History Lab class for seniors, two students made extensive use of the Archives to write a report on the expression of Catholic identity at the University of Portland. The students, Marie Hashimoto and Nicholas Rocha, worked together to glean historical research from a variety of archival holdings, and ultimately shared their findings with the University's Mission Committee.

Our Museum also celebrated campus history through exhibits, including two in the library's Dr. James T. Covert Gallery. The first honored Waldschmidt Hall, the University's longest-serving building and office for more than a century of University presidents. The spring gallery exhibit showcased University spirit songs, from 1920's *Columbia, Columbia* to the current *University of Portland Victory March*. The Museum also enlivened the library lobby with pop-up exhibits for Family Weekends. One exhibit featured the history of UP and the other was a celebration of Wally Pilot's 75th birthday! Families enjoyed the opportunity to meet Wally himself, as well as learn about the versions of Wally throughout UP's history.

These critical and celebratory glimpses of the past provide today's UP community with a better understanding of the University's complex history.



Right: *Fight Song* and *Come All Ye Sons*,  
spirit song sheet music, 1939  
Left: *On Pilots On*, pep song  
sheet music, 1952



UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

Pilot



'SPU'  
PORT  
REV  
19  
ND

University of  
*Fight  
Sons*



WORDS  
JOHN L  
EARL  
REV. GEO. L. D

**COME ALL YE SONS**  
and  
WORDS & MUSIC BY REV. EUGENE BURKE G.S.C.  
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND — PORTLAND OREGON



# ELEVATING WELLNESS

At UP, the Holy Cross charism of care for the whole person calls for an intentional focus on holistic student wellbeing. This care has never been so important, as student mental health is an increasing concern on college campuses. All parts of the university can play a role in student wellness and the library is no exception – whether it is as an employer of students or in our roles as instructors and research consultants, we are frequently in a position to be a supportive presence in student lives. We take this responsibility seriously and actively work to ensure that library staff and faculty understand how they can contribute to student wellbeing. We also provide wellness resources for the students we instruct, employ, and serve in our library space.

To prepare ourselves to help students through their time at UP, we recently added a library liaison to the Wellness Education and Prevention unit within UP's Health & Counseling Services, as part of our program of library liaisons to student-serving groups on campus. This connection has brought us important opportunities including staff training on recognizing mental health and depression issues in students. Growing our ability to recognize and refer students in crisis will allow us to contribute to student success and retention.

We have paired this staff training with efforts to provide new wellness resources for students. Our Accessibility Committee, originally dedicated to



examining the physical accessibility of the library space, has expanded their work to consider how the library can support holistic wellness for students by creating an atmosphere of focus and productive collaboration separate from classrooms and dorms. One of the group's first projects was adding noise-canceling headphones to the roster of items for students to borrow, with the aim of facilitating quiet study and relaxation. Encouraged by the success of this initiative, the committee's next pilot project was the creation of three tranquility kits for check-out.

These kits contain fidget toys to soothe the mind-body connection, a Happy Light for some midwinter sunshine, and affirmation cards to boost morale and confidence. The kits also have a link to a feedback form, and we look forward to hearing about the impact of these new items.

In further support of stress relief for students, we piloted simple creative projects as study breaks, such as take-home cherry tree craft kits and a station in the library with coloring sheets and crayons during finals week. These proved so popular that we plan to continue offering chances for creative brain breaks in the future.





## DONUTS TO DOLLARS

The University's annual giving campaign, PilotsGive, was held in March 2023 and our generous donors helped us win second place in the Student Experience Challenge, boosting us to over \$8500 raised for the Clark Library! These funds will be used for student-oriented initiatives – one of which is meeting growing demand for technology items. The Library is the only place on campus that loans laptops, chargers, headphones, and other equipment to students. More than ever, students rely on technology to access information, participate in courses, and complete assignments.

Our competitive spirit comes out during PilotsGive and we have fun finding ways to create content while engaging with students.

Visit [library.up.edu/giving](https://library.up.edu/giving) to learn more about making a donation.

This year we invited students to share what they love about the library or how it helps

them – and get a donut! Their testimonials were used in our social media and gave us more insight into what students appreciate.

