



Dear friends,

The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries are already bustling with activity this academic year as students and faculty engage with our staff and resources and participate in exhibits and programs. Thanks to your commitment to the Heard Libraries, especially during the ongoing Dare to Grow fundraising campaign, we are experiencing significant growth in influence and impact.

Our mission focuses on elevating faculty research; enhancing student experiential learning; integrating knowledge discovery; fostering interdisciplinary initiatives; and engaging on local, regional and global scales to disseminate knowledge and preserve cultural memory. I am pleased to share details about a few key projects illustrating our progress and dedication to excellence:

- In support of the university's Dialogue Vanderbilt efforts, we have hosted **nationally recognized speakers**, including bestselling author James Patterson. Statistician Nate Silver and biographer Walter Isaacson will join us for similar events this fall.
- We helped launch the **Vanderbilt AI Law Lab**, which champions radical collaboration and experimentation to reimagine the future of law through the lens of artificial intelligence.
- Our **McGee Applied Research Center for Narrative Studies** is promoting media literacy by providing resources to evaluate the objectivity of news coverage and other narratives.
- Our Special Collections and University Archives have fully digitized the **Rev. James M. Lawson Papers**, providing a more complete picture of the distinguished activist's life and legacy.

Additionally, external partnerships enhance our ability to drive academic excellence through dynamic organization, strategy and innovation. For example, we have successfully negotiated open access agreements with several publishers to reduce barriers for Vanderbilt authors and promote wider dissemination of their research. We also recently announced a new partnership between Vanderbilt and the government of Québec that will bolster opportunities for academic and cultural exchange.

Our commitment to aligning with university goals and fostering a culture of evidence-based initiatives ensures that our impact will only continue to grow. **Please make a gift today to support our efforts by visiting vu.edu/supportlibrary.**

My best,

Jon Shaw
University Librarian