New Life for Existing Special Collections:
Walter Welch A'28 is responsible for donating most of the gems of our special collections – including most of our manuscripts and many of our earliest printed books. A significant collector, Welch began sending Tufts unsolicited donations in the 1940s. Additional investigation into the correspondence with Welch alluded to donations of more material than previously understood by current staff. An additional set of manuscript leaves and other “artifacts” have now been located in Digital Collections and Archives (DCA). Chris Barbour is working to ensure these can also be used by students and faculty. See this beautiful example of an illuminated capital letter. We’re delighted to bring this “hidden collection” into use!

SMFA Transitions:
Job offers were extended to the three full-time staff members at the W. Alan Clark Library at the SMFA. We will work closely with TTS to plan the integration of the library collection into the Tufts catalog. This transition will require a lot of behind the scenes work to identify variations in practice and policy (e.g. circulation rules for each user/borrower type), set up the library and the appropriate staff in our systems (such as acquisitions processes) and migrate a variety of data sources, including their collection of digital images, the library website, and subject guides. We have already begun this work and expect it to continue throughout the summer.

Awards and Fellowships:
Library staff have completed our selection of the Undergraduate Research Awards. Winners, their faculty nominators, and our application readers will celebrate our winners at a luncheon on Friday (April 8, 2016), followed by a poster-style presentation by the winners. Librarians also participated in the selected of the Graduate Student Fellowships in Arts and Humanities. There will be three graduate students this summer, part of our partnership with GSAS to increase summer support for students in the humanities.

Career Services:
Staff from the Digital Design Studio collaborated with the Career Services department for the first time, providing a workshop on creating resumes using InDesign. We expect to expand the partnership with them in the future.

Staff Searches:
We are currently hosting first round interviews via video conference for the Assistant Director, Research & Instruction position, vacant with Evan Simpson’s departure. We hope to have finalists on campus before the end of the semester.

Alex May was hired to our new Metadata Specialist position to focus more extensively on repository services. We will shortly launch a search for Alex’s Metadata and Cataloging position. The search committee for the new software engineer position will bring finalists to campus in the near future.

We continue to have difficulty filling the Research Data Librarian position in collections. In our recent round of interviews, we happily found two excellent candidates, but both accepted offers from other institutions. We have postponed this search so that we can focus on end-of-year acquisitions. We will review the position and decide on our next steps in May.