Sharon Carlson, Pam Jobin, John Winchell and Lynn Houghton celebrate the first steps in the construction.

Thursday, July 19, at 10:30 a.m. at Calhoun Street (off Oakland Drive near Howard Street), ground was finally broken for the new WMU Legacy Collections Building. The new facility will house the University’s archives as well as historical records for all of Southwest Michigan.

The ceremony was memorable and uplifting, as well as well attended by faculty, emeriti, administrators, students, donors and members of the community.

In the words of Dr. Barbara Cockrell, Associate Dean for Collections, “It was a testament to the significance of the work that Sharon [Carlson] and her team perform and the esteem in which they are held in the community.”

Both Dr. Carlson and Dean Joseph Reish spoke about the significance of this new undertaking along with remarks from President Dunn.

Breaking Ground for the WMU Legacy Collections Building

Nate Powell: Visiting Author and Artist

Nate Powell, an award-winning graphic novelist, will be coming to Kalamazoo on October 4-6, 2012. His visit will begin with a talk entitled “Cross Sections: The Graphic Novels of Nate Powell” on Thurs., Oct. 4, 5:30 p.m., at the Richmond Center for the Visual Arts, Room 2008, with a reception to follow.

During the October 5 Art Hop, an opening reception for a gallery show will be held from 6-9 pm at the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center in the Park Trades Center. “Cross Sections: The Graphic Novels of Nate Powell” will be on display until October 26 (http://www.kalbookarts.org for further information).

The Friends collaborated with the Department of English, the Frostic School of Art and the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center (KBAC) to support these events.

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Mr. Powell’s best known work, *Swallow Me Whole* (2008), was the first comic since Spiegelman’s *Maus* nominated for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. *Swallow Me Whole* presents the coming of age experience in a thoughtful and sensitive manner, focusing on issues of family dynamics and mental health. Between 2008-2009, Powell won the Will Eisner Award for Best New Graphic Novel, the Ignatz Award for an Outstanding Debut and for Outstanding Artist.

Other works by Powell include *Any Empire*, *The Silence Of Our Friends*, and the forthcoming *March*, a graphic novel autobiography of civil rights legend and sitting Congressman John Lewis, to be published by Top Shelf in 2014. For more information visit: [www.seemybrotherdance.org](http://www.seemybrotherdance.org).

**Featured Faculty Speaker: Gwen Athene Tarbox**

Dr. Gwen Athene Tarbox will help prepare for Nate Powell’s visit with a presentation entitled “Reading Comics: Aligning Text and Image in Nate Powell’s *Swallow Me Whole*” on Thursday September 20, 2 p.m. 1220 Chemistry, Western Michigan University.

Gwen Athene Tarbox is an Associate Professor in the Department of English and an affiliate of the Gender and Women’s Studies program at Western Michigan University, where she teaches courses in comics studies, children’s and adolescent literature, and American literature. Dr. Tarbox’s first book, *The Clubwomen’s Daughters: Collectivist Impulses in Progressive-era Girls’ Fiction*, received an ALA/Choice Outstanding Title designation, and she has also published widely and given conference papers on comics studies and YA literature. Currently, her scholarly interest lies in issues of visual representation and reader identification in North American, British, and Franco-Belgian comics written about and for adolescents.

**Scholarworks: A new way to access WMU Authors**

WMU Libraries are working to increase the visibility of academic and creative work by faculty and staff. The May Annual Meeting highlighted the new physical collection of WMU faculty- and staff-authored books in Waldo Library. ScholarWorks@WMU, an online open-access scholarly repository, is administered through the Libraries and complements this physical collection.

The repository preserves and showcases the work of WMU faculty, staff, and students. This easy access to research and creative scholarship in one place will increase the visibility of WMU scholarship. Since early 2011, Scholarworks@WMU has:

- Over 4000 items deposited
- 82,000 full-text downloads
- 29,000 unique visitors
- 5 peer-reviewed journals
- 1 International Conference

Browse the collection at: [http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/](http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/)

**Featured Image:**

*Herkenrode Antiphonary inhabited letter A.*

*Obrecht Manuscript 17 of the Dom Edmond Obrecht Collection of Gethsemani Abbey, Trappist, KY on loan to the Center for Cistercian and Monastic Studies and held at the WMU Special Collections and Rare Book Department.*

**Let’s Keep in Touch!**

Events which are still in development will be posted at [www.wmich.edu/library/friends/](http://www.wmich.edu/library/friends/).

We are working developing an email list for updates, so please send us email contact information at lib-rbr@wmich.edu!