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Happy New Year (and Thank You!)

We want to begin the new year by expressing our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who donated to the William H. Hannon Library during the LMU Annual Day of Giving in November. In under 24 hours, we raised almost \$4,000, including a matching gift from Dean Kristine Brancolini and our recently retired Associate Dean, Tobeylynn Birch. Not only did you help us raise more funds during this year's campaign, but you increased the average size of your individual donations by 34%!

Events and programming at Hannon Library are made possible by donors like you. To support the mission of the University and to honor your generosity, we constantly strive to develop programming that is integrative, inclusive, and interdisciplinary. Please consider becoming a donor today and support the William H. Hannon Library.

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Faculty Pub Night: Matt Siniawski

January 19, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Our first Faculty Pub Night of Spring 2016 will feature Matt Siniawski, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at LMU's Seaver College of Science and Engineering. Professor Siniawski will present *Service-learning and Engineering: Design Projects that Promote Inclusion and Independence*.

[More details and RSVP](#)

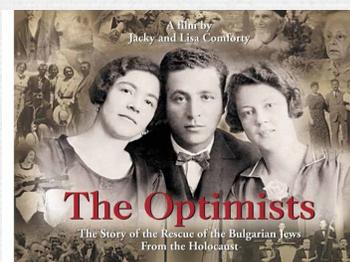


Sunday Jewish Book Club: The Optimists (Film)

January 24, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join us each month for a unique opportunity to meet faculty, staff, students, and community members with similar intellectual interests. This month, we will be viewing *The Optimists*, a film about how Bulgarian Christians and Muslims found ways to protect 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust.

[More details and RSVP](#)



Del Valle Vestments Exhibit Reception

February 4, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar! The opening reception for our Spring 2016 Archives & Special Collections exhibition will be on February 4. "The Del Valle Vestments: The Devotion and Performance of a Matriarchy" explores the lives of a prominent 19th century *Californio* family. Check our website soon for RSVP info.

[More details coming soon](#)



Current Exhibitions: LMU Student Art

Ongoing

Stop by the library this month and you will find artwork created by LMU students. The final projects for Experimental Typography (ART 303) on Level 2 were the result of conversations students had with participants in our Fall Human Book event. In the atrium on Level 3, you can explore creations from Visualizing Literature (ART 398), which draw inspiration from fairy tales and feminism.

[Read more](#)



See Our Full Events Calendar

Featured Article



LMU Students Uncover California History: The Del Valle Vestments

By Desirae Zingarelli-Sweet and Cynthia Becht

In collaboration with Head of Archives and Special Collections Cynthia Becht, and Reference and Instruction Librarian for Theology Desirae Zingarelli-Sweet, Theater Arts Professor Leon Wiebers and students in his Costume Research Methods course spent the Fall term investigating 19th century California Catholic vestments from William H. Hannon Library's Department of Archives and Special

Collections. Their remarkable research journey will be chronicled in the upcoming Archives and Special Collections exhibit "The Del Valle Vestments: The Devotion and Performance of a Matriarchy," which will be on view beginning January 25 and continuing through May 7, 2016.

Before Wiebers and his students took on the project, relatively little was known about the sumptuous vestments within the Ygnacio del Valle Family Collection- or the richness of their context. Donated by Josefa del Valle de Forster in the 1940s, the vestments were used in the family's chapel on their homestead, Rancho Camulos.

Camulos, which lies about 50 miles north of LMU, was established on land deeded by the Mexican government to Antonio del Valle in the early 19th century. Once the most famous rancho in California as the "home" of the fictional heroine of Helen Hunt Jackson's best-selling novel *Ramona* (1884), Rancho Camulos is now a designated [National Historic Landmark](#) and [museum](#) open to the public.

The del Valles, a prominent *Californio* family, played a significant role in the early history of Los Angeles from the Mexican period through California's transition to statehood. They were renowned for their gracious hospitality, and their vibrant working ranch was a stopover for many leading officials and Catholic clergy and later, tourists.

Through numerous visits to the Archives and Special Collections, the Rancho Camulos Museum, and several other institutions in the area, students in Theater 498 examined the historic vestments, their construction and production, the contexts of their use, and other del Valle family documents, photographs, and artifacts.

As the class worked to integrate this original primary research with secondary research into the family's 19th century California context, the prominent role textiles played in the lives of the del Valle women came into view. These formidable women played leading roles in creating and sustaining the family's image on a site where the very objects of their religious devotion were irrevocably intertwined with their social standing. The family's regular performance of religious rituals and personal connections with prominent Catholic figures formed an integral part of this enduring image.

The exhibit opens on January 25 and will be on view in Archives and Special Collections on the third floor Monday-Friday 8am-5pm until May 7, 2016.

What People Are Saying About Us

Photo by Sally Nanez

Instagram user [@sallynanez](#) stopped by the library in December for some puppy love. Each semester, the LMU FitWell Center and the Hannon Library sponsor therapy dogs to help students de-stress during Finals.

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