The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) has received an estate gift of $5.8 million to support leading Willa Cather initiatives in the UNL Libraries, including the Willa Cather Archive (http://cather.unl.edu), and the Department of English’s Cather Project. Cather is best known for her novels, essays, and short stories, including such works as My Antonia, O Pioneers!, One of Ours (winner of the 1923 Pulitzer Prize), and Death Comes for the Archbishop. Cather’s nephew, Charles E. Cather, endowed these funds to support Cather initiatives at the university, including the UNL Archives and Special Collections and the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. The funds also support public and scholarly programming; the Willa Cather Scholarly Edition, published by the Cather Project and the University of Nebraska Press; and student stipends or awards for undergraduate and graduate students engaged in archival research or study relating to Cather. Cather also donated personal property relating to his aunt, including manuscripts; the beginning of her last, unpublished novel; letters; and inscribed first editions of her work.

Washington University Libraries’ Film and Media Archive has completed the preservation of the rare short film More Than One Thing (1969). The project was completed with the support of a Basic Preservation Grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. More Than One Thing, directed by Washington University MFA student Steven Carver, tells of the dreams and aspirations of Billy Towns, an African American teenager growing up in the infamous Pruitt-Igoe housing project. The film features black-and-white imagery of Pruitt-Igoe and the surrounding environment, as well as the personal reflections of young Towns via narration. The archive houses the only existing prints of the film, donated by the filmmaker. The preservation project resulted in the generation of a 16mm duplicate negative, 16mm full-coat magnetic track, 16mm negative optical track, 16mm composite print, a digital HD transfer, and a Blu-ray access copy. Footage from the film was used extensively in the award-winning documentary The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011). The newly preserved film will be featured as part of the St. Louis International Film Festival in November 2016. Carver went on to a successful career in filmmaking and photography, directing such movies as Big Bad Mama (1974) and Lone Wolf McQuade (1983). Access copies of More Than One Thing will be available for loan to outside institutions to screen the film for educational purposes.

Acquisitions

National Hall of Fame sportswriter and Illinois Wesleyan University alumnus Dave Kindred has donated materials documenting his 50-year career as a sportswriter to the university’s Ames Library, Tate Archives and Special Collections. The collection comprises approximately 45 boxes of material, a significant portion pertaining to Muhammad Ali. Kindred first began writing about Ali 50 years ago, as a young sports reporter for the newspaper in Louisville, Kentucky, Ali’s hometown. The collection includes audio recordings of interviews Kindred conducted for his books Sound and Fury (2006), a portrait of the decades-long relationship between Ali and sportscaster Howard Cosell, and Morning Miracle: A Great Newspaper Fights for Its Life (2010), a behind-the-scenes look at the decline of the newspaper industry. Also included are more than 300 of Kindred’s reporter’s notebooks, scrapbooks from his trips covering the Olympics, and personal correspondence. More information is available at https://www.iwu.edu/news/2016/kindred-donates-50-years-of-sportswriting-material.html.