

# Library Society

Paleontologist Neil Shubin with *Tiktaalik roseae*, the missing link between land and sea animals.



PHOTO BY JOHN WEINSTEIN/THE FIELD MUSEUM

## Explore Music, Finance, and *Your Inner Fish*

**P**aleontologist Neil Shubin has explored “one of the great transitions in the history of life: the invasion of land by fish.” He opened the 2009-10 Library Society season on October 28 by sharing his discoveries.

Professor Shubin’s compelling and intellectually challenging book *Your Inner Fish: A Journey Through the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body* won the Best Book Award from the National Academies. His key discovery, *Tiktaalik roseae*, a fish with a neck and wrists, has been hailed as the “missing link” between land and sea animals.

Shubin is the Robert R. Bensley Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy and Associate Dean of the Biological Sciences Division. Well aware of the rigors of fossil hunting above the Arctic Circle where *Tiktaalik* was found, he nonetheless told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that he is looking forward to getting back into the field, where he hopes to discover a “fish with fingers.” We hope that when he finds one, he will return to the Library Society to tell the tale.

On February 24, the Library Society will welcome back **19th-century Italian opera specialist Philip Gossett**, the Robert W. Reneker Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music and the College.

Professor Gossett has devoted his career to raising the profiles of Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, and Verdi. When he received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1970, many musicologists believed it was beneath them to stray from the study of Renaissance and earlier masters such as Beethoven and Bach. In 2004, Gossett was awarded a Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award for his discipline-shaping work. The Library Society is honored to have him speak during this final academic year before his retirement.

To round out the season, on May 12, the Library Society will welcome **Eugene Fama, Professor of Finance** at the Booth School of Business and a leader in the study of finance management.

Professor Fama revolutionized the field of finance when he developed the efficient market hypothesis, articulating the relation between risk and return

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**Library**

The RR Donnelley Archive, the basis for the exhibit "Printing for the Modern Age," was presented as an in-kind gift to the University of Chicago by the RR Donnelley and Sons Company and is housed in the Library's Special Collections Research Center.



## The Value of Gifts-In-Kind

The Library Society most commonly supports the University of Chicago Library through annual contributions by members that help to fund the purchase of databases, manuscripts, and other research material recommended by the Library's bibliographers. But this past spring, as I was preparing to move, I took pleasure in giving to the Library in another way—by donating a portion of my own book collection.

Many people make valuable in-kind donations to the Library. Faculty members are encouraged to donate their research papers for the University archives. Students and alumni may have wonderful ephemera or club papers that document University history. Book collectors who want to ensure that their assembled works are kept together and made available to researchers frequently turn to the University of Chicago Library as an outstanding steward and curator of their collections. Gifts-in-kind are often made as collectors prepare to move or via a bequest.

Collections donated to the University in the past have greatly benefited students, researchers, and exhibitors at the University. Many of the Web exhibits described in this issue of *Libra* make heavy use of in-kind donations, among them, the B. Heller & Co. Collection, which includes materials donated by Sally and Herb Loeb; East European Jews in the German-Jewish Imagination—From the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica; Images of Prayer, Politics, and Everyday Life—From the Harry and Branka Sondheim Jewish Heritage Collection; and Printing for the Modern Age—Commerce, Craft and Culture in the RR Donnelley Archive. Each of these exhibits gives researchers around the world access to images of materials that previously had been seen by only a lucky few.

We expect that Barbara and Bill Yoffee's generous donation of African American and children's literature, described on the front page of this issue of *Libra*, will be of enormous value to researchers and students of literature, history, African-American studies, gender studies, and sociology.

If you or someone you know may be interested in donating in-kind to the Library's collection, please contact Scott Perry, Head of Budget, Gifts-In-Kind, Vendor Relations and Program Acquisitions for the Library, at 773-702-8734.

With warmest regards,

Philip M. Burno  
Library Society Chairman

## Lectures at the Quad Club, Exhibits Online

Library Society lectures and dinners are being held at the historic Quadrangle Club this year, as construction of the walkway to the Mansueto Library enters the first floor of Regenstein. The pathway will go through the Special Collections Research Center, including the outer gallery space.

Although we look forward to bringing the Library Society back to the Library after Mansueto construction is complete, we expect the Quadrangle Club to be a more-than-acceptable change of venue. Longtime members may even recall events held in the Quadrangle Club in the first few years after the Society's founding.

Although physical exhibitions in Special Collections have been suspended temporarily due to construction, staff members are transforming a challenge into an opportunity by launching an extensive Web exhibit program this fall. See Phil Burno's column (left) and *Libra* page 6 for more information, and visit the exhibits online at [www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/webexhibits](http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/webexhibits).

You will continue to be able to consult materials in the Special Collections Research Center this year as construction takes place, although there will occasionally be a need for shortened hours, and some materials will be inaccessible at specific points during the construction. Special Collections will be closed during winter break from Dec. 14–Jan. 3. Visit the Special Collections Web site for more information, and do not hesitate to contact staff with specific questions if you are planning a visit.

## Explore

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in investments. Markets are "efficient," he indicated, in that the value of any given stock reflects all the information known about that stock *at the moment*.

Fama elaborated his theory in his Ph.D. dissertation at Chicago in 1970, and it continues to invigorate discussions about market performance today. We look forward to hearing Professor Fama speak about markets when he visits the Library Society in the spring.